



**City of Branson**  
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## ***MEDIA RELEASE***

**Date:** August 16, 2018  
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### **Vehicle Crashes Into Veteran's Memorial Garden**

BRANSON, Mo – Branson's Veterans Memorial Garden suffered significant damage this morning after a vehicle crashed, went airborne and landed in the middle of the garden.

Police responded to the Veterans Memorial Garden, located at 1107 W Main St. around 6:00 am Thursday morning, August 16. When police arrived they saw an unoccupied, maroon SUV that had crashed and was sitting in the middle of the garden. A witness saw a man running away from the vehicle. Police do have a suspect but have not made contact with him. Police do not believe the driver was the registered owner of the vehicle but say they don't believe it was stolen.

Police believe the driver was headed westbound on Highway 76, struck a curb, crossed Roark Road, struck another curb, and went airborne before landing in the garden. Police don't believe any other vehicles were involved and don't believe anyone was injured. Police believe there is about \$5,000 worth of damage to the garden. While the garden is not on City property, the City of Branson does own the bronze statue that is located in the garden. That statue was not damaged.

The Veterans Memorial Garden was founded in 2008 by former Marine and now Master Gardener, Ben Kinel, to honor Veterans. The garden is sustained through volunteers and donations and is now a landmark for many visitors and residents.

You can read more about the Veterans Memorial Garden and donate money by visiting its website at <https://veteransmemorialgarden.com/>.

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