

PART 4

OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT MISSION

Cemeteries

Community Gardens

The Emerald Necklace

Public Shade Trees



PART 4 • OPEN SPACE MANAGEMENT MISSION

*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 gravestones 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. They illustrate changing attitudes as Unitarianism replaced Puritan beliefs in the late 18th century. 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 thousands of visitors annually. Nine 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



Mount Hope Cemetery

Boston's burying grounds are important historical sites for a national constituency of academics, descendants, and tourists who visit Boston.

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.

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



Granary Burying Ground, Downtown

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. Approximately \$400,000 in improvements has been made since the publication of this new document.

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-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.

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 gravemarker 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.

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.

- 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.
- Develop a signage system to replace illegible interpretive signs with high-quality, durable ones that are visually compatible with an overall system. Replace signs in Freedom Trail sites first, and then either create or replace signs in other burying grounds.
- Nurture and accentuate landscape features, where appropriate, to provide a more comprehensive experience for public appreciation beyond the gravestones. Improve tree maintenance.
- Continue to encourage neighborhood constituencies for each historic cemetery in order to assist in the development of programs, resources, maintenance, support, and advocacy.
- 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 develop educational programs to spread public awareness of the historic burying grounds. Use historic and active cemeteries as educational resources for schools, for Boston Park Ranger interpretive efforts, and for the Freedom Trail, and other tourism efforts.
- Develop programs such as neighborhood walks or associations with other trails to attract visitors to burying grounds that are not on the Freedom Trail.
- 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.

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. Private individuals and Massport

provided donations in 1996 for landscaping improvements and tree installation to enhance this site. In addition, in 1996 the Henderson Foundation granted funds for gravestone and monument conservation. The Department will use a \$50,000 Browne Fund grant for grave marker conservation in 2002. Bennington Street Cemetery is on the list of the National Register of Historic Places as of 2002.

Recommendations

- Make priority structural repairs to the mound tombs and adjacent wall, front gate, and the damaged piers on Bennington Street fence.
- Reset gravestones.
- 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 maintenance, 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.

Recommendations

- Address landscape issues to make the site more visitor-friendly. Replace deteriorating path with lawn. Remove overgrown vegetative growth, and add shrubs and seasonal plants to support the recommended Victorian-period image.
- Repair structural deterioration by resetting gravestones, replacing chain-link fence, and repointing stone wall at base of fence.
- Work with the Charlestown Preservation Society, the Charlestown Historical Society, and the Charlestown Neighborhood Council to develop neighborhood support, educational programs, and advocacy for fundraising and capital improvements.

Central Burying Ground, Boston Common, 1756



Central Burying Ground, Boston Common

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. In 1994 the Parks Department restored the deteriorating tombs in the Dell.

Recommendations

- Reset gravestones that are leaning significantly and those that are lying flat on the ground. Repair and clean tabletop tombs.
- Repair and renovate fence and repoint masonry perimeter walls.
- Renovate lawn areas by filling in depressions and eliminate bare spots. Fill and restore eroded area at main pedestrian entrance and by mound tombs.
- Initiate a study for informational and interpretive signs.

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 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.

The Fund for Parks and Recreation provided money in 1995–96 for tree pruning and removal. Monument repair was undertaken through private contributions during the same year. In 2000 and 2001, the Parks Department devoted funds from its capital budget to wall reconstruction and fence repairs. Further improvements in 2000 included repair of the brick walkways and tree pruning and removal.

Recommendations

- Continue preservation efforts of gravestones, repair broken stones, and reset tilted headstones. Seal loose tomb tablets. Continue to investigate means to prevent further deterioration of the brownstone tops.
- Provide further necessary repairs to brick circulation system required due to settlement and frost heaving.

- Install interpretive signage consistent with other Freedom Trail burying grounds. The signs should be podium style, made from high-quality, long-lasting materials.
- Continue to work with the Friends of Copp’s Hill Burying Ground and the Copp’s Hill Association to increase advocacy for the burying ground, develop educational programs, and 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.

In 1995-96, the Parks Department completed significant gravestone and tomb repair and conservation. The project was divided between Dorchester North and two other sites. The Department of Environmental Management’s Urban Forestry Program provided funds in 1996 through a Heritage Tree Grant to care for eight 19th century trees. Simmons College also donated a sweet gum tree in 2000. The Massachusetts Historical Commission awarded two grants to the Department in 2000 and 2001 for the repair of the Wood Mausoleum and for grave marker conservation.



Dorchester North Burying Ground

Recommendations

- Repair Wood Mausoleum. Rebuild the deteriorated mound tomb and wall near the rear entrance. Reset and conserve gravestones. Repair two piers and gatepost at the Stoughton Street perimeter wall.
- 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 1996 a memorial tree installation project took place with the help of a private contribution, and the Parks Department also completed a comprehensive street fence restoration.

Recommendations

- Address structural problems of the perimeter walls. Rebuild brick piers at the back gate. 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.

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.

In 1986, a bulging section of the puddingstone wall was rebuilt with city capital funding. A 1988 project was undertaken, with funding from the Browne Fund, the Mabel Louise Riley Foundation, and Historic Boston Incorporated, to conserve over 300 broken and delaminating slate gravemarkers and to rehabilitate the entrance area and gate. In 1992, 20 trees were planted at Eliot with funding from the Commonwealth's Mass ReLeaf Program. The Massachusetts Historical Commission awarded a grant to the Department in 2001 for grave marker conservation in Eliot.

Recommendations

- Repair table tombs to make them weather tight. Conserve the brownstone tomb markers, particularly of the first Church ministers. Reset the remaining toppled gravestones.
- Address landscape issues with priority given to tree care including pruning, fertilizing, removal, and planting of new shade trees. 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.

Recommendations

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

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.

Fairview Cemetery reflects the development of the Hyde Park neighborhood.



The chapel was renovated in 1998 to provide space for offices and storage of maintenance equipment.

Recommendations

- Restore the 1911 M.H. Mosman Civil War monument. 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.

In 1995-96, the Department devoted funds from its capital budget to gravestone conservation, tomb repair, signage and landscape work in a project divided between the Granary Burying Ground and two other sites. The Department repaired the mound tombs in 1996. Tree pruning services were donated during the same year. Many important projects took place in 2001, and are taking place in 2002: rehabilitation of the pathway system, gravemarker-resetting, and tomb-repair. Maintenance agreements have been reached with different members of the Friends of the Granary Burying Ground to provide for litter pick-up, cleaning, and snow removal.

Recommendations

- Reconstruct the Tremont Street wall and fence, a priority structural issue. Develop and implement project fundraising strategies.
- Install high-quality, long-lasting, podium-style interpretive signage consistent with other Freedom Trail burying grounds.
- Revitalize the Friends of the Granary Burying Ground group, adding new members, pursuing fundraising efforts, and continuing to develop maintenance agreements.
- Continue to develop and offer programming through the Friends of the Granary, the Parks Department, and the Boston Park Ranger program. Introduce school children to Boston history through the Freedom Trail's People and Places Program.

The Granary was part of Boston Common when it was established



Hawes/Union Cemeteries, South Boston, 1816/1841

This site is 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.

In 2000 the Department rebuilt the twelve brick piers of the fence on East Fifth Street. A tree growing into the East Fifth Street fence was also removed. Simmons College donated the replacement tree.

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.

Donations from the Usher family enabled the restoration of the Usher Tomb in 1995. The following year the Department financed a renovation effort in King's Chapel and two other burying grounds for gravestone and tomb repair and the installation of a new pathway. A grant from the Tremont Street Preservation Trust helped the Parks Department to restore the ornamental ironwork on the front fence.

Recommendations

- Install high-quality, long-lasting, podium-style interpretive signage consistent with other Freedom Trail burying grounds.
- 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.

- 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.
- Replace rear wall. Reset and repaint fence.

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.

In 1995, the Boston College Community Fund made a charitable contribution for tree removal. The same fund also provided donations the following year for gravestone conservation. In 1996, the Parks Department repaired deteriorating mound tombs. An ornamental iron fence was installed during 2000 and 2001 with help from the Browne Fund.

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 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.

Mount Hope is the largest of all city-owned cemeteries.

Recommendations

- Inventory, repair, and replace decorative path and walk signs.
- Prune, fertilize, and otherwise maintain the older tree stocks at Mount Hope.
- 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.

This burying ground was the recipient of a Massachusetts Preservation Projects Fund grant in 1996. The Department matched this amount and undertook significant masonry stabilization and monument conservation over a three-year period.

Recommendations

- Remove dead trees and unwanted plant growth. Prune trees. Provide new shade trees along perimeter wall.
- Straighten perimeter fence posts and pickets. Repair access gate. Clean, prime and paint perimeter and Harvard Monument fence. Repair gate at Harvard Monument.
- Provide new perimeter 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 Neighborhood Council to develop neighborhood support, educational programs, and fundraising activities for Phipps Street.

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 Department provided funds for interior tomb reconstruction in 1996 and 1997.



Mount Hope Cemetery

A marker indicates burial here of American Revolutionary War soldiers who died from war wounds or disease at Greenough House in Jamaica Plain.

Recommendations

- Rebuild the individual aboveground tombs in their entirety. Reset gravestones. Present all repair plans to the South End Landmarks Commission.
- 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.

The puddingstone wall and entrance of the burying ground, which also acts as the Walter Street entrance to the Arnold Arboretum, was fully reconstructed in 1989.

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.

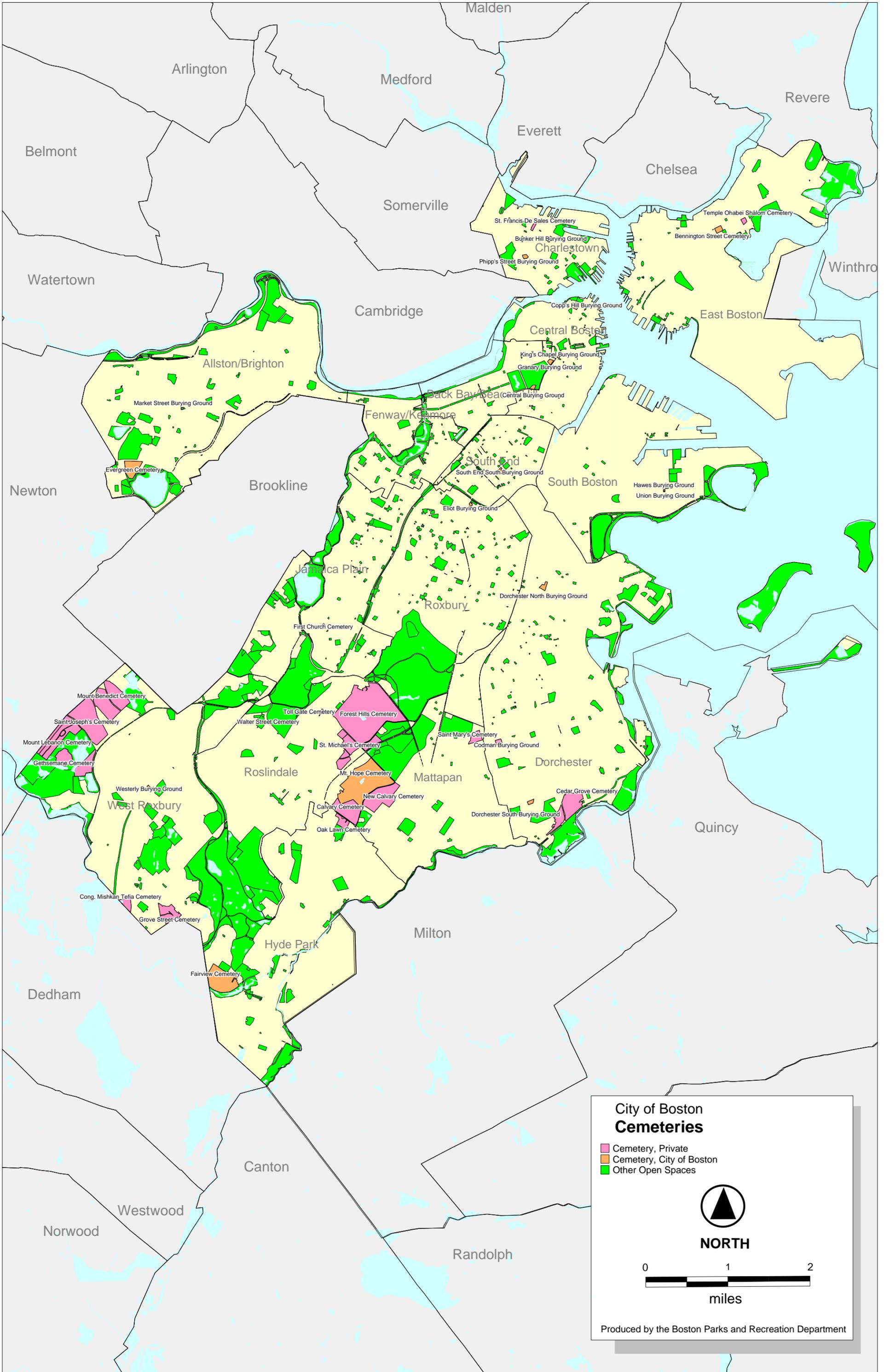
Westerly Burying Ground, West Roxbury, 1683

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.

City capital funding was devoted to the reconstruction of the Centre Street wall and the burying ground gate in 1988.

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. Restore and paint interior fence.



City of Boston Cemeteries

- Cemetery, Private
- Cemetery, City of Boston
- Other Open Spaces



NORTH



0 1 2
miles

Produced by the Boston Parks and Recreation Department