

# Brooklyn Cemetery

**MASTER PLAN : 2012**



**PREPARED BY :**

Professor Katherine Melcher's  
Spring 2012 Landscape Architecture Class  
LAND 6040 Community and Place Studio

**PREPARED FOR :**

The Friends and Trustees of Brooklyn Cemetery,  
Athens, GA

# Executive Summary

Brooklyn cemetery in Athens faces a vast number of issues concerning its restoration and preservation needs. This document will address the issues raised from the community and cemetery stakeholders through an inventory and analysis concluding with some prioritized design recommendations and suggested guidelines. The following provides a summary of the Master Plan elements and recommendations:

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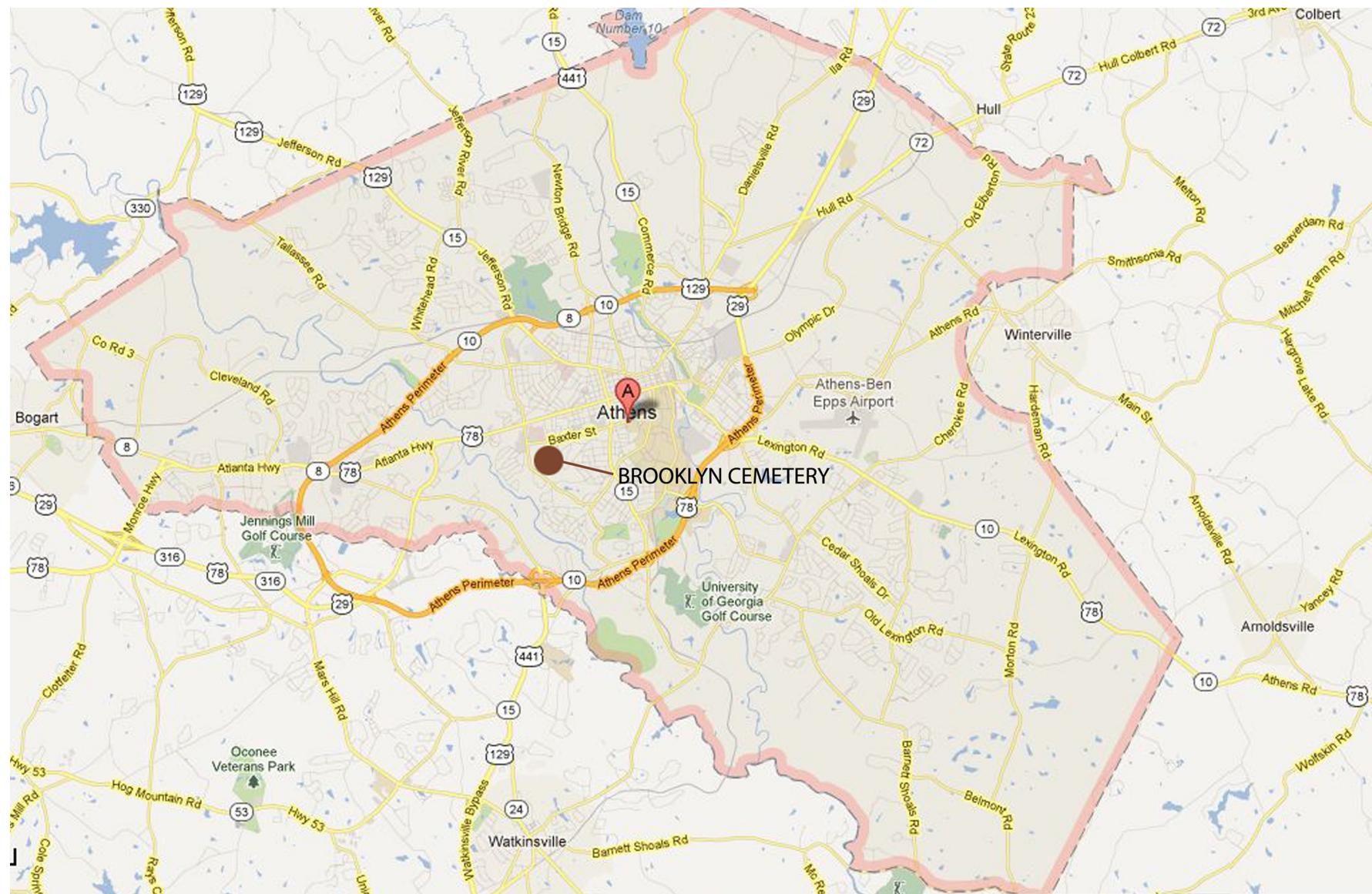
**65 PRESERVATION AND MANAGEMENT**

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# Vision Statement

Brooklyn Cemetery seeks to honor the African American cultural heritage of the community members resting eternally in the cemetery by preserving the historical character of the place as well as providing educational, interpretive, and picturesque opportunities during the cemetery experience.



**820 WEST LAKE DRIVE, ATHENS GA 30606 | GPS: 33.941660, -83.406825**

**BROOKLYN CEMETERY WAS CREATED IN 1880 TO FULFILL  
AN IMPORTANT MUNICIPAL NEED FOR A GROWING AFRICAN  
AMERICAN POPULATION. LOCATED TO THE WEST OF WHAT IS  
PRESENT DAY DOWNTOWN ATHENS, THE BROOKLYN AREA WAS  
A DISTINCTLY AFRICAN-AMERICAN COMMUNITY OUTSIDE OF  
THE CITY LIMITS.**

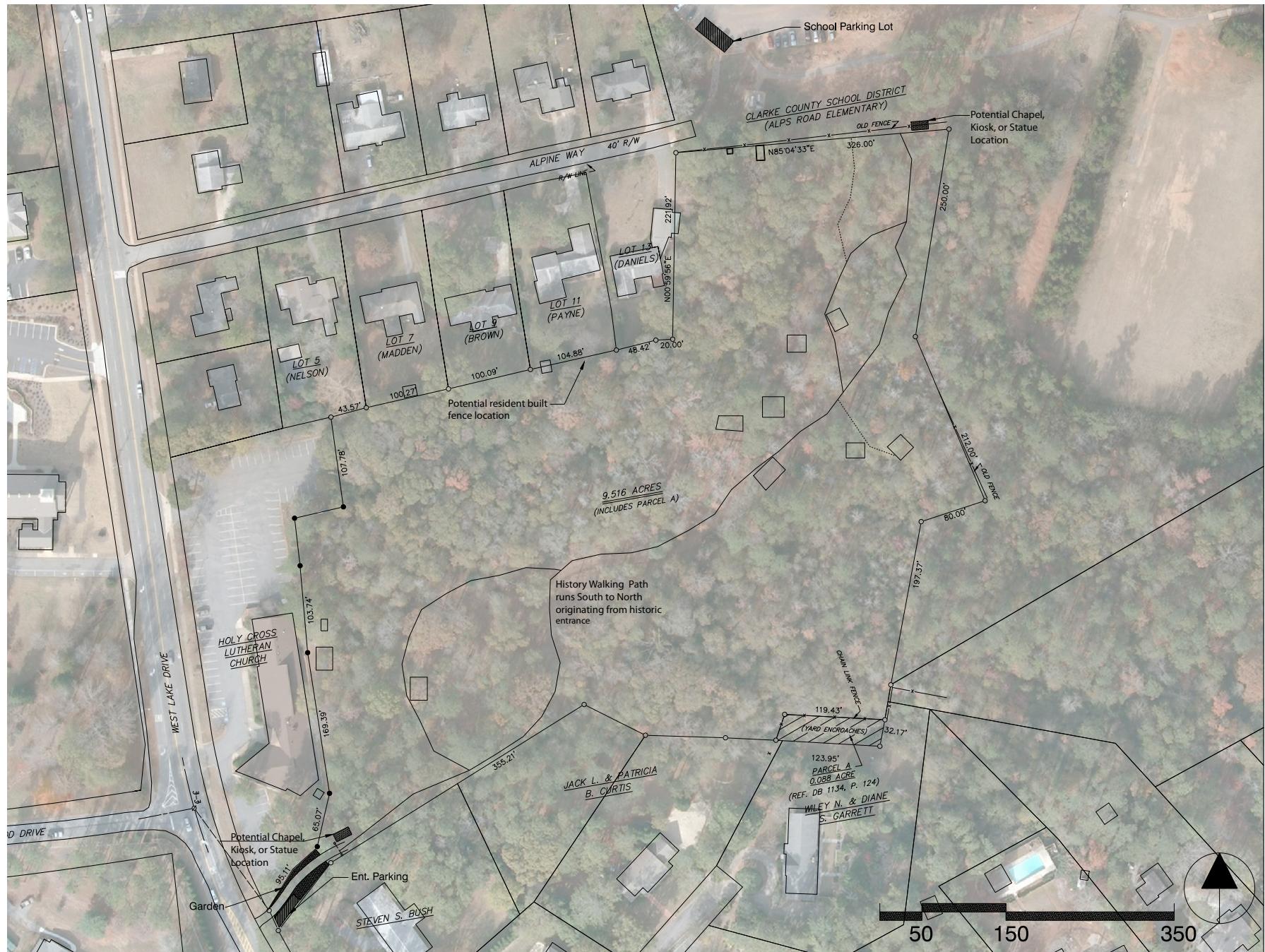
Although in existence for over 130 years, the cemetery was active until the 1950's with burials into the 1990's. The creation of the East Lawn Cemetery to the east of downtown Athens left this cemetery without any form of perpetual care. Since the period of abandonment, Brooklyn Cemetery has suffered a period of indifference. With no responsible authority for the cemetery's maintenance, relatives of the deceased would move graves to this newer alternative and the migration of Brooklyn's original residents from the area the cemetery fell into a slow decline. Up until recently, Brooklyn Cemetery existed in an overgrown and seemingly abandoned state. The presence of exotic invasive plants, unidentified graves, disrepair of identified stones, sunken graves, tree growth in graves, homeless shelters, and dog use in the cemetery are of particular concern.

## Introduction

The newly founded Brooklyn Cemetery Board of Trustees and Friends of the Brooklyn Cemetery wish to see the revival and transformation of the cemetery into a place of respect and pride as a cultural attraction. Recent efforts from the trustees, associated volunteer programs and community members have only just begun to resolve some of the cemetery's problems. However, the organization wishes to have a plan to guide the restoration and improvements to ensure a consistent vision for the cemetery. The graduate students of Landscape Architecture at the University of Georgia's College of Environment and Design have volunteered their time and resources to create a master vision plan for the improvement and restoration of the site. The master plan examines the contemporary issues that face the cemetery, drawing on interviews and discussion from stakeholders of the Brooklyn Cemetery and surrounding areas. A historic overview of the cemetery establishes a framework for the recommendations within the report, alongside precedents from similar African-American cemeteries. The master plan is both a restoration and preservation plan, designed to steer a transition from an inactive cemetery to its' potential role as a cultural and historic community resource. It is vital that Brooklyn Cemetery's historic integrity and character is not damaged, and as such, input from stakeholders is extensively evaluated and considered. It is recognized that financial and time constraints are the main limitations in completing the Friends and Trustees of Brooklyn Cemetery's ambition; goals for the future are prioritized to allow an approach which is sensitive and effective over an unknown time frame. Importantly, the master plan will allow current trustees to impart a succession plan for the long-term survival of the Brooklyn Cemetery as a cultural resource for the larger Athens community and the State of Georgia.

# Site Maps



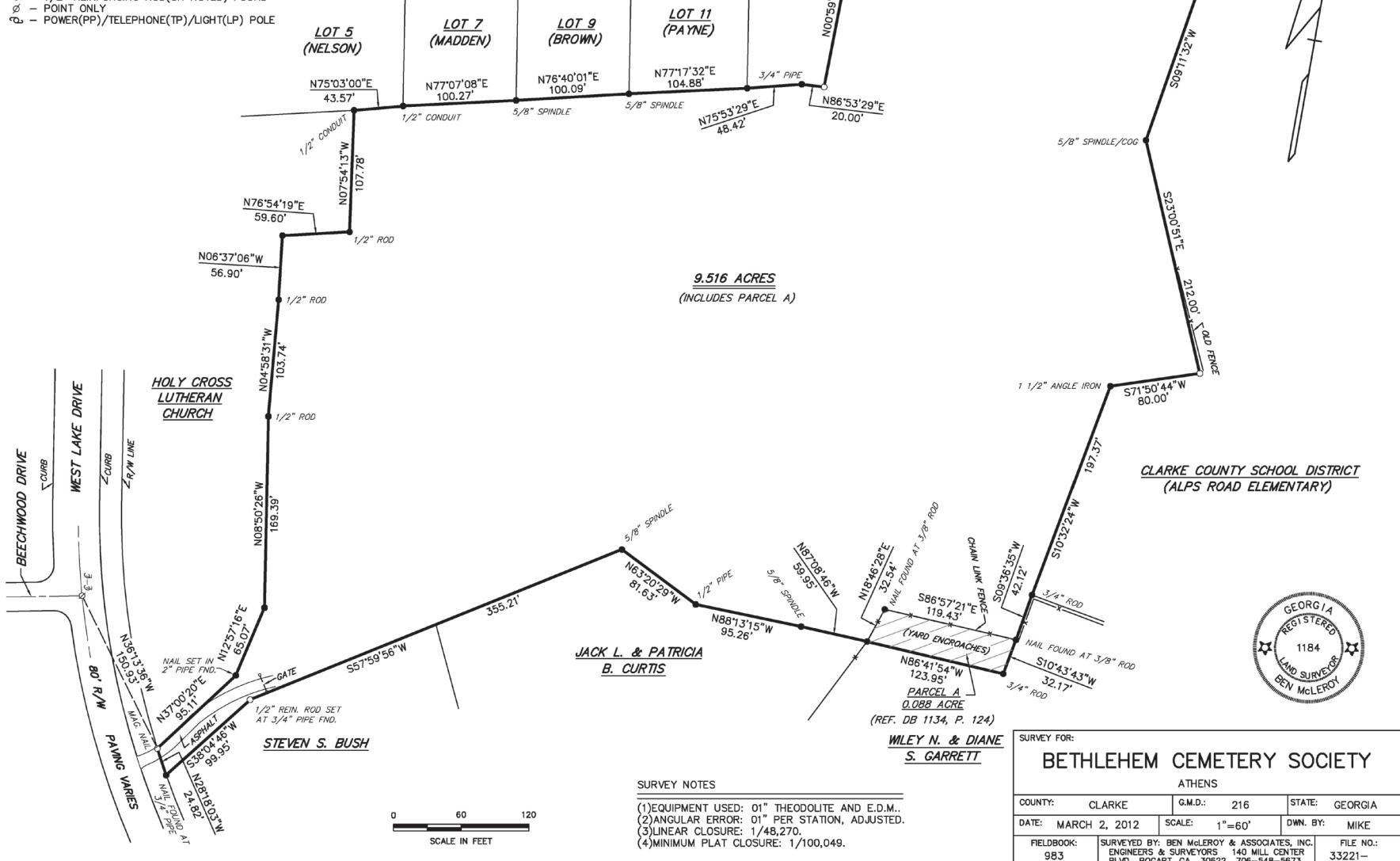


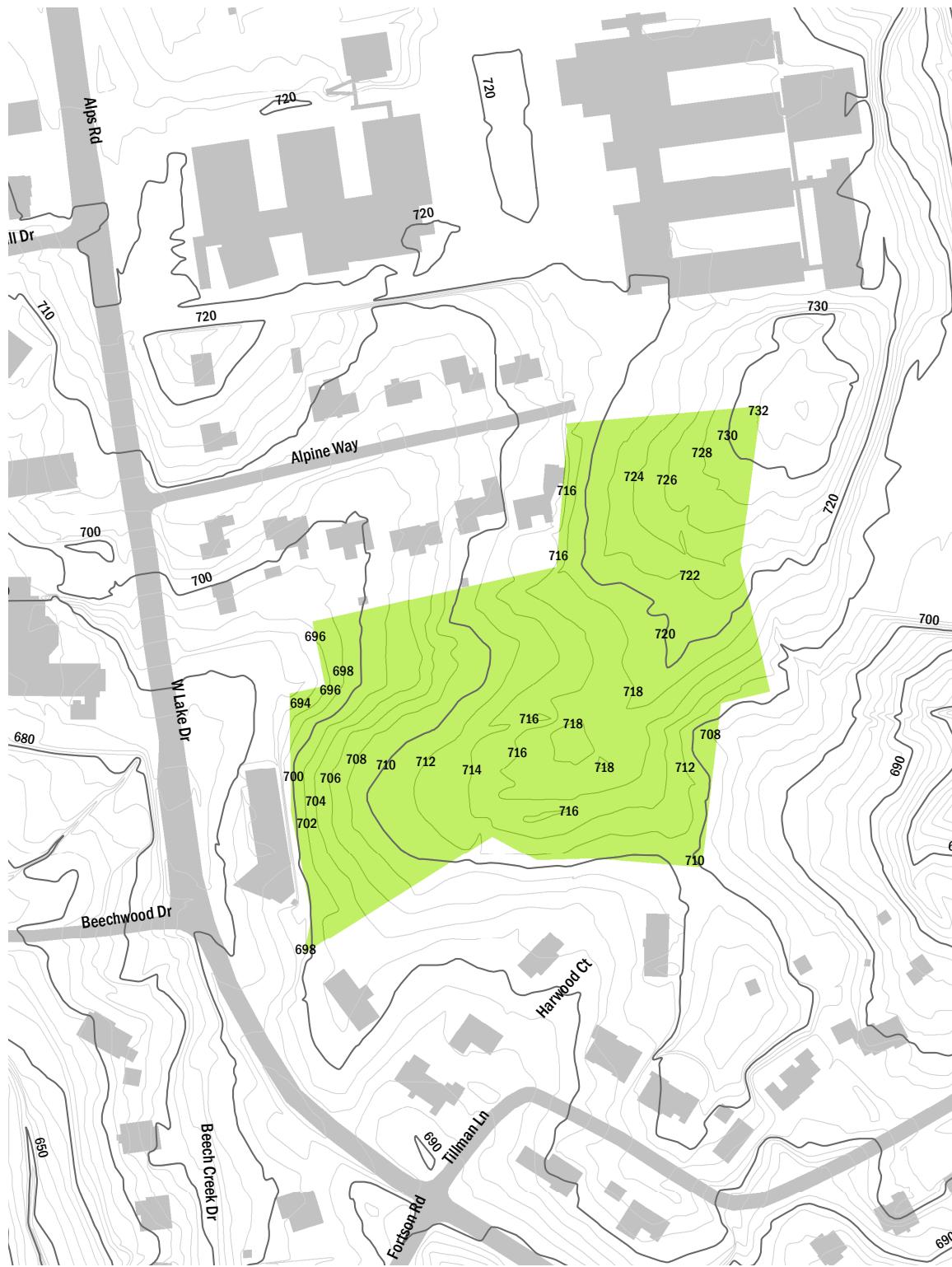
## REFERENCES

- (1) OUR SURVEY FOR HOLY CROSS LUTHERAN CHURCH, DATED OCTOBER 28, 1985.
- (2) SURVEY BY DANNER & HUDSON FOR CLARKE COUNTY BOARD OF EDUCATION DATED JULY 1957, REVISED FEBRUARY 1971.
- (3) SURVEY BY DANNER & HUDSON FOR AL LEMOS, DATED AUGUST 1962.
- (4) SURVEY BY DANNER & HUDSON FOR BETHEL CEMETERY, DATED MARCH 1958.
- (5) SURVEY BY DANNER & HUDSON FOR DOROTHY M. HOLLAND, DATED JUNE 1975.
- (6) PLAT BOOK 23, PAGE 307.

## LEGEND

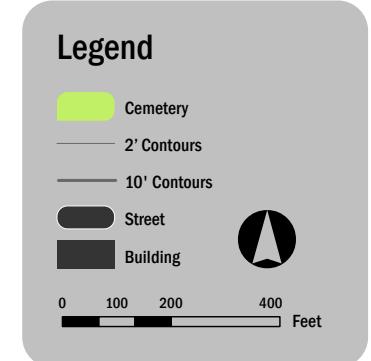
- - 1/2" REINFORCING ROD SET
- - 1/2" REINFORCING ROD(OR NOTED) FOUND
- POINT ONLY
- ◊ - POWER(PP)/TELEPHONE(TP)/LIGHT(LP) POLE





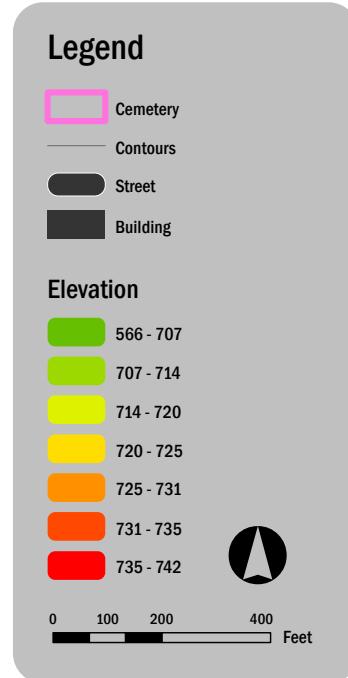
# Brooklyn Cemetery

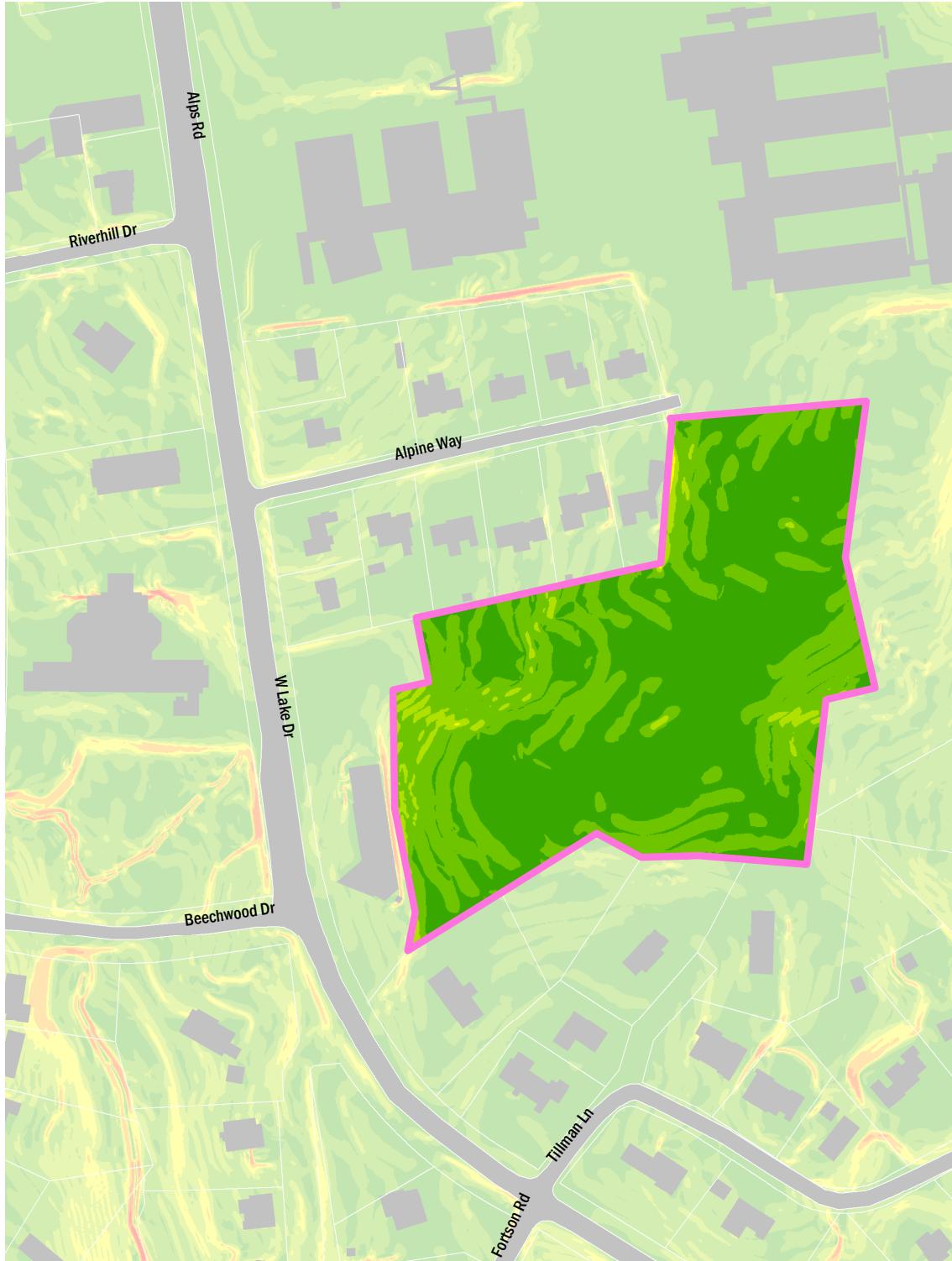
## Site Topography



# Brooklyn Cemetery

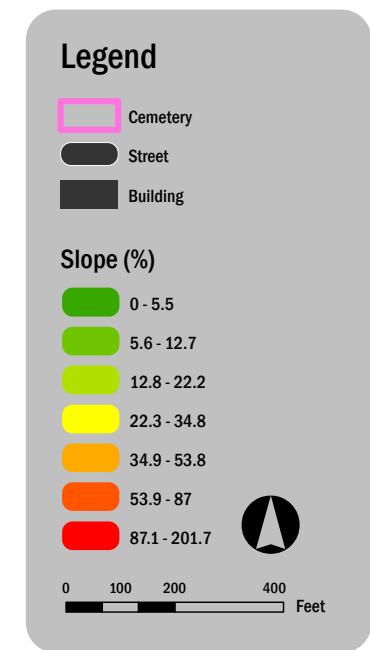
Site Elevation





# Brooklyn Cemetery

## Site Slope





**1955**



**1960**



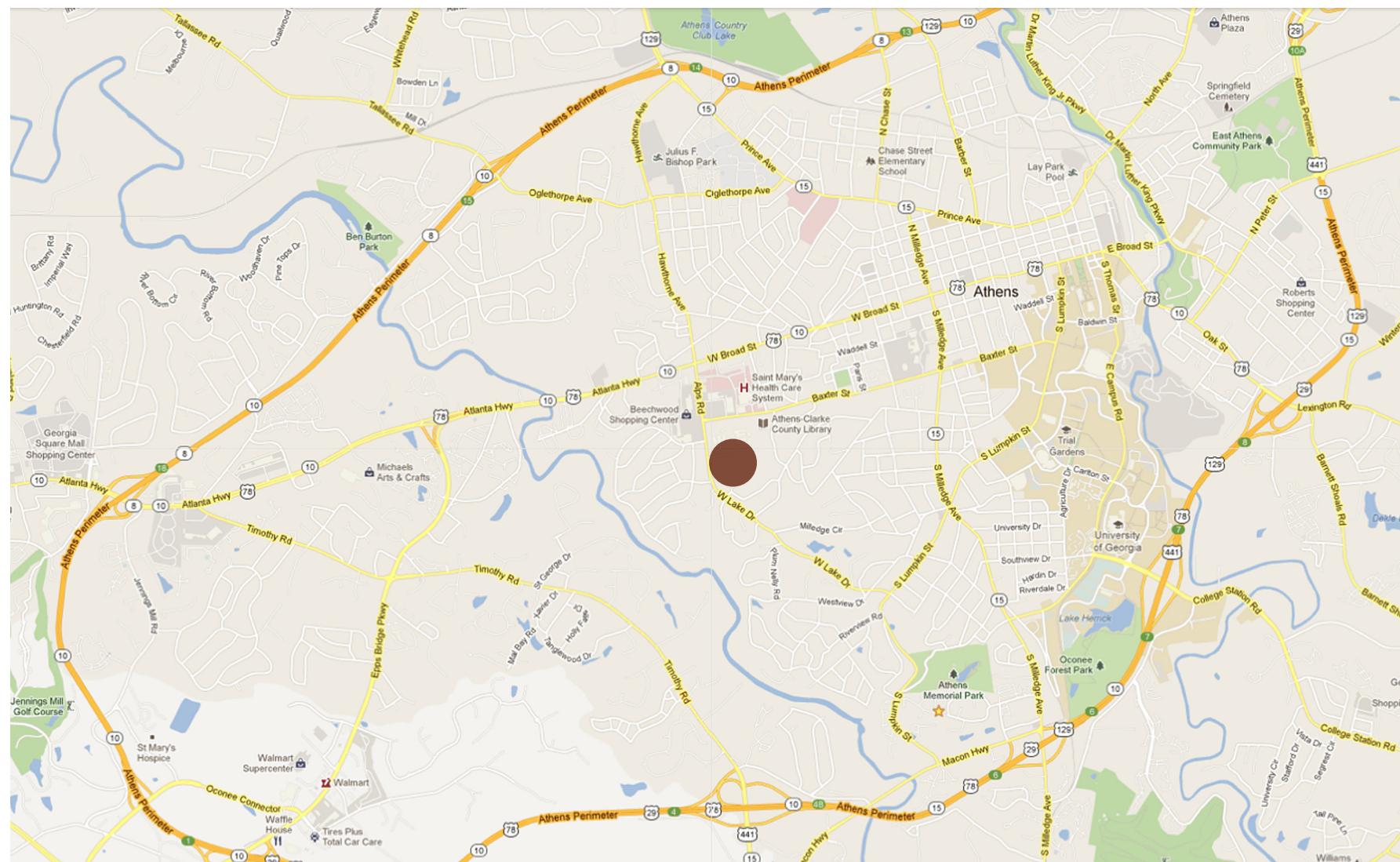
**1973**



**1980**



# Interpretation



## **TITLE & OWNERSHIP HISTORY**

The Brooklyn Cemetery, formerly known as Bethlehem Cemetery, was established in 1880 as a place of burial for black people in Clarke County, Athens, Georgia. The 10 acre cemetery served as a final resting ground for many of the residents of the Brooklyn/Hawthorne neighborhoods located on the western side of Athens for over a century. The cemetery has seen two major groups of trustees come and go, under the organizational name, the "Presidents and Trustees of the Bethlehem Cemetery Society." Over its course of ownership, the cemetery has sold off two small parcels of land; approximately 4.5 acres in 1959 and later 1.661 acres in 1974. The parcels were sold both times in order to raise money to support a dwindling budget and lack of maintenance. Currently, the cemetery is being maintained under the leadership of the Friends of the Brooklyn Cemetery Society, a group of trustees with strong personal, cultural and historical connections to the cemetery. The Friends seek to revitalize the local Brooklyn community through a master plan redesign of the site, incorporating boundary fencing, sculpture, site maintenance and educational signage. The following timeline is adapted from documents supporting the Friends' interest in recognition as trustees of the cemetery, as well as interviews and data gathering from community meetings with the Friends of the Brooklyn Cemetery Society.

## **Site History**

1880	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bethlehem Cemetery Society is formed for the purpose of providing a burial place for black people in Clarke County.</li> </ul>
March 3, 1882	Barrow & Lumpkin Law Firm conveys "10 acres more or less" in fee simple to certain named individuals as "Presidents and Trustees of the Bethlehem Cemetery Society."
July 1957	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The original trustees of the Bethlehem Cemetery Society have all passed away.</li> </ul>
August 6, 1957	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Judge Carlisle Cobb of Clarke County Superior Court appoints Ed Bazzelle, Will M. Hudson, Steve Holbrooks, and Lawrence McWhorter as new trustees of the Bethlehem Cemetery Society.</li> </ul>
Mid-Late 1950's	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Society lacks sufficient funds to maintain the cemetery.</li> <li>Danner &amp; Hudson create three surveys of cemetery property.</li> </ul>
August 1957	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Society petitions Clarke County Superior Court to ratify and confirm the sale of 4.5 acres in the southern half of the cemetery.</li> </ul>
May 9, 1959	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Superior Court grants Society's request, upon the condition that the graves in the portion of the cemetery to be sold be removed and reinterred in the remaining portion of the cemetery.</li> </ul>
July 16, 1959	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The trustees of the Society record an affidavit stating that all of the bodies have been removed from the land to be conveyed.</li> <li>Trustees of the Society convey a warranty deed for the 4.5 acre parcel to Charles Bridges</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Charles Bridges immediately conveys the 4.5 acres to Brandon Jones</li> </ul>
December 30, 1959	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The trustees of the Society execute a correction deed to Brandon Jones.</li> <li>The correction deed corrects the acreage from 4.5 acres to 4 and 1/3 acres.</li> </ul>

- April 1, 1974
  - The Society sells "a small portion" of the western boundary of the cemetery to the Lutheran Church
  
- April 11, 1974
  - Ed Bazzelle, as president of Bethlehem Cemetery Society, conveys 1.661 acres of land adjacent Alps Road to the Board of American Missions of the Lutheran Church in America.
  
- Mid 1980's
  - Society continues in operation as an active trust.
  - Cemetery begins to show signs of neglect and want of maintenance.
  - Adjacent landowners living along Alpine Way begin using portions of the cemetery's fringe for storing yard debris and personal belongings.
  
- 1990's
  - Society's last remaining trustee passes away.
  - Cemetery ceases burials.
  
- 2006
  - Mrs. Linda E. Davis and Mr. Karl Scott form the Friends of Brooklyn Cemetery Agency in the hopes of restoring the cemetery and rebuilding the community surrounding its members and deceased relatives.
  
- December 4, 2008
  - Professor Alex Scherr and Trent Myers of the PIP (Public Interest Project) office at the University of Georgia School of Law conduct a feasibility study for the current Trustees of the Brooklyn Cemetery Agency to appoint themselves new trustees of Bethlehem Cemetery Society.

## CONNECTIVITY TO BROOKLYN NEIGHBORHOOD



**1860'S :** Origins: The origin of the name is attributed to soldiers during the Civil War from Brooklyn, New York, camping at the current site of Mt. Pleasant Baptist Church located at Hawthorne Avenue and Old West Broad Street.

**1950 – 1960 :** Residential Boom: The neighborhood began to grow as a residential area starting around 1959. It is the first major African American neighborhood with true home ownership in Georgia. Jones stated his family home was in 1960/61.

**1970 :** Decline: By the mid-1970's only four of the original families remained in the neighborhood. The Jones, Wilsons, Strouds, and the Lays were the remaining four families. The neighborhood experienced a steep decline and drug use and dealing were ramped. Both interviewees attributed, to a certain degree, the Jack R. Wells housing to the decline of the area, bringing in drug abuse.

**1990 :** Resurgence: The neighborhood began to make a comeback in 1995/96 with the creation of the neighborhood watch. Families began to move back and unused land is now used as a community garden.

**2000 + FUTURE :** The neighborhood is starting to come back into its own. The community garden is in full swing and houses are occupied again. Conversely, the Jack R. Wells housing project will begin revitalization in early 2013.

# Neighborhood History

## ORAL HISTORY OF BROOKLYN NEIGHBORHOOD

Interviewer: Ethan Gray

Interviewees:  
Barbara Sims  
(Head of Community Garden)

Deacon Frederick Jones  
(Age 72, resident entire life)

Interview: April 4, 2012

# Chapel



African American Chapel  
Cumberland Island, GA



African American Chapel  
Hampton, VA

The community has shown support and consideration to develop the plans and construct a permanent chapel on the site of the Brooklyn Cemetery.

**Location:** The site will be developed on the periphery of the entrance zones away from the potential of covering any unmarked graves.

## Design Program:

- Chapel space with seating for introspection and student education
- Expressive historical space with written historical of space
- Directory and map of all known grave sites for family and visitors
- Art installation in the form of mural or sculptor connected to chapel

## Design Size:

- Maximum – 400 sq. ft. (20' x 20')
- Minimum – 100 sq. ft. (10' x 10')
- Program adjustments per size allotment

## Design Materials:

- Attempt to collect materials from local building deconstructions
- Style will emerge from materials used
- Reclaimed lumber, brick, stone
- Vernacular design with modern detailing/abstraction

## Design Construction:

- Goal is to keep costs down
- Student design/build
- Local tradesmen



# Paths Wayfinding

## PATH HIERARCHY

- Compacted gravel for service road
- Mulch/grass for secondary footpaths
- Granite edging

## WAYFINDING HIERARCHY

- Signage at entrances (visible from west lake drive)
- Chapel at one entrance
  - historical/cultural interpretation
  - reflection
- maps/materials displaying: regions, veterans, circulation map
- Directional guidance at intersections



## **GROUND PLANE INTERPRETIVE PROGRAM**

This section addresses the concept of using ground plane treatments to interpret the history of the cemetery, its patrons, supporting community that make up both the tangible and intangible elements, which defines Brooklyn Cemetery's unique place in American history.

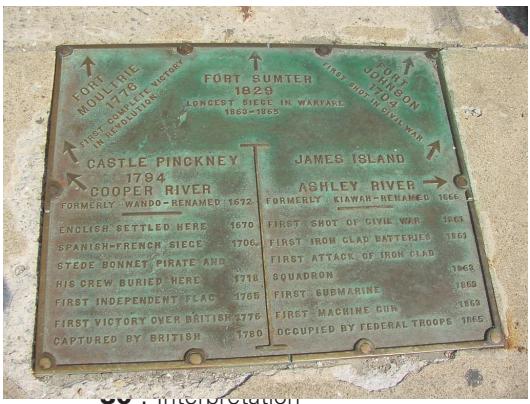
### **DESIGN INTENT**

This method of interpretation seeks to preserve the vertical elements within the cemetery that provide the primary sense of reverence and honor of those buried on site, which creates the distinct character and experience of the historic Brooklyn Cemetery. Limiting this treatment to the widest primary path that runs through the cemetery would provide an educational program to visitors while not disturbing the historic nature of the burial grounds on site. Furthermore, these elements would be restricted to remaining short enough to be part of the ground plane treatment and would be distinctive from grave markers.

### **DESIGN GUIDELINES**

- The elements are organized chronologically along the primary pathway beginning at historical entrance
- Each decade of time to be demarcated with a perpendicularly aligned element that crosses completely over the pathway clearly marking the transition from one decade to the next (could begin as early as founding of Athens, Brooklyn Neighborhood, or Brooklyn Cemetery itself through the present). Would ideally be railroad sleepers or something similar.

# Ground Plane History



- Elements are imbedded into paving surface only on one side of primary pathway and to remain at grade or very slightly above grade, with lettering oriented towards edge of primary pathway out into cemetery.
- Each type of material represents a scope of historic interpretation (i.e. concrete are for world history, granite are for United States history, etched steel are for Georgia history, wood are for Athens history, bronze are for Brooklyn Cemetery history)
- Sizes are hierarchical of importance to site (i.e. smallest are world history, largest are cemetery history)

## RECOMMENDATIONS

Before laying out a plan of these treatments to use, It would be useful to determine an approximate number of elements that would need to be placed to adequately provide ample historical information about the cemetery and its context in time as well as spacing for decade demarcations based on the number of potential elements in a single decade (they probably don't need to be evenly placed apart.) Furthermore, cost consideration should be addressed during sizing and number of plaques. Determine if local artist or community members are able and willing to provide some of these interpretive elements.

## HISTORIC PATH OVERLAY



# Historic Marker Registration

**National Register Criteria for Evaluation** (Georgia Historic Preservation Division)

- Age: “A property must be “old enough” to be considered historic. Generally speaking, this means that a property must be at least 50 years old. Another way of looking at it is that a property must be old enough to have been studied by historians, architectural historians, or archaeologists so that its place in history is clear.”

**The Brooklyn cemetery has a history of 130 years. It is old enough to be considered historic.**

- Integrity: “A property must retain its historic physical integrity. For a building, structure, landscape feature, historic site, or historic district, this means that the property must be relatively unchanged. Its essential character-defining features relative to its significance must still be present. For a traditional cultural property, integrity means that the site must be recognizable to today’s affiliated cultural group, evidenced through tradition, and still used or revered in some way.”

**The cemetery is now overgrown. And most of the people who has relatives buried in Brooklyn Cemetery have moved outside of Athens. They come back only occasionally. One of the major goals of the preservation and conservation process is to retain its integrity.**

- Significance: " Significance is defined in three ways: (1) through direct association with individuals, events, activities, or developments that shaped our history or that reflect important aspects of our history; (2) by embodying the distinctive physical and spatial characteristics of an architectural style or type of building, structure, landscape, or planned environment, or a method of construction, or by embodying high artistic values or fine craftsmanship; or (3) by having the potential to yield information important to our understanding of the past through archaeological, architectural, or other physical investigation and analysis."

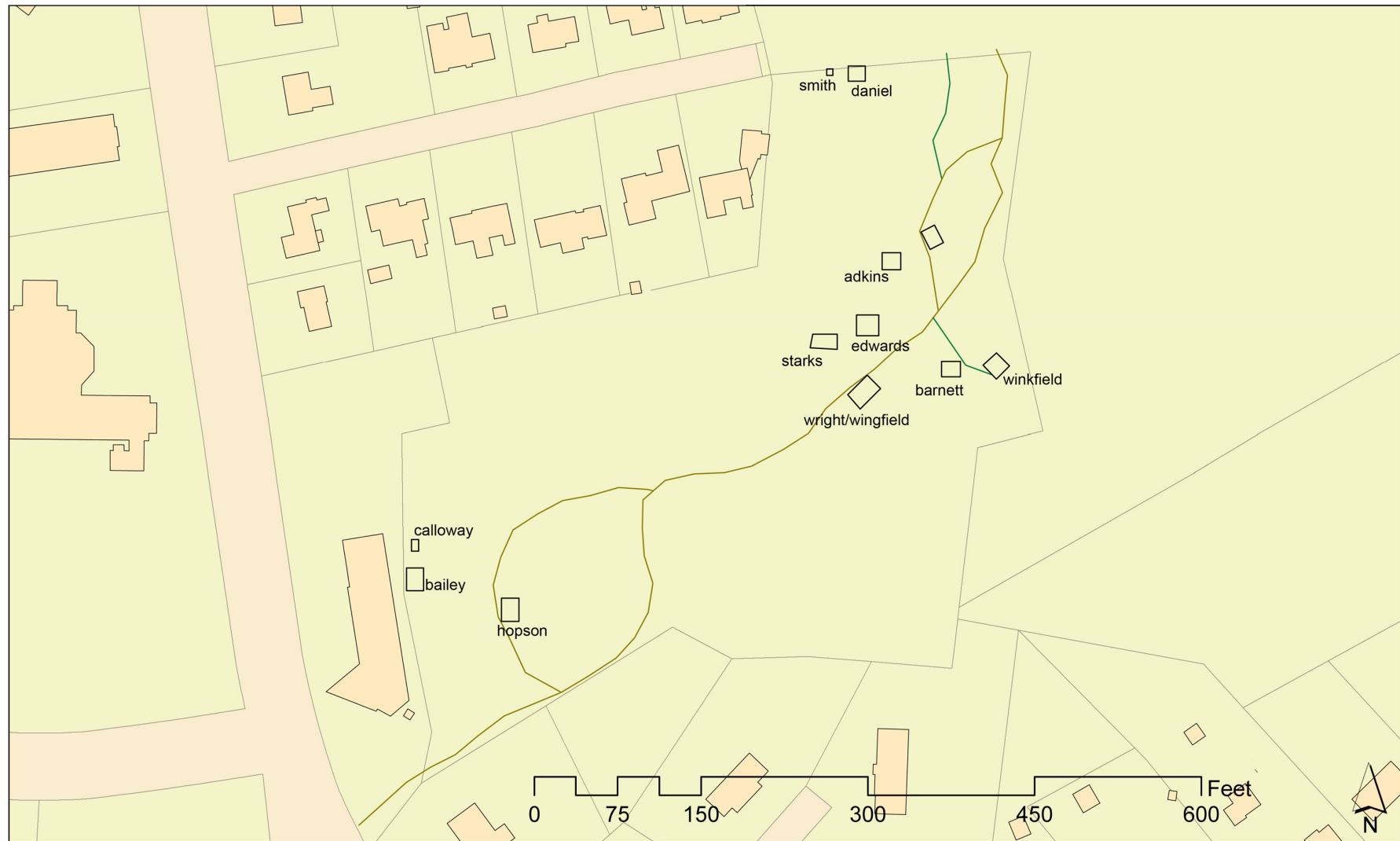
**The cemetery has great significance in African American history.**

- Process
  1. Contact state historic preservation office.
  2. Meet the evaluation standard.
  3. Fill and submit the nomination forms to SHPO.



# Gravesites





## FAMILY PLOTS

CALLAWAY

ELSIE  
'3 19

ROBERT SR.  
1870 - 1944

## **CONSERVATION OF GRAVE MARKERS**

### Types of Grave Markers and Existing Conditions

The grave marker types existing in Brooklyn Cemetery are headstone, footstone, ground tablet and funeral home plaque. Most of them are locally made stone markers. The stone materials are concrete and granite. The funeral home plaque material is wrought iron. Most of the markers are weathered. The oldest ones can hardly read the names and words on it. Most of the glass cover of the funeral home plaque and the paper with the records on it are missing.

### **Documentation**

Before starting a cleaning and repairing, always document what a makers looks like. Photograph each side of the marker. Record the repair process with photographs and notes, and document the condition of the stone when the conservation process is complete.

### **Statuses**

- Location: Statues are at the two entrances and at the junction of the main paths, which helps to evoke a strong feeling of the ceremony.
- Style: Figure statues which show the African-American community's contribution to Athens are preferred. These non-abstract statues reflect the buried people's hard work in the past and work as remembering and acknowledgment for them. Statues are for memorial but not for weeping.

# Markers Monuments



- Athens African-American Artist - Harold Rittenberry
- Materials
  - Bronze - Expensive but beautiful
  - Stone, Wood, Reclaimed materials - Affordable but original
- References:
  - Harold Rittenberry Jr.  
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/detourart/sets/72157603800072591/with/2220433327/>
  - The African-American Monument  
<http://www.usca.edu/aasc/african-americanmonument.htm>

### **Cleaning**

Granite takes a polishing well and is relatively acid resistant, but do not attempt to return the stone to its original brightness, which would involve removing all patina. Move organic growth from stones. Do not clean them if there is a possibility of freezing temperatures within the next three days. Don't clean them again within 5 years, which will remove the surface material.

### **Cleaning Process** (Michigan Historic Cemeteries Preservation Guide):

- Pre-wet the monument with clean water before applying any chemical solutions.  
Wetting the surface avoids excessive penetration of both cleaning solutions and soil into the stone, and helps to soften the soiling material.
- Clean the monument on all sides from bottom to top to avoid stains and streaks.  
Rinse frequently during the process.
- Do not use a dry brush on stone. Dip frequently in water to reduce friction on the stone – or have a hose running with a constant flow of water over the stone as you brush.
- To ensure that stones have been properly rinsed, check the pH using a test strip. A pH of about seven is desirable.
- To repeat: never allow a cleaning solution to dry on the stone.



### **Repairing Headstones and Monuments**

- Correcting tilted stones that were set directly in the ground
- If the marker is leaning less than fifteen degrees from the vertical, unless the inscription is obscured below the grade, intervention to set it upright is not suggested. For several of the stones having serious problems, use clay bricks as a base and bagged clay to strengthen the repair.
- Resetting stones that have fallen to the ground
- Because stones lying on the ground are continually subject to absorption of moisture, which weakens the stone. After excavate the stone, Hoist the marker from the ground using nylon straps to let the stone dry first, then clean and reset them. Fallen stones should be handled with great care.

# Brooklyn Cemetery

## Gravesites found as of 12/20/06



## UNMARKED GRAVES

### Method Options for

#### Locating Unmarked Graves:

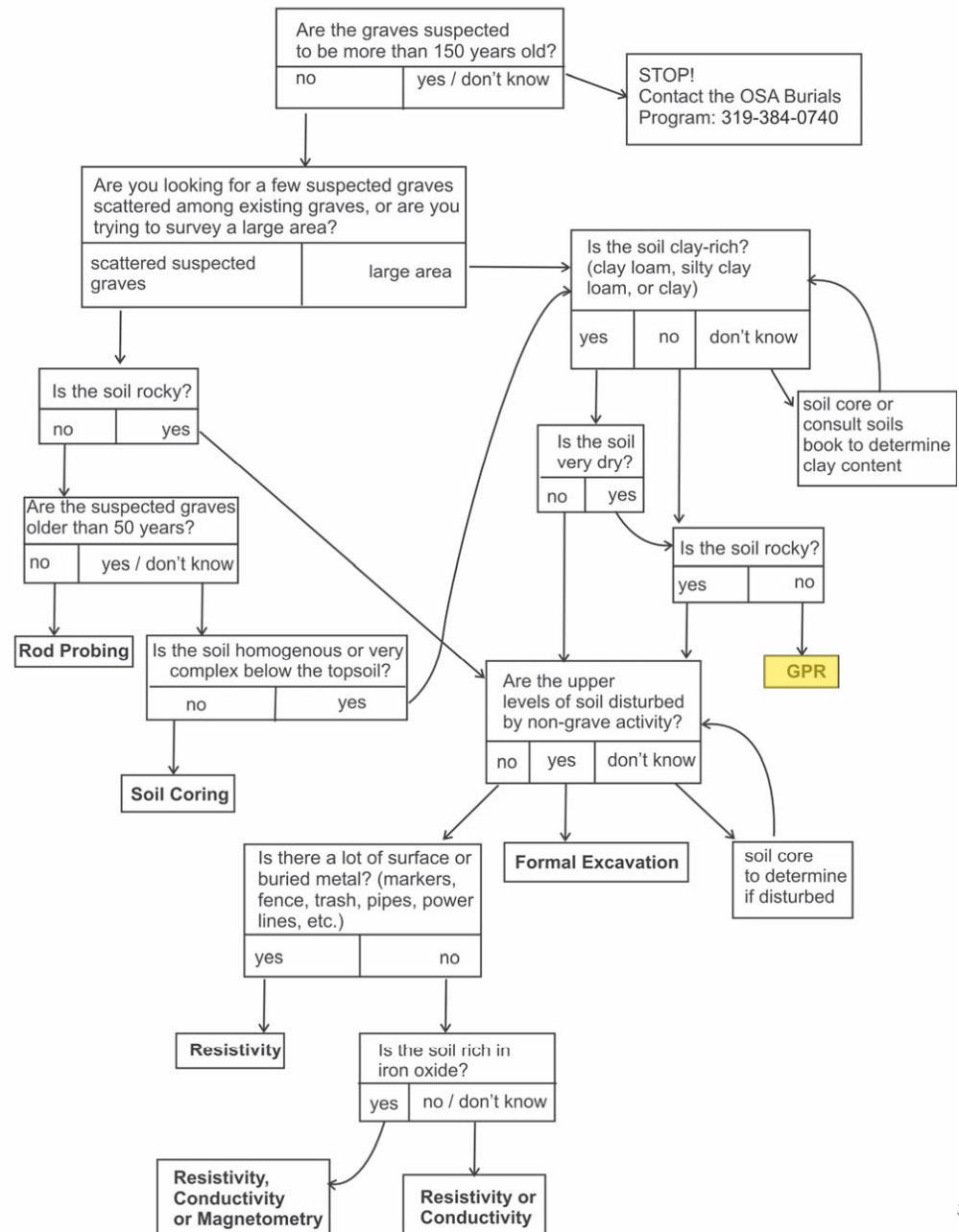
- Rod Probing
- Soil Coring
- Formal Excavation
- Resistivity
- Conductivity
- Magnetometry
- Dowsing/Witching
- Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR)

#### Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR)

looks like the best option

### Decision-Making Flow Chart for Finding Unmarked Burials

This chart presents some of the decision-making criteria archaeologists and geophysicists use in deciding a method for finding graves. Contact an archaeologist or geophysicist for more information.





### **What is GPR?**

"A radio or microwave signal is sent into the ground and the reflected signal is recorded. The time it takes for the signal to return reflects the depth of penetration, and the returning signal can be stronger or weaker depending on the type of material it is passing through and reflecting off. This data can be used to make an image of the subsurface. A GPR technician will walk an antenna over an area, recording data. This data is processed in a computer to create a two or three dimensional image of the subsurface. Under ideal conditions, the grave shaft and possibly the coffin or vault will be visible, but under normal conditions, only the upper part of the grave shaft is visible."

-Office of the State Archaeologist, University of Iowa

### **Benefits:**

Not harmful or invasive to site

More accurate than other methods

Unfortunately, can also be  
expensive

### **Recommendations:**

GPR has been done here in Athens, right on the UGA campus!

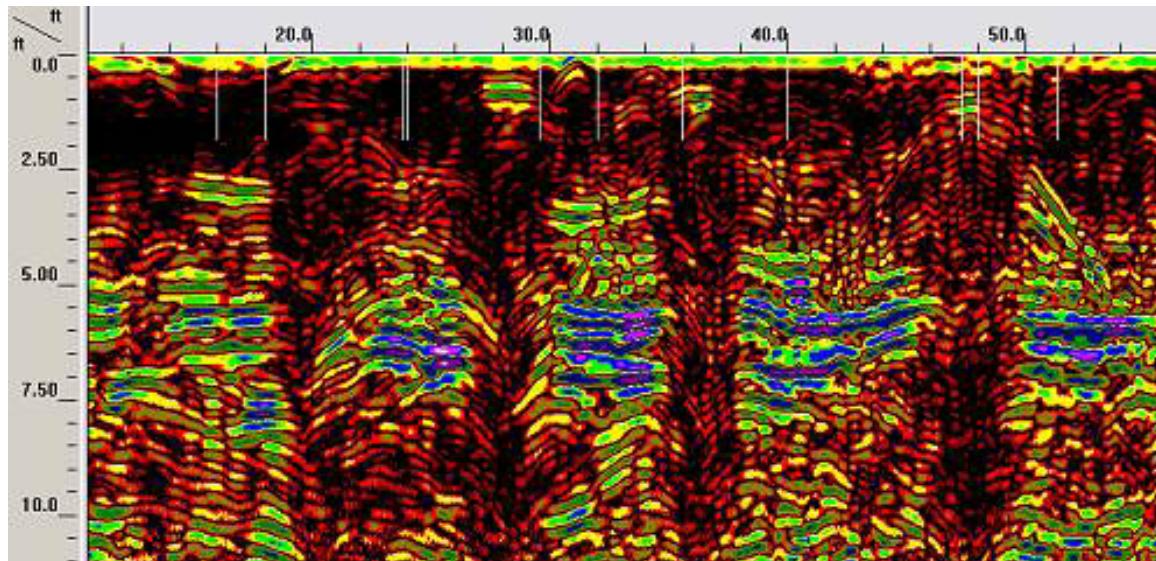
Was used in Old Athens Cemetery by archaeology students to find several new graves.

**Contact UGA Professor Ervan Garrison: [egarriso@uga.edu](mailto:egarriso@uga.edu)**

- team of graduate students volunteers??
- access to equipment
- magnetometers
- gradiometers
- ground penetrating radar (GPR)

### **Mark the Unmarked Graves**

Use simple and regular shaped granite foot stones (granite material from) to mark the unmarked graves instead of the temporary PVC pipes.



Gravesites : **45**

## **GRAVE FILLING PROCEDURES FOR SUNKEN GRAVES**

### **Sunken Graves:**

- Occur when a coffin decomposes and the soil above sinks down to fill the space
- Generally there are no concrete vaults in place to protect caskets and granite monuments are placed directly on the ground with little or no sub-base

### **Problems:**

- Overgrowth and leaf litter covers holes, which becomes unsafe for children and the elderly
- Loss of personal and cultural history over time if grave site locations are not documented and maintained

### **Procedures:**

- Using GPS, first map the exact location of the existing sunken grave
- Remove and reset headstone, if applicable
- Fill with mulch, aggregate, or fill dirt and bring to grade
- Replant new groundcover or culturally/historically significant plantings if desired

### **Considerations:**

- Fill in sunken graves and reseed after the cemetery has been mapped. Otherwise, you risk losing the original locations of the graves
- Oftentimes, if the headstone itself has tipped over or become crooked, it is first necessary to pour a new concrete sub-base and re-mortar the headstone before filling in the grave.



## KNOWN VETERAN SITES



## VETERANS

### Mapping

List veterans' names who are buried in Brooklyn Cemetery and map their burial plots in the kiosk by the entrance.

### Markers

Although the existing headstones of veterans can clearly identify them, using special planting design around the headstones can improve the feeling of dignity and respect of the veterans. Use native plants with bright colors and those can be easily maintained.

### Recommended plants to use are:

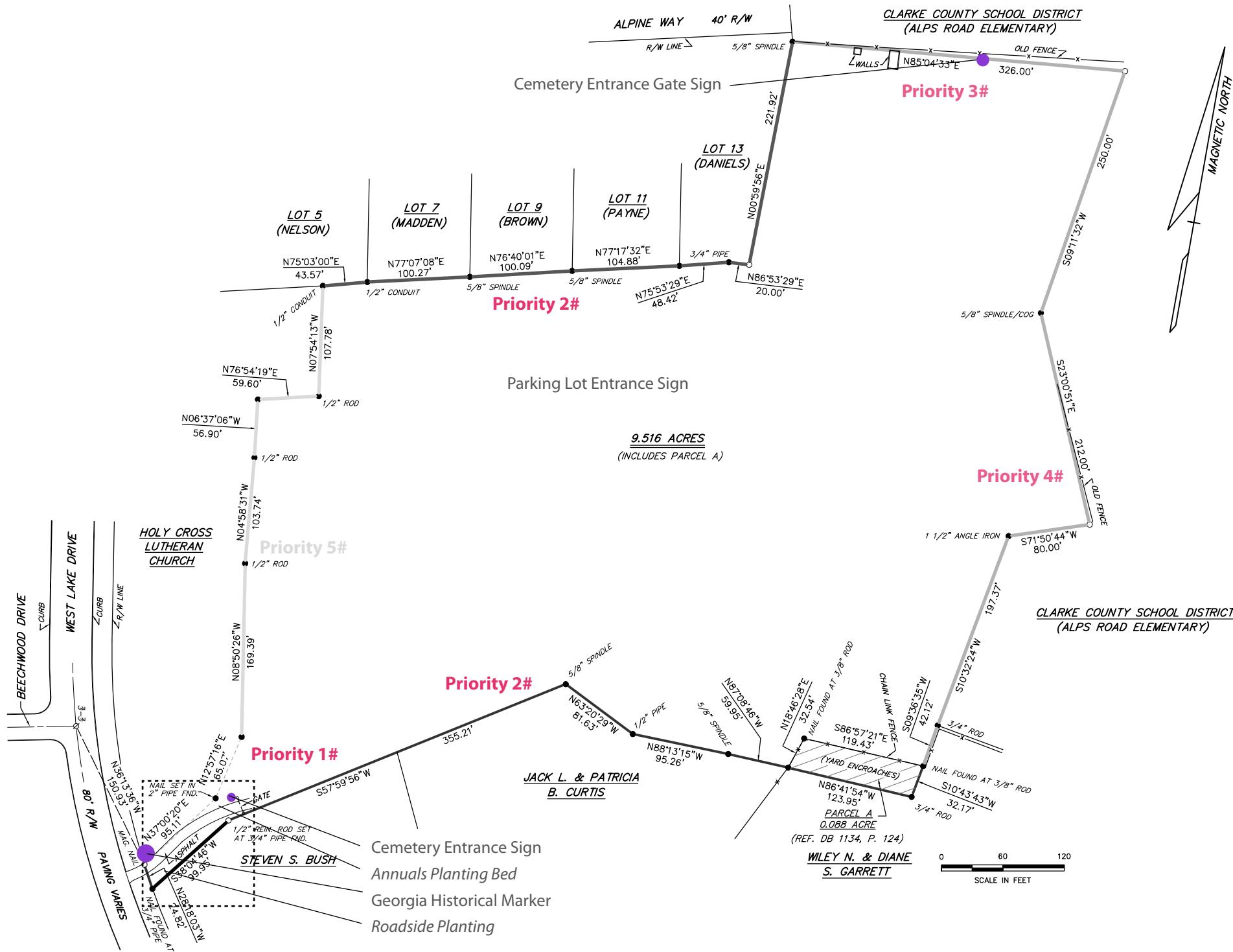
- Lenten Rose( *Helleborus orientalis*)
- Cobra Jack (*Arisaema ringens*)
- Foam Flower (*Tiarella cordifolia*)
- Blood Root (*Sanguinaria canadensis*)





# Circulation

● School Parking Lot Entrance Sign



**PRIORITY 1# MAIN ENTRANCE GATE;**

Ornamental Wrought Iron Gate = \$ 2000?

Wrought Iron Gate Post/Surround = \$

Granite Gate Post/Surround = \$

**PRIORITY 2# PROPERTY BOUNDARIES; 1379.44':**

Ornamental Wrought Iron Fence = \$27,588.80

Split Rail Fence = \$6897.20

Chain Link = \$11,035.52

**PRIORITY 3# NORTH-EAST BOUNDARY; 739.37':**

Ornamental Wrought Iron Fence = \$14787.40

Split Rail Fence = \$3969.85

Chain Link = \$5914.96

**PRIORITY 4# CLARKE COUNTY SCHOOL BOUNDARY; 326':**

Ornamental Wrought Iron Fence = \$6520.00

Split Rail Fence = \$1630.00

Chain Link = \$2608.00

**PRIORITY 5# LUTHERAN CHURCH; 491.41':**

Ornamental Wrought Iron Fence = \$9828.20

Split Rail Fence = \$2457.05

Chain Link = \$3931.28

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**TOTAL BOUNDARY FENCING COST; 2936.22':**

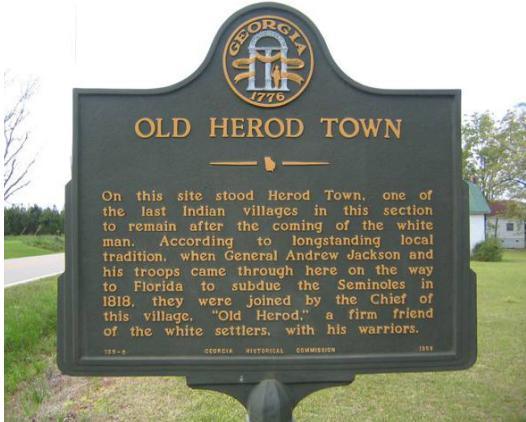
Ornamental Wrought Iron Fence = \$58,724.40

Split Rail Fence = \$14,681.10

Chain Link = \$23,489.76

*[All costs approximate and exclusive of Labour]*

Boundary  
and  
Signage



## INTRODUCTION/CHALLENGES:

The main challenges facing the Brooklyn cemetery concern an unattractive and poorly conditioned main entrance, lack of definition in relation to Clarke County School and the encroachment of surrounding properties onto the site. The boundary is prioritized according to need of action in relation to overall project goals

## DESIGN PRIORITIES:

### Priority 1 – Main Entrance

The formal entrance off West Lake Drive is currently indistinct and should be more clearly defined in accordance with the overall project goals. If the Brooklyn Cemetery Committee so wishes to obtain historical status, a Georgia State Historical Marker would provide the ideal signage on to the West Lake Drive entrance asphalt road threshold. Until this is achieved, a temporary sign can be used and may be transferred to a final position adjacent the entrance gate or the Clarke County School entrance. This sign should prominently indicate the presence and accessibility of the Brooklyn Cemetery and its distinction from the Lutheran Church, but should be careful in its size and appearance not to be obtrusive to neighboring properties. (Historical Marker Cost: ranges from \$1500-\$5000 depending on site/application status). The condition of the asphalt entrance road is an acceptable condition, and is not a priority for improvement. While the south boundary should be appropriately fenced, the northern edge should remain open and easily accessed to proposed visitor parking at the Holy Cross Lutheran Church lot. Vegetation around the gated area is currently intrusive. Its clearance should be prioritized to improve the visibility of the entrance. Planting, colorful throughout the

seasons and accompanied by an annuals bed to the left of the gate, is suggested to define the entrance way. (Work with planting design group for this!!!) One half of the existing (date of origin unknown?) Wrought iron gate is in possession of Merriwether (member of the Brooklyn Cemetery Committee?), and it is recommended that a full restoration of the gate be carried out. Historical documentation, if available, or precedence from other African-American cemeteries (see Gospel Pilgrim Cemetery, Athens) may guide the selection of gate post material. The existing 'pill-box' style although structurally sound is visually plain, and a more ornate wrought iron or granite pillar construction may be more complementary. Salvaged materials may offer a more restorative style, although depending on the source, condition and age, may be more expensive. Discrete signage should be included at the physical entrance; suggestions include the incorporation of lettering into the iron gate, or fixation of an embossed metal sign to a solid gate post.

### **Priority 2 – Property Boundaries**

To maintain the access to graves, and even their actual integrity, it is imperative that the cemetery boundary is formalized to prevent encroachment and insensitive access/use.

### **Priority 3 – East Boundary**

The east boundary to Clarke County School is undefined, bordering further dense woodland. Fencing must be adaptable since this edge occupies the steepest part of the site, and is crossed by a tertiary stream channel.

#### **Priority 4 – Clarke County School Entrance/Boundary**

A good relationship exists between the school and Brooklyn Cemetery committee, and this currently open boundary, clearly delineated by open turf grass, is of low priority. The design of should this boundary should ideally promote interaction (a cue-to-care) with the school and its children. An entrance must be maintained within the fencing that will offer the primary vehicular access for workdays. A small timber sign, as existing, although inadequate going-forward, should be reinstated as a temporary measure. A more permanent sign should be sited either/both adjacent to the school parking and at the physical boundary to the cemetery.

**Priority 5– Holy Cross Lutheran Church Boundary** The boundary with the Lutheran Church, for which a good relationship exists, is generally well maintained, although largely undefined, and for the most facing the rear façade of the church building. The north-west corner adjoins a children's play area and is particularly overgrown, this may be a focus for selective clearance.

## **FENCING DESIGN OPTIONS:**

Three fencing options are suggested and ordered in preference of suitability from an aesthetic and practical standpoint. It is advised that an ongoing consultation with regards to fencing style takes place with the owners of bordering properties to ensure a satisfactory outcome for both parties. Appearance is likely to be of biggest concern to neighboring property owners, and by actively engaging them in the selection process they are more inclined to aid in the financing of this new fencing. It is vital that consistency in style is achieved between all owners and the overall cemetery fencing plan:

**Ornamental Wrought Iron Fence –** The historical evolution of fencing on the Brooklyn Cemetery site is unclear. Ornate wrought iron fencing offers the most attractive option from an historic preservation standpoint, matching with the proposed restoration of the main entrance gates. Although costly, wrought iron offers a long life span and a variety of bespoke detailing options.

Aluminum substitutes may be investigated as a cheaper option, but are less satisfactory in quality and appearance.

The use of reclaimed stone or granite base/post elements, although intricate in appearance, is considered uneconomical. (Approx. Cost = \$20 per linear foot – increasing depending on detailing/style)



**Split Rail Fence** – An attractive option in the (currently) forested environment of the cemetery. Blended into the wooded surroundings the fence would be a subtle intervention to the problem of boundary encroachment. Reclaimed hardwood timber from the cemetery may be processed on-site for this use, although this is less durable than the standard manufactured Cedar fencing. Wire mesh may be fixed to the back of the fence for stability and as a debris break. (Approx. Cost = \$5 per linear foot – price may increase with wire mesh and/or number of rails)



**Chain Link Fence** – A relatively economical fencing solution, would be ideal for quick installation. The appearance is unattractive, especially in a wooded cemetery environment. (Approx. Cost = \$8 per linear foot)

[All costs exclusive of labor.]

## **DESIGN CONCLUSIONS:**

Given the perimeter length of the site, and that the majority of defined circulation routes are distant from this, the use of wrought iron fencing throughout the site appears excessive. Split rail fencing offers an ideal compromise, especially along the most outlying edges of the site, although it will be vital to tastefully merge this with the wrought iron fence where used. A chain link fence is clearly not ideal from a visual standpoint, but may offer a temporary solution to defining the boundary, especially in areas suffering from encroachment or if goats were to be used for site clearance. In this scenario, there is the potential to reduce cost with the use of a second hand fence and/or recover some of this initial outlay with the sale of the fence post-use.



# Cemetery Parking

- Perform observational study to quantify use of existing parking
- Negotiate agreement between Holy Cross Lutheran Church and Clarke Middle School for permission to utilize existing parking spaces as marked but not reserved cemetery parking
- Erect signage in 3 spaces in each location
- Maintain spaces as part of any workdays or celebrations (trash, cleanup, sign maintenance)

There is currently no parking for cemetery volunteers or visitors within the property boundaries. Fortunately, there is parking adjacent to the cemetery in the southwest corner at Holy Cross Lutheran Church and at the north boundary serving Clarke Middle School (figure #). This existing parking is plentiful and rarely used (opportunity to do a observation study to count when and to what extent the parking slots are used).

With the positive relationship between both the church and school, it seems a cooperative use of these parking spots would be welcome, particularly with an agreed responsibility of general maintenance and aesthetics (signage, trash, security).

Without dedicated parking, a visitor can feel unsure of their place or ability to park, particularly with the sensitivity of security around school complexes and the relative emptiness of the church parking lot. To curtail this wariness, it is recommended to install simple signage at 3 parking bays with verbiage giving the driver assurance in their ability and opportunity to park. This signage will read, "parking space available, but no reserved

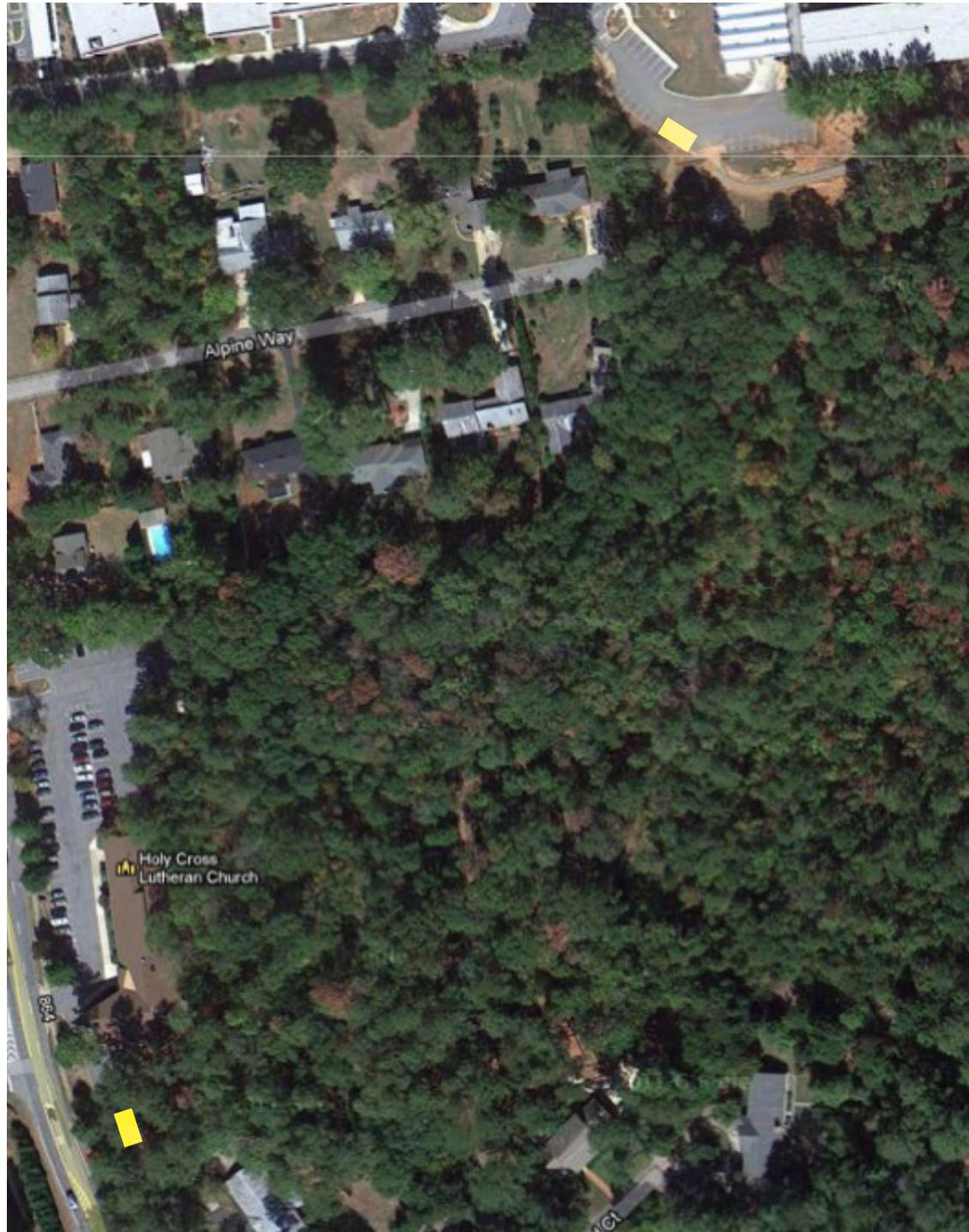
for Brooklyn cemetery visitors" (figure #) The cemetery does not want the church or school to feel their parking is being overrun. We believe this wording portrays the space is available, but not guaranteed for cemetery visitors. No towing or ticketing will occur if these spaces are used by the property owners, the school or church.

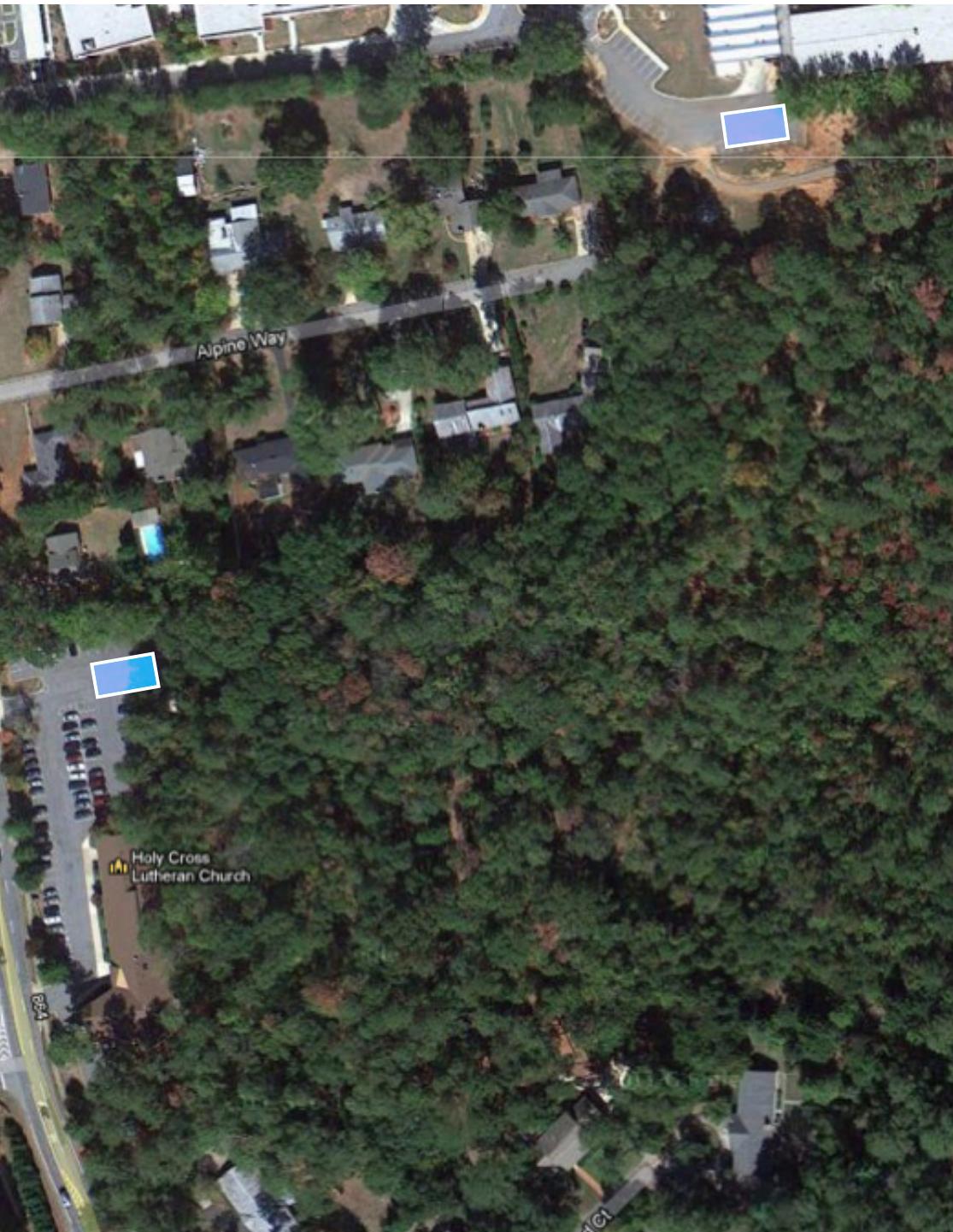
If buses need to park, a similar agreement with the school and church should be attained. These large vehicles could easily drop passengers off near the entrance and park in the marked places adjacent to the property (figure #). The spaces will be unmarked but conversation or website instructions could easily point the bus drivers to these agreed-upon locations. These areas have been selected for their proximity and ability for the busses to turn around and navigate with ease.

With marked parking, the ease of directing people to park through the website, informational materials, pamphlets, or digital communication is an easy task. The visitor or volunteer will also feel comfortable upon arrival their vehicle is in a legal and welcomed position during their time within the cemetery.

**3 AVAILABLE SPACES**

Parking space  
available but  
not reserved for  
**BROOKLYN  
CEMETERY  
VISITORS**





**AVAILABLE BUS PARKING**

Circulation : **63**



# Preservation and Management

## **MAINTENANCE/MANAGEMENT**

After the cemetery landscape is documented and the initial cleanup has been done, there should be a plan for ongoing maintenance and management.

### **Donation station**

Build a donation station in the kiosk or next to the chape.. Collected money can be used on the daily maintenance of the cemetery.

### **Developing a cemetery ordinance**

An ordinance helps to regulate the maintenance, funding, preservation, ownership, access and other issues related to both historic and modern cemeteries in Athens.

#### **Maintenance goals**

Short term goals

- Weeding
- Pruning
- Mowing
- Improve accessibility
- Collection of trash- Trash should be cleaned as soon as possible.

Long-term goals

- Resolving erosion problems
- The preservation or replacement of trees and smaller plants
- Drainage: Install the drainage outside of the cemetery so that the run-off is not allowed to enter the cemetery. Be certain that graves are not going to be affected by these actions.
- Designation as an Historic Place



# **Brooklyn Cemetery Plant List**

Everything You Need to Know About  
Planting Natives and Removing  
Invasives

## **EXISTING SITE**

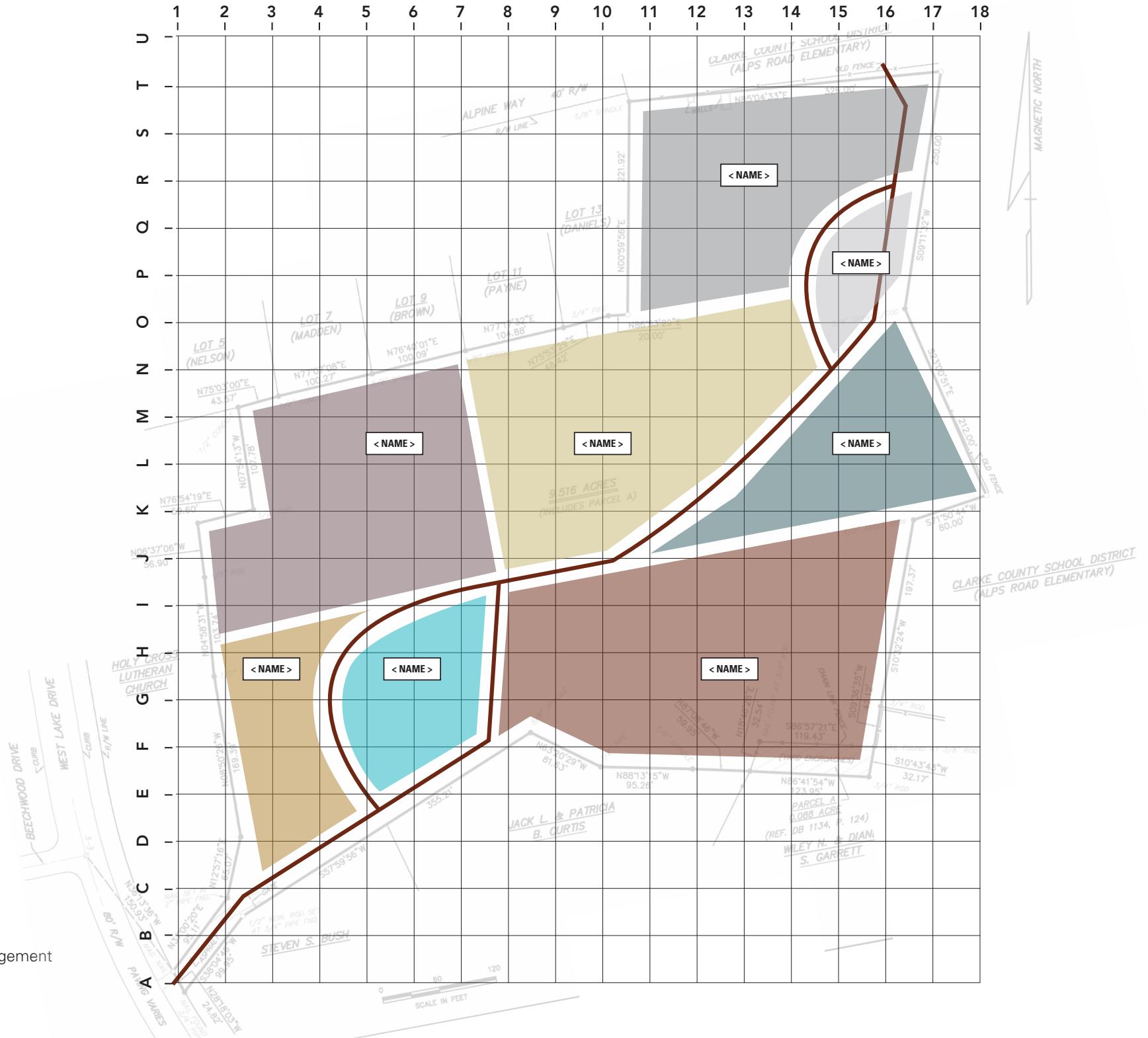
The existing vegetation is primarily a wooded forest made up of water oaks, loblolly pines and sweetgum trees. There are a variety of invasive plant species that inhabit the site including: vinca, english ivy, wisteria and privet. The site has a dense tree canopy which provides a excellent habitat for the successful growth of small understory trees, native forest plants and native perennial plants. To ensure success for future plantings the existing site needs to be prepared.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

Steps taken before planting can occur are invasive species removal and existing native tree thinning. The invasive species needed to be removed can be found in the Brooklyn Cemetery Plant Book (see appendix). The techniques required for removal can also be found in the Brooklyn Cemetery Plant Book(see appendix). Removing invasive species is key for the success of new plantings. The next step is native tree thinning of pine trees. Pine trees dominate the site as the main species. In order to allow the canopy of the site to grow successfully pine tree removal must occur. It would be recommended that all pine trees on site with a DBH(Diameter at Breast Height) under 4.5 inch be removed to allow large trees to fill out the canopy.

# Landscape Plants

Common Name	Scientific Name	Family Name
3-cornered onion	<i>Allium triquetrum</i>	alliaceae
spring starflower	<i>Ipheion uniflorum</i>	alliaceae
bishop's weed	<i>Aegopodium podagraria 'variegata'</i>	apiaceae
daffodil	<i>Narcissus spp.</i>	amaryllidaceae
cobra jack	<i>Arisaema ringens</i>	araceae
common yarrow	<i>Achillia millefolium</i>	asteraceae
blue star flower	<i>Amsonia hubrichii</i>	apocynaceae
mayapple	<i>Podophyllum peltatum</i>	berberidaceae
bloodroot	<i>Sanguinaria canadensis</i>	berberidaceae
barrenwort	<i>Epimedium spp.</i>	berberidaceae
lungwort	<i>Plumonaria saccharata</i>	boraginaceae
heartleaf brunnera	<i>Brunnera macrophylla</i>	boraginaceae
virginia bluebells	<i>Mertensia virginica</i>	boraginaceae
money plant	<i>Lunaria annua</i>	boraginaceae
dame's rocket	<i>Hesperis matronalis</i>	brassicaceae
pinks	<i>Dianthus hyb.</i>	caryophyllaceae
bellflower	<i>Campanula 'Viking'</i>	campanulaceae
autumn fern	<i>Dryopteris erythrosora</i>	dryopteridaceae
painted fern	<i>Athyrium nipponicum 'pictum'</i>	dryopteridaceae
bleeding hearts	<i>Dicentra cucullaria</i>	fumariaceae
bigroot geranium	<i>Geranium macrorrhizum</i>	geraniaceae
yellow flag iris	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	iridaceae
byzantine gladiolus	<i>Gladiolus byzantinus</i>	iridaceae
yellow archangel	<i>Lamium galeobdolon</i>	lamiaceae
lambs ear	<i>Stachys byzantina</i>	lamiaceae
star of bethlehem	<i>Ornithogalum umbellatum</i>	liliaceae
sulcate trillium	<i>Trillium sulcatum</i>	liliaceae
toad trillium	<i>Trillium cuneatum</i>	liliaceae
varigated soloman's seal	<i>Polygonatum odoratum 'variegatum'</i>	liliaceae
giant soloman's seal	<i>Polygonatum commutatum</i>	liliaceae
hyancith bletilla	<i>Bletilla striata</i>	orchidaceae
royal fern	<i>Osmunda regalis</i>	osmundaceae
wood poppy	<i>Stylophorum diphyllum</i>	papaveraceae
woodland phlox	<i>Phlox divaricata</i>	polemoniaceae
foamflower	<i>Tiarella cordifolia</i>	saxifragaceae
strawberry begonia	<i>Saxifraga stolonifera</i>	saxifragaceae
lenten rose	<i>Helleborus orientalis</i>	ranunculaceae

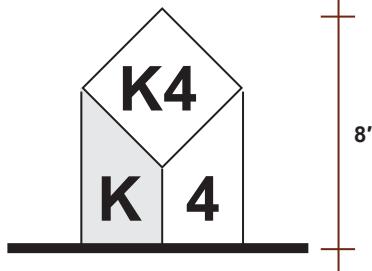


- Define Regions
- Define grid
- a orthogonal grid spaced at every 50'
- oriented to magnetic north
- origin at the intersection of the main path centerline and West Lake Drive
- North/South grid lines defined by numerals
- East/West grid lines defined by letters
- Surveyor to temporarily mark suggested grid (painted rebar pins)
- Manufacture and install etched signage on fence (no paint)
- Manufacture and install freestanding field markers (6x6 routed posts, concrete or granite pillars, no paint)

# Site Grid and Regions

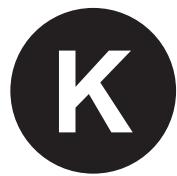
**In order to bring order to grave marking and work day delegation, a region and grid system is suggested.** The regions are formed by natural divisions in the central path, fence line and grid pattern. They will function as public delineation of space. These region names will appear in way finding, website discussion, and workday assignments (i.e. "invasive cleanup in back of <NAME>"). For this reason, simple and recognizable names should be given to each region.

It is suggested these names originated from a notable burial site within those specific boundaries. Currently, eight regions are defined. If needed, regions could be divided to smaller regions but not to exceed twelve.



**GROUND MARKER**

K4



**FENCE MARKER**

2

K

The more complex grid is for internal use and record keeping. The grid is based on square 50' parcels with each corner identified with a letter and number coordinate.

The permanent reference system will enable grave research to refer to a marked or unmarked grave location (i.e. Joe Bradford is believed to be buried at M9). Historic path research could be aligned and referenced within this grid to further capture location data and point/ path records. To avoid a large number of coordinate markers within the burial field, fence and selective field makers are proposed. A surveyor is to mark the fence (metal engraved signs) with grid intervals every 100' as labeled on figure #. In the same way, freestanding markers will be placed along the K and M lines. These freestanding posts (figure #) will mark the central intersections allowing for easier field location and measurement. Their size and position should be minimal and not interrupt the visual aesthetic of the ground plane. Simple survey spikes are an option but a larger post, with less risk of incidental covering would be a more acceptable solution.

Timing for grid implementation should occur after initial ground survey and temporary grave marking. Grid and region adjustments are most likely to occur after secondary path investigation and discovery. If an unrecognizable pattern is discovered, the grid and regions should adjust to fit those circulation and grave patterns. Once all grave discovery is believed to be complete, these official markings can be placed and incorporated into final records and way finding.





# Appendix



# Brooklyn Cemetery Community Meeting

**APRIL 3, 2012; 6-8PM**

## GROUP 1

Sean Hufnagel, Fielding Link, Thomas Peters, Ethan Gray

### What makes this place special/unique?

Yellow

- Bethlehem Society
- Improvisation/variety in headstones/grave markers
- Relatively short lifespan of active use for specific community

Red

- Although it's located in the middle of town and you can hear sirens, church bells, and children screaming, it's still a very peaceful and serene place.

Blue

- It was the only black cemetery I know of in my early childhood.
- My grandmother and grandfather are buried in Brooklyn Cemetery
- Mr. Pleasant Jones (Mount Pleasant Baptist Church Founder) grave is unidentified but probably somewhere in the Cemetery
- it is a historic cultural landmark.

### What aspects of the site do you want to see preserved?

Magenta

- Everything: The information relating to the history of the property, information about the "denizens" contributions to the building of Athens.
- Preserving grave artifacts

Blue

- I would like to see the main entrance restored to how it was originally

### What level of involvement are you willing to commit to?

Yellow

- Work with GA HPO to get cemetery on Georgia Register
- monetary
- Support FOBC Serve on board

Blue

- In the past I have been helping with the BC for 3 years and plan to continue until the entire cemetery is restored as much as possible.

Magenta

- I've been clearing brush and trash for 7 years.

commitment is physical labor

### What appeals to you about the Gospel Pilgrim Cemetery?

Yellow

- concern about future of cemetery, lack of funds
- Support of ACC government

Blue

- The Pilgrim C. is just as important as Brooklyn, it one, but 3 cemetery again. I want to see the entire cemetery cleared,. It's a generation of my ancestors that gave so much in there time to make something happen for the black community in the years before I was born and what I saw as a child growing up

Magenta

- Nothing. I know how it began but I want to concentrate my efforts on one cemetery.

### What is the Primary Future use?

Blue

- to be able to go to the cemetery and visit, as it was at evergreen east lawn, without having fear (sense of danger)
- Pink
- Educational. This is a very important historical site and kids can learn about their forebears stories.

Yellow

- Parklike
- make more walkable to visitors provide maps, information about burials
- cleanup
- provide more information to community

### How do you see the African American community's involvement?

- Magenta: Church groups have been fairly active.
- Blue: We need more church members involved, whether you have relatives or not. It's coming together as a community. The African American peoples are not taking a part, as I would like, but I thank God for the ones that are taking part to make a change to all others.
- Yellow: African Americans need to be more aware of the cemetery and its place in the community.

## **CEMETERY MEETING WITH BETHLEHEM CEMETERY TRUSTEES**

# Community Input

### **Attitude:**

- ‘If government owns it, I don’t want any responsibility to maintain it’ – different from mother’s generation, when an active cemetery.
- Succession plan for trustees to ensure it remains in caring hands – currently to Mount Pleasant Baptist Church.

### **Ambitions:**

- Kiosk for directions. Lists of people buried there and where they are.
- Inventory – Say who is buried there.
- Get kids involved through projects. Educate the kids to learn their heritage and history. Problem, not many young people from Athens (no care for history) – blacks had to leave to find work.
- Don’t want just another place to see headstones – missing headstones allow story to be framed in any way.

- Build black pride, restore dignity to those born early enough and recognize the freedom gained from their sacrifice.
- Maintained like house the early black community kept clean – ‘pristine’.
- Clean, beautiful, sense of pride.
- Virtual museum.
- Sculpture garden that pictures lives of people buried there i.e.. grandmother in maids uniform.
- Fencing, some areas more ornate

### **Access:**

- Vehicle access through back of Clarke-County school – want to maintain this and create formal link.
- 820 West Lake drive as historical entrance – maintain this as main entrance, possibly widen?
- Create a sense of place at the West Lake entrance

## BROOKLYN CEMETERY MASTER PLAN DESIGN SESSION

- Future wants and Needs
- management plans
- commissioned sculptures
- interactive learning
- wayfinding/signage
- ipod virtual walking tour
- informative sculpture
- vegetation/overgrowth management
- tree inventory
- keep vs. remove
- species
- definition of key species
- historic plants
- culturally significant plants
- seating
- benches?
- informal seating
- for conversing/meditating with passed relatives
- comfort, but not necessarily leisure
- flowers for every grave
- not just those tended to by relatives

### More information from planning session

- Easy access from the middle school, also best-cleared space.
- High concentration of war veterans, easy to tell by gravestone.
- Stick to the paths, could be walking on graves otherwise.
- Over 10 acres of space.
- Families are together usually but some spread around
- Many of the gravestones left are from military service
- Most have markers from the funeral homes
- Sunken graves are an issue and need to be addressed for safety concerns
- Many of the gravestones could be sunken/fallen into graves.
- Uncles, Aunts, Great Aunts, and other extended family members we typical of

### Communities relatives in the cemetery

- Would like to re-set stones or know how to place stones properly back into place

- Non-paved surface for primary roads for occasional maintenance vehicle access.
- Veteran acknowledgement
- Restore and emphasize the impromptu walls around family grave plots.
- Involve an anthropology student in an artifact inventory
- Get a metal detector out there to look for lost funerary markers
- Identify main circulation and place information kiosks accordingly.
- Brooklyn cemetery is open to passive grazing and has already used goats in the past
- Necessary to target unhealthy, unwanted, and ill-placed trees to restore a healthy canopy and tree spacing.
- Remove all trees resting on graves
- Locate and map all primary, secondary, and tertiary paths
- Linda mentioned potential for turf grass in areas, possible secondary & tertiary paths
- Main path should be wide enough to fit one car
- Linda wants the entrance off west lake noticeable, but not gaudy.
- Would be nice to target the veterans and make that an integral part of the history of the site
- Entrance off of west lake needs signage
- Tree survey needed to identify removal/retain
- Small pathways between the graves possible paths?
- Trees need removal in order to properly grow turf grass
- Veteran graves have unique markers provided by government, this creates opportunity to highlight members
- Service vehicles needed to move within site on main pathway

# Brooklyn Cemetery Walk

**LINDA DAVIS**

*President of Bethlehem Cemetery Trustees*

**APRIL 6TH, 2012**

**JON KORMAN,  
THOMAS PETERS,  
BLAKE CONANT**

**ETHAN GREY**

**FIELDING LINK**

**JING LIU**

- Circulation
- Marked and Unmarked
- Easy access from the middle school, also best-cleared space.
- High concentration of war veterans, easy to tell by grave stone.
- Stick to the paths, could be walking on graves otherwise.
- Over 10 acres of space.
- Families are together usually but some are spread around
- Many of the gravestones left are from military service
- Most have markers from the funeral homes
- Sunken graves are an issue and need to be addressed for safety concerns
- Many of the gravestones could be sunken/fallen into graves.
- Uncles, Aunts, Great Aunts, and other extended family members are typical of communities relatives in the cemetery
- Would like to re-set stones or know how to place stones properly back into place

- 'I was very surprised to see the condition of the cemetery. I understood it was overgrown but I didn't expect to be walking through a forest.'
- 'I'm amazed at how young the cemetery is compared to my initial thoughts. 1880 is old but seeing mostly 1950/60s on stones makes it seem more current. With that said, it is amazing to see how quick nature takes over a space. Earth sinking, trees rooting and taking over. A forest floor full of vines, shrubs and groundcover. Without maintenance, it all goes to pot.'
- 'My most appreciative moments is when I can see headstones in an open space. Seems to be the most 'cemetery' experience.'
- 'Ticks everywhere. Had one crawl off in class after meeting.'
- Site Commentary/Tour with Merriweather: She discussed how she continually walks the cemetery with a short piece of rebar. When she suspects a plot, she will try to find sunken stones or artifacts.
- She has raised many of the stones seen now.
- Funeral homes placed the metal markers (about 3"x2") with paper slips under glass. These were meant to be temporary but many never replace with permanent stone. Some paper slips remained in tact but most simply marked a plot with no identification.
- Her favorite stones were those handmade. They included poured concrete (cross) or hand-etched stone (sun). Many were misspelled due to illiteracy.
- Many headstones have sunk below the ground level and buried by the dirt. So many are undiscovered and very hard to be discovered.
- Most of the ground located above the graves is depressed. It is because the coffins were made of pinewood. When the wood was rotten, the ground caved in.
- Frustrated with people dumping trash or vandalism; some areas are already cleaned for trees and trash.
- Referenced long list of burial history - Very well informed.
- Vehicle access was challenge at final burials. Not necessary due to inactivity. Pedestrian focus.
- Earliest Burial: The first people buried in the cemetery died at 1880.
- Not all the people in one family plot were from the same family. When a family bought a family plot, they might have sold several plots to others. This makes the identification of people's names harder.
- Vegetation: The most common trees in the cemetery are water oak, American sweet gum and pines.
- The site is in difference phase(s) of maintenance. Some areas are in the beautification phase; some are still waited for clearance.
- Proposed Action – Initial Thoughts: First order is to remove trees from burial plots. This is a non-negotiable move. All agree it is irreverent.
- The cemetery is very overgrown with trees. A tree inventory and removal plan would be incredibly helpful in moving forward.
- Talk of making grid to identify sections. These established sections could then be used to appropriately mark graves (GPS or physical measurement) and coordinate cleanup/restoration. These sections need to be marked with permanent markers (concrete bollards?)
- So many thorny vines - prohibits movement
- No clear entry or boundary. Could trees removed provide lumber for fence? Labor would provide some jobs as requested.
- Graves sunken - remedy with chipped tree mulch?
- Define path with mulch?
- Cedar break appears to be an attempt of homeowner to block view of cemetery
- How about Vinca ground cover?
- Maintenance is issue. Mow, weed, etc.
- Need inexpensive but eternal way to mark these graves.

**HUFNAGEL  
JOHNSON  
ZHANG**





