Montgomery Parks Cemetery Briefing for the Planning Board

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Cultural Resources
Cemetery Program

*Montgomery Parks promotes stewardship of these important cultural resources through:

• Research and Documentation
• Preservation
• Management
• Community/Family access
Unmarked and “Lost” Cemeteries

- Many burial sites have little or no above ground markers, headstones, or other traces and have become heavily overgrown.
- Archival research, oral tradition, and archaeology are necessary to uncover these unmarked cemeteries.
- Cemetery locations also come to Park’s attention through:
  - Historic Preservation Office
  - Public Inquires/Tips
  - Researching Internal Documents
Overview of Cemeteries on Parkland

*13 known cemeteries on Parkland
*1 cemetery partially on Parkland managed by others
*5 cemeteries actively under research to define locations

* Interpretive Signage
  • 2 installed
  • 3 currently in development
  • 9 additionally funded

*Managing internal GIS/EAM cemetery data
Cemetery Conditions Assessment
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cemetery Name</th>
<th>Park Name</th>
<th>Managed by M-NCPPC</th>
<th>Year Range of Known Burials</th>
<th>Tombstones Present (Quantity)</th>
<th>Interpretive Signage Present (Quantity)</th>
<th>Type of Cemetery</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Darne (Darnestown) Cemetery</td>
<td>Darnestown Heritage Park</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>19th century</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes (1 of 3 is focused on the cemetery)</td>
<td>Community</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Harding (Andrew) Family Cemetery</td>
<td>Cloverly Local Park</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>1882-1907</td>
<td>Yes (2)</td>
<td>1 in Development</td>
<td>European American, Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lee (Sarah) Family Cemetery</td>
<td>Calverton-Galway Local Park</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>1865-1957 (at latest)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>2 in Development</td>
<td>African American, Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Montgomery Chapel Cemetery</td>
<td>Little Bennett Regional Park</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>1883-1968</td>
<td>Yes (at least 38)</td>
<td>1 in Development</td>
<td>African American, Religious</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prather Family Cemetery</td>
<td>Rock Creek Regional Park</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>1805-1860</td>
<td>Yes (at least 10)</td>
<td>1 in Development</td>
<td>European American, Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cooke Family Cemetery</td>
<td>Pope Farm Nursery</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>1804-1904</td>
<td>Yes (at least 35)</td>
<td>1 in Development</td>
<td>European American, Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Young (Richard) Family Cemetery</td>
<td>Magruder Branch SVU #2</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>1871-1880</td>
<td>Yes (3)</td>
<td>1 in Development</td>
<td>European American, Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dwyer (James) Family Cemetery</td>
<td>Rachel Carson Conservation Park</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Ca. 1862-1889</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>River Road Moses Cemetery</td>
<td>Willett Branch Greenway</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>1911-1958 (potentially earlier)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>African American, Benevolent Society</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Howes Family Cemetery</td>
<td>Great Seneca Stream Valley Park</td>
<td>Yes – potentially 2 separate burial sites</td>
<td>Unknown at this time</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>European American, Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Browning Family Cemetery</td>
<td>Little Bennett Regional Park</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>1830-1870</td>
<td>Yes (6)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>European American, Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gott Family Cemetery</td>
<td>Hoyles Mill Conservation Park</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>1812-1871</td>
<td>Yes (4)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>European American, Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Green Farm Cemetery</td>
<td>Lois Y. Green Conservation Park</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Possibly pre-1864</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>African American, Family</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jerusalem-Mount Pleasant A.M.E. Church Cemetery</td>
<td>Norbeck-Muncaster Mill Neighborhood Park</td>
<td>No – owned managed by trustees of the Jerusalem-Mt. Pleasant UMC</td>
<td>1893-1962</td>
<td>Yes (about 50)</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>African American, Religious and/or Benevolent Society</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Cemetery Data Management

- Burial Sites GIS layer
- Cemetery Inventory
- Project Review
- EAM/Maintenance
Cemetery Care Process

- Removing dead trees, invasives, trash, and any vegetation overgrowth
- Conditions Assessment
- Complete preservation recommendations
- Working with descendants and community stakeholders on interpretation and memorialization
- Staff Education – attending relevant conferences and workshops

“The Social Contract”

A graveyard is an old agreement made between the living and the living who have died that says we keep their names and dates alive.

“At the Opening of Oak Creek Cemetery Bridge”, Thomas Lynch
Cleaning Up Burial Sites

- Increase Awareness and Accessibility
- Decrease Liability
- Property Delineation

Jerusalem- Mt. Pleasant Church Cemetery (Norbeck-Muncaster Mill Neighborhood Park)

Prather Cemetery (Meadowside, Rock Creek Regional Park)
2022 Cemetery Conditions Assessment

- Compile information on Parks cemeteries
- Conduct staff workshops
- Provide cemetery management recommendations
Signage

- Operation
- Interpretive
Case Study: Sarah Lee Cemetery, Calverton-Galway Local Park

• Historical Research
• Fairland Master Plan and Documentary
• Archaeological Assessment Report
• GPR and Magnetometry
• Cut and fill analysis
• Family meetings and oral histories
• Interpretive signage
Thank you!