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**Open Space Plan 2008-2012**

# **Section 7**

## **Analysis of Needs**

**Section 7.3.1 Open Space Systems  
Management  
CEMETERIES**

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## Analysis of Needs

### Section 7.3.1: Open Space Systems Management CEMETERIES

#### OVERVIEW

Boston's historic cemeteries are important examples of the city's early landscape, linking contemporary Boston with a rich historical and developmental legacy. The city's 16 historic burying grounds and three larger garden-style cemeteries date between 1630 and 1892 and are located in 13 Boston neighborhoods. The burying grounds house a rich collection of historic artifacts that tell many stories about Boston's cultural heritage. Gravestones, tomb markers, and monuments honor the many founding members of the community including Revolutionary heroes and men and women of national and international fame. The city's collection of grave markers embodies the distinguished art of many local stone carvers. These stones afford a rare glimpse into Puritan life in the heart of a modern city, where little else remains in context. Collectively they reflect evolving views of life and death. Since their landscapes remain relatively unchanged, they also act as important open spaces in local neighborhoods, often in areas that are densely built with no other available open space.

Boston's burying grounds are important historical sites for a national constituency of academics, descendants, and tourists who visit Boston. Four burying grounds – Granary, King's Chapel, Copp's Hill and Central – are located along Boston's Freedom Trail and thus attract tens of thousands of visitors annually. Ten historic burying grounds are listed on the National Register of Historic Places; two sites, Central and Walter Street, are National Historic Landmarks. Central is a designated Boston Landmark, as is Dorchester North; the Granary lies within the Beacon Hill Architectural District; the South End Burying Ground is located within the South End Landmark District; and the Eliot (Eustis Street) Burying Ground lies within the Eustis Street Architectural Conservation District.

#### *Historic Burying Grounds Initiative*

The Historic Burying Grounds Initiative (HBGI) is an effort of the Boston Parks Department to restore the city's historic cemeteries. Combining public and private funding, community support, advocacy, and public education, the Initiative is the largest cemetery restoration program undertaken by a municipality in the United States.

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The Initiative grew out of an awareness voiced in the mid-1970s by several Boston preservation agencies that the effects of age, environment, and deferred maintenance posed an imminent threat of loss to the city's historic burying grounds and thus to the heritage of the city, New England, and the nation. Acknowledging the historical and artistic importance of these sites in Boston's landscape, the Parks Department, the Boston Landmarks Commission, and the Bostonian Society began a collaborative effort to inventory over 15,000 markers and assemble a master plan addressing structural, landscape, and masonry conservation measures in the historic cemeteries. The original HBGI master plan, completed in 1985, guided capital improvements, private fundraising, and partnerships up until the creation of a new historic burying grounds master plan in 1998 by Walker-Kluesing Design Group. During the first period activities primarily focused on protection, stabilization, preservation, and restoration of historic artifacts, tomb structures, and retaining walls. These efforts have prevented significant deterioration of these valuable resources and reduced risk to visitors. The Initiative invested approximately \$3,636,000 in improvements before the establishment of the new master plan, which updates and expands on the initial plan, concentrating on what goals have been achieved, what objectives remain to be accomplished, and new directions that HBGI should pursue. Nearly \$1.5 million in restoration and repair projects have been completed since the beginning of 2002.

### *Active Cemeteries Revitalization*

The City of Boston, through the Parks Department, operates three public cemeteries (Mount Hope in Mattapan, Fairview in Hyde Park, and Evergreen in Brighton) for Boston residents, particularly those individuals who cannot afford a more expensive, private cemetery. The Cemetery Division makes approximately 1,000 burials each year. In 1989 the Department faced a critical point at which only 200 new burial sites were available, enough to accommodate burials to June 1990. At the same time, burials for veterans were also at a minimum. In 1990, an ordinance was passed allowing the Department to increase fees by 5% annually over a ten-year period (1991-2001). During this time, in part due to the fee increase, the Cemetery Division began to implement a three-phase expansion plan at Fairview Cemetery. The Cemetery Division is currently implementing Phase II of the expansion plan and installing 1,000 double crypt vaults. At the present rate of use, this will accommodate burials for the next five years. Additionally, veteran burials at Mount Hope Cemetery will also continue for the next five years. A second proposal increasing fees 5% annually over a ten-

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year period was introduced and passed by City Council in the fall of 2001. Fees for burials continue to remain lower than all private and public cemeteries in the area.

The 1989 report *Boston Parks and Recreation Department, Cemetery Division, Evaluation and Recommendations*, prepared by Landscape Design Associates, has served as a guide for the rehabilitation of the three active cemeteries: Mount Hope, Fairview, and Evergreen. Since 1989, the Cemetery Division has made a concerted effort to carry out improvements to the active cemeteries. These improvements include construction of a maintenance facility at Mount Hope, rehabilitation to the administration building at Fairview Cemetery (1998), and restoration of memorials (ongoing). In July 1999, a preservation master plan for the historic sections of Boston's active cemeteries, by Walker-Kluesing Design Group replaced the 1989 plan as a guide for future improvements.

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### THE NEXT FIVE YEARS

#### *General Recommendations*

The master plans for both the city's historic and active cemeteries guide the implementation of restoration and rehabilitation projects. The master plan for the historic cemeteries also offers a methodology for historic grave marker conservation that continues to orient the philosophy of the Historic Burying Grounds Initiative's preservation projects. The primary focus of the previous master plan was on protecting, stabilizing, preserving, and restoring the gravestones, tombs, and physical structures. The new master plan continues these efforts but also devotes more resources toward making improvements for visitors. The plans, however, may be modified or expanded over time in order to reflect improved methods of conducting preservation of historic cemetery landscapes and grave markers.

There is also a new emphasis on updating existing knowledge about the sites and their features. Initial survey work in the 1980s enabled HBGI to complete the essential step of cataloguing in a detailed manner the resources that it manages. However conditions change and some of initial body of data was incomplete.

Consistent funding and grant awards have allowed us to embark upon a growing number of grave marker conservation projects. Conservation of slate grave markers has been attempted for decades, but many previous methods have proved to be unsatisfactory in terms of duration, protection of grave markers and aesthetics. New materials and techniques have given us hope of conserving these stones at a high level but we are unsure about which techniques are the most successful. Gathering and analyzing information about conservation techniques in a new database will give us added insight and knowledge to go forward successfully in our conservation program.

While the historic and active cemeteries have their individual needs suited to particular issues and elements of their landscapes, the following categories of recommendations should guide those issues shared commonly by all 19 sites:

- Target improvements designed to encourage visitation. This should include landscape issues related to lawns and plantings, path systems, site amenities, fences and gates, lighting, and an informational and interpretive sign system.
- Improve known information about historic burying grounds and cemeteries by improving existing maps and updating

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- 1980s historic burying grounds surveys. Possible projects include updating stone conditions and taking new photos.
- Improve conservation knowledge by analyzing success of previous methods and seeking to develop new techniques.
  - Continue to implement recommendations for rehabilitation and conservation projects as recommended in the historic and active cemetery plans. These efforts should focus primarily on structural elements, gravestones, and tombs.
  - Using the model of signs recently installed, create signs in other burying grounds, where it is appropriate.
  - Nurture and accentuate landscape features, where appropriate, to provide a more comprehensive experience for public appreciation beyond the gravestones. Improve tree maintenance.
  - Continue to seek private funding to complement city capital funding. Explore establishment of endowment or other creative ways to guarantee resources for conservation, repair, and development.
  - Continue to facilitate use of sites for educational programs and spread public awareness. Encourage use of historic and active cemeteries as educational resources for schools, for Boston Park Ranger interpretive efforts, and for the Freedom Trail, and other tourism efforts.
  - Implement an historic preservation plan for the three active cemeteries, including marker inventories and landscape restoration plans.
  - Implement planting plans for active cemeteries, particularly for new burial areas and expansion areas.
  - Accommodate city policy to provide burial space for Boston residents by seeking land within Boston for long-term burial space.

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### SITE-SPECIFIC DESCRIPTIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### *Bennington Street Cemetery, East Boston, 1838*

The three-acre Bennington Street Cemetery was laid out five years after Noddle's Island became East Boston. Originally overlooking Boston Harbor, the cemetery now faces Logan Airport and provides an open space in an area dominated by airport and highway traffic. Nineteenth-century markers record the names of East Boston's early residents, including many Eastern European immigrants. Major repair work was completed at the end of 2002 on the front gate and fence, including repairing brick piers and the concrete capstone, resetting and repairing the front gate and fence pickets, and repainting the fence. The Department reset and did minor restoration work on approximately 280 grave markers in 2004.

#### Recommendations

- Make priority structural repairs to the aboveground tomb structures.
- Restore landscape features such as the pathway system, lawn, the pruning and fertilizing of existing trees, and the addition of new trees.
- Continue the relationship with the Friends of Bennington Street Cemetery to support educational and fund-raising efforts.

#### *Bunker Hill Cemetery, Charlestown, 1807*

Located on Bunker Hill Street, Charlestown's second cemetery is a reflection of Charlestown's rapid growth during the early 19th century Irish immigration. The property lies on the site crossed by British fortifications in the Battle of Bunker Hill. Unlike the Phipps Street Burying Ground that lies on the outskirts of the Charlestown neighborhood, Bunker Hill is more centrally located and therefore enjoys greater neighborhood support.

The following projects have been completed at Bunker Hill: repairs and painting of front gate and fence in 2004, replacing missing sections of chain-link fence along the sides of the site in 2004, removal of remnants of asphalt path with loaming and seeding in 2005, conservation of 7 slate headstones in 2005, conservation of several marble obelisks, and resetting of 25 grave markers in 2005 and 2006.

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### Recommendations

- Improve site map.
- Address landscape issues to make the site more visitor-friendly. Remove overgrown vegetative growth, and add shrubs and seasonal plants to support the recommended Victorian-period image.
- Repoint stone wall at base of fence.
- Work with the Charlestown Preservation Society, the Charlestown Historical Society, and the Charlestown Neighborhood Council to support educational programs and advocacy for fundraising and capital improvements.

### *Central Burying Ground, Boston Common, 1756*

Located on Boylston Street between Tremont and Charles Streets, Central Burying Ground was established in Boston to alleviate overcrowding in the three older burying grounds. It contains the graves of British common soldiers who died during the Revolution; foreigners who died while in Boston, Roman Catholics, Freemasons, American patriots from the battle of Bunker Hill and the Boston Tea Party, painter Gilbert Stuart, and composer William Billings. The large freestanding tomb structure, "The Dell," along the west edge of the burying ground, houses the remains of 200 graves disturbed by street construction. The perimeter fence was repaired and repainted in 2004.

### Recommendations

- Reset gravestones that are leaning significantly and those that are lying flat on the ground. Repair and clean tabletop tombs.
- Improve site map.
- Repoint masonry perimeter walls.
- Install interpretive signs like those in other Freedom Trail sites.
- Renovate lawn areas by filling in depressions and eliminate bare spots. Fill and restore eroded area at main pedestrian entrance and by mound tombs.

### *Copp's Hill Burying Ground, North End, 1659*

One of seven 17th century historic burying grounds in Boston, Copp's Hill was a stronghold from which the British shelled Charlestown in 1775. Interred here are Cotton Mather, minister and theologian; Edmund Hart, builder of Old Ironsides; and more than 1,000 African Americans who constituted the 18th century New Guinea community. One of the few green spaces in the

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densely built North End, the two-acre burying ground complements Copp's Hill Terrace next door. Together they offer stunning views over Boston Harbor to Charlestown.

In 2004, new interpretive signs were installed with funding from the Browne Fund. These signs have served as a model for signs in other burying grounds. The retaining wall between the uppers and lower section was rebuilt in 2005-6. The tomb plaques along this wall were restored in 2005.

### Recommendations

- Repair Charter Street fence.
- Continue preservation efforts of gravestones, repair broken stones, and reset tilted headstones. Seal loose tomb tablets.
- Provide further necessary repairs to brick circulation system required due to settlement and frost heaving.
- Continue to work with the Friends of Copp's Hill Burying Ground and the Copp's Hill Association to support advocacy for the burying ground and for educational programs, and to raise funds for project implementation.

*Dorchester North Burying Ground, Upham's Corner, 1633*  
 Located at the corner of Columbia Road and Stoughton Streets, the eight-acre Dorchester North Burying Ground was the Town of Dorchester's only cemetery for two centuries. Generations of prominent Dorchester families are represented as well as William Stoughton, Chief Justice during the Salem Witch Trials of 1692; Richard Mather, minister and progenitor of the Mather family; and John Foster, Boston's first printer. Dorchester North contains early slate gravestones of particular artistic merit, including the 17th century John Foster stone, currently exhibited at the Museum of Fine Arts. Nineteenth century maple and oak trees planted by local horticulturist Samuel Downer remain, but large Elm trees have succumbed to Dutch Elm Disease over the past three decades. The Wood mausoleum was restored in 2003 with a grant from the Massachusetts Historical Commission. A large gravestone conservation and resetting project was also completed in 2003-4, using a grant from the Massachusetts Historical Commission and the Department of Conservation and Recreation.

### Recommendations

- Continue grave marker conservation.
- Repair two piers and gatepost at the Stoughton Street perimeter wall.

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- Take steps to restore the landscape to the Victorian-period style. This should include building a new perimeter path system with selected crossing paths. Renovate lawn areas. Prune and fertilize trees. Add shrubs and seasonal plants that support the Victorian image and can be easily maintained. Restore the former Victorian-period walkway signs.
- Work with the Dorchester Historical Society's Cemetery Committee, the Friends of Dorchester Cemeteries, and abutting neighborhood and business associations to encourage neighborhood involvement and advocacy, special projects, fundraising, and development of education programs.

### *Dorchester South Cemetery, Lower Mills, 1814*

Opened in 1814 to alleviate overcrowding in the Dorchester North Burying Ground, Dorchester South became a noteworthy early example of the garden cemetery movement that began in 1831 with Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge. Samuel Downer, a prominent businessman and horticulturist, designed the landscape as a botanical park with ornamental trees and shrubbery. In 1995, proceeds from the Tour de Graves were used for gravestone conservation and the Parks Department removed unhealthy and dying trees.

In 2003 the back gate was renovated, including rebuilding of the brick piers and repairing and painting the gate.

### Recommendations

- Address structural problems of the perimeter walls. Repair locally 25 brick piers along the perimeter walls. Provide drip edges in all pier caps. Clean efflorescence from all piers. Remove soil build-up from the caps. Repair and paint south and west perimeter fence.
- Reset gravestones that are leaning significantly and those that are lying flat on the ground. Reset fallen obelisks. Provide fill at the bases of monuments where foundations are exposed. Repair mound tombs at the interior driveway and at the north edge.
- Work with the Boston Park Rangers, community groups such as the Dorchester Historical Society, and local schools to encourage programmed use of Dorchester South.

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### *Eliot (Eustis Street) Burying Ground, Roxbury, 1630*

Eliot Burying Ground was the Town of Roxbury's first graveyard, named after John Eliot, preacher to 17th century Native Americans. Also interred here are generations of local Roxbury families such as Seaver, Ruggles, Williams, Gridley, and Dudley. Today, the burying ground lies within the Eustis Street Architectural Conservation District.

A small grave marker-resetting project was completed in 2003 with funding from the Department of Conservation and Recreation. Many repairs and improvement took place in 2005: the broken chain-link fence in the rear of the site was removed and replaced with an ornamental steel fence; the volunteer growth along the fence line was also removed; a collapsed tomb was filled in; minor masonry repairs along the rear perimeter masonry foundation were completed; and structural tree pruning was completed. In 2006 a larger grave marker conservation project was finished.

#### Recommendations

- Repair table tombs to make them weather tight.
- Renovate lawn areas by eliminating crabgrass, weeds, and moss. Fill in depressions. Reconstruct the path system in the current location and width.

### *Evergreen Cemetery, Brighton, 1848*

The Town of Brighton purchased land from the Aspinwall family in order to create a second town cemetery in the newly emerging "garden style." Since parks were not yet part of the public realm at the time, residents used Evergreen's 13.88 acres for passive recreation. Today, it is one of three active city owned cemeteries in Boston. A monument to Brighton's Civil War soldiers designed by George Meacham, architect of Boston's Public Garden, is found there. Recent rehabilitation efforts have repaired the masonry entrance wall and iron fencing. In 2005 the administration building was painted and had minor carpentry repairs.

#### Recommendations

- Renovate and repair the administration building.
- Rehabilitate the Civil War Monument and its immediate landscape, correcting erosion problems.
- Repair the roadways.

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### *Fairview Cemetery, Hyde Park, 1892*

Fairview reflects the development of the Hyde Park neighborhood. It is the final resting place for James Monroe Trotter, the U.S. Army's first black commissioned officer; Hippolitus Fiske and Charles Jenny, founders of Hyde Park; and John Joseph Enneking, an important member of American painting's turn-of-the-century Boston School. The hilly contours of Fairview cemetery lend it an attractive natural quality, and magnificent views of the Blue Hills can be seen from the top of Cedar Grove Road.

Fairview Cemetery is currently the primary location for city burials in Boston. Emergency need for expanded burial space for Boston residents prompted the installation of 750 new vaults at Fairview Cemetery in 1990. The chapel was renovated in 1998 to provide space for offices and storage of maintenance equipment. The 1911 M.H. Mosman Civil War monument was restored in 2003.

### Recommendations

- Reset and restore adjacent gravemarkers.
- Repair roadways.
- Make landscaping improvements to City Poor Lot and install permanent grave numbering system.

### *Granary Burying Ground, Downtown, 1660*

Taking its name from the 18th century town grain storage building, the Granary was part of Boston Common when it was established. Today, the two-acre burying ground is enclosed on three sides by tall office and institutional buildings. The Egyptian Revival entry gate and Tremont Street wall were designed by Solomon Willard and built in 1830. The Granary contains a particularly rich collection of 17th and 18th century gravestone carving, and markers exist here for prominent Bostonians Sam Adams, John Hancock, and Paul Revere, for Ben Franklin's family, and, according to legend, Mother Goose.

The new pathways were completed in 2002. A large grave marker resetting and tomb stabilization project was also finished in 2002. New interpretive signs were installed in 2004, improving upon the model set by Copp's Hill Burying Grounds. A small grave marker conservation project was completed in 2004. A study measuring the Tremont Street Wall was undertaken in 2005, initially indicating little movement of this wall.

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### Recommendations

- Continue to implement grave marker conservation projects.
- Continue good relations with abutters and historical organizations to support educational programs, advocacy for fundraising and capital improvements, and to develop maintenance agreements.
- Continue to support programming through historical organizations, the Parks Department, and the Boston Park Ranger program.

### *Hawes/Union Cemeteries, South Boston, 1816/1841*

This site actually contains two cemeteries. John Hawes, a Wealthy South Boston resident donated the Hawes portion on Emerson Street. The Union Cemetery on Fifth Street is separated from Hawes by a row of tombs. Prominent local citizens buried in Hawes/Union include John Hawes, Cyrus Alger, and Daniel Simpson.

### Recommendations

- Reset the remaining leaning and fallen gravestones. Rebuild the transverse mound tombs and reset iron doors. Remove adjacent trees to avoid displacement or encapsulation of stone tomb elements.
- Repoint and rebuild brick walls along west boundary. Repoint granite walls along west boundary. Repair and repaint fence and gates along both Emerson and East Fifth Streets.

### *King's Chapel Burying Ground, Downtown, 1630*

King's Chapel Burying Ground is the oldest cemetery in Boston and is said to be part of the estate of Isaac Johnson, an esteemed early settler. Royal Governor Andros seized a portion of this property in 1686 to construct the first Anglican Church in Boston. Prominent individuals buried here are John Winthrop, William Dawes, Robert Keayne, founder of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company, and Mary Chilton, the first woman to step from the Mayflower in Plymouth.

A collapsed underground tomb was repaired in 2005. A flowering dogwood was planted in 2005. New interpretive signs are being installed in 2006. A significant grave marker conservation project was also undertaken in 2006.

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### Recommendations

- Reset leaning gravestones and raise the grade to cover exposed monument foundation. Provide minor maintenance work at tombs, including reparging sidewalls, and resetting and conserving tabletops.
- Address landscape issues in the rear of the burying ground, including planting shrubs and trees to maintain the screen between the site and the Old City Hall. Install resistant ground cover in bare areas.
- Replace rear wall. Reset and repaint fence.
- Continue good relations with abutters and historical organizations to support educational programs, advocacy for fundraising and capital improvements, and to develop maintenance agreements.

### *Market Street Burying Ground, Brighton, 1764*

Market Street Burying Ground was Brighton's primary cemetery until the 1850s when Evergreen Cemetery was established. It had been associated with the Third Church of Cambridge until 1807, when Brighton became a separate town.

### Recommendations

- Reset leaning gravestones and conserve broken stones.
- Prune trees, remove unwanted plant growth on fences and at tombs, and plant additional shade trees. Renovate lawn areas as required.
- Repoint north wall, remove calcium carbonate deposits on Market Street wall, and rebuild retaining wing walls at each side of entrance to match the Market Street wall.

### *Mount Hope Cemetery, Mattapan, 1851*

Mount Hope is the largest of all city-owned cemeteries. Its 125 acres contain burial plots for veterans of all wars since the Civil War; members of a variety of organizations such as the Elks, Odd Fellows, and Masons; the oldest burial area for Boston's Chinese immigrants; and a monument to the Irish patriot, John E. Kelly. Influenced by Mount Auburn and Forest Hills Cemeteries, Mount Hope's landscape design is based on the garden-style cemetery. Curvilinear tree-lined roads and two man-made ponds grace its rolling landscape.

Considerable work has been undertaken at this site. An urn garden was developed for the interment of cremated remains in 2000. The upgrading of vehicles and equipment in 1998-2000 as well as the

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installation of a sprinkler system at the Boston Police and Veterans' Memorial lots in 1999 helped to improve maintenance at the cemetery. A gazebo was built in 1999. Further enhancements to the Boston Police and Veterans Lots in the spring of 2002 will include the installation of a walkway at the Veterans Lot and lawn replacement at both sites. There are plans to install a fountain in the small pond in 2002-2003. The GAR Civil War cannon monument was restored in 2006.

### Recommendations

- Inventory, repair, and replace decorative path and walk signs.
- Prune, fertilize, and otherwise maintain the older tree stocks at Mount Hope through the tree program of \$70,000 per year for removal of dead and diseased trees and pruning of the healthy.
- Renovate the entrance of Mt Hope Cemetery.
- Resurface and repair roadways.

### *Phipps Street Burying Ground, Charlestown, 1630*

One of the few vestiges of 17th century Charlestown after the British leveled the town during the Revolution; Phipps Street Burying Ground also contains some of the finest early gravestone carving to be found in the eastern United States. A granite obelisk memorializes John Harvard, founder of Harvard College and Charlestown resident, and a plaque marks the burial location of Nathaniel Gorham, one of two Massachusetts signers of the U.S. Constitution.

Several new trees were planted near the entrance in 2002. Rebuilt entrance to collapsed tomb in 2004. Removed some dead trees and unwanted growth.

### Recommendations

- Clean, prime and paint perimeter and Harvard Monument fence. Repair gate at Harvard Monument.
- Improve site map.
- Straighten perimeter fence posts and pickets. Repair access gate.
- Provide new perimeter path and repair existing path.
- Clean and repair existing drainage structures and replace or reset grates as required. Add a new drainage system at the perimeter lawn moat.
- Work with the Charlestown Preservation Society, the Charlestown Historical Society, and the Charlestown

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Neighborhood Council to support educational programs and advocacy for fundraising and capital improvements.

### *South End Burying Ground, South End, 1810*

Known as the workingman's burying ground, most burials in this South End cemetery are not marked, and successive filling of the marshy site permitted burials in several tiers. A plan for the site guided the construction of walled tombs around the perimeter of the cemetery that today dominate the site. Once square in shape, the burying ground is now L-shaped, indicating that a quarter of the original site has been acquired by abutters. The repair and renovation of the mound tombs was undertaken in 2006.

#### Recommendations

- Remove unwanted plant growth in rear of cemetery, prune existing trees, and plant new trees according to the master plan.
- Create new path system with one perimeter path and two central crossing paths.

### *Walter Street Burying Ground, Roslindale, 1711*

The Walter Street Burying Ground was originally created as part of the Second Church of Christ of Roxbury in a site adjoining the Peter's Hill area of the Arnold Arboretum. Prominent local families interred there include Baker, Chamberlain, Weld, Child, and Mayo. A marker indicates burial here of American Revolutionary War soldiers who died from war wounds or disease at Greenough House in Jamaica Plain.

#### Recommendations

- Repair entrance stairways by replacing the missing stones, repointing steps, and painting handrail.
- Rebuild mound tomb and reset gravestones.
- Repoint Walter Street perimeter wall.

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### *Westerly Burying Ground, West Roxbury, 1683*

Westerly gave inhabitants of Jamaica Plain and West Roxbury a nearby place to bury their dead and served as the West Roxbury graveyard for 268 years. The burying ground provides a visual record of three centuries of early settlers, and examples of local gravestone carving.

The perimeter chain-link fence was repaired, with several new sections added in 2004. Several of the oldest grave markers were conserved in 2005. A survey and mapping project was undertaken in 2006.

### Recommendations

- Reset gravestones and repair mound tombs.
- Remove unwanted plant growth along southwestern edge. Prune existing trees. Provide additional shade trees.
- Repair and repoint north and south walls. Clean and paint Centre Street fence and gate.