



CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION AGENDA

**JUNE 10, 2026
7:30 PM**

[Zoom Link](#)

Dial-in: (301) 715-8592

Webinar ID: 815 0861 9080

I. Work Session - Presentation and Discussion of the Draft Cemetery Master Plan/Budget Process Discussion)

1. Presentation and Discussion of the Draft Cemetery Master Plan

Suggested Action:

- Introductions — 10 minutes (7:30-7:40 pm)
- Presentation — 15 minutes (7:40 - 7:55 pm)
- Council Discussion — 30 minutes (7:55–8:25 pm)
- Questions and Answers — 15 minutes (8:25–8:40 pm)

2. Budget Process Discussion

Suggested Action:

- Council Discussion — 20 minutes (8:40–9:00 pm)
- Questions and Answers — 15 minutes (9:00–9:15 pm)
- Information Items — 15 minutes (9:15-9:30 pm)

June 2, 2026

HISTORIC GREENBELT CEMETERIES MASTER PLAN

Hamilton, Turner, and Walker Cemeteries



This project has been financed in part with State funds from the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority but does not necessarily reflect its views or policies.



As of June 2026, the City of Greenbelt does not have an official Indigenous land acknowledgement statement. This space is reserved and may change as a standard formally adopted and incorporated into the City's actions. The following is adapted from the words of Elder Rico Newman, Choptico Band of the Piscataway as relayed to Dr. Lois Rosado.

The City of Greenbelt wants to acknowledge that these efforts are carried out within the homelands of the People Who Live Where Waters Blend Below the Rapids, the Piscataway Confederacy, a homeland then and now occupied by a diverse number of Tribes and tribal members, settlers, immigrants, and descendants of those that have come since, who continue to live, learn, and work on these lands. We aim to respectfully acknowledge and honor all Indigenous communities; past, present, and future generations for their ongoing relationship with their Homelands.

Cover Photo: Turner Cemetery (Johnson, Mirmiran, and Thompson [JMT] Staff, July 2025)

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Introduction

Greenbelt is famed as being one of three “Green Towns” built in 1937 as a part of President Franklin D. Roosevelt’s New Deal program. The Greenbelt Historic District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in 1980 and was elevated to the status of a National Historic Landmark (NHL) in 1996. The Hamilton, Turner, and Walker Cemeteries are contributing resources within the NRHP and NHL Greenbelt Historic District. Though they pre-date the establishment of the City of Greenbelt and date from outside of the District’s period of significance (1935-1946), they were retained and ultimately preserved as “historical/recreational point of interest for the original community residents” (Elizabeth Jo Lampl, *Greenbelt, Maryland Historic District*, National Historic Landmark Nomination, Page 4).

Prior to the establishment of the City of Greenbelt in the 18th and 19th centuries, the wider region was agricultural, primarily producing tobacco within a plantation economy. The Hamilton, Turner, and Walker Cemeteries are what remains of Greenbelt’s early settlement history. Each cemetery contains the remains of Walker, Turner, and Hamilton families but each, based on patterns of development and written records, are also likely to contain unmarked graves of people enslaved here.

About This Effort

This project has been financed in part with State funds from the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority but does not necessarily reflect its views or policies. The City of Greenbelt has hired cultural resource professions from Johnson, Mirmiran, and Thompson (JMT) to develop a preservation strategy for Hamilton, Turner, and Walker Cemeteries.

The following document is the Master Preservation Plan for Greenbelt’s three historic small cemeteries – Hamilton Cemetery, Turner Cemetery, and Walker Cemetery. These three cemeteries are distinct from Greenbelt Cemetery, the City’s contemporary cemetery that is still in use today. Although this preservation plan does not address Greenbelt Cemetery, the maintenance guidelines, terminology, and recommendations are relevant to the ongoing maintenance and continued use of Greenbelt Cemetery.

This plan is intended to function as a living document to address present and future maintenance needs at these three properties. This document outlines the histories of the cemeteries, identifies significant features, and establishes a maintenance plan to ensure that any repairs or interventions are undertaken properly and appropriately, according to established cemetery preservation guidance. This plan will serve as a historical document, inventory database, and maintenance guide for Hamilton, Turner, and Walker Cemeteries.

Cemetery Preservation Regulations

The National Park Service (NPS) has developed a set of standards to serve as guidance in the treatment of historic and cultural resources throughout the United States. These standards are intended to provide the overarching philosophy to guide the physical preservation of historic buildings, sites, structures, objects, and districts.

The Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* was developed to include four treatment standards: Preservation, Rehabilitation, Restoration, and Reconstruction:

Preservation is defined as the act or process of applying measures necessary to sustain the existing form, integrity, and materials of an historic property. Work, including preliminary measures to protect and stabilize the property, generally focuses upon the ongoing maintenance and repair of historic materials and features rather than extensive replacement and new construction. The limited and sensitive upgrading of mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems and other code-required work to make properties functional is appropriate within a preservation project. However, new exterior additions are not within the scope of this treatment. The Standards for Preservation require retention of the greatest amount of historic fabric along with the building's historic form.

Rehabilitation is defined as the act or process of making possible a compatible use for a property through repair, alterations, and additions while preserving those portions or features which convey its historical, cultural, or architectural values. The Rehabilitation Standards acknowledge the need to alter or add to a historic building (or other resource type) to meet continuing or new uses while retaining the building's historic character.

Restoration is defined as the act or process of accurately depicting the form, features, and character of a property as it appeared at a particular period of time (otherwise known as a "period of significance") by means of the removal of features from other periods in its history and reconstruction of missing features from the chosen period of significance. The limited and sensitive upgrading of mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems and other code-required work to make properties functional is appropriate within a restoration project. The Restoration Standards allow for the depiction of a building (or other resource type) at a particular time in its history by preserving materials, features, finishes, and spaces from its period of significance and removing those from other periods.

Reconstruction is defined as the act or process of depicting, by means of new construction, the form, features, and detailing of a non-surviving site, landscape, building, structure, or object for the purpose of replicating its appearance at a specific period of time (otherwise known as a “period of significance”) and in its historic location. The Reconstruction Standards establish a limited framework for recreating a vanished or non-surviving building (or other resource type) with new materials, primarily for interpretive purposes.

Hamilton, Turner, and Walker Cemeteries are among the last remaining physical reminders of Greenbelt's early settlement history and are worthy of preservation. As sites of remembrance, Greenbelt's historic cemeteries are appropriate sites to educate and memorialize the complicated legacy of 18th and 19th century American history. The Standards for Rehabilitation are the most appropriate to apply to the reimagining and ongoing care of resources, as none of the cemeteries are in active use or are sought to be brought back to active use.

Federal Regulations

Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties

The Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*, revised in 1992, were codified as 36 CFR Part 68 in the 12 July 1995 Federal Register (Vol. 60, No. 133) with an “effective” date of 11 August 1995.

Standards for Rehabilitation

1. A property will be used as it was historically or be given a new use that requires minimal change to its distinctive materials, features, spaces and spatial relationships.
2. The historic character of a property will be retained and preserved. The removal of distinctive materials or alteration of features, spaces and spatial relationships that characterize a property will be avoided.
3. Each property will be recognized as a physical record of its time, place and use. Changes that create a false sense of historical development, such as adding conjectural features or elements from other historic properties, will not be undertaken.
4. Changes to a property that have acquired historic significance in their own right will be retained and preserved.

5. Distinctive materials, features, finishes, and construction techniques or examples of craftsmanship that characterize a property will be preserved.
6. Deteriorated historic features will be repaired rather than replaced. Where the severity of deterioration requires replacement of a distinctive feature, the new feature will match the old in design, color, texture and, where possible, materials. Replacement of missing features will be substantiated by documentary and physical evidence.
7. Chemical or physical treatments, if appropriate, will be undertaken using the gentlest means possible. Treatments that cause damage to historic materials will not be used.
8. Archeological resources will be protected and preserved in place. If such resources must be disturbed, mitigation measures will be undertaken.
9. New additions, exterior alterations, or related new construction will not destroy historic materials, features, and spatial relationships that characterize the property. The new work will be differentiated from the old and will be compatible with the historic materials, features, size, scale and proportion, and massing to protect the integrity of the property and its environment.
10. New additions and adjacent or related new construction will be undertaken in such a manner that, if removed in the future, the essential form and integrity of the historic property and its environment would be unimpaired.

State of Maryland Regulations

Laws related to cemeteries in Maryland are outlined in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Title 10 (Crimes Against Public Health, Conduct, and Sensibilities), Subtitle 4 (Crimes Relating to Human Remains). A summary of important bullet points is listed below:

- It is against the law in Maryland to remove human remains from a burial site without proper authorization from the State's Attorney for the county in which the cemetery is located (Section 10-402).
- A State's Attorney may authorize the removal of human remains to ascertain cause of death, determine whether remains were interred erroneously, for the purpose of reburial, or for medical or scientific examination or study allowed by law (Section 10-402b).
- Removed human remains must be reinterred in either a permanent cemetery with perpetual care or a place other than a cemetery with the agreement of a person of interest, in the presence of at least one individual qualified in the

interment of human remains, a religious leader, or a trained archaeologist or anthropologist.

- Removal of remains or other funerary objects, such as headstones, without the proper permission or supervision by professionals, are classified as misdemeanors in Maryland.
- Owners of property with burial sites that are over 50 years old must consult with the Maryland Historical Trust on proper treatment of markers, human remains, and the environment surrounding a burial site (Section 14-121.1).

Maryland Historical Trust Inventory

The Maryland Historical Trust (MHT), which serves as Maryland's State Historic Preservation Office, maintains an inventory of historic properties across the state. MHT does not have a dedicated cemetery inventory but welcomes cemeteries and burial sites to be recorded using the Maryland Inventory of Historic Places (MIHP) form. Surveyed properties of all kinds are logged on [Medusa](#), Maryland's Cultural Resource Information System, operated by MHT.

Prince George's County Regulations

In addition to following State of Maryland cemetery law, Prince George's County has its own laws and regulations around the treatment of cemeteries in the county. The Prince George's County Subdivision Ordinance protects cemeteries during the land development process. When a private, family, or abandoned cemetery is located on land that will contain a private development, and there are no plans to reinter the remains, the developer must meet the following requirements:

1. The cemetery must be demarcated prior to submitting any preliminary development plans
2. An inventory of all elements of the cemetery must be submitted with preliminary plans
3. Lot lines should promote long term maintenance and protection of the cemetery
4. A wall constructed of stone, wood, brick, or metal must be constructed to delineate the cemetery's boundaries

The Prince George's Planning Board may also require the developer to undertake additional measures to protect a cemetery, which is decided by the Planning Board on a case-by-case basis. These measures may include but are not limited to a perpetual maintenance fund, ownership structure, creation of a preservation plan, and provisions to create and maintain public access to the cemetery.

Cemeteries may also qualify as archaeological resources, which are protected by the Prince George's County Guidelines for Archaeological Review.

In 2010, the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC) published the [Prince George's County Maryland Cemetery Preservation Manual](#), which

provides guidance for communities within Prince George's County to develop plans to preserve their historic cemeteries. The organization of this preservation plan is modeled on the M-NCPPC guide.

The M-NCPPC is also conducting a comprehensive survey of cemeteries and burials in Prince George's County. To date, 255 cemeteries have been identified across Prince George's County, and more continue to be identified. Hamilton, Walker, and Turner Cemeteries were among the first 129 cemeteries identified during the county-wide Historic Cemeteries Survey that took place in 2006.

History and Cultural Survey of Greenbelt Cemeteries

On July 23, 2025, a team of architectural historians and archaeologists from JMT visited Hamilton, Turner, and Walker Cemeteries to document and assess current site conditions at each cemetery. Photographs were taken of features at each cemetery, including markers, fencing, footpaths, furniture, signage, and plants. The survey team also assessed the landscape within the bounds of and surrounding each cemetery, assessing the area for signs of unmarked graves, such as depressions in the ground and periwinkle groundcover (*Vinca major* and *Vinca minor*), a common decorative planting in early 19th century cemeteries. The coordinates of features photographed were recorded using a custom ESRI survey tool called Field Maps on an iPad. Data collected via Field Maps was used to make site plans of each cemetery.

Much of the background research into the historic context of each cemetery was informed by the draft MIHP forms prepared by Dr. Jennifer Stabler, Archaeology Planner Coordinator at M-NCPPC. JMT viewed the same documents cited in Dr. Stabler's MIHP forms from the Prince George's County Deed Records and Will Records. Research was also conducted at the Tugwell Room of the Greenbelt Branch of the Prince George's County Library System, the Library of Congress Reading Rooms in Washington, DC, and the library at the United Methodist Church of Hyattsville, which holds the Turner Family Bible.

The Hamilton, Turner, and Walker family trees in this report (Figure 2, Figure 3, and Figure 4) were compiled using a variety of primary and secondary sources. Primary sources included the remaining gravestones from each cemetery, photos of gravestones found on FindAGrave.com, family Bibles, census records, and wills. Secondary sources consulted are listed in the bibliography of this report. JMT staff first compiled family trees using Ancestry.com, then created condensed versions of the trees using a web-based application to produce images for insertion into the report. The trees show the relationships of all individuals known to be interred in each cemetery, including at least one generation before and one generation after the last known burial in each cemetery.

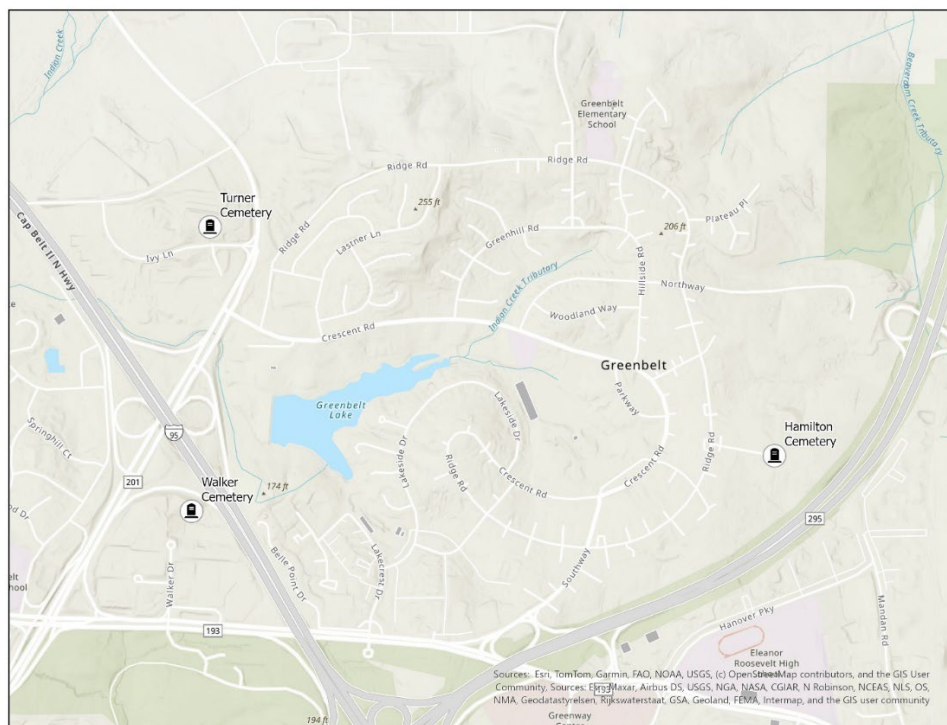
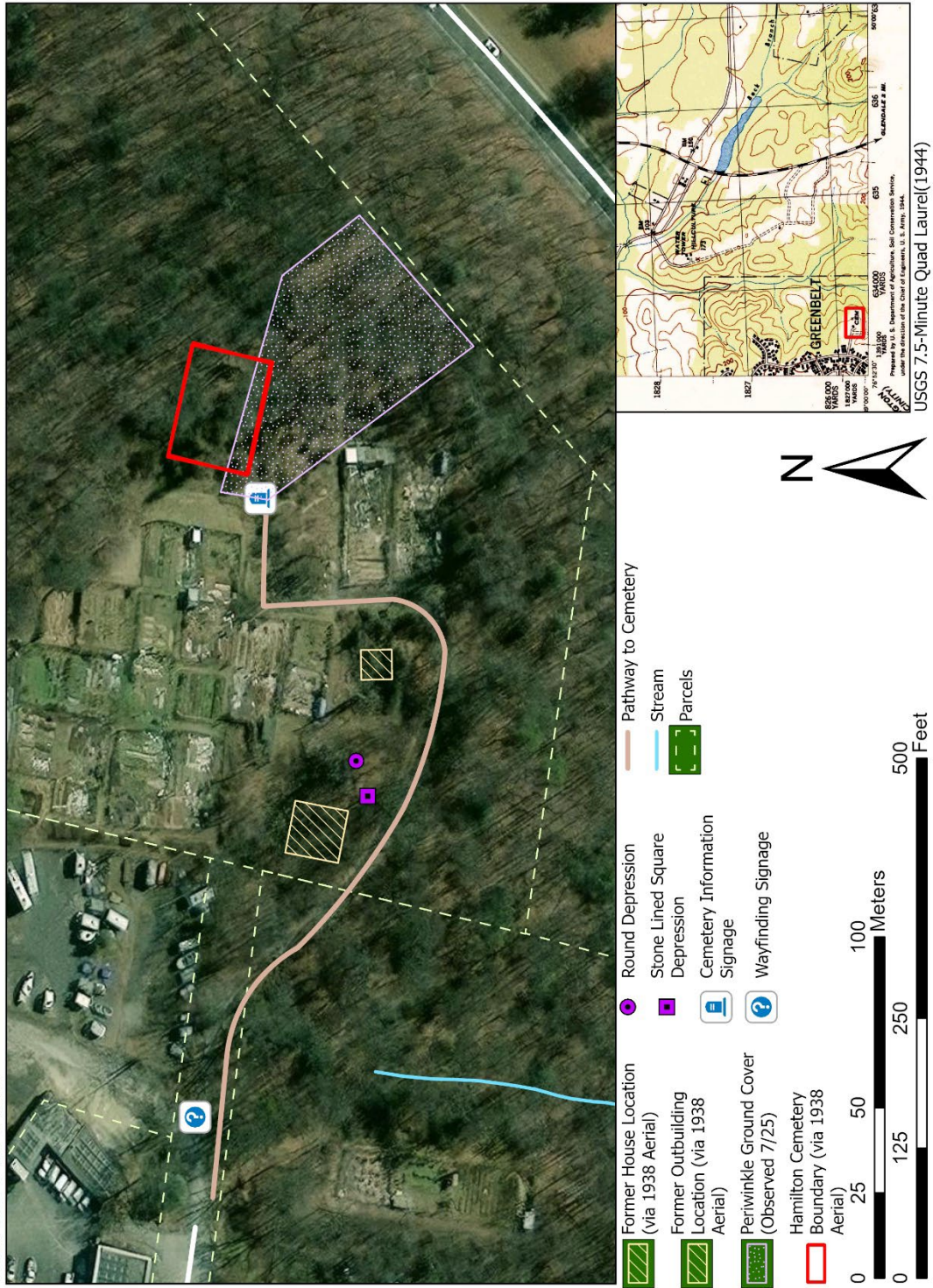


Figure 1. Locations of Hamilton, Turner, and Walker Cemeteries in Greenbelt, Maryland.

Hamilton Cemetery

Site Maps

Hamilton Cemetery, Hamilton Place, Greenbelt, Maryland
Current Site Plan



Physical Site Description



Photograph 1. Driveway leading to Hamilton Cemetery at end of Hamilton Place.

The path leading to Hamilton Cemetery is located at the end of Hamilton Place, near Greenbelt Homes, Inc., and Greenbelt Community Gardens. A plain wooden wayfinding sign that reads "Hamilton Cemetery," supported by two square wooden posts and painted brown with the City of Greenbelt's logo, points eastward down a gravel driveway (Photograph 1). The driveway is in good condition and easily traversed by car, by bike, or on foot (Photograph 2).



Photograph 2. Driveway leading to Hamilton Cemetery.



Photograph 3. Driveway to Hamilton Cemetery through Greenbelt Community Gardens.

The gravel drive winds through woodlands and fenced community garden plots (Photograph 3). Around the midpoint of the path, approximately 345 feet from the wayfinding sign, are two features affiliated with the Hamilton house – a round depression and a square, stone-lined depression (Photograph 4, Photograph 5). Both have been partially covered with plastic tarps. The features are located slightly off-path to the north.



Photograph 4. Square, stone-lined feature near Hamilton Cemetery.



Photograph 5. Round depression feature near Hamilton Cemetery.

The total length of the gravel drive is approximately 510 feet, ending at a large wooden interpretive sign located at the edge of the forest (Photograph 6). The sign formerly held the six headstones historically located in Hamilton Cemetery in ca. 1980s. The stones were relocated to the City of Greenbelt Public Works Department in 2022 due to concerns about the structural integrity of the sign. The historic location of the cemetery is not apparent while at the site due to the density of tree growth, groundcover, and briars, and the lack of a clear boundary, such as a fence or posts. The boundary was identified using the 1944 edition of the Laurel USGS 7.5-minute quad map, which also shows the location of the associated house. A 1938 aerial image of the property, the oldest available aerial imagery of the region, shows the footprint of an outbuilding to the east of the house.



Photograph 6. Wooden signage at Hamilton Cemetery, which formerly held the gravestones.

Beyond the signage is dense forest with notable patches of periwinkle (*Vinca major* and *Vinca minor*) groundcover (Photograph 7). Brought to North America from Europe and now regarded as an invasive species, periwinkle was once used as decorative groundcover in early 19th century cemeteries throughout the mid-Atlantic and Southern United States. Periwinkle was decoratively used for both white and Black burial grounds; however, periwinkle has become an indicator for potential unmarked graves and has therefore built a strong association with Black cemeteries, which may lack traditional markers or any markers at all.¹ The will of Col. Samuel Hamilton, who passed away in 1857 and is buried in Hamilton Cemetery, specifically reserves one-quarter acre of land on his property for “grave yards on my estate, of my colored as well as white family.”² This legal document does not provide an exact location, but is the strongest evidence toward unmarked graves of enslaved people at the site of Hamilton Cemetery, likely marked by the periwinkle found in the vicinity. The periwinkle extends southeastward, ending at a chain link fence that forms the right-of-way boundary with the Baltimore-Washington Parkway (Photograph 8).



Photograph 7. Periwinkle groundcover at Hamilton Cemetery.



Photograph 8. Chain link fence at edge of Hamilton Cemetery property.

The density of groundcover and overgrowth of trees, shrubs, and other plants in the vicinity of Hamilton Cemetery made it impossible to assess the land for depressions and other more obvious signs of burials. Prior cemetery surveys, notably the 1984 publication *Stones and Bones: Cemetery Recordings of Prince George's County Maryland* by the Prince George's County Genealogical Society, state that there are six known burials at Hamilton Cemetery. They are:

1. Andrew Hamilton (b. 1753; d. 9/21/1823)
2. Jane Hamilton (b. 1747; d. 2/28/1824)
3. Col. Samuel Hamilton (b. 1783; d. 1/24/1857)
4. Elizabeth Hamilton (b. 1787; d. 5/1/1834)
5. Jane Hamilton (b. 1809; d. 3/18/1819)
6. Elizabeth A. Hamilton (b. 1795; d. 6/15/1847)³

More information about these individuals is in the Hamilton Cemetery Historic Context section of this document.

Grave Marker Description

The Hamilton Cemetery headstones, having already been intentionally broken by vandals, were removed from their original locations in the mid-1970s by Greenbelters concerned that ongoing vandalism would result in their total loss. In order to protect them from further damage, the pieces were encased in concrete and displayed vertically, adhered to a wooden sign near the original cemetery site. In recent years, this sign began to deteriorate, so the headstones were removed from their cement casing in 2022 and placed into custom-built, secure storage at the City of Greenbelt Public Works facility. Before being placed into the storage box, most of the cement was removed from the stones.

Seven markers are stored within the box. The first row contains two marble arched tablet markers (Photograph 9). The marble features gray veining. One marker is now illegible, though may have once marked the resting place of Col. Samuel Hamilton. Records of gravestone inscriptions found in *Stones and Bones* show that Col. Samuel Hamilton's stone is missing from the legible markers.⁴ The second marker belongs to Elizabeth Hamilton and reads, "In Memory of Elizabeth, Wife of Col. Samuel Hamilton who died May 1, 1834 in the 47th year of her age." Both markers have been broken into multiple pieces but do not appear to be missing significant sections.



Photograph 9. First layer of markers from Hamilton Cemetery in storage. Bottom to top, headstones of Elizabeth Hamilton and an illegible marker, presumably belonging to Col. Samuel Hamilton.

The second layer contains the pieces of three white marble markers (Photograph 10). The first is a flat arched tablet marker with a relief carving of an open book. The second is an arched tablet marker that reads, "In memory of Elizabeth A. Second wife of Col. Samuel Hamilton." The information on Elizabeth A. Hamilton's death date is no longer legible. The third is an arched tablet marker that reads, "In memory of Jane Daughter of Col. Samuel Hamilton and Elizabeth Hamilton." The information on Jane Hamilton's death date is no longer legible.



Photograph 10. Second layer of markers from Hamilton Cemetery in storage. Right, arched tablet marker with book carving. Left, top to bottom, headstone of Jane Hamilton (daughter of Col. Samuel and Elizabeth Hamilton) and headstone of Elizabeth A. Hamilton (Col. Samuel Hamilton's first wife).

The final layer of the box contains two marble arched tablet markers that once marked the resting place of Andrew and Jane Hamilton. These markers are in the best condition out of those originally found at Hamilton Cemetery. The first marker reads, "In memory of Jane wife of Andrew Hamilton who died Feb 28, 1824, in the 77th year of her age." The second marker reads, "In memory of Andrew Hamilton who died Sept 21st, 1823, in the 70th year of his age."



Photograph 11. Final row of markers from Hamilton Cemetery in storage. Left to right, headstone of Andrew Hamilton and headstone of Jane Hamilton (wife of Andrew Hamilton). (JMT Staff, July 2025)

Hamilton Cemetery Historic Context

The earliest English colonial occupation of the land now containing Hamilton Cemetery dates to 1718, when the William and Mary land grant of 100 acres was first surveyed for William Holmes on March 14, 1718.⁵ The grant was patented to Holmes a few years later, on May 23, 1723.⁶ Several decades later, Holmes lost the property due to not paying the purchase price; the land was then transferred and resurveyed for John Hamilton on February 24, 1766, and named Hamilton's Purchase.⁷ John Hamilton's initial purchase added adjacent vacant parcels, totaling to 248.5 acres. Hamilton acquired additional land and resurveyed the property, increasing the total acreage to 340.25 acres and renaming the patent Hamilton's Purchase Enlarged, on August 31, 1795.⁸

John Hamilton lost the property due to a failure to pay taxes on Hamilton's Purchase, resulting in 287 acres being sold at public auction to the highest bidder. Andrew Hamilton, John Hamilton's younger brother and the patriarch of the Hamilton line now buried in the cemetery, purchased this portion of the property at public auction on December 15, 1789.⁹ Despite John Hamilton's sale of a large portion of Hamilton's Purchase, sources such as the 1798 Federal District Tax Assessments indicate that John still owned 100 acres with a 16 foot by 16 foot log dwelling that was occupied by a tenant named Darcey Walker.¹⁰ John Hamilton's will has yet to be located, and the date of his death remains unknown, but Andrew likely inherited John's last piece of Hamilton's Purchase after John passed away.

In his lifetime, Andrew Hamilton served as a justice of the peace and supervisor of local roads in Prince George's County. He married Jane Burch on April 17, 1783, but she is not mentioned in 1790 census records as being in Andrew Hamilton's household, though he was living at Hamilton's Purchase by then.¹¹ The 1790 census recorded Andrew Hamilton's household as having three white males over the age of 16, one white male under the age of 16, and five enslaved people on the property.¹² The 1798 Federal Direct Tax Assessment indicates that Andrew Hamilton was a tobacco planter. Buildings assessed on this 184.5-acre property at a total value of \$305 included one 28-foot-by-20-foot frame tobacco barn. Andrew Hamilton's house and associated domestic outbuildings were assessed on a separate 2-acre parcel that was valued at \$110. These buildings included:

- A single-story frame house measuring 25' x 16' with two windows
- A log quarter measuring 12' x 12'
- A log kitchen measuring 12' x 8'
- A log meat house measuring 8' x 8'¹³

Andrew and Jane Hamilton are known to have had at least one son, Samuel Hamilton, who is buried in the family cemetery. The 1800 Census lists Andrew Hamilton's household as including one white male over 45 years old (Andrew Hamilton), one white male 16 to 25 years old (Samuel Hamilton), one white female over 45 years old (Jane Burch

Hamilton), and nine enslaved people.¹⁴ The nine enslaved people are also accounted for in the 1798 Federal Direct Tax Assessment.¹⁵

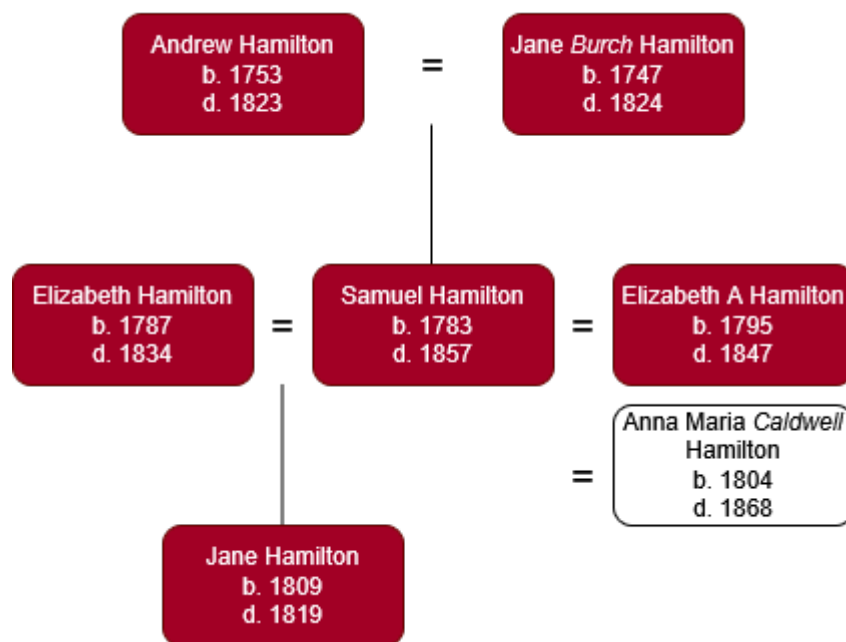


Figure 2. Hamilton family tree. Burgundy-colored boxes indicate known burials in Hamilton Cemetery.

In the 1810 census, Andrew Hamilton's household includes one white male over 45 years old (Andrew Hamilton), one white male 26 to 44 years old (Samuel Hamilton), one white female over 45 years old (Jane Burch Hamilton), one white female 16 to 25 years old (Elizabeth Hamilton), one white female under 10 years old (Jane Hamilton), and 32 enslaved people.¹⁶ A marriage record for Samuel Hamilton and his first wife, Elizabeth, has yet to be tracked. They had one known child, a daughter named Jane (b. 1809), who passed away on March 10, 1819; her burial is the first known burial in Hamilton Cemetery.¹⁷ Notably, the number of enslaved people living and working on the Hamilton property reached a maximum in 1810. The increase may have been supported by the additional land gained by Andrew Hamilton in 1789.

The 1820 census is the last census record including both Andrew and Jane Burch Hamilton, as the couple passed away in 1823 and 1824, making their burials the second and third known burials in Hamilton Cemetery. In 1820, the Hamilton household consisted of one white male over 45 years old (Andrew Hamilton), one white male 26 to 44 years old (Samuel Hamilton), one white female over 45 years old (Jane Burch Hamilton), one white female 26 to 44 years old (Elizabeth Hamilton), one female under age 10, and 19 enslaved people.¹⁸ Upon his passing, Andrew Hamilton did not leave a

will, but it is presumed that the land first passed to his wife and then his son, Samuel Hamilton.

The fourth known burial in Hamilton Cemetery is that of Elizabeth Hamilton, interred there after she passed away in Allegheny County, Maryland, in 1834.¹⁹ After his first wife's death, Samuel Hamilton was remarried to a woman named Elizabeth A. and lived with her on the property. The 1840 census lists Samuel Hamilton's household as containing one white male aged 50 to 59 years old (Samuel Hamilton), one white female aged 40 to 49 years old (Elizabeth A. Hamilton), and 18 enslaved people.²⁰ Elizabeth A. Hamilton passed away in 1847 and is the fifth known burial in Hamilton Cemetery.

Samuel Hamilton married his third wife, Anna M. Caldwell, on October 28, 1847, in Bladensburg.²¹ Both are listed in the 1850 Federal Census with Samuel's profession noted as a planter, their real estate valued at \$15,000.²² Samuel Hamilton is in the 1850 Slave Schedules, holding 18 enslaved people on the property. Names were not listed, but they include ten Black males aged 5 to 70 years old and eight Black females aged 6 months to 65 years old. The 1850 slave schedules noted whether an enslaved person was of mixed race; none of the enslaved individuals on Hamilton's property were noted as mixed race in the 1850 slave schedule documents.²³

Samuel Hamilton's gravestone indicates that he was a Colonel, but military records of which war he served in have yet to be located. Based on his age, he likely served during the War of 1812. Samuel Hamilton is the sixth and last known burial in Hamilton Cemetery and seemingly the last member of the Hamilton family to live on the property. The property was sold shortly after Hamilton's death in 1857, as he requested to ensure that the now widowed Anna M. Caldwell Hamilton was supported financially. His will reserved "one-quarter acre of land to include the graveyards on my estate, of my colored as well as white family."²⁴ It remains unknown whether both Black and white people shared the same cemetery, if plots were adjacent to each other, or if "white" and "colored" graveyards were separated by some distance.

Though Samuel Hamilton's will lists no children, an adopted son named Samuel Hamilton Wright is mentioned as the inheritor of Samuel Hamilton's surveying instruments and field notes.²⁵ The will's executors, William H. Tuck and Benjamin K. Morsell, sold 276.75-acres of Samuel Hamilton's property to Theophilus M. Brooke and 162 acres to Albert B. Berry by order of the Orphan's Court of Prince George's County on August 24, 1858. Brooke and Berry assigned their purchases to John F. Carter, who held one-half interest, and to Josephine R. Smith, who held the other half interest. Carter then sold his interest to Josephine R. Smith, with Thomas Berry acting as her trustee. On December 10, 1863, Morsell and Tuck conveyed 438.75 acres to Thomas Berry, trustee of Josephine Smith.²⁶

The Orphan's Court sale of the Hamilton property enabled Josephine R. Smith, her husband James B. Smith, and their growing family to live on the former Hamilton property. A marriage certificate for James and Josephine Smith has not been located, but they are noted as a couple in the federal censuses. James B. and Josephine Smith and their family moved to the Hamilton property in the 1860s and remained there until 1901.

The Smiths did not use the Hamilton cemetery on the property. They constructed a new house on the property and referred to it as Cottage Hill Farm. The stone-lined square and round features still in the woods along the driveway into the Greenbelt Community Gardens most likely date to this occupation of the property.

In the 1870 census, the Smiths' real estate was assessed at a value of \$14,000 with personal property worth \$4,300. The main household consisted of planter James Smith (58), his wife Josephine (39) and their five children – Harriet (22), Sarah (18), Prince George (7), Borden (4), and Thomas Berry (1). Though the Civil War had concluded and slavery had been abolished in Maryland by 1864, Black people continued to labor in domestic and agricultural professions for white families like the Smiths. In 1870, the Smiths employed one Black domestic servant, 18-year-old Ann Pleasant, and two Black farm laborers, 19-year-old Aaron Hebron and 21-year-old Washington Roby, presumably living and working on the property. All three were born in Maryland, and the census records for Hebron and Roby note that neither man could read or write but Ann Pleasant was literate, highlighting the educational gaps between domestic and field labor that persisted in a post-emancipation Maryland.²⁷

Josephine's husband, James, passed away in January 1880 and was noted in an obituary in the *Baltimore Sun* as a well-known blank book manufacturer in Philadelphia and Washington.²⁸ The household in the 1880 census lists the first family unit as widowed Josephine as head, living with four of her children, George (16), Borden J. (14), Thomas B. (11), and Harry W. (7). A second family was documented under the same Dwelling Number (7) that consisted of Josephine's daughter Louisa (27) and her husband, Fendall Alexander (29), an attorney, and their two children, Mary L. (3) and James E. Alexander (1). One Black farm laborer, Henry Williams (23) and two Black domestic servants, Harriett Brook (35) and Jane Norton (16) are associated with the Alexander household on the property.²⁹

After Josephine's death in 1889, 219.75 acres of the property was sold to her son, James, and his wife, Anna, for \$1,820 in 1897.³⁰ The Advertisement of Trustee's Sale published in *Prince George's Enquirer and Southern Maryland Advertiser* in 1890 as cited by Jennifer Stabler in the MIHP form for Hamilton Cemetery described Cottage Hill as containing a large apple orchard, peach orchard, a large dwelling house built by the Smiths, a tenant house, stable, hay barn, grain barn, blacksmith shop, and other agricultural outbuildings.

James and Anna Smith remained on the property until December 31, 1901, when they sold it to Zebulon M. Honey.³¹ Honey sold the property in 1908 to James B. Crabbe. In 1923, Crabbe sold the property to Ernest J. Braswell, though within three years of purchase, Braswell defaulted on the loan and the land was sold at auction back to the highest bidder, who happened to be Crabbe.³² Crabbe remained associated with the land until the federal government acquired it for the Greenbelt development in 1939.³³

¹ Ken Johnson, "The Periwinkle Mystery," *Bernheim Forest and Arboretum*, April 16, 2021, <https://bernheim.org/news/the-periwinkle-mystery/>.

² Prince George's County Will Records Liber WAJ1 folio 58.

³ *Stones and Bones: Cemetery Records of Prince George's County Maryland*, (Prince George's County Genealogical Society, 1984), 576.

⁴ *Ibid.*, 576.

⁵ Prince George's County Patented Certificate No. 2347.

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ Prince George's County Patented Certificate No. 1025.

⁸ Prince George's County Patented Certificate No. 1022.

⁹ Prince George's County Land Records, Liber JJ2 Folio 6.

¹⁰ 1798 Federal District Tax, New Scotland, Oxon and Bladensburg Hundreds.

¹¹ *Index of Marriage Licenses, Prince George's County, Maryland, 1777-1886*. Helen W. Brown. Reprinted for Clearfield Company, Inc. by Genealogical Publishing Co., Inc.: Baltimore MD. 1995.

¹² 1790 Federal Census, Prince George's County, Maryland.

¹³ 1798 Federal Direct Tax, New Scotland, Oxon and Bladensburg Hundreds.

¹⁴ 1800 Federal Census, Prince George's County, Maryland.

¹⁵ 1798 Federal Direct Tax, New Scotland, Oxon and Bladensburg Hundreds.

¹⁶ 1810 Federal Census, Prince George's County, Maryland

¹⁷ *Stones and Bones*, 576.

¹⁸ 1820 Federal Census, Prince George's County, Maryland.

¹⁹ *Baltimore Patriot & Mercantile Advertiser*, May 17, 1834, p. 3. Available at Maryland Historical Society.

²⁰ 1840 Federal Census, Prince George's County, Maryland.

²¹ Washington, District of Columbia, U.S., Abstracts of Marriage and Death Notices from the National Intelligencer, 1800-1850.

²² 1850 Federal Census, Prince George's County, Maryland.

²³ 1850 Federal Census Slave Schedules, Prince George's County, Maryland.

²⁴ Prince George's County Will Records Liber WAJ1 Folio 58.

²⁵ *Ibid.*

²⁶ Prince George's County Deed Records, Liber FS2:308.

²⁷ 1870 Federal Census, Prince George's County, Maryland.

²⁸ *Baltimore Sun*, January 8, 1880, 3.

²⁹ 1880 Federal Census, Prince George's County, Maryland.

³⁰ Prince George's County Circuit Court Equity No. 1841; Prince George's County Deed Records Liber JWB41:389.

³¹ Prince George's County Deed Records Liber 28:205.

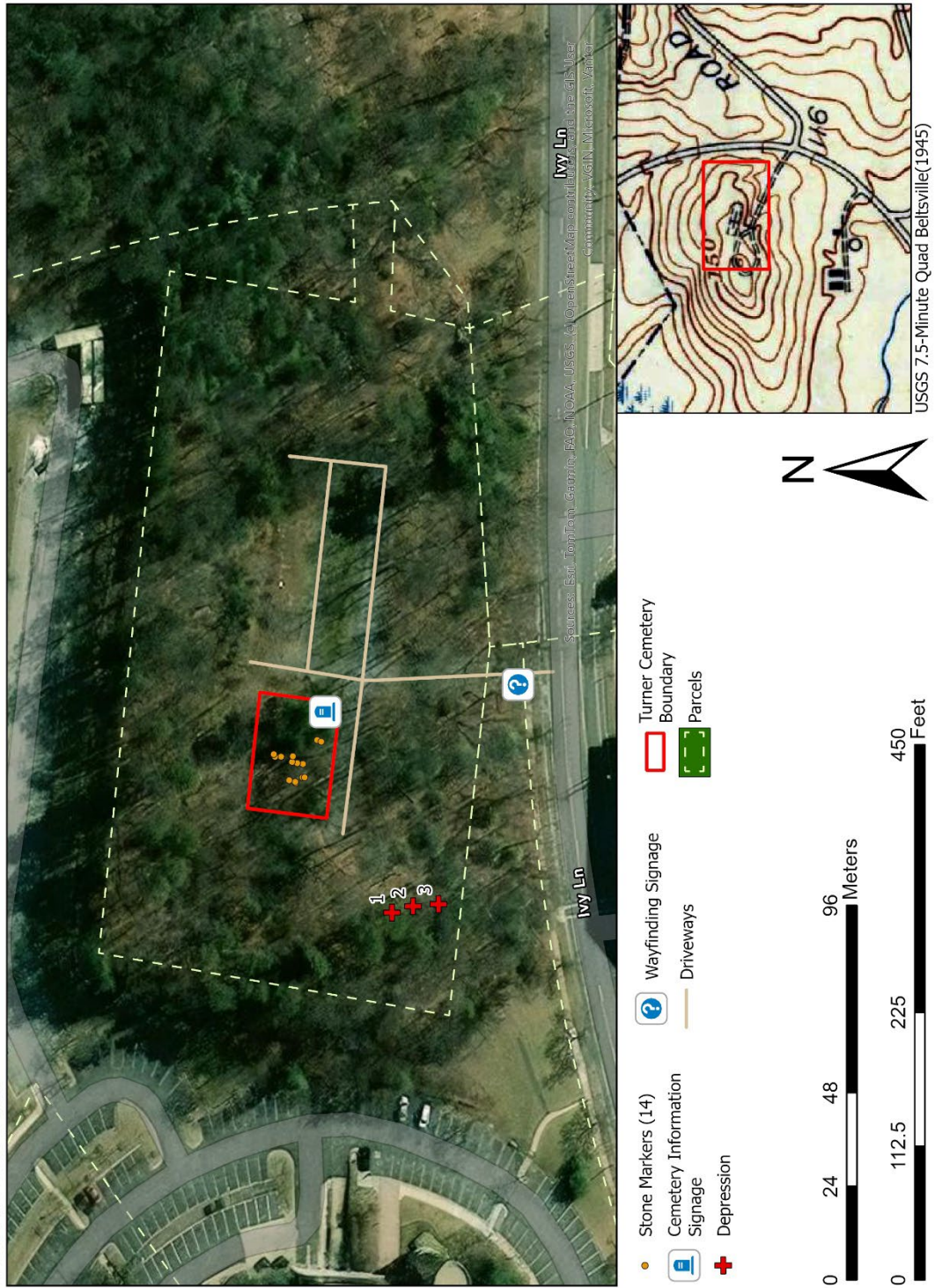
³² Prince George's County Deed Records Liber 195:141, Liber 197:196, Liber 277:470.

³³ Prince George's County Deed Records Liber 41:540, Liber 443:35.

Turner Cemetery

Site Map

Turner Cemetery, Ivy Drive, Greenbelt, Maryland
Current Site Plan



Physical Description

The historic Turner Cemetery is located within the Greenbelt Cemetery on the north side of Ivy Lane. Greenbelt Cemetery was the first cemetery established for use by the Greenbelt community shortly after the city was founded in 1935 and remains in active use today, with the most recent burials taking place in summer 2025.¹ Turner is the most easily accessible of the three cemeteries in Greenbelt because of its strong association with an active cemetery.



Photograph 12. Driveway and wayfinding signage for Greenbelt Cemetery and Historic Turner Cemetery on Ivy Lane.



Photograph 13. Overview of Turner Cemetery from driveway.



Photograph 14. Greenbelt Cemetery

From Ivy Lane, the entrance is marked with a wooden sign, painted brown, and a one-way, asphalt driveway leads into the cemetery (Photograph 12). To the west is Turner Cemetery, noted by a wooden interpretive sign and a boundary made of square wooden posts and rope (Photograph 13). To the east are the modern Greenbelt Cemetery plots (Photograph 14).



Photograph 15. Turner Cemetery Signage, containing tablet marker of Thomas P. Turner (L) and written history of the cemetery (R).

A wooden interpretive sign holds the marble arched tablet marker that once marked the grave of Thomas P. Turner (Photograph 15). The marker was broken sometime prior to 1973 and was removed from its location by Buddy Attick, former Director of Public Works for the City of Greenbelt, to prevent further vandalism of the cemetery. Dr. Theodore Bissell's 1973 essay, "Tracing Shadrick and Sarah Turner, Pioneer Methodists of Bladensburg," describes Thomas P. Turner's marker as appearing to be "the one legible gravestone" in the cemetery, while earlier graves were "marked only with common stones."² A 1939 article in the *Greenbelt Cooperator* by Anne Hull describes Thomas P. Turner's marker as "the only marker with a formal inscription; the rest of the family lie under rough stones on which only initials have been carved."³



Photograph 16. Detail of Thomas P. Turner headstone

Thomas P. Turner's marker is broken in half and the location of the bottom half is unknown (Photograph 16). The inscription reads "to the memory of Thomas P. Turner who departed this life September 26th 1855 aged 45 years." The marker is accompanied by a plaque that details the origins of Greenbelt Cemetery and information about the Turner family. Both the marker and plaque are behind a plexiglass window.



Photograph 17. Entrance into Turner Cemetery.

A fence demarcates the south and west boundaries of the Turner Cemetery. A break in the fence on the south side forms the entry into the cemetery (Photograph 17). Fourteen unmarked stones were located and recorded within Turner Cemetery. Within

the community, this area is commonly referred to as “the enslaved cemetery” or “the enslaved section” of Greenbelt Cemetery. While the site is likely the resting place of enslaved individuals associated with the Turner family's occupation of this land, the presence of enslaved individuals' burials is equally likely at Walker and Hamilton Cemeteries. In an effort to avoid the perception that the only enslaved burials in Greenbelt are located here, the name Turner Cemetery is used throughout this report.



Photograph 18. Turner Cemetery stone markers.



Photograph 19. Overview of fenced in area of Turner Cemetery. Some stone markers are marked with yellow flags.



Photograph 20. Detail of one of the stone markers in Turner Cemetery.

The stones likely represent a combination of head and foot stones, though the distribution does not always make that apparent. Most stones have been marked with flags (Photograph 18 and Photograph 19). All are varying sizes, and some have biological growth in the form of moss and lichen (Photograph 20).



Photograph 21. Periwinkle surrounding Turner Cemetery.

Turner Cemetery is surrounded by woods with a thick periwinkle groundcover on the north and east sides (Photograph 21). The periwinkle likely originated from plantings made near the cemetery and expanded into the surroundings.



Photograph 22. One of three depressions to the south of Turner Cemetery.

Three unmarked depressions are located in the woods to the south of Turner Cemetery (Photograph 22). During survey, unmarked depressions were recorded as potential burials but could likely be the result of tree root growth due to the landscape.

Turner Cemetery Historic Context

The tract of land containing the Turner Cemetery was patented under the name “Wild Cat” in 1752 to Benjamin Belt, Jr., and Andrew Beall. Turner family patriarch Shadrick Turner purchased the 125-acre property from Belt and Beall, both tobacco planters, for 35 pounds and 10 shillings on April 19, 1759.⁴ When purchased, the property already contained a house, kitchen quarters, tobacco barns, other agricultural barns, orchards, yards, and gardens.⁵ Most of the neighborhood along Ivy Lane today was part of Wild Cat plantation. Shadrick Turner purchased a neighboring property called “Friends Good Will” sometime after purchasing Wild Cat.⁶

A Federal Tax Assessment made in 1798 provides a detailed list of built structures once on Wild Cat with an assessed value of \$200. They include:

- A single-story frame dwelling measuring 28' x 14' with four windows measuring 3' x 2' and two windows measuring 2'8" x 1'
- A log-construction 16' x 12' kitchen
- A log-construction 20' x 10' corn house⁷

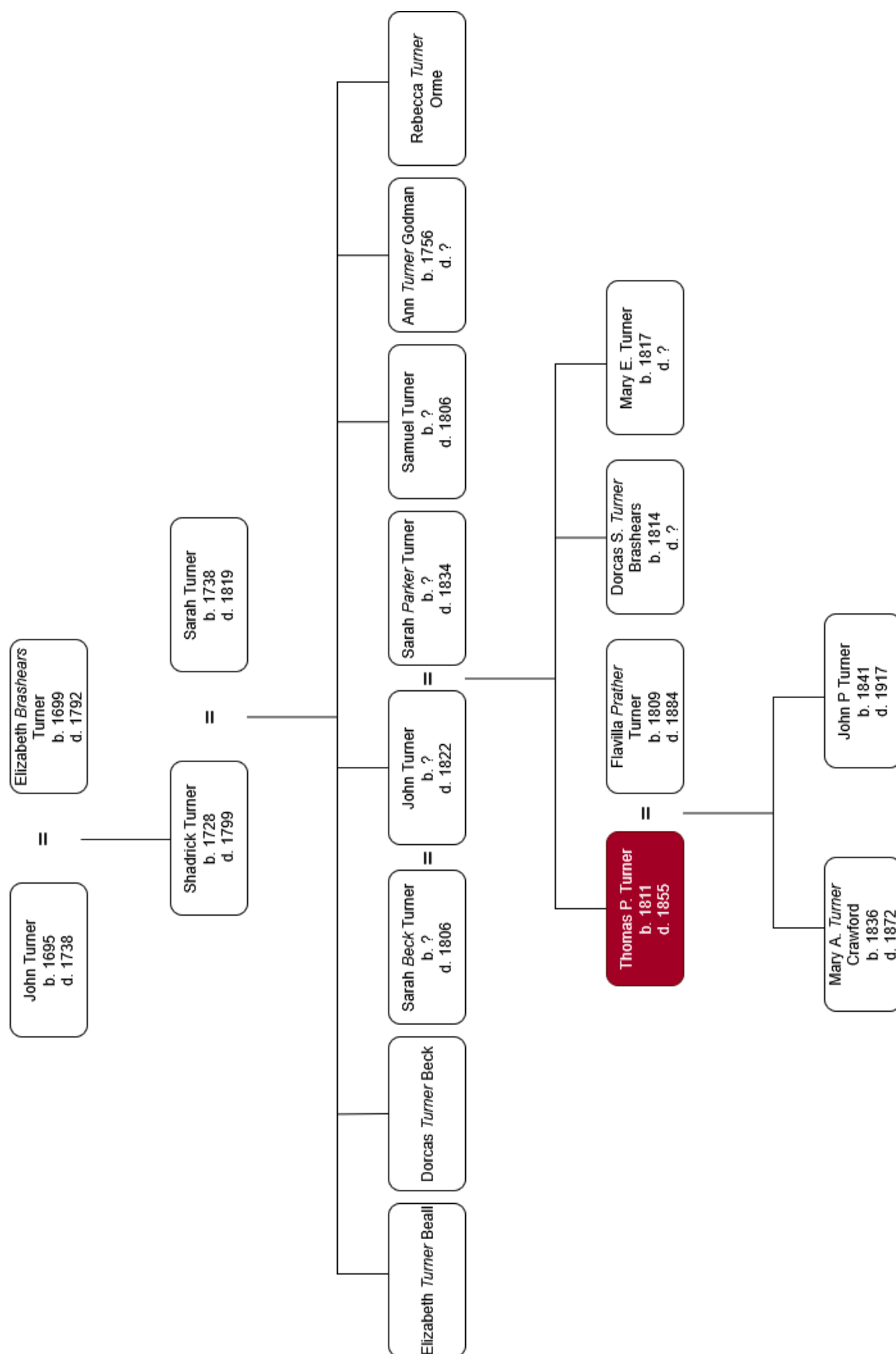


Figure 3. Turner family tree. The burgundy-colored box indicates the known burial in Turner Cemetery.

Shadrick and his wife, Sarah Turner, were Methodists and hosted Bishop Francis Asbury, one of the first Methodist Episcopal ministers in the United States, at least nine times at their Wild Cat home. This history is memorialized on a historic road marker titled "Methodist Preaching Place 1776-1803," located on today's southbound side of Edmonston Road.⁸ The Turners also hosted Reverend Thomas Rankin, another traveling Methodist minister, and both Rankin and Asbury noted the family in their journals. Shadrick and Sarah likely helped to found the Methodist Episcopal Church in Bladensburg, which was admitted to the Baltimore Conference in 1793.⁹

The Turners' primary occupation was agriculture, and primary source documentation indicates that they were slaveowners. Six children were listed in Shadrick's will: Samuel, John, Elizabeth (Beall), Ann (Godman), Rebecca (Orme), and Dorcas (Beck).¹⁰ A regional census of St. John's and Prince George's Parishes taken on August 31, 1776, lists Shadrick Turner (age 48); wife Sarah (age 38); four additional white males, ages 8, 15, 22, and 25; five additional white females, ages 1, 6, 10, 14, and 20; and four male slaves, ages 4, 6, 9, and 11.¹¹ The children's names are not provided. It is unclear if Shadrick and Sarah had nine children in 1776, or if any of the white children listed in the census were free white laborers. The first federal census in 1790 notes that the Turner household included two white males aged 16 and older; one white male under age 16; four free white females; and six enslaved individuals.¹² In 1792, Shadrick Turner's son, John Turner, purchased an enslaved Black woman named Luce from John Hill.¹³ Shadrick Turner's will indicates that an enslaved Black man named Will, a blacksmith, is to be passed to Shadrick's wife, Sarah.¹⁴

During the construction of the City of Greenbelt in the 1930s, employees of the Federal Resettlement Administration were cleaning up vacated properties and discovered two Turner family Bibles in the family barn.¹⁵ One of these bibles is stored in the library of the First United Methodist Church in Hyattsville, who congregationally trace their origins to the Turner's Methodist Preaching Place, is available to see by appointment.¹⁶ Pages of the Bible that log births, deaths, and marriages associated with the Turner family, are laminated to prevent deterioration but not amenable to photography due to the glare generated by the lamination.

The first page of the familial records in the Turner Bible list the first names of ten children born at Wild Cat between 1825 and 1850 and one death. Dr. Theodore Bissell's 1973 essay suspects these were children born to the enslaved individuals on the Turners' property.¹⁷ The penmanship is somewhat difficult to decipher, especially the years which have been consistently smudged; however, the names are transcribed to the best of ability as follows:

- George was born the Jan 19th 1825
- Charity was born the August 15th 1827
- Danel was born the August 27th 1834

- Mariah was born the November 25th 1835
- Briehard(sp?) March 7th 1835
- Boon(sp?) ?? May 17th 1837
- Hariot was born September 8 1839
- Henison was born October 16 1841
- Marndy(sp?) was September 26 1844
- Jane was born February 14 1847
- Charity October 10 1850

One death is recorded:

- Chairty was Died October 13-1820

There are four pages of written marriage, birth, and death records of white Turner family members at Wild Cat that have been previously published in secondary sources about the Turner family.¹⁸ Names and dates were cross-checked with the Bible when it was viewed.

Marriage records from Sarah Turner's Bible include:

- Dorcas Turner to Rezin Beck in 1798
- John Turner to Sarah Parker in 1810
- Thomas Parker Turner to Flaviller (Flavilla) Prather in 1834¹⁹

Births documented in Sarah Turner's Bible include:

- Sarah Turner Beck 5 May 1800
- Samuel Turner Beck 13 May 1802
- Rebecca Beck 9 July 1804
- Elizar Beck 1 September 1806
- Rebecca Turner 29 April 1802
- Thomas Parker Turner 1 May 1811
- Dorcas Salem Turner 2 October 1814
- Mary Elizabeth Turner 17 September 1817
- Mary Amanda Turner 23 July 1836
- John Prather Turner 25 September 1841²⁰

Deaths recorded in Sarah Turner's Bible include:

- Shadrick, 2 October 1799
- Sarah, wife of Shadrick 12 April 1819
- Samuel, son of Shadrick and Sarah 7 May 1806
- Susan, wife of Samuel 3 November 1818
- John, son of Shadrick and Sarah 4 October 1822

- Sarah, first wife of John 22 March 1806
- Sarah Parker, second wife of John 4 March 1834
- Shadrick, grandson of Shadrick and Sarah 10 December 1827
- Thomas Parker Turner, son of John 25 September 1855
- Ann Parker 9 November 1822
- Samuel Parker 5 December 1822
- Flavilla Parker 16 January 1823²¹

The second, smaller Turner family Bible contains no inscriptions, but newspaper clippings regarding the life, marriage, and death of John P. Turner were found inside the Bible.²² According to a document inserted into this Bible, John P. Turner was appointed Supervisor of Public Roads for the First Collection District, New Scotland Hundred, Prince George's County on May 19, 1851.²³

Turners and descendants of Turners remained on Wild Cat plantation, farming the land from the mid-18th century until the property was acquired by the federal government in 1935 to construct Greenbelt. The buildings on the property were removed sometime prior to 1973.

Greenbelt Cemetery was established in 1939 as an expansion of the Turner Cemetery. The first burial in Greenbelt Cemetery was that of Martin J. Nevius (b. 1870, d. 1939), a retired printer. Today, Greenbelt Cemetery continues to be maintained by the City of Greenbelt.

¹ <https://www.findagrave.com/cemetery/81030/memorial-search?cemeteryName=Greenbelt+Cemetery&orderby=d-&page=1#sr-274668910>

² Theodore Bissell, "Tracing Shadrick Turner and Sarah Turner, Pioneer Methodists of Bladensburg," *The Prince George's County Historical Society*, December 1973, Vol 1. No. 10, 73.

³ Anne Hull, "Our Town: The Cemetery," *Greenbelt Cooperator*, December 14, 1939.

⁴ Prince George's County Liber PP, old series 14, folios 298-300.

⁵ Bissell, "Tracing Shadrick Turner and Sarah Turner," 72.

⁶ *Ibid.*, 72.

⁷ *Ibid.*, 74.

⁸ "Methodist Preaching Place," *The Historical Marker Database*, <https://www.hmdb.org/m.asp?m=122>.

⁹ Bissell, "Tracing Shadrick Turner and Sarah Turner," 75.

¹⁰ Will of Shadrick Turner, Prince George's County Will Records, Liber T1: 428.

¹¹ Gaius Marcus Brumbaugh, *Maryland Records: Colonial, Revolutionary, County and Church, from Original Sources*, Vol. I (Baltimore: Williams & Wilkins Company, 1915), 37.

¹² 1790 Census, Prince George's County, Maryland.

¹³ Liber JRH 1, Fol 365-366.

¹⁴ Will of Shadrick Turner, Prince George's County Will Records, Liber T1: 428.

¹⁵ Bissell, "Tracing Shadrick Turner and Sarah Turner," 74.

¹⁶ Interview with First United Methodist Church of Hyattsville Historian Donnalee Sanderson on March 25, 2026.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, 76.

¹⁸ Ibid., 74.

¹⁹ Ibid., 75.

²⁰ Ibid., 75.

²¹ Ibid., 76.

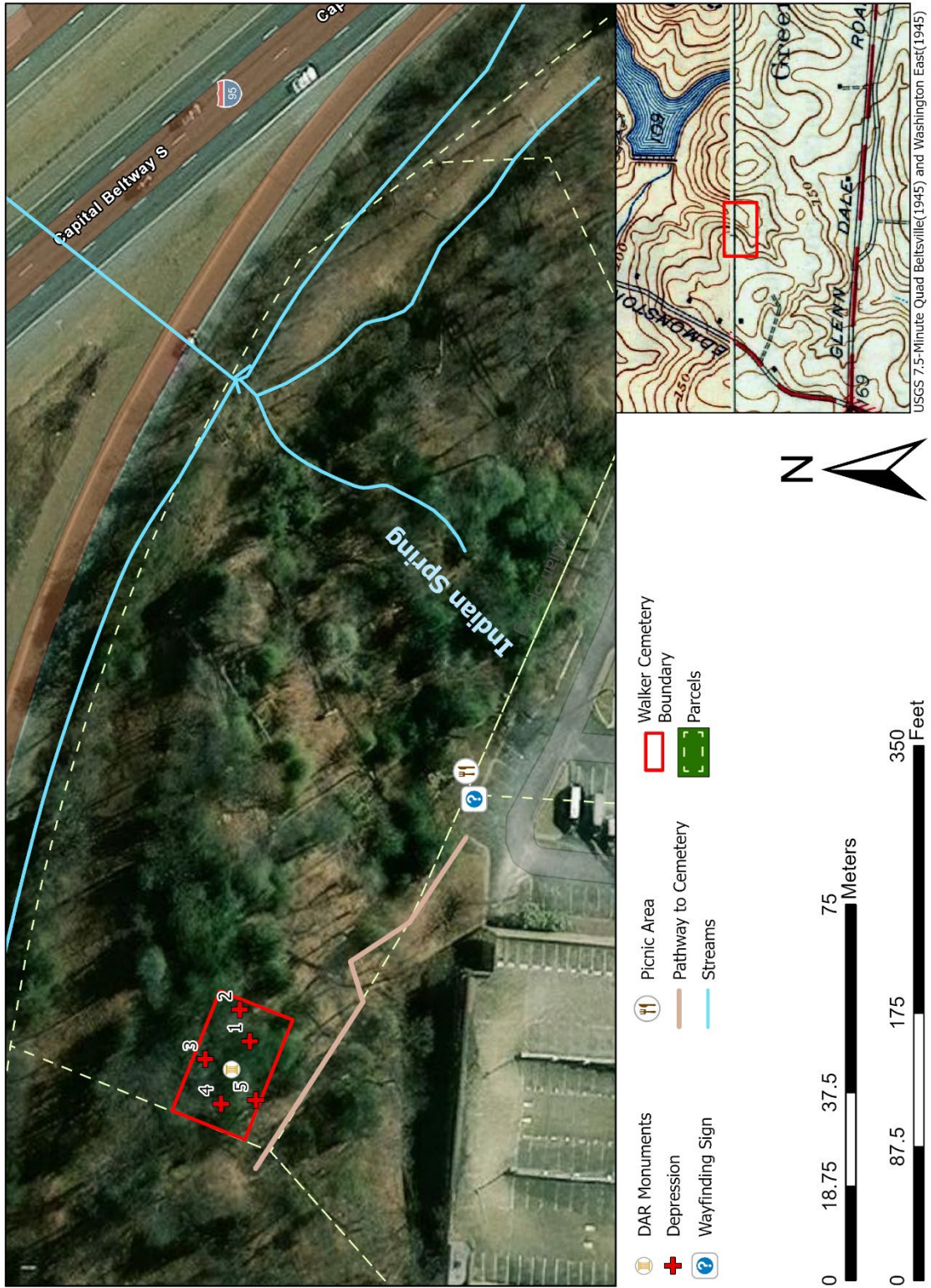
²² Ibid., 74.

²³ Ibid., 76.

Walker Cemetery

Site Map

Walker Cemetery, Walker Drive, Greenbelt, Maryland
Current Site Plan

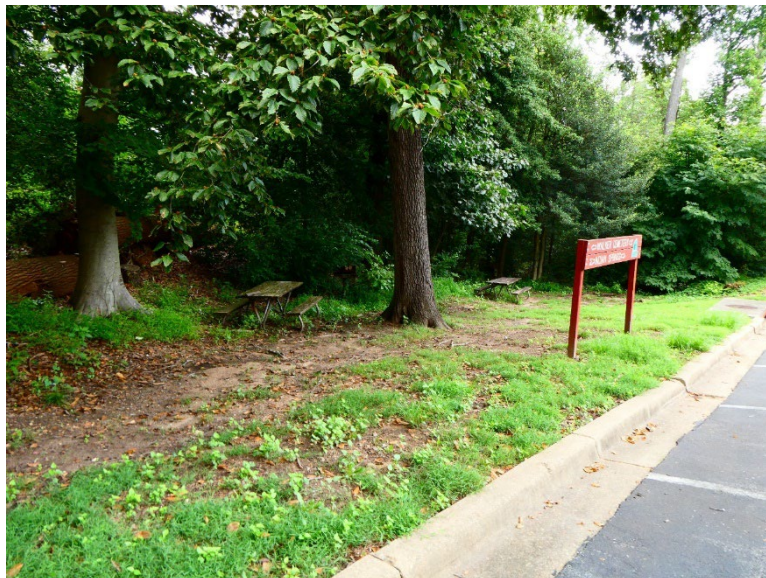


Physical Description



Photograph 23. Walker Cemetery Wayfinding Signage.

Walker Cemetery is located at the rear of an office development parking lot at the end of Walker Drive. The office park is bound by Greenbelt Road, US 495, and Kenilworth Avenue, within an area that was commonly referred to as the "Golden Triangle" in mid-20th century newspapers. Signage at the west corner of Walker Drive and Greenbelt Road refers to the area as "Triangle Centre." At the edge of the parking lot, a wooden wayfinding sign points westward toward Walker Cemetery and eastward toward Indian Springs (Photograph 23).

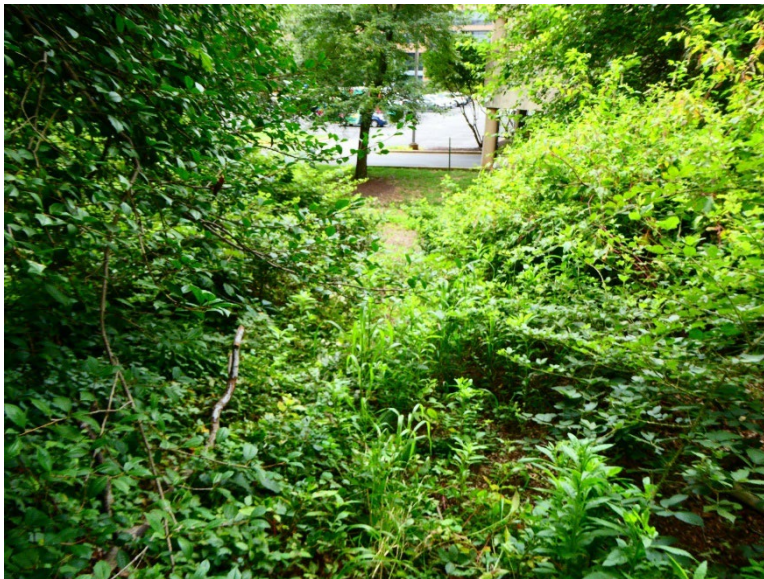


Photograph 24. Picnic Area behind Walker Cemetery wayfinding signage.

Behind the Walker Cemetery wayfinding sign is a picnic area consisting of two wooden picnic tables and a metal grill (Photograph 24). The picnic area was placed by the developers of the Golden Triangle office park. There are no plaques or signage that note the date of construction of the picnic area or who installed it, but this likely occurred when the area was developed by SRA Golden Triangle, LLC.



Photograph 25. Start of pathway to Walker Cemetery from parking lot.



Photograph 26. Overgrown pathway to Walker Cemetery.

The path leading uphill toward Walker Cemetery is poorly marked, and when the site was visited in July 2025, it was overgrown with briars (Photograph 25 and Photograph 26). A rough path could be made out and followed uphill to the cemetery, but it is not easily traversed in the warmer months due to foliage. In the colder months, the path is

likely more apparent, but potentially hazardous due to the elevation. Documentary descriptions of Walker Cemetery suggest that the site has been overgrown for a while; the cemetery was described in an 1883 publication by Samuel H. Walker (great-grandson of Isaac Walker) as “overgrown with pines, and would be hard to recognize, except to one accustomed to the place.”¹



Photograph 27. Entrance into Walker Cemetery.



Photograph 28. Paver path to Isaac and Nathan Walker memorials.

Walker Cemetery is clearly delineated on all four sides by a short chain link fence, which records indicate was installed by descendants of the Walker family in the late 1950s or early 1960s. The current fence replaced an earlier fenced installed by the Federal

Government, most likely the Resettlement Administration as they acquired properties to construct Greenbelt.² There is a break in the fence that leads into the cemetery (Photograph 27). Concrete pavers, now obscured by moss, mark a path to the two monuments found in the cemetery today (Photograph 28).



Photograph 29. Memorial and grave marker for Nathan and Isaac Walker dedicated in 1936 (L) and tablet dedicated to Isaac Walker in 1983 (R), both created and dedicated by the DAR.

The paver path ends at two monuments that were constructed by a local chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) (Photograph 29). It is unknown whether these monuments mark the actual gravesites of Isaac Walker and his son, Nathan Walker, or if they were simply placed in the cemetery and not intended to be interpreted as grave markers. A pentagon shaped concrete monument was installed on the site in 1936 by the Prince George's County Chapter of the DAR. The concrete used for the monument has a pebble-textured aggregate mixed in. The copper alloy plate, now green due to patination, reads, "Revolutionary Soldiers Isaac Walker 1721-1807 Nathan Walker 1756-1842 Placed by Prince George's County Chapter D.A.R."

A second white marble tablet marker was installed next to the 1936 monument in 1983 by the Prince George's Chapter of the DAR. It is the standard marble tablets issued by the United States Armed Forces for veterans of any war. The marble tablet is set in concrete and features a carving of a cross. The carved text reads, "Isaac Walker 1st Lt. MD Militia Revolutionary War 1721 1807."



Photograph 30. Example of a depression in Walker Cemetery.

Most graves within Walker Cemetery are unmarked. Five probable grave depressions were documented during the survey (Photograph 30). In his 1968 letter to the Greenbelt Historical Society, a copy of which is found in the Walker family file in the Tugwell Room of the Greenbelt Library, Walker descendant Warren O. Simonds lists the six known burials within Walker Cemetery. They are:

1. Isaac Walker
2. Elizabeth Stuart Walker, wife of Isaac
3. Nathan Walker, son of Isaac and Elizabeth Walker
4. Nancy Baggerly Walker, first wife of Nathan Walker
5. Elizabeth Thomas Walker, second wife of Nathan Walker (d. 1860)
6. Nathan Walker, Jr., son of Nathan Walker (d. 1806)



Photograph 31. Periwinkle groundcover located to west of Walker Cemetery.

Periwinkle groundcover abuts the chain link fence and extends in all directions out from the Walker Cemetery boundary (Photograph 31). Simonds' 1968 letter notes, "There were also a number of people, not members of the family, buried in the plot, but detailed records are no longer available."³ The



Photograph 32. Location of Indian Springs.

Indian Springs has traditionally been strongly associated with the Walker Cemetery, both features being mentioned in on-site signage. Community memory of Indian Springs, both from Greenbelters familiar with the area firsthand or through stories from older family and friends, describes a place that in the early 20th century and early days of Greenbelt was a spot to picnic and recreate. The area where Indian Springs should

be today was little more than a wetland during the summer 2025 site visit (Photograph 32).

Walker Cemetery Historic Context



Photograph 33. Toaping Castle, as photographed in 1935 during the real estate appraisal of the future site of the City of Greenbelt (Source: Original Photograph from Record Group 196: Records of the Public Housing Administration, Series: Records Relating to the Management and Disposition of Greentown Projects, File Unit: "Appraisal for the Resettlement Administration of the Berwyn Project and Individual Appraisals of Parcels", prepared by Curtis Walker, 1935. This image sourced from Mary Lou Williamson, *Greenbelt: History of a New Town 1937-1987, New 1997 Edition Including the Sixth Decade, 1987-1997*, Donning Co. Publishers, 1997, 18)

Isaac Walker was granted a 64-acre plantation from Lord Baltimore in 1757. The land was surveyed in 1754 and the plat map was filed in Annapolis.⁴ He called the plantation "Toaping Castle," allegedly named for a property in Scotland where the Walkers claimed heritage though modern genealogy work researched by descendant Kent Walker and documented on websites such as Ancestry.com and Genealogy.com has poked holes in the tale described in *The Walkers of Toaping Castle*, an 1883 narrative that was written by Isaac Walker's great grandson Samuel, named for his late uncle.⁵

Isaac Walker, along with his brothers Charles and Nathan, appear to have been born in Prince George's County rather than Scotland though they still appear to have built the first iteration of the house, a white oak log cabin, that was later deconstructed, its parts used for agricultural buildings on the property. Charles and Nathan Walker eventually left Maryland, with Isaac's descendants remaining at Toaping Castle. A later iteration of the house stood on Greenbelt Road, near the present address 6600 Capitol Drive (Photograph 33) approximately 1500 ft southeast of the Walker Cemetery. Isaac Walker constructed the central bay of the house in the late 18th century.⁶

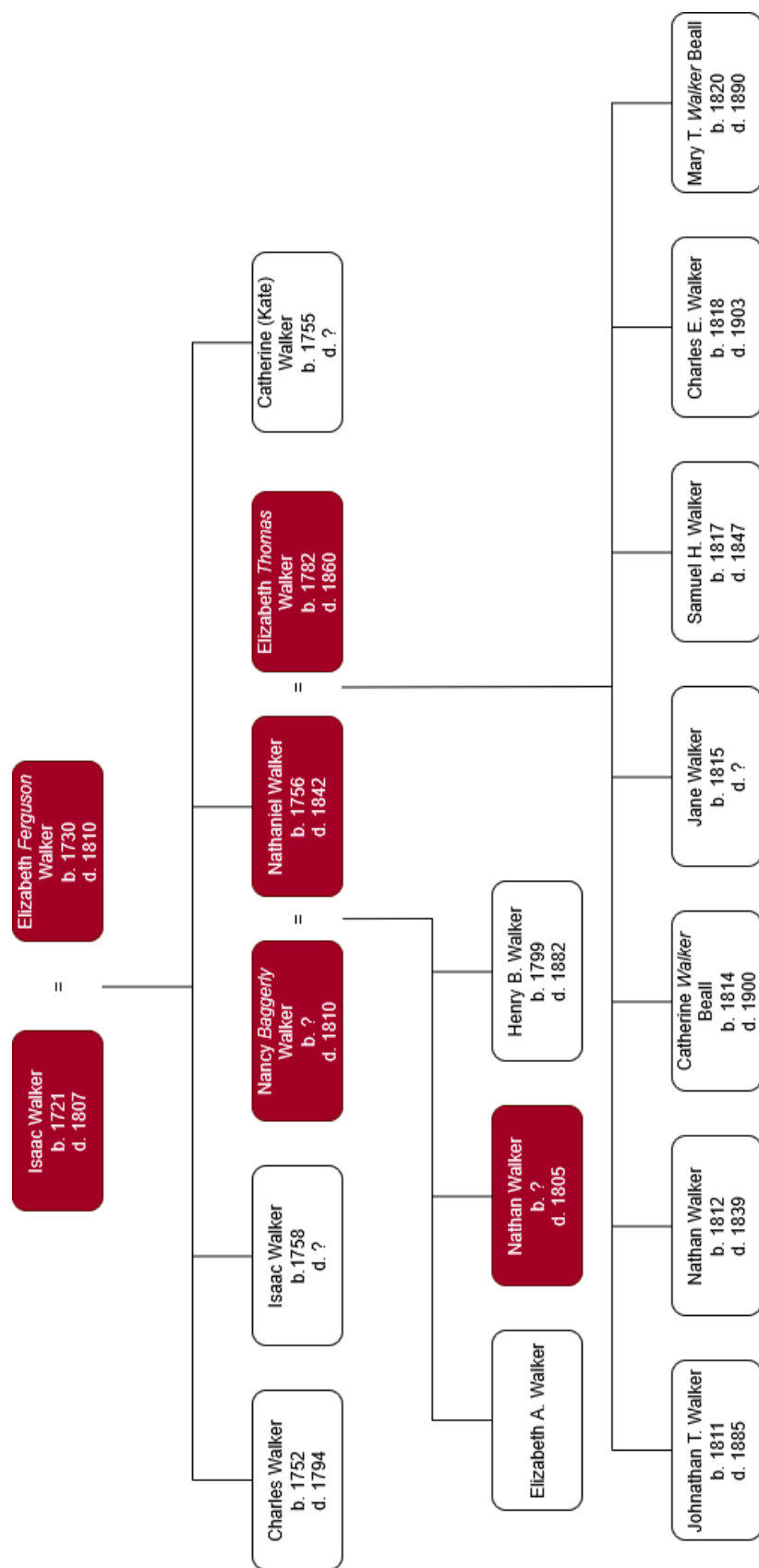


Figure 4. Walker family tree. The burgundy-colored box indicates the known burial in Walker Cemetery.

Another inconsistency researched by descendant Kent Walker is the maiden name of the wife of Isaac Walker. *The Walkers of Toaping Castle* documents her name as Elizabeth Stuart but records indicate that her maiden name was Ferguson. Her father, Duncan Ferguson, is recorded to have been transported from Scotland to Maryland in 1716, the year after the first Scottish Jacobite rebellion in 1715.⁷ Isaac and Elizabeth Ferguson Walker went on to have four children in Prince George's County – Isaac, Jr., Charles, Nathan, and Catherine (Kate).

One of two DAR-placed grave markers at Walker Cemetery is attributed to Isaac, Sr., who appears to have served in the American Revolution alongside all three of his sons. All three sons also served in the War of 1812. Only the youngest son, Nathan, continued to live at Toaping Castle and was buried in the Walker Cemetery when he passed in 1842. Isaac, Jr., married Charlotte Hamilton and raised their family in Baltimore County. A death date has not been located for Isaac, Jr. but he is likely to be buried in Baltimore County and not at Walker Cemetery. The eldest, Charles Walker and his sister, Kate Walker, settled closer to Washington, DC.⁸

Nathan Walker married Nancy Baggerly of Montgomery County, Maryland, and the couple had three children – Henry, Nathan, and Elizabeth Ann (also known as Betsy).⁹ Their son, Nathan, passed away in 1806 and is buried in Walker Cemetery at Toaping Castle, the only person of his generation to be buried there.¹⁰ Nancy Baggerly Walker passed away around 1810 and is also buried in the Walker Cemetery. Neither of their burial locations are marked.

Nathan Walker married his second wife, Elizabeth Thomas of Charles County, Maryland, on October 4, 1810. They had seven children, whose names and birthdates were recorded in their family Bible and transcribed. The transcription from the family Bible is copied here:

Nathan Walker died December 28th, 1842, aged 86 years, and was buried at Toaping Castle.

Nathan Walker, son of Isaac and Elizabeth Walker, was the father of Henry B., Betsy Beck, and, by his second wife, of Jonathan Thomas, Nathan, Charles E, Samuel H, Catharine, Jane, and Mary Thomas.

Henry B. was born August 31, 1779; was married to Rachel, February 3d, 1824; died February 6, 1882.

Richard H. was born October 22, 1824.

Nathan W. was born February 23, 1826.

Edith Augusta was born January 29, 1852, and married Lucius Gridley of Washington.

Jonathan Thomas, son of Nathan and Elizabeth Thomas Walker, was born August 4, 1811.

Nathan Walker was born December 8th, 1812, and died in Florida in November, 1839, at Iola.

Catharine Walker was born April 30th, 1814.

Jane Walker was born July 20th, 1815.

Samuel Hamilton Walker was born February 24th, 1817.

Charles E. Walker was born December 15th, 1818.

Mary Thomas Walker was born November 28th, 1820.¹¹

The family record contains some minor errors and confusions that may have occurred when the information was transcribed for publication. First, Nathan Walker's son Henry B., also known as Henry Baggerly, was born in 1799, not 1779. In the 1850 census, Henry's age is noted as 51 and he worked as a carpenter in Georgetown, Washington, DC, living with his wife, Rachel, and 18-year-old son, J. Walker (b. 1832), who also worked as a carpenter.¹² Henry and his wife, Rachel (née Beall), are buried in Oak Hill Cemetery in Washington, DC.¹³

Second, the narrative fails to articulate that Richard H., Nathan W., and Edith Augusta are grandchildren of Nathan Walker Sr. via his first marriage to Nancy Baggerly. Richard H. and Nathan W. Walker are the sons of Henry and Rachel Walker and therefore are Nathan Walker Sr.'s grandsons. Edith Augusta's lineage is recorded in a 1918 DAR Lineage Book, which identifies her as the great-granddaughter of Nathan Walker Sr., and therefore the great-great-granddaughter of Isaac Walker Sr. The entry further states that she was the daughter of Richard Henry Walker (b. 1824, d. 1853) and Sarah Elizabeth Bohrer (b. 1828, d. 1904).¹⁴

Jonathan Thomas Walker, first son of Nathan and Elizabeth Thomas Walker, left Toaping Castle at age 18 to work in Washington, DC, as a carpenter and builder. Houses at 28 and 30 B Street NE in Washington, DC, have been attributed to Jonathan T. Walker as the builder, though the addresses have since been renumbered.¹⁵ He met and married Jane Amelia Benson on October 13, 1833, while living in Washington. They first lived at 709 6th St NW, then relocated to Mount Vernon Place at the corner of 8th and K Streets. Jonathan and Jane had 12 children.¹⁶ After Abraham Lincoln was elected president of the United States in 1861, southern states began seceding from the Union. Perhaps due to impending war, Jonathan Walker moved his family out of Washington, DC, and back to the rural setting of Toaping Castle.¹⁷ The flanking bays on either side of the Toaping

Castle house (Photograph 33) were constructed by Jonathan a few years before the Civil War.¹⁸

Two of Nathan and Elizabeth Thomas Walker's sons – Nathan Walker, Jr., and Samuel Hamilton Walker – did not remain in the Maryland and Washington, DC, area. Both men enlisted in the Creek and Seminole Wars in the 1830s.¹⁹ Samuel Hamilton Walker was born at Toaping Castle in 1817. Once grown, Samuel Walker left Maryland to first fight in the Creek and Seminole Wars in Georgia and Florida, then moved to Texas to become a Texas Ranger. He worked with Samuel Colt to perfect Colt's invention, the six-shooter revolver. Samuel Walker is not interred in the family plot because he was killed in action during the Mexican-American War in Juamantla, Mexico, in 1847.²⁰

Toaping Castle was occupied by descendants with direct lineage to Isaac Walker, Sr., until the land was acquired by the federal government to construct Greenbelt in the 1930s.²¹ Toaping Castle remained unoccupied from that point until around 1962, when the ruinous building was finally demolished.²²

Today, the original markers for those buried at Walker Cemetery are gone. Due to Isaac and Nathan Walker's status as Revolutionary War veterans, local chapters of the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) supplied monuments and ongoing maintenance at the site that continues today. Four other members of the Walker family are buried in the cemetery, though only Isaac Walker and Nathan Walker's plots are marked.²³

In October 1936, the Prince George's Chapter of the DAR held a ceremony to install the concrete monument with metal plaque still seen on the site today. The article describing the ceremony notes that "down through the years, these graves have remained unmarked, and few county residents know of their existence," suggesting that the headstones may have been removed from the site prior to the creation of Greenbelt.²⁴

The chain link fence at Walker Cemetery was installed by the Walker Family, as noted in a letter from Walker descendant Warren O. Simonds to the Greenbelt Historical Society, dated April 22, 1968, a copy of which can be found in the Walker file at the Tugwell Room of the Prince George's County Memorial Library System's Greenbelt Branch Library.²⁵

The Prince George's Chapter of the DAR held another ceremony at the burial site of First Lieutenant Isaac Walker on May 30, 1983, to dedicate a new marble tablet at the gravesite. A copy of the program of the day's events is located in the Walker family's file at the Tugwell Room of the Prince George's County Memorial Library System's Greenbelt Branch Library. In attendance were multiple descendants of Isaac Walker, including Ms. Margaret Slingluff, a Prince George's County chapter member, and Mrs.

W. Desmond Walker, Jr., a Marlborough Towne chapter member. Both women provided historical background on the Walker family to attendees.²⁶

Today, Walker Cemetery is located in a wooded area adjacent to an office park development, which was once part of the northern side of the Toaping Castle property. In 1977, Prince George's County first approved plans for the Golden Triangle, which included a multi-use commercial and office complex. In the late 1980s, Mary Lou Williamson's book, *Greenbelt: History of a New Town 1927-1987* noted that behind the modernity of the Golden Triangle is "a small tract of city parkland that commemorates the area's first settlers, the three Walker brothers, who built the original Toaping Castle structure, a log cabin not far from Indian Springs."²⁷

Archaeological investigations of the former location of Toaping Castle fronting Greenbelt Road took place in 2005 and 2021, the results of which are housed with the Maryland Historical Trust. As of 2026, plans are forthcoming to install an interpretive panel next to the foundation remains, which have been fenced in and are now located in the parking lot of a Royal Farms gas station (Photograph 34).



Photograph 34. Foundation remains of Toaping Castle and future site of Toaping Castle/Walker interpretive panel.

¹ Samuel H. Walker, *The Walkers of Toaping Castle, Md.*, October 13, 1883, 17.

² Letter from Warren O. Simonds, Walker descendant, 1968, Walker Family File, Tugwell Room, Greenbelt Public Library.

³ Letter from Warren O. Simonds, Walker descendant, 1968, Walker Family File, Tugwell Room, Greenbelt Public Library.

⁴ Prince George's County Patented Certificate No. 2174.

⁵ Kent Walker, "Toaping Castle Walkers" blog post, *Genealogy.com*, May 5, 2010, <https://www.support.genealogy.com/forum/surnames/topics/walker/28074/>.

⁶ Mary Lou Williamson, *Greenbelt: History of a New Town, 1937-1987*. New 1997 Edition Including the Sixth Decade, 1987-1997, (Donning Co. Publishers, 1997), 18.

⁷ Walker, "Toaping Castle Walkers" blog post, *Genealogy.com*, May 5, 2010, <https://www.support.genealogy.com/forum/surnames/topics/walker/28074/>.

⁸ Walker, *The Walkers of Toaping Castle, Md.*, 5.

⁹ *Ibid.*, 5.

¹⁰ Letter from Warren O. Simonds.

¹¹ Walker, *The Walkers of Toaping Castle, Md.*, 6.

¹² Records of the Bureau of the Census; Record Group Number: 29; Series Number: M432; Residence Date: 1850; Home in 1850: Georgetown, Washington, District of Columbia; Roll: 57; Page: 206b.

¹³ "Rachel Beall Walker," Find A Grave, <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/78612154/wa>.

¹⁴ Daughters of the American Revolution, *Lineage Book, National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution*. Vol. 139, Washington, DC, 1918. Accessed via Ancestry.com North America, Family Histories, 1500-2000 online database.

¹⁵ Walker, *The Walkers of Toaping Castle, Md.*, 10.

¹⁶ *Ibid.*, 16.

¹⁷ *Ibid.*, 10-13.

¹⁸ Williamson, *Greenbelt: History of a New Town, 1937-1987*, 18.

¹⁹ Walker, *The Walkers of Toaping Castle, Md.*, 8.

²⁰ *Ibid.*, 8-10.

²¹ Williamson, *Greenbelt: History of a New Town, 1937-1987*, 18.

²² Letter from James K. Giese, City Manager, to Mr. R.L. Wilson, August 13, 1980, Walker Family File, Tugwell Room, Greenbelt Public Library.

²³ "Graves of Two Heroes of 1776 Will be Marked," *Washington Post*, October 28, 1936.

²⁴ *Ibid.*

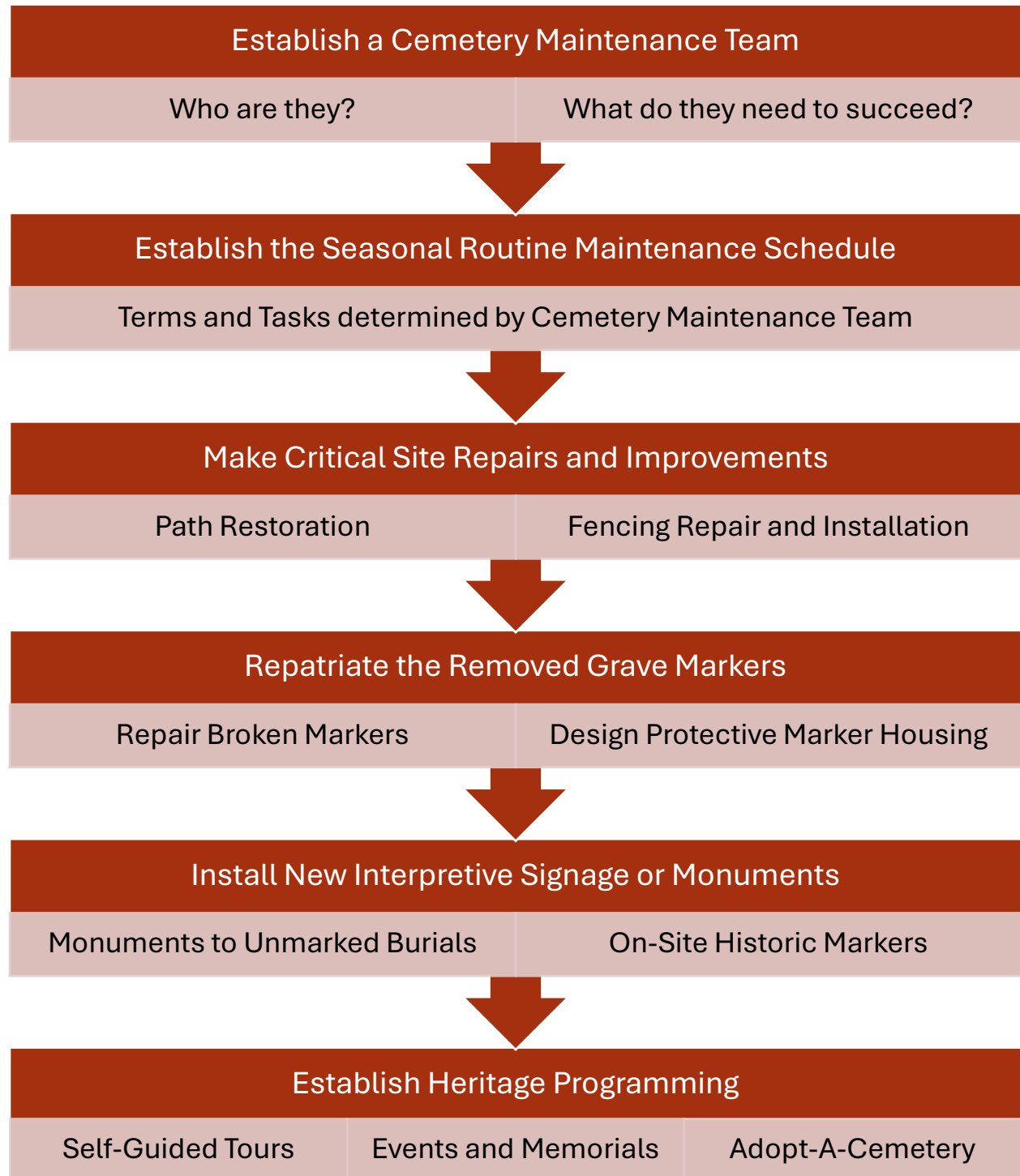
²⁵ Letter from Warren O. Simonds.

²⁶ Program, Walker Family File, Tugwell Room, Greenbelt Public Library.

²⁷ Williamson, *Greenbelt: History of a New Town, 1937-1987*, 217.

Greenbelt Cemeteries Master Plan

The following flowchart contains the recommended steps that the City of Greenbelt should take to create a sustainable historic cemetery preservation program to restore and maintain Hamilton, Turner, and Walker Cemeteries:



Establish a Cemetery Maintenance Team

The first step is for the City of Greenbelt to establish a Cemetery Maintenance Team. The core professional maintenance team for the historic cemeteries will likely come from the Greenbelt Public Works Department. Certain tasks in the Maintenance Plan must be completed by a professional rather than the general public – the Cemetery Maintenance Team will be comprised of those professionals.

One or two existing Public Works Department staff members should be identified to complete the following tasks:

- Oversee and complete Seasonal Maintenance and maintain records of seasonal maintenance, following guidance in the [Maintenance Plan](#)
- Carry out [Recommendations for Capital Improvements](#)

The Cemetery Maintenance Team should already have or be willing to obtain the following experience:

- Skilled at landscaping tasks such as planting, pruning, and plant removal
- Experience with installing fencing and operating associated equipment
- Experience with footpath establishment and maintenance
- Experience with cemetery preservation tasks, which could be obtained from the [National Preservation Institute's Cemetery Preservation](#) workshop

The required maintenance of Hamilton, Turner, and Walker cemeteries will be infrequent enough that dedicated full-time staff is not necessary. Existing roles and duties of the selected team will need to be evaluated so that they have adequate time to complete tasks, especially early in the implementation of the capital improvements. As the sites are stabilized, regular tasks will be lessened to only the Seasonal Maintenance Schedule over time.

Establish a Seasonal Maintenance Schedule

The first task of the Cemetery Maintenance Team is to establish a seasonal routine maintenance schedule. Ongoing documentation is essential to the preservation of a cemetery. Regular inspection of the cemetery to monitor changing conditions of grave markers, constructed elements, and natural elements should be implemented at all three cemeteries.

A seasonal inspection schedule is recommended in order to keep track of the impact of seasonal changes to markers, fences, and signage, among other built structures, at all three cemeteries. The Cemetery Maintenance Team should be able to document current conditions as well as identify issues that require immediate or future attention, such as the ongoing maintenance of new site features, including interpretive signage, monuments, and ease of access.

Trees, shrubs, vines, weeds, grass, and decorative plantings should be inspected during the routine seasonal inspection. Based on the results of the inspection, seasonal clean-ups should follow as appropriate based on the conditions at each site. Seasonal landscape inspections should note the following:

Table 1. Seasonal Inspection Checklist.

Trees	✓ Inspect condition of trees, including need for pruning, removal of damaged, dead, or unstable limbs and branches ✓ Assess need for fallen leaf removal
Shrubs	✓ Inspect condition of shrubs, including need for pruning and identification and removal of dead shrubbery
Vines/Weeds	✓ Assess the need for removal of weeds ✓ Assess the need for removal of vines or pruning of overgrown vines
Decorative Plantings	✓ Inspect condition of decorative plantings and other graveside plantings ✓ Remove dead or wilted graveside offerings
Grass	✓ Assess condition of grasses and other low-lying vegetation ✓ Mow as needed
Monuments	✓ Inspect condition of monuments, looking for signs of natural and human-caused deterioration
Constructed Features	✓ Inspect condition of constructed features such as fences and pathways ✓ Clear debris from constructed features

The Cemetery Maintenance Team should keep a written record of seasonal routine maintenance results. This record will also assist in tracking progress on the overall cemetery preservation plan and can track the condition of built and landscape features that may not require immediate attention.

As repair needs are identified over time, the Cemetery Maintenance Team should refer to guidance outlined in the [Maintenance Plan](#) section of this document, which lists both routine and special repair needs that meet current cemetery preservation standards based on guidance from the National Park Service (NPS).

Make Critical Site Repairs and Improvements

The survey of Hamilton, Turner, and Walker Cemeteries in Summer 2025 documented current conditions and subsequently identified two critical improvements to prioritize at each cemetery – restoration or establishment of footpaths and fencing. These two elements were chosen because without reliable, equitable access and established boundaries at each cemetery, additional restoration and programming cannot take place.

Each location has slightly different needs to repair their footpaths and fencing, which are outlined in the [Recommendations for Capital Improvements](#) section of this report. All three cemeteries are located on City of Greenbelt-owned property; therefore, City funding should be used, either directly or via other available funding sources, such as grants (see [Funding Sources](#)).

Repatriate Removed Grave Markers

All removed markers from Hamilton Cemetery should be returned to a display near their approximate original locations. First, broken markers should be put back together with an appropriate epoxy adhesive (see [Gravesite Maintenance](#)). Second, the markers should be relocated to a new location at Hamilton Cemetery as part of a new display. The new display should avoid implying that the markers are in their original locations and marking a burial. A new display can be designed by a special volunteer committee or by a commissioned artist or designer.

Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR)



Photograph 35. An example photo of GPR equipment being used by workers to locate subsurface utilities.

Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) is a non-intrusive method of detecting subsurface anomalies with radar pulses that is commonly used to screen where burials may be located in a known or suspected cemetery. The GPR instrument is dragged (Photograph 35) or wheeled across a landscape, resulting in outputs that show the presence of subsurface anomalies that could represent tree roots, utility lines, or graves. Ground truthing via exploratory trenching or archaeological investigation is required to know for sure what the anomaly represents. A GPR survey of a small cemetery comparable in size to Hamilton, Walker, and Turner Cemeteries costs a few thousand dollars.

Although there are an unknown number of unmarked burials associated with Hamilton, Turner, and Walker Cemeteries, archaeologists from JMT that visually assessed all three cemeteries in 2025 do not recommend GPR survey. First, all three cemeteries are located in densely wooded areas and many anomalies detected with GPR would likely be root systems from trees. Second, wheeling or dragging GPR equipment over certain features, such as the low-lying stone markers at Turner Cemetery, would be difficult without potentially damaging them. The GPR equipment must also go around tree trunks in each cemetery, leaving little area to maneuver, particularly in Hamilton Cemetery. Third, regarding the recommendation of returning the removed grave markers to their approximate original locations, GPR is only capable of showing locations of possible burials and will not provide any information about the identity of the interred individual, meaning that GPR is unable to assist in returning removed stones to their exact original locations.

Install New Interpretive Signage or Monuments

After work is completed to make cemeteries accessible and reinstate grave markers, new interpretive signage should be installed at each location. Using research compiled in this document, the City of Greenbelt can design interpretive signage at each cemetery that details the history of the Turner, Hamilton, and Walker families and the late 18th and early 19th century history of the area that would become Greenbelt.

Monuments are statues, structures, or other man-made features constructed to commemorate people or events. Consideration should be given to installing new monuments at each cemetery if there is interest. The monuments should publicly note the presence of unmarked graves at these sites and honor the legacy of enslaved individuals that labored on the properties owned by the Turner, Walker, and Hamilton families. An organizational model like the Greenbelt Reparations Commission could form and take on a role in deciding the look and location of each monument.

Establish Heritage Programming

Hamilton, Turner, and Walker Cemeteries have the potential to be the subject of heritage programming. Possibilities include self-guided tours, small-scale events and memorials, and establishment of an adopt-a-cemetery program to get public interest groups involved with the long-term care and maintenance of these historic sites.

Maintenance Plan

Maintenance of historic cemeteries involves the upkeep of both monuments and landscape features. The following maintenance plan has been written as a quick-reference guide to establish standards in the future maintenance and upkeep of Hamilton, Turner, and Walker Cemeteries.

The NPS has identified two major types of conditions that have the potential to negatively impact the features found in historic cemeteries: **natural conditions** and **human-driven conditions**.

Natural Causes of Deterioration	Human-Driven Causes of Deterioration
• Sun • Precipitation – Rain, Sleet, Snow, Hail • Humidity • Wind • Temperature Fluctuations	• Lack of Maintenance/Abandonment • Inappropriate Repairs • Pollution • Exposure to Soluble Salts from Fertilizer and Deicers • Vandalism • Graffiti

Both natural and human-driven conditions cause and/or accelerate the weathering process. Different materials weather at different rates with some being more durable than others. Ultimately, weathering of cemetery features is inevitable.

In *Preservation Brief 48: Preserving Grave Markers in Historic Cemeteries*, NPS notes the following actions that can cause accelerated weathering in common cemetery materials:

Water, in liquid, solid or vapor form, plays a critical role in the deterioration process. Most grave marker materials are porous, and moisture from precipitation, ground water, or frequent landscape watering can enter the pore system. If temperatures drop below the freezing point, water in interior pores, joints and cracks freezes, and its increased volume often applies internal pressure, resulting in damage to the grave marker such as cracks or spalling.

Ferrous metals are particularly vulnerable to water-related deterioration. Iron increases in size when it corrodes, sometimes as much as 20 percent. As the corrosion process proceeds, the ferrous metal eventually weakens. When embedded within concrete or masonry materials, the corroding iron often causes cracks and spalls in the masonry.

Microorganisms such as algae, fungi, and lichens may affect grave markers. Microorganisms hold in moisture and some produce acids. With acid-sensitive materials such as limestone and marble, the result is surface erosion. Sometimes

the organisms use the material as a food source, dissolving minerals in the stone and attacking the cellular structure of wood. Wood is especially vulnerable to fungi, algae, and other microorganisms when its moisture content is above 25% (NPS 2016).

Protecting historic monuments in outdoor environments requires solutions that work with the nature and characteristics of the unique materials and conditions affecting each monument. The following section contains guidance on the maintenance and preservation of specific cemetery elements including grave markers, site features, and the cemetery landscape.

Gravesite Maintenance

Grave markers are the most distinctive features of any cemetery. Other site features include plot markers, curbing, fencing, plaques, and other constructed commemorative elements. While the grave markers are typically the most prominent features, the non-marker site features contribute significantly to the historical character of the cemetery, and their preservation and ongoing maintenance should be considered on an as-needed basis.

Maintenance activities for headstones includes seasonal inspections, followed by seasonal maintenance work (such as cleaning and repairs). Most activities are best conducted by preservation professionals and the established maintenance team, such as the cleaning of damaged or unstable surfaces and repair work. Light cleaning can be accomplished by supervised volunteers.

The remediation and prevention of conditions that may affect the safety and endurance of a cemetery's features should be the highest priority of a cemetery maintenance plan. Maintaining the condition of grave markers, roads, trees, and other site features on a regular basis is the best way to prevent dangerous conditions.

All three historic Greenbelt cemeteries, despite their differences, have the same ongoing maintenance needs and priorities, outlined in Table 2.

Table 2. Ongoing Maintenance Priorities.

Activity	Recommended Frequency	Additional Notes
Whole Site Inspections	Seasonal (Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall)	Additional inspections should be conducted following major weather events, such as hurricanes or snowstorms.
Headstone Maintenance	As Needed	Headstones will be inspected during Seasonal condition assessments but may often not need any follow-up maintenance.

Activity	Recommended Frequency	Additional Notes
Landscaping Maintenance	Seasonal (Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall)	Lawn and vegetation maintenance should be conducted according to seasonal needs, with more frequent (ex: weekly) mowing in the spring and summer months and less frequent mowing in the fall and winter months (ex: semi-weekly and monthly). Tree conditions should be assessed in recommended seasonal cemetery inspections and following all major weather events. Remediation of adverse conditions should occur as soon as possible following identification.
Path/Roadway Maintenance	Seasonal (Winter, Spring, Summer, Fall)	Roadway maintenance should be conducted according to seasonal needs with an emphasis on snow removal in the winter months and vegetation pruning in the spring and summer months.

Repairs

The extant headstones at Hamilton, Turner, and Walker Cemeteries were damaged in the past and require immediate repair intervention if they are to be returned to displays near their original sites. Headstone repairs are undertaken on an as-needed basis. The need for repairs will be continuously informed by the established seasonal site inspection schedule. Potential repairs include repointing mortar joints, patching and filling cracks or losses, joining broken stones, and resetting leaning and fallen stones.

Because of the complex nature of repairing historic masonry materials, the following activities should only be performed by trained professionals. Select employees from the City of Greenbelt's Public Works Department, who will be overseeing the seasonal maintenance of the three historic cemeteries, could be enrolled in cemetery preservation courses and/or workshops to obtain training.

Repointing

There are no historic brick monuments in Hamilton, Turner, or Walker Cemeteries. This section is provided in the event that brick is chosen for any newly constructed monuments at any of the three cemeteries. Just like historic brick masonry, new brick masonry requires maintenance of mortar joints to prevent water intrusion and potential damage from freeze-thaw cycles. Special care must be taken to identify the appropriate mortar mix for repointing masonry. Mortar that is too hard or too strong for the adjacent masonry unit can accelerate deterioration.

DO	DON'T
Hire an expert to repair damaged brick	Repoint masonry without proper training
Repoint deteriorating masonry with appropriate mortar mix	

Resetting

Resetting grave markers involves lifting a toppled marker, leveling or otherwise adjusting its foundation, and replacing the monument in an upright position.

The headstones originally found at Hamilton and Turner Cemeteries were removed without documentation of their original locations. The Hamilton and Turner headstones should not be reset into the ground in order to avoid implying they are marking locations of graves.

There is no present need for resetting the monuments in Walker Cemetery, which consist of a modern cement monument installed by the DAR in 1988 and a flat plaque marking the grave of Isaac Walker located at ground level. As the monuments age, resetting may be necessary.

DO	DON'T
Hire an expert to reset toppled grave markers	Reset grave markers without proper training

Filling and Patching

Six out of eight markers associated with Hamilton Cemetery have experienced significant breakage and previously were reconstructed using cement. The bottom half of the Thomas P. Turner headstone is missing. No cracks or breaks were observed at the monuments at Walker Cemetery.

Hairline cracks are common in historic grave markers and will expand to larger cracks and full breaks over time. Hairline cracks that develop should be monitored and repaired once they get larger. Larger cracks deteriorate more rapidly and may be

repaired by filling with grout or epoxy that takes care to match the existing masonry material.

A common repair for masonry elements with missing pieces or severely damaged areas is patching with a cementitious material similar to mortar or stucco. Care must be taken to select an appropriate material for the surface being repaired and to match the color and texture of the surrounding area. Selection of an inappropriately hard material in relation to the marker material, such as a Portland cement, will result in weathering.

Another option for restoring large missing areas of stone is the dutchman repair. Dutchman repairs involve cutting away the damaged area and splicing in a new piece of stone matching in color and texture. In cases where the broken portion of stone is present, a conservator can reattach the stone using pins and grout.

DO	DON'T
Monitor hairline cracks	Fill and patch grave markers without proper training
Fill cracks with appropriate grout, epoxy, or dutchman repair stone match	Use Portland Cement for repairs

Protective Treatments

There are few materials found in Hamilton, Turner, or Walker Cemeteries that currently require protective treatments. A summary of options is provided in the event that materials such as wrought iron, cast iron, bronze, or other metal or masonry surfaces are used for new monuments, fencing, signage, or other decorative elements.

Wrought and cast iron typically require application of protective coatings on a regular basis. Protective coatings and treatments are intended to stabilize corrosion and/or protect metal, wood, and stone surfaces from water, pollution, and other contaminants such as graffiti. The application of protective treatments to masonry surfaces should only be conducted by or in consultation with an architectural conservator. Waxing bronze elements or repainting previously painted iron or wood elements may be carried out by supervised volunteers or professionals.

Wax coatings are used on bronze markers and monuments. Rust-inhibiting primers and paints are used on iron surfaces such as fencing and gates. While the patina that forms on bronze surfaces, as seen on the DAR monument at Walker Cemetery, has protective

properties, iron-containing surfaces must be protected with a coating to prevent rust, which expands and can deform iron members and stain adjacent stone surfaces.

Clear water repellents are occasionally used to protect surfaces both from water infiltration and graffiti. Masonry materials are porous, therefore surface treatments must permit water vapor transmission to allow the material to “breathe.” An inappropriate surface treatment will trap moisture within the porous structure of masonry materials, resulting in damage to the stone surface below the coating. The NPS notes that a wide range of water repelling treatments, including wax, acrylic, and epoxy resins, have been used on masonry surface but that silane and siloxane treatments are the most successful. Silane and siloxane treatments penetrate below the surface to form bonds with the silicate minerals found in stone.

Graffiti does not appear to be an ongoing issue at any of the three cemeteries and therefore application of clear water repellent treatments is not currently recommended. Should issues emerge, site stewards should engage a masonry conservator to develop specifications for treatment of frequently affected monuments, which should be performed by a conservator or contractor with historic masonry experience.

Consolidation treatments, such as ethyl silicate polymers, can be used to bind unstable masonry surfaces such as those exhibiting severe signs of sugaring or sanding. These treatments must be applied and considered with care because they are not reversible and require laboratory and on-site testing to ensure successful results. The high associated costs are typically only considered for especially significant monuments and markers. This treatment is not currently recommended for any markers found at the three cemeteries.

Cleaning

NPS guidance notes that two cleanings per year are typical for a well-maintained cemetery to prevent heavy buildup. Gravestones are cleaned to remove soiling, staining, and biological growth such as moss and algae. In keeping with the Secretary of the Interior's *Standards for Treatment of Historic Properties*, cleaning historic surfaces should begin with the gentlest possible methods and products. Improper products and techniques will result in damage to historic materials. Care must be taken to ensure proper identification of grave marker material, soiling type, and proper methods when designing cleaning programs. In general, routine cleaning can be undertaken by non-professionals, such as the City of Greenbelt Public Works Department or a supervised volunteer group. More complex cleaning operations such as removal of heavy soiling, stains, or graffiti should be undertaken by the City of Greenbelt Public Works Department or trained professionals.

The most commonly observed conditions at Hamilton, Turner, and Walker Cemeteries were those which could be improved by surface cleaning, including the presence of

atmospheric soiling and biological growth. Biological growth was observed most frequently at Turner Cemetery, as most of the raw stone markers have lichen or moss growing on them that could be gently removed. Regular cemetery inspections should monitor the need for cleaning based on observed accumulation of soiling or biological growth over time.

Prior to cleaning, stones should be inspected for conditions that may be exacerbated by cleaning. Even gentle methods can damage severely deteriorated stones. Stone monuments exhibiting cracking, flaking, blistering, or delamination need stabilization before they can be safely cleaned. Severely deteriorated stones should be assessed by a conservator or masonry specialist prior to undertaking any cleaning or repair.

Plain water rinsing and gentle cleaning with a soft-bristled brush is the gentlest method of cleaning available. Most instances of soiling can be removed with low- or no-pressure washing, such as from a garden hose or a hand pump garden sprayer at a low-pressure setting using municipal water sources or a bucket.

Moss, algae, fungus, lichen, or other biological growth can be removed from stones with a stiff plastic scraper, which is non-abrasive. Biological inhibitors, such as D/2 Biological Solution, may also be used. The NPS National Center for Preservation Technology and Training (NCPTT) and the National Cemetery Administration (NCA) have studied the efficacy of cleaning products and recommend biocidal cleaners that contain quaternary ammonium compounds. The study provides the following guidance:

Biocidal cleaners which contain quaternary ammonium compounds, like D/2 Biological Solution manufactured by Sunshine Makers (Cathedral Stone® Products, Inc.), Enviro Klean® BioWash® (PROSOCO, Inc.), Modex MDF-500 or other cleaners, are preferred products for cleaning marble headstones. This class of cleaners is effective at removing biological growth and general soiling in the field. While all cleaning methods alter the surface to some extent, these cleaners should not harm the stone. It is important to follow the manufacturer's recommendations for dilution ratios and dwell rates. It is important to know that marble cleaned with biocides should continue to lighten over the next few days. The advantage of a biocidal cleaner is that it helps remove a wide range of soiling including biological growth (Striegel and Church 2011).

Non-professionals can be instructed in proper application of D/2 Biological Solution and similar compounds by following the manufacturer's instructions and taking care to ensure that any surface treated is stable prior to application.

Abrasive materials, such as hard or stiff plastic or wire bristle brushes, should not be used in the cleaning of masonry surfaces. Brushes used for cleaning elements in the cemetery should be soft nylon or natural bristle brushes. Likewise, high-pressure water

washing should not be used to clean historic masonry elements, as it can cause damage. Low-pressure water washing options include a garden hose or a brush and bucket. Cleaning must only be performed when air temperatures exceed 40 degrees Fahrenheit and remain so for at least 24 hours to avoid the risk of damage from freezing.

Stains and soiling that are not easily removed with plain water washing can be removed with mild washing solutions. Specifically formulated solutions are available for purchase. Care should be taken to select products formulated for use on masonry that do not contain or contribute to the formation of soluble salts, which can cause or exacerbate existing damage to stone surfaces.

According to NPS *Preservation Brief 48: Preserving Grave Markers in Historic Cemeteries*, chemical cleaners, including acids, alkalis, detergents, and organic solvents, have advantages and disadvantages. The Brief advises the following:

Acids dissolve the interface between the stain and substrate while alkalis allow for longer dwell periods but must be neutralized. Some detergents are near-neutral in pH (neither acidic nor alkaline) and easier to rinse.

Before selecting or using a chemical cleaning agent, the manufacturer's Safety Data Sheet (SDS), available with the product and online, should be reviewed. The SDS provides information about the product's composition, including identified hazards, proper handling and storage, disposal, and required personal protective equipment. Once a chemical cleaning product has been selected, the manufacturer's instructions should be followed. Before undertaking large-scale cleaning, it is always advisable to undertake small-scale tests (approximately 6" x 6" areas in discrete locations), and then wait several days before assessing the results (NPS 2016).

Chemical cleaning is used to remove metallic stains and other contaminants such as old coatings and graffiti. For severe staining, poultice cleaning is useful as it extends contact time with the cleaner. A poultice is a mixture of clay or other inert material, such as paper pulp, and a cleaning agent. The mixture is applied to the surface and allowed an extended dwell period. The chemical cleaner dissolves the stain and the clay draws the stain out to the surface. When using a poultice, it should be applied just beyond the stained area and covered with polyethylene. The best practice is to leave the treatment on the surface for 24 hours and then remove the polyethylene cover and allow the poultice to continue drying. Once the poultice is dry, the mixture is then collected, and the surface is thoroughly rinsed. For some stubborn stains, the application may need to be repeated (NPS 2016).

At all three Greenbelt cemeteries, simple cleaning with water or with mild, specially formulated cleaners like D/2 Biological Solution can be undertaken by non-

professionals. Mild cleaning should be sufficient for most of the needs at Hamilton, Turner, and Walker Cemeteries. Use of more complicated chemical cleaners should only be conducted by trained masonry professionals with experience working on historic materials. Many chemical products require neutralization prior to application. Stain removal executed by inexperienced practitioners can result in uneven coloration, staining, salt deposits, and in the worst cases can irreversibly damage historic masonry materials.

Graffiti Removal

No instances of graffiti were noted in the survey of Hamilton, Turner, and Walker Cemeteries. Security procedures, outlined in the Security Protocols section of this document, should be followed to continue to limit instances of graffiti within the cemeteries. Regular inspection of the cemeteries will identify any instances of graffiti, which should be promptly addressed if it occurs.

Water soluble graffiti can be removed with water and a towel or soft-bristled brush. The NPS recommends frequent rinsing to avoid smearing or spreading the graffiti pigment onto unaffected areas of the surface being cleaned.

Non-water-soluble graffiti may be removed with the use of organic solvents or commercially available graffiti removal products. Care must be taken to select products that will not cause damage to the historic surface. Removal of spray paint and other difficult-to-remove substances may require consultation with a conservator for effective and safe removal.

Landscape Maintenance

Hamilton, Turner, and Walker Cemeteries are typical of late-18th and early-19th century American burial customs in the mid-Atlantic and Southern plantation economies, in which the wide dispersal of settlement patterns necessitated family burial grounds located on plantations, as opposed to denser regions of the country that supported church-associated burial grounds. “[Family cemeteries] usually were established on a high, well-drained point of land and often were enclosed by a fence or wall.” (National Register Bulletin 41, Page 4). All three of these cemeteries were only ever used by the families that established them and as such, changes to the landscape were mostly limited to the spreading of invasive periwinkle (*Vinca minor*), which was a common cemetery groundcover in the 19th century, and maturation of trees.

Landscape maintenance is an important facet of preventative maintenance of a burial ground. Maintaining ornamental shrubs, mature trees, plantings, and other vegetation is important because these features impart a particular character to the setting of a cemetery. At the same time, these features must be managed to prevent overgrowth from damaging markers, fencing, and other human-made features.

Seasonal Clean-Up

Following the routine seasonal inspection, the cemetery grounds should be cleaned to remove fallen leaves and branches, and trim back overgrowth and maintain intentional plantings. It is highly likely that there will be landscape maintenance to complete each season.

Mowing

Hamilton, Walker, and Turner Cemeteries do not currently possess traditional seeded lawns seen in modern cemeteries but still contain rustic grass and low-lying vegetation. Overgrown grass can create a wet environment that encourages the growth of moss, lichens, and algae, which cause the accelerated deterioration of common cemetery materials. During the summer months, mowing may need to occur weekly. Mowing and landscape maintenance can be among the highest costs in historic cemetery management.

Careless mowing can cause damage to both low-lying and upright gravestones and markers if equipment contacts these features. Smaller push mowers should be used for grass maintenance within Hamilton, Turner, and Walker Cemeteries to avoid contact with delicate features. A minimum blade height of four inches is recommended. The NPS provides the following guidance:

Best practices include using a smaller, push mower between particularly sensitive features, and outfitting riding mower decks with protective bumpers. Low-cost options include using fire hose padding or a foam swimming noodle. Additional damage is caused by riding over low stones or coping, especially when the blade height is set low. If rolling over these features is unavoidable, many riding mowers have a hand-control adjustment to temporarily raise and lower the blade height (NPS 2016).

Edgers or string-trimmers may damage monuments when the trim line contacts soft stones, such as marble. NPS notes that “using the lightest trim line and angling the trimmer head toward the ground will help reduce damage if the trimmer hits unintended targets. Consider hand trimming around the most significant, fragile features” (NPS 2016).

Fertilizers introduce corrosive salts to grave markers, which can be damaging to historic materials. Due to potential for damage to the cemetery's markers and other low-lying masonry, fertilizer should not be used on any of the cemetery grounds.

Weeding

The use of herbicides to clear unwanted vegetation (weeds) from the base of monuments is not permitted. These products may introduce salts to the environment that can enter the pores of masonry units, resulting in damage.

Tree Maintenance

Trees lend character to the setting of the three cemeteries and are valued by the wider Greenbelt community. Mature trees may drop limbs after storm events and dead and damaged trees may likewise damage cemetery features and personal property; for example, branches falling on cars.

The NPS recommends that all trees in historic cemeteries be inspected at least every five years. [The City of Greenbelt Advisory Committee on Trees](#) and the City Horticulturalist have the expertise to comment on and assist in the care of trees found at Hamilton, Turner, and Walker cemeteries.

Nuisance and Invasive Animals

The survey of the three cemeteries did not note activity from burrowing animals such as gophers, groundhogs, or moles. Burrowing animals create holes that can become tripping hazards or, if located too close to monuments, cause the monuments to sink or lean. Continued monitoring for evidence of burrowing activities at the cemeteries can take place during the seasonal inspections of the sites.

Large numbers of invasive spotted lanternflies were noted in the woods near Hamilton Cemetery. Spotted lanternflies pose a threat to the health of flora where they are found. Spotted lanternflies were first identified in Maryland in 2018. They feed on sap from trees such as tree of heaven, black walnut, red maple, silver maple, and weeping willow, among at least 70 other hosts. Spotted lanternfly feeding is known to stunt plant growth, reduce crop yields, and cause damage. The Maryland Department of Agriculture has [extensive guidance on suggested removal tactics for spotted lanternflies](#).

Roads and Footpaths

For the installation of new roads and footpaths within the cemeteries, porous/permeable surfaces are preferred because they allow water to infiltrate the ground, reducing flooding risk. Permeable surface options include granite chips, gravel, wood chips, or packed dirt. Roads and footpaths should be inspected seasonally for damage and deterioration, and should be kept clear of debris. Repairs should be scheduled as needed.

Snow Removal/Salt

Deicing salts are not recommended for use near historic masonry materials because they enter the porous structure, causing surface damage. Fortunately, existing markers at all three cemeteries are not near paved roadways that could be treated with deicing salts in the winter. Salting should be avoided in areas that could be contaminated by runoff from melting snow and ice. Care should be taken to avoid replacing or relocating cemetery monuments near areas that will need salt treatment for safety in the winter.

Site Use

Cemetery Etiquette

Visitors, workers, and volunteers must be provided with guidance to ensure respectful engagement with the cemeteries. Visitor engagement is beneficial because it increases awareness of the value of the historic site. At the same time, site stewards should take measures to ensure that events held at the cemeteries do not cause damage.

All three cemeteries are small and lack any significant open space to host large groups. Special events with food service or performances are likely inappropriate because they require ample space.

A short list of rules should be posted on yard signs at each cemetery that communicates appropriate visiting hours, etiquette standards, and contact information of who to call if signs of vandalism are observed.

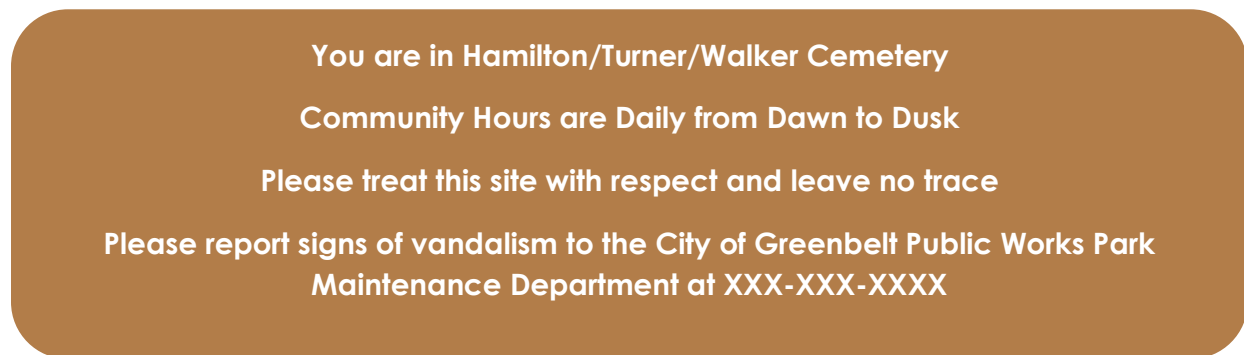


Figure 5. Example Yard Sign with short list of Cemetery Rules and Regulations.

A long list of cemetery rules and regulations can be posted on the City of Greenbelt's website. Rules that individuals should follow when visiting the cemeteries include the following:

1. Do not sit, stand, climb, rest, or place personal items on cemetery features, which includes graves, trees, and shrubs, among other site elements
2. Do not collect or remove objects, fixed or otherwise, from the site without supervision from a site steward
3. Do not dig into the ground
4. Vandalism, littering, collecting or removing objects from the cemetery is prohibited by law and should be reported to local law enforcement or cemetery management
5. Taking rubbings from or applying chalk or other materials to grave markers can cause damage and is prohibited. Informal photography, sketching, and note taking is encouraged

6. All persons are prohibited from damaging trees, shrubs, or plants, and defacing monuments on cemetery property
7. No advertising or solicitation is permitted on cemetery grounds. No signs or notices are allowed to be placed on cemetery property except as approved by management
8. Dogs must be leashed and dog owners must clean up after dogs.
9. Feeding wildlife is prohibited
10. No parties, organized gatherings, or events of any size are allowed without advance arrangement or approval
11. Filming or photography for commercial purposes requires an advance permit
12. The maximum speed limit is 5 MPH
13. Vehicles must remain on designated roadways. Idling vehicle engines are not permitted
14. Please do not block roadways with vehicles and be mindful of the presence of headstones near the side of the road
15. Parking on grass is prohibited
16. Bicyclists must stay on roadways and park bikes in designated areas.
17. Drugs, alcoholic beverages, and illegal substances are prohibited
18. Firearms are not permitted except in the case of military funerals or ceremonies with prior authorization
19. Littering or dumping is strictly prohibited
20. Cemetery management is not responsible for lost or stolen items
21. Cemetery hours are from sunrise to sunset. Any person found on the grounds outside of open hours will be considered a trespasser and may be subject to prosecution

Special Events

Site stewards may create a system for approving special events to be held at any of the cemeteries to ensure appropriate and preservation-minded use of the site. For example, the site steward should be notified and approve of a group of community members wanting to host a cemetery clean-up day or a memorial service. Regulations for events held at any of the cemeteries include:

1. Avoid loud or inappropriate music
2. Zero tolerance for offensive speech or messaging
3. Photography and filming for non-personal use should require advance approval from cemetery management

Special events held at the cemeteries must also have the following:

1. A sanitation plan to address how waste from the event will be removed from the site

2. A safety plan, especially in terms of walkways. Turner Cemetery is particularly hazardous with its lack of formal paths within the cemetery and the low-lying raw stone markers can be a tripping hazard

The availability of parking at each cemetery varies widely. Off-site parking is recommended at any cemetery during any special event that may draw more than one or two vehicles to the properties. On-site parking is limited at Turner Cemetery, which additionally must share space with the active Greenbelt Cemetery. Parking at Hamilton Cemetery is available on the street near Greenbelt Homes, Inc., but requires a long walk down a gravel driveway through the Greenbelt Community Gardens. A site to establish one or two closer parking spots could be identified. Parking accessibility at Walker Cemetery is presently the least challenging, due to the cemetery's location next to an office building with a large, paved lot.

Security and Vandalism

All three cemeteries experienced issues with vandalism in the mid-20th century. Vandals are responsible for breaking the Hamilton Cemetery markers. In an effort to protect markers from further damage, all historic markers from all three cemeteries were removed from their original context. During survey, there were no signs of vandalism at any of the cemeteries, despite the general lack of surveillance or security infrastructure currently in place.

Though concerns about vandalism are presently low, there are a number of interventions that can help secure the cemeteries while keeping them broadly accessible for people. An opening hours schedule should be established – dawn-to-dusk is typical for cemeteries. Signage displaying cemetery rules and etiquette may be installed. Gates that are locked at dusk create another deterrent. Finally, motion-activated lighting or security systems, such as trail cameras, may also deter would-be vandals.

Recommendations for Capital Improvements

The following are recommendations for improvements to the sites of Hamilton, Turner, and Walker Cemeteries. Based on the condition of each of the three cemeteries that were observed and through coordination with the public, the following priorities emerged:

- Accessibility to the general public
- Visibility of the sites themselves with improved boundary marking and clear demarcations

- Accuracy in storytelling and conveying the whole American story

Each site is different, and each site needs different levels of improvement in each of the categories presented in this chapter. Different recommendations are made for different cemeteries, organized in sub-headings. As improvements are made, those needing the most immediate care will set the standard for future repairs and treatments.

Restore Walking Paths

Restoring and maintaining the walking paths to each cemetery is essential in providing equitable access to each of these places.

In order to maintain the natural setting, natural, permeable surfaces are preferred for new walking paths. Concrete or asphalt are not recommended. Firm, stable, and slip-resistant, yet natural, materials to consider include granite chips, gravel, wood chips, or packed dirt.

Once improved, the condition of walking paths will need to be monitored during seasonal inspections.

Hamilton Cemetery

The gravel path to Hamilton Cemetery is shared with drivers accessing the Greenbelt Community Gardens. At the time of survey in July 2025, surveyors experienced no instances of sharing the drive with cars when traversing the path on foot from Hamilton Place on a weekday. At the end of the drive, if taking a car, it is unclear where vehicles should park. The recommendations for Hamilton Cemetery are as follows:

- Monitor the existing gravel drive during annual inspections and maintain as needed
- Establish a parking area – space for one or two cars – at the end of the drive

Turner Cemetery

The Greenbelt Cemetery property can accommodate a single car to park almost directly next to Turner Cemetery, making it the easiest to access among the three historic cemeteries. Walking path restoration is not recommended or needed at Turner Cemetery because the site is already accessible.

Consideration should be given to holding a traffic study at the driveway entrance to the property shared by Turner and Greenbelt Cemeteries. From a driver's perspective when traveling along Ivy Lane, the driveway appears suddenly, and traffic patterns along Ivy Lane may result in sudden stops that are ultimately hazardous to pedestrians and bicyclists in this location.

Walker Cemetery

The walking path to Walker Cemetery is in poor condition and requires the most immediate attention out of the three historic cemeteries. The lack of maintenance of

the path up to Walker Cemetery is a significant barrier for people aiming to access the cemetery. The recommendations for Walker Cemetery paths are as follows:

- Inspect the current pathway up the hill to Walker Cemetery and consider whether Greenbelt Public Works should re-grade and restore the existing pathway or create a new one



Figure 6. Slab steps built into the landscape, as shown above, are one possibility to address slope change along the traditional path up to Walker Cemetery. (Source: <https://pixabay.com/photos/woods-steps-forest-green-park-1305800/>)

Install Fencing

Fencing is essential for marking the boundary of and providing security to a cemetery. Extant fencing differs at each cemetery and each fence will require different maintenance. When extant fencing reaches the end of its use life, it should be replaced with a contemporary material in order to avoid confusion with historic-age fencing. The condition of existing and new fencing must be monitored during inspections and repairs planned accordingly. Ideally, the same style of new fencing will be installed at each location to keep the aesthetics and designs consistent amongst the properties.

Recommended Example	Not Recommended Examples
 Metal Chain Link Fence	 Wooden Split-Rail Fence  Wooden Picket Fence

Hamilton Cemetery

Hamilton Cemetery lacks any sort of fencing or boundary marking, and is the boundary of the cemetery is therefore unclear when on-site. The boundary of the cemetery is noted on historic USGS 7.5-minute quad maps. Using coordinates from the survey inventory to determine the four corners of Hamilton Cemetery, it can be temporarily bounded with stakes and flagging tape until a new, low-height, modern-material fence, such as metal chain link, can be installed.

Turner Cemetery

Fencing at Turner Cemetery borders only the south and west ends of the plots and is made of wooden stakes and sisal rope. The existing Turner Cemetery fencing should be replaced and should fully bound the cemetery. Using coordinates from the survey inventory to determine the two missing corners of Turner Cemetery, it can be temporarily bound with stakes and flagging tape until a new, low-height, modern-material fence, such as metal chain link, can be installed around the entire perimeter.

Walker Cemetery

The chain link fence that marks the boundary of Walker Cemetery is in the best condition out of the three locations. The fence was installed by descendants of the Walkers. The fence is likely approaching the natural end of its use life – a chain link fence typically lasts between 20-30 years. The chain link fence is in good condition and still retains use life.

Restore and Repatriate Grave Markers

Headstones that had been previously removed from their respective cemeteries should be returned to their approximate original locations. Considering that the approximate original location of each of the headstones was not recorded prior to their removal, the headstones should be returned to their respective cemeteries, but not placed in a way that implies the presence of a burial.

Hamilton Cemetery

The headstones formerly in the display at Hamilton Cemetery were becoming compromised and were subsequently removed from the display and placed into storage at Greenbelt Public Works, where they are in stable condition. The goal should be to return the stones to Hamilton Cemetery.

A new housing structure should be designed and installed at Hamilton Cemetery to hold the headstones. There is opportunity for the City of Greenbelt to commission an artist to create a design for the new Hamilton Cemetery grave marker display or to hold a contest for design ideas.

Turner Cemetery

The headstone belonging to Thomas P. Turner is currently in good condition and remains uncompromised in its wooden sign case at Turner Cemetery. This signage and the marble tablet marker within should be monitored during Turner Cemetery's annual conditions assessment.

The raw stone markers within the fenced area of Turner Cemetery are delicate features. Efforts should be made to keep the grounds clear of leaf litter to keep the markers as visible as possible to people within the bounds of the cemetery.

Walker Cemetery

There are no headstones removed from Walker Cemetery that need to be returned. The condition of the DAR memorials placed at Walker Cemetery should be monitored during Walker Cemetery's annual conditions assessment. When the monument begins to fail, the DAR likely should be consulted on the aesthetics and content of its replacement.

New Monuments

Consideration should be made in erecting compatible monuments to honor unmarked burials at these cemeteries. Each cemetery displays signs of unmarked graves. These graves may belong to white family members whose markers are now missing or to the Black enslaved individuals that labored on the properties owned by the Hamilton, Turner, and Walker families.

In the absence of historic-age grave markers for these populations, consider adding a new stone monument engraved with known names and birth and death dates (if known) to a new stone monument. It is recommended that the construction of a new monument to honor this past should be heavily guided by public engagement.

Improve Signage

All types of signage installed at all sites must be carefully considered for content, size, location, and accessibility. There are two broad categories of signage – wayfinding and interpretive.

Wayfinding Signage

Wayfinding signage includes the signs used to locate the cemeteries. All three cemeteries are decently marked, featuring wooden signage painted brown with white lettering. This is consistent with signage and branding around Greenbelt, which takes inspiration from 1930s Art Moderne and NPS aesthetics.

Because there is not a historic signage style that would have been used at any of the cemeteries, it is recommended that signage remain consistent with City of Greenbelt branding. The wooden signage is likely to degrade and should be monitored at all three cemeteries during their annual inspections. Signage should be replaced and updated at the cemeteries concurrently with upgrades to signage at other City of Greenbelt-maintained properties.

Information Signage

There are two types of information signage to be installed at each cemetery - signs designed to display site use protocols and cemetery etiquette, and historical interpretation signage.

Site Use Signage

Signs detailing site use protocols should be installed at each cemetery location.

Temporary yard signs can be used until a more permanent solution is made. The signs should include information regarding who to contact in case there are issues to report and information regarding opening and closing times.



Photograph 36. Example of a suggestion box and contact information signage from a cemetery.



Photograph 37. Example of yard sign-style information signage example from a cemetery.

Historic Interpretive Signage

Interpretive signage should be installed at Walker Cemetery and Hamilton Cemetery first because neither of these locations have any historic interpretation. Only Turner Cemetery has any interpretive signage about the cemetery and the Turner family. The Turner Cemetery interpretive sign should be redesigned to be consistent with the signs installed at Walker and Hamilton Cemeteries.

Funding Sources

Funding challenges are common for many municipalities and organizations caring for these important local resources. The most straightforward way to ensure the implementation of the recommendations in this document is for the City of Greenbelt to include the maintenance of these places in their municipal budget. The following section has information on potential funding sources, including grant funding avenues, fundraising methods, and parameters and recommendations for programming at these cemeteries.

Cost Estimates

The 2010 *Prince Georges County Cemetery Preservation Manual* says that for initial restoration efforts, a budget of at least 10 cents per square foot is recommended. In 2025 dollars, this becomes a minimum of 15 cents per square foot.¹ The Manual clarifies this estimate as a starting point, stating that more complicated interventions will be more expensive.

Cleaning and resetting stones can cost between \$25 to \$60 per stone, with costs increasing for more complicated repairs, such as those required to reconstruct the Hamilton Cemetery stones.

Grant Funding

Grants are one possible source of funds for both regular maintenance and for larger capital improvement projects. Many grant sources, including capital preservation grants from the Maryland Historical Trust, limit the use of grant funding to properties that are eligible for or listed in the NRHP, either individually or as a part of a district. Hamilton, Walker, and Turner Cemeteries are eligible for the NRHP due to their contributing status to the Greenbelt Historic District and therefore may qualify for grant funding from several local organizations. This section includes summaries of grant programs and assesses the applicability for current and future grant funding. In general, the restrictions of available grants make it more likely that the grants will fund future historic interpretation activities rather than the active restoration and rehabilitation of the three cemeteries.

Maryland Heritage Area Program

The Maryland Heritage Area Program is governed by the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority (MHAA) and administered by the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT). These organizations provide targeted financial and technical assistance within thirteen

heritage areas in the state. Grants are available through the Maryland Heritage Area's Statewide Grant program and locally through the Anacostia Trails Heritage Area.

Maryland Heritage Areas Statewide Grant Program

The Statewide Grants from the Maryland Heritage Areas Statewide Grant Program include capital and non-capital matching grants awarded by the MHAA.

Capital Grants

The MHAA capital grants award up to \$100,000 for relevant actions such as the repair or alteration of an existing site or the rehabilitation of a site to return it to a state of utility. A capital grant could potentially be used to support the site improvements necessary to secure each cemetery and restoration of the headstones, in particular at Hamilton Cemetery.

Non-Capital Grants

The MHAA non-capital grants award up to \$50,000 for planning, interpretation, and programming activities. A non-capital grant may be a viable way to fund improvements to the cemeteries' interpretive and wayfinding signage or the establishment of other interpretive activities, such as walking tours.

Anacostia Trails Heritage Area

The Anacostia Trails Heritage Area (ATHA), the Local Heritage Area that contains the City of Greenbelt, maintains two types of grant programs – Rocket Grants and State Grants – that are described on their [website](#) and summarized below.

Rocket Grants

ATHA's Rocket Grants are 1:1 matching grants for non-capital projects that aim to create new cultural heritage tourism opportunities in the region, enhance existing cultural heritage tourism opportunities, or increase accessibility to cultural heritage in the region. The Rocket Grant applications are awarded yearly with an application deadline of July 1st every year. The Rocket Grant program could be used to fund the development of a future walking tour or interpretive signage at the cemetery sites.

State Grants

The State Grants administered by ATHA can be used for those projects with a tangible heritage tourism component, such as the creation or restoration of a visitor destination; projects that provide facilities and services that support heritage tourism; or projects that establish a new event that will help create a long-term increase in visitation to the ATHA. State Grants require a cash match of at least 75% of the grant award. The Hamilton, Turner, and Walker Cemeteries are unlikely to become a significant visitor destination in the region due to their small sizes, but past grantees have used State Grants to replace interpretive panels, create wayfinding plans, and establish heritage trails, all of which are applicable to the cemeteries.

Preservation Maryland

Preservation Maryland is a statewide historic preservation non-profit organization that administers three grants – the Maryland Maritime Heritage Grant Program, Assistance on Main Street, and the Heritage Fund. The Greenbelt cemeteries would only be eligible for assistance from [the Heritage Fund program](#).

Heritage Fund

Though the total amount the Heritage Fund is able to award can change year by year, most years the maximum grant award is \$10,000, with most awards ranging between \$2,000 and \$6,000. Heritage Fund grants are awarded annually, and eligible projects must fall into one of three categories – education and research, planning and feasibility, and repair and rehabilitation. Development of historic markers and associated heritage tourism involving the cemeteries could be applicable for the education and research category, while grave marker repair could be supported by the repair and rehabilitation grant category.

Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites

The [Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites](#) does not award grants for cemetery preservation or maintenance, but they do connect interested parties with the [Trader Foundation for Maryland Burial Sites](#).

Trader Foundation for Maryland Burial Sites

Incorporated in 2015, the Trader Foundation was established to provide a matching grant of up to \$3,000 for cemetery preservation projects in Maryland, including gravestone conservation or restoration, documentation, protection of a burial site from desecration, cemetery clean-up, and cemetery restoration plans. Applicants may submit up to three non-synchronous applications within a five-year period. Though only one cemetery may apply at a time for grant funding from the Trader Foundation, it remains a viable source of funding for the site improvement needs at the cemeteries.

Prince George's County Planning Department

The Prince George's County Planning Department of the M-NCPPC administers capital and non-capital grant programs. More information about these programs can be found on their [website](#) and is summarized below.

Historic Property Capital Grant Program

The Historic Property Capital Grant Program was established 18 years ago to help fund the rehabilitation, restoration, preservation, or acquisition of historic property in Prince George's County on behalf of the Prince George's County Planning Board. Much of the most-needed work at the cemeteries is ineligible for this grant, such as the installation of walking paths and fencing, making this particular grant a poor fit for the three cemeteries.

Historic Preservation Commission's Non-Capital Grant Program

The Prince George's County Preservation Commission's Non-Capital Grant Program is intended to help pay for professional services such as preservation and planning consultants, planning studies, design work, and education. There are three categories of grant awards: 1) up to \$5,000; 2) between \$5,000 and \$25,000; and 3) up to \$5,000 for maintenance of threatened, "abandoned" historic cemeteries. The Hamilton, Turner, and Walker Cemeteries do not meet the criteria set in the [Non-Capital Grant Guidelines](#) for a threatened or abandoned cemetery, because the legally responsible party (the City of Greenbelt) is identifiable and is not under threat. This grant cannot be used for the "brick and mortar" maintenance of monuments, fences, and other structures. The Non-Capital Grant Program may be useful in the development of interpretive signage and/or walking tours for the cemeteries.

Fundraising

Special events at or about Hamilton, Turner, and Walker Cemeteries can serve as a source of fundraising and community outreach. Raising community awareness about these resources can provide opportunities to encourage community values such as volunteerism.

Support from an extant non-profit organization, such as the Friends of the Greenbelt Museum, could be used to gather and manage funds.

Due to their small size, fundraising events to be held on-site at the cemeteries would be limited. Below are creative strategies that could be utilized to raise funds:

- Develop outreach materials that do not rely on gathering in-person, such as websites or brochures
- Engage local media to highlight the need
- Post a sign at each cemetery seeking donations
- Establish an "adopt a cemetery" program, bolstering partnerships with existing stewards, such as the DAR's annual clean-up of the Walker Cemetery

Parameters for Historic Heritage Programming

Hamilton, Turner, and Walker Cemeteries are community assets that can be utilized to develop on- and off-site programming. Programming should seek to honor the cemeteries' histories, promote their use by the public, contribute to their upkeep and preservation, and improve the sites' accessibility to the community and descendants of those buried in each cemetery. Hamilton, Turner, and Walker Cemeteries would be appropriate stops on a self-guided heritage tour.

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Glossary of Terms

For readers reference, a glossary of common types of cemetery damage terms is provided:

Blistering

Blistering is defined as swelling accompanied by delamination across and parallel to the bedding plane. Often caused by deicing salts and ground moisture. The condition usually progresses to full delamination and/or loss of the surface layer.

Chemical Cleaning

Chemical cleaning agents may be required for stains which are not water soluble. Chemical cleaners include acids, alkalis, detergents, and organic solvents. Biocidal cleaners containing quaternary ammonium compounds are recommended for use where biological growth is severe. Cleaning agents should be chosen based on the specific condition and stone type being treated. Manufacturer's instructions for handling, use, and disposal should be followed. Small-scale tests of cleaning agents on inconspicuous locations are recommended prior to wide-scale use.

Composite Patching

A repair which involves patching selected areas of deteriorated stone or masonry with a cementitious material. Most successful when limited to small cavities or voids no larger than 1-3 inches deep. Typically mixes are composed of cement, sand or crushed stone, and coloring agents to match the color and texture of the historic masonry. The plastic nature of the patching material allows for the replication of tooling and other surface treatments.

Consolidation

The application of inorganic compounds to strengthen and bind deteriorating masonry (ex: crumbling, spalling, flaking, sugaring surfaces). Compounds include chemically curable monomers such as methyl methacrylate or silicone polymers including silanes, silicones, alkoxysilanes, and silicone esters.

Cracking

The formation of narrow fissures within a masonry unit. May progress to full-scale separation resulting in broken elements.

Crazing

The formation of a pattern of small cracks or crackles in the surface of concrete.

Crumbling

The condition of brittleness or the tendency of a masonry unit to break apart or dissolve. Can be caused or exacerbated by salts or freeze/thaw cycling.

Delamination

The separation of the layers of the stone, typically along the natural bedding plane. Typically occurs in sedimentary stone including sandstone and limestone.

Detachment

A complete break or failure in which the headstone or other masonry unit splits into two or more intact portions.

Dutchman Repair

Partial replacement or “piecing-in” new stone to a damaged unit. Involves replacing a small area of damaged or lost stone with a new unit, which is wedged in place or secured with an adhesive. The joint between the original stone and the repair are kept narrow to maintain the appearance of a continuous surface.

Efflorescence

Salt deposits occurring on a masonry surface. Efflorescence is formed when salts inherent in the masonry material or introduced to it through environmental factors crystalize on the surface of the material.

Epoxy Repair

Resecuring spalled or broken pieces with epoxy resin. Small pins may be required in addition to the epoxy to secure the repair (see Mechanical Repair).

Erosion

Wearing or weathering of the surface, edges, corners, or details of masonry. Usually occurs as the result of wind and wind-blown particles or the flow of water.

Exfoliation

Peeling, scaling, or flaking of the stone surface. Typically occurs along the bedding plane. May be exacerbated by freeze/thaw and wet/dry cycling.

Low-pressure Washing

Most surface soiling can be removed by washing with water from a standard garden hose using municipal or domestic water sources. Washing should only be conducted at temperatures above 40 degrees at the time of treatment and the following 24 hours. Removal of dirt and soiling can be facilitated with use of natural bristle brushes. Soaking and/or misting with water can be effective for removal of moss, algae, and other biological soiling. Use of high-pressure water washing is not recommended for masonry monuments.

Mechanical Repair

Cutting back, drilling, reinforcement pinning, and grouting methods used to fasten together broken or fractured masonry units. Appropriate for use on cracking, delamination, and detachment.

Pitting

The development of small cavities on the stone surface. Often caused from harsh or abrasive cleaning methods.

Repointing

Removing deteriorated mortar by hand, typically to a depth of ½ inch, and replacing the deteriorated mortar with new mortar. The new mortar should match the color, texture, hardness, and strength of the original mortar to the greatest extent possible, and tooling and profiling should match the historic mortar.

Spalling

The outer layer or layers of the masonry surface break off from the larger unit. Typically caused by salt damage or freeze/thaw cycling.

Sugaring

Gradual surface disintegration resulting in a granulated surface texture. Typically occurs in marble. Generally caused by dissolved salts or acidic rainwater.

Surface Crust

Formation of a dark crust on the worked surface of the stone. Typically results from the movement of moisture and dissolved minerals toward the surface of the stone. Exposure to airborne pollutants results in a black or darkened coloration.

Master Tabular Survey Inventory

Number	Cemetery	Feature Type	Feature Description	Feature Date	Grave Marker Style	Grave Marker Material	Grave Marker Design	First Name	Middle Name	Last Name	Birth Day	Birth Month	Birth Year	Death Day	Death Month	Death Year	Inscription	Condition Notes	Other Notes	Recorder Initial	Recorder Date	Latitude	Longitude
1	Hamilton	Wayfinding Signage	Wooden "Hamilton Cemetery" sign at top of road															Previously held headstones encased in concrete. Removed in 2022 and relocated to Greenbelt Public Works		CG	7/23/2023	39.001677	-76.868923
2	Hamilton	Information Signage	Wooden Information Signage near Cemetery location																	CG	7/23/2023	39.001503	-76.868196
3	Hamilton	Manmade Feature	Northwest corner of Hamilton Cemetery boundary															Sourced from 1938 Aerial Photography		CG	7/23/2023	39.001744	-76.868008
4	Hamilton	Manmade Feature	Southwest corner of Hamilton Cemetery boundary															Sourced from 1938 Aerial Photography		CG	7/23/2023	39.001539	-76.868134
5	Hamilton	Manmade Feature	Southeast corner of Hamilton Cemetery boundary															Sourced from 1938 Aerial Photography		CG	7/23/2023	39.001476	-76.867838
6	Hamilton	Manmade Feature	Northeast corner of Hamilton Cemetery boundary															Sourced from 1938 Aerial Photography		CG	7/23/2023	39.001468	-76.867787
7	Hamilton	Landscape Feature	Periwinkle															Abundant periwinkle ground cover in woods to east of Information Signage		CG	7/23/2023	39.001605	-76.868174
8	Hamilton	Landscape Feature	Periwinkle															Abundant periwinkle ground cover in woods to east of Information Signage		CG	7/23/2023	39.001447	-76.867606
9	Hamilton	Landscape Feature	Periwinkle															Abundant periwinkle ground cover in woods to east of Information Signage		CG	7/23/2023	39.001242	-76.867457
10	Hamilton	Landscape Feature	Periwinkle															Abundant periwinkle ground cover in woods to east of Information Signage		CG	7/23/2023	39.000948	-76.867798
11	Hamilton	Landscape Feature	Periwinkle															Abundant periwinkle ground cover in woods to east of Information Signage		CG	7/23/2023	39.001483	-76.868199
12	Hamilton	Manmade Feature	Square, rough cut stone lined pit																Possible Spring Box	CG	7/24/2023	39.001226	-76.868974
13	Hamilton	Manmade Feature	Rounded depression																Possible Well	CG	7/24/2023	39.001253	-76.868889
14	Hamilton	Manmade Feature	Northeast corner of Historic House Footprint															None, location sourced from 1938 Aerial imagery		CG	7/24/2023	39.001438	-76.839122
15	Hamilton	Manmade Feature	Northwest corner of Historic House Footprint															None, location sourced from 1938 Aerial imagery		CG	7/24/2023	39.001411	-76.868992
16	Hamilton	Manmade Feature	Southwest corner of Historic House Footprint															None, location sourced from 1938 Aerial imagery		CG	7/24/2023	39.001275	-76.869018
17	Hamilton	Manmade Feature	Southeast corner of Historic House Footprint															None, location sourced from 1938 Aerial imagery		CG	7/24/2023	39.001298	-76.869153
18	Hamilton	Manmade Feature	Northeast corner of Historic Outbuilding Footprint															None, location sourced from 1938 aerial imagery		CG	7/24/2023	39.001235	-76.868672
19	Hamilton	Manmade Feature	Northwest corner of Historic Outbuilding Footprint															None, location sourced from 1938 aerial imagery		CG	7/24/2023	39.001238	-76.868591
20	Hamilton	Manmade Feature	Southeast corner of Historic Outbuilding Footprint															None, location sourced from 1938 aerial imagery		CG	7/24/2023	39.001158	-76.868591
21	Hamilton	Manmade Feature	Southeast corner of Historic Outbuilding Footprint															None, location sourced from 1938 aerial imagery		CG	7/24/2023	39.001157	-76.868672
22	Hamilton	Grave Marker	Engraved marble tablet marker for Elizabeth Hamilton		Tablet - Domed	White Marble w gray veins		Elizabeth		Hamilton				May	1839		In Memory of Elizabeth wife of Col. Samuel Hamilton who died May (illegible) 1839 (illegible) in the 47th year of her age	Broken in pieces. Some engraving illegible. Cement adhered to pieces.	Stored at Greenbelt Public Works since 2022	CG	7/24/2023	N/A	N/A
23	Hamilton	Grave Marker	Illegible Marble Tablet Marker		Tablet - Domed	White Marble w gray veins	Relief carving of open book.										Illegible	Broken in pieces. Portion of inscription is oriented wrong direction in storage box. Cement adhered to pieces.	Stored at Greenbelt Public Works since 2022	CG	7/24/2023	N/A	N/A
24	Hamilton	Grave Marker	Relief Carved Marble Tablet Marker		Tablet - Domed	White Marble w gray veins, red staining											None.	Broken in pieces. Red staining. Cement adhered to pieces	Stored at Greenbelt Public Works since 2022	CG	7/24/2023	N/A	N/A
25	Hamilton	Grave Marker	Engraved marble tablet marker for Elizabeth U		Tablet - Domed	White Marble w gray veins		Elizabeth	U	Hamilton							In Memory of Elizabeth U second wife of Col. Samuel Hamilton	Broken in pieces. Dates illegible. Cement adhered to pieces.	Stored at Greenbelt Public Works since 2022	CG	7/24/2023	N/A	N/A
26	Hamilton	Grave Marker	Engraved marble tablet marker for Jane Hamilton, daughter of Col. Samuel Hamilton		Tablet - Domed	White Marble		Jane		Hamilton							In Memory of Jane daughter of Col. Samuel Hamilton and Elizabeth Hamilton	Broken in pieces. Dates illegible. Cement adhered to pieces.	Stored at Greenbelt Public Works since 2022	CG	7/24/2023	N/A	N/A
27	Hamilton	Grave Marker	Engraved marble tablet marker for Jane Hamilton, wife of Andrew Hamilton		Tablet - Domed	White Marble w gray veins		Jane		Hamilton				28 February	1824		In Memory of Jane wife of Andrew Hamilton who died Feb 28 1824 in the 77th year of her age	Mostly intact.	Stored at Greenbelt Public Works since 2022	CG	7/24/2023	N/A	N/A
28	Hamilton	Grave Marker	Engraved marble tablet marker for Andrew Hamilton		Tablet - Domed	White Marble w gray veins		Andrew		Hamilton				21 September	1820		In Memory of Andrew Hamilton who died Sept 21 1820 in the 70th year of his age	Mostly intact.	Stored at Greenbelt Public Works since 2022	CG	7/24/2023	N/A	N/A
29	Turner	Grave Marker	Engraved marble tablet marker for Thomas P. Turner		Tablet - Flat Arch	White marble		Thomas	P	Turner				26 September	1855		To the memory of Thomas P Turner who departed his life September 26th 1855 aged 45 years	Removed and encased in interpretive sign		CG	7/23/2023	39.009114	-76.893726
30	Turner	Information Signage	Wooden interpretive sign holding Thomas P. Turner headstone and narrative about Turner Cemetery																	CG	7/23/2023	39.009114	-76.893726
31	Turner	Wayfinding Signage	Wooden wayfinding sign at Ivy Drive entrance																	CG	7/23/2023	39.008867	-76.893663
32	Turner	Unmarked Grave	Unmarked Depression 1																	CG	7/23/2023	39.008961	-76.894188
33	Turner	Unmarked Grave	Unmarked Depression 2																	CG	7/23/2023	39.008913	-76.894172
34	Turner	Unmarked Grave	Unmarked Depression 3																	CG	7/23/2023	39.008855	-76.894169
35	Turner	Manmade Feature	Southeast corner of Turner Cemetery boundary																	CG	7/23/2023	39.00908	-76.893707
36	Turner	Manmade Feature	Northeast corner of Turner Cemetery boundary																	CG	7/23/2023	39.009264	-76.893685
37	Turner	Manmade Feature	Northwest corner of Turner Cemetery boundary																	CG	7/23/2023	39.009294	-76.893947
38	Turner	Manmade Feature	Southwest corner of Turner Cemetery boundary																	CG	7/23/2023	39.009113	-76.893997
39	Turner	Grave Marker	Stone Marker 1																	CG	7/23/2023	39.009132	-76.89379
40	Turner	Grave Marker	Stone Marker 2																	CG	7/23/2023	39.009124	-76.893795
41	Turner	Grave Marker	Stone Marker 3																	CG	7/23/2023	39.009166	-76.893846
42	Turner	Grave Marker	Stone Marker 4																	CG	7/23/2023	39.009166	-76.893877
43	Turner	Grave Marker	Stone Marker 5																	CG	7/23/2023	39.009162	-76.893872
44	Turner	Grave Marker	Stone Marker 6																	CG	7/23/2023	39.009179	-76.893845
45	Turner	Grave Marker	Stone Marker 7																	CG	7/23/2023	39.009182	-76.893889
46	Turner	Grave Marker	Stone Marker 8																	CG	7/23/2023	39.009184	-76.893888
47	Turner	Grave Marker	Stone Marker 9																	CG	7/23/2023	39.009191	-76.893884
48	Turner	Grave Marker	Stone Marker 10																	CG	7/23/2023	39.009191	-76.893842
49	Turner	Grave Marker	Stone Marker 11																	CG	7/23/2023	39.00919	-76.893858
50	Turner	Grave Marker	Stone Marker 12																	CG	7/23/2023	39.009216	-76.893829
51	Turner	Grave Marker	Stone Marker 13																	CG	7/23/2023	39.009293	-76.893825
52	Turner	Grave Marker	Stone Marker 14																	CG	7/23/2023	39.009233	-76.893824
53	Walker	Wayfinding Signage	Wooden wayfinding sign in parking lot																	CG	7/23/2023	38.999407	-76.894211
54	Walker	Manmade Feature	Picnic Area																	CG	7/23/2023	38.999429	-76.894152
55	Walker	Unmarked Grave	Unmarked Depression 1																	CG	7/23/2023	38.999494	-76.894054
56	Walker	Unmarked Grave	Unmarked Depression 2																	CG	7/23/2023	39.000334	-76.894588
57	Walker	Unmarked Grave	Unmarked Depression 3																	CG	7/23/2023	39.000097	-76.894677
58	Walker	Unmarked Grave	Unmarked Depression 4																	CG	7/23/2023	39.00007	-76.894754
59	Walker	Unmarked Grave	Unmarked Depression 5																	CG	7/23/2023	39.000006	-76.894747
60	Walker	Manmade Feature	DAIR Monument																	CG	7/23/2023	39.000048	-76.894659
61	Walker	Grave Marker	Isaac Walker Flat Plaque Grave Marker		Flat Plaque	White Marble	Isaac			Walker										CG	7/23/2023	39.000052	-76.894698
62	Walker	Manmade Feature	Chain Link Fence Post Boundary																	CG	7/23/2023	39.000037	-76.894837
63	Walker	Manmade Feature	Chain Link Fence Post Boundary																	CG	7/23/2023	39.000148	-76.89474
64	Walker	Manmade Feature	Chain Link Fence Post Boundary																	CG	7/23/2023	39.000058	-76.894588
65	Walker	Manmade Feature	Chain Link Fence Post Boundary																	CG	7/23/2023	38.999952	-76.894647
66	Walker	Landscape Feature	Indian Spring																	CG	7/23/2023	38.999451	-76.893876
67	Walker	Landscape Feature	Indian Spring																	CG	7/23/2023	39.000045	-76.893457

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1.	N/A	General	<i>Why doesn't this plan include the Greenbelt Cemetery or address critical contemporary needs for burial space in the City of Greenbelt?</i>	The Greenbelt Historic Cemeteries Master Preservation Plan strictly addresses the three late eighteenth century cemeteries listed as contributing resources to the Greenbelt Historic District and their interpretation as historic sites, not as active use burial places. The grant used to fund this project from Maryland Heritage Areas Authority was specific in its language to develop a preservation plan specifically for Hamilton, Walker, and Turner Cemeteries. Conceptually, a preservation plan aims to establish preservation standards and act as a reference guide as a multitude of preservation decisions are enacted in a community. This document aimed to anticipate most major decisions and provide an actionable road map for the City of Greenbelt to follow. As such, identifying areas for additional contemporary interments is outside of the scope of this effort. There is guidance within this plan with broad applicability to the care and keeping of cemeteries that is applicable to the ongoing care of Greenbelt Cemetery – particularly cleaning methods for markers and standards for site inspection.		N/A

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2.	N/A	General	<i>What about the other cemeteries in the City of Greenbelt established prior to 1937?</i>	Yes there are other cemeteries from the eighteenth and nineteenth century history of the area that would become the City of Greenbelt. However, only the three addressed (Hamilton, Walker, and Turner) are contributing to the Greenbelt Historic District National Historic Landmark (NHL). Contributing status impacts the availability of grant funding, which often requires a property be listed on (individually or as a contributing element to a listed district) to have access. Interestingly, the cemeteries are contributing despite being constructed outside of the NHL's period of significance. They were included because of the original intent of the founders to use these three cemeteries in particular as points of interest and historical sites for recreational purposes.		N/A
3.	N/A	General	<i>The report (and future readers/users of the report) will benefit greatly from a background on each cemetery at the beginning of the report about the history, size, ownership, condition, and recent interventions/issues at each cemetery, the scope/partners/funders/consultants on this project, and recommendations.</i>	The second chapter of the plan contains information on the history, size, ownership, condition, and recent interventions and issues at each cemetery. A section in the introduction has been added to address the scope/partners/funders/consultants of this project. The recommendations include a plan of action to begin caring for these (Greenbelt Cemeteries Master Plan) and the Recommendations for Capital Improvements sections.		N/A

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4.	11; 19	History and Cultural Survey of Greenbelt Cemeteries	<i>Information about those buried (saying the cemetery is for "families" PG11 but also "enslaved" PG19) is far to cursory to be accurate if the City is also trying to be honest about historical injustices.</i>	Hamilton, Walker, and Turner Cemeteries are highly likely to contain the burials of both family members and the people they enslaved. The document has been revised throughout to reflect this.		N/A
5.	N/A	Maintenance Plan	<i>Throughout the report there are many Do's and Don'ts within the narrative text and could be spun out as an easy to reference chart for FAQ about maintenance. Also, throughout the report the frequency of inspections is not consistent and becomes unclear.</i>	Recommendations have been pared down into tabular or graphic examples as applicable throughout the Maintenance Plan section.		N/A
6.	N/A	General	<i>I am also concerned about the strong recommendation towards continuing to alter the cemeteries and focus on public access. Can this report have a preface to how/why the City is focused on public access?</i>	The focus on public accessibility is a matter of standard cemetery rights of access laws. As the landowners, the City of Greenbelt is obligated to maintain these cemetery sites and keep them accessible for descendants. Additionally, the cemeteries were originally determined contributing to the NHL due to their potential to be historic points of interest for Greenbelt residents to recreate at, and not because of the significance of the cemeteries themselves or their associated history. This has now been added to the introduction.		N/A
7.	NA	Greenbelt Cemetery Master Plan	<i>Is GPR going to be used to inform where to reinstall the headstones?</i>	No - JMT archaeologists that contributed to the ground survey and plan development do not recommend GPR due to the terrain and wooded landscape of these sites. GPR often results in false reads caused by tree root		52

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				growth and would ultimately need to be excavated, which is strongly not recommended.		
8.		Recommendations for Capital Improvements	<i>I would also suggest that not all three cemeteries need to use the same fencing and that non-traditional fencing be considered, specifically avoiding split-rail fencing that doesn't really fit with the aesthetic and doesn't actually provide security - and just seems rural.</i>	The fencing recommendation has been amended to chain link fencing.		68
9.		Recommendations for Capital Improvements	<i>All signage and monuments should be carefully considered for content, size/location/accessibility, and maintenance to avoid clutter.</i>	A statement to this effect has been added to the Improve Signage section of the Recommendations for Capital Improvements.		71
10.	53	Greenbelt Cemeteries Master Plan Flowchart	<i>Provide clearer steps for the plan, especially Step 1</i>	Reformatted Step 1 to include the role of the Cemetery Maintenance team and expected skillset, along with links to places to obtain more specialized historic cemetery training.		53
11.		Front Matter and Introduction	<i>Check the official language needed from Maryland Heritage Areas Authority for grant acknowledgment. I think it has been updated.</i>	Checked language in MHT capital grants manual (https://mht.maryland.gov/Documents/grants/MHT%20Capital%20Grants%20and%20Loans%20Manual.pdf) and changed to match language found on page 3. Added logo.		1
12.	2	Introduction	<i>Need ballpark centuries of the cemeteries not just in relation to being "prior" to the City of Greenbelt for context early in this report</i>	Added "in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries..."		1
13.	2	Introduction	<i>Avoid "modern" because that reads as architecture related to New Deal, w/c alternative would</i>	Changed modern to contemporary. Edited sentence to read "Greenbelt Cemetery, the City's contemporary cemetery that is still in use today." To further clarify the		1

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			<i>be "contemporary"</i>	distinction between a historic (not used) cemetery and an active cemetery		
14.	3	Cemetery Preservation Regulations	<i>I do not unilaterally agree that NPS are "stewards" of the most significant resources</i>	Changed to "NPS has developed a set of standards to serve as guidance in the treatment of historic and cultural resources in the United States."		2
15.	5	Cemetery Preservation Regulations	<i>Paragraph 2, "this era of American history" has not yet been stated, just in reference to being "prior" to the City of Greenbelt</i>	Changed to "of eighteenth and nineteenth century American history."		3
16.	5	Introduction	<i>Note that all three cemeteries listed are contributing resources to the existing NHL district.</i>	Added this clarification to the Introduction – will continue to clarify contributing status throughout document.		1
17.	7-8	Cemetery Preservation Regulations	<i>Spell out Medusa.</i>	Medusa is not an acronym, please refer to MHT's website and Medusa webpage (https://apps.mht.maryland.gov/medusa/). I have included the subheading of it being "Maryland's Cultural Resource Information System."		5
18.	7-8	Cemetery Preservation Regulations	<i>Considering including information about the ongoing Cemetery Survey being done by PG Parks archaeologist, Jennifer Stabler: https://www.pgplanning.org/focus-areas/historic-preservation/cemetery-survey/.</i>	Added.		6
19.	9	History and Cultural Survey of Greenbelt Cemeteries	<i>Who was on the team? (JMT, county, state?)</i>	Survey completed by JMT. Added.		7

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20.	14	History and Cultural Survey of Greenbelt Cemeteries	<i>Consider alternate w/c to "accessible" of the gravel drive to avoid confusion that it is ADA.</i>	Changed "accessible" to "easily traversed"		9
21.	16-17	History and Cultural Survey of Greenbelt Cemeteries	<i>The signs were moved from the sign in 2022 and clarify when they were moved from the ground?</i>	I've not been able to get a clear answer on the date they were moved from the ground to the sign – it was around the 1980s.		11
22.	16-17	History and Cultural Survey of Greenbelt Cemeteries	<i>When was the sign built?</i>	Another best guess, no one was positive – in the 1980s at the earliest based on the likelihood of wood exposed to elements surviving from much earlier than that.		11
23.	20	History and Cultural Survey of Greenbelt Cemeteries	<i>W/c avoid "remains"</i>	Changed "remains" to "pieces"		13
24.	20	History and Cultural Survey of Greenbelt Cemeteries	<i>Add "originally" to "found at Hamilton Cemetery"</i>	Added.		15
25.	21	Front Matter	<i>Land acknowledgement and/or earliest English/colonial, etc., written documentation...</i>	A placeholder land acknowledgement has been added to the page after the cover as a placeholder for when the City of Greenbelt adopts standard land acknowledgement language. In the parameters of the grant and development of the cemetery plan, I am unable to give the development of this the attention it needs with the resources and expertise that I have.		Inside front page.

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				A land acknowledgement has broad implications and use for anything happening in the City of Greenbelt. A small committee of trusted community members and indigenous people should decide this language and be compensated for their labor. I've identified this as the most logical place for it considering it is applicable to all sites. I have based the wording off of this land acknowledgement: https://www.pgcmis.info/native-american-indigenous-peoples-heritage		
26.	21	History and Cultural Survey of Greenbelt Cemeteries	<i>What relationship is John Hamilton to Andrew Hamilton?</i>	John is the older brother to Andrew, and the relationship is confirmed in the text "Andrew Hamilton was the younger brother of John Hamilton."		16
27.	21	History and Cultural Survey of Greenbelt Cemeteries	<i>A family tree would be really cool/helpful for all cemeteries!</i>	Abbreviated family trees for Turner, Walker, and Hamilton families added to each of their respective section. Methodology for who was shown on the tree explained at the beginning of the chapter.		7
28.	22	History and Cultural Survey of Greenbelt Cemeteries	<i>Comment on increase of acreage in relationship to increase in enslaved people?</i>	The most enslaved people recorded on the Hamilton's property was in the decade of 1810 (32) and the acreage increase was documented in 1798. Added "Notably, the most enslaved people living and working on the Hamilton property occurred in 1810. The increase may have been supported by the additional land gained by Andrew Hamilton in 1798."		17

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29.	23	History and Cultural Survey of Greenbelt Cemeteries	<i>In discussion of mixed race, consider adding "at that time to be known to be mixed race" or something similar</i>	Changed to "The 1850 slave schedules noted whether an enslaved person was of mixed race; None of the enslaved people on Hamilton's property were documented as being mixed race in the 1850 slave schedule documents." The statement here is citing exactly what was documented in the 1850 slave schedules, which did not claim mixed racial makeup for people enslaved by Hamilton.		18
30.	23	History and Cultural Survey of Greenbelt Cemeteries	<i>That Samuel specifically called for preservation of the burial grounds is fascinating!</i>	I thought so too, and in the late 1800s no less!		18
31.	23	History and Cultural Survey of Greenbelt Cemeteries	<i>Could be interesting to put a finer point on the property ownership by a woman during this time and the need for Josephine to have a trustee</i>	Josephine does appear to have been married to her husband James B. Smith by the point of these real estate transactions.		19
32.	28-29	History and Cultural Survey of Greenbelt Cemeteries	<i>"Ivy Lane" not "Drive" (also on Page 29)</i>	Changed and double checked and corrected all mentions of Ivy Lane in document.		22
33.	28	History and Cultural Survey of Greenbelt Cemeteries	<i>Include year City founded</i>	Added.		22
34.	30	History and Cultural Survey of Greenbelt	<i>Is "Mr." needed? Also see Mr. Warren on Page 43, Also see Mr. Simond's 44</i>	Removed.		26

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		Cemeteries				
35.	31	History and Cultural Survey of Greenbelt Cemeteries	<i>Were the 14 unmarked stones previously known or unknown?</i>	They were known of but I don't think they had been tallied in the same way. Prior to JMT's site visit, some of the stones had flag markers but there are more stones on the site than were marked.		26
36.	35	History and Cultural Survey of Greenbelt Cemeteries	<i>Add "federal" to Resettlement Administration</i>	Added.		30
37.	39	History and Cultural Survey of Greenbelt Cemeteries	<i>Introduce what "Golden Triangle" area means at this first mention because it is not commonly used/known (maybe it is in Greenbelt?)</i>	Added – it is the former name of the development, it was used commonly in a lot of older newspaper articles and in the <i>Greenbelt: History of a New Town 1937-1987</i> book. The signage now calls it Triangle Centre.		34
38.	39	History and Cultural Survey of Greenbelt Cemeteries	<i>Include owner of the "office building management" entity</i>	Added, though not confidently sure who installed it – most likely the current owners (Golden Triangle, LLC).		34
39.	40	History and Cultural Survey of Greenbelt Cemeteries	<i>"overgrown for awhile" I'd say if the quote referenced is from 1833!</i>	Yes! Curiously the other two cemeteries are on USGS quad maps but Walker is not, probably just couldn't be seen amongst the trees very well.		36
40.	45	History and Cultural Survey of Greenbelt Cemeteries	<i>Confused "where Indian Springs SHOULD be," where it was historically? Why is not where it should be? Confusing to me.</i>	"Should be" is because when field verifying and following where the sign points to Indian Spring, it didn't lead to anything resembling what we were expecting based on verbal descriptions from locals. It has largely been destroyed by the construction of the Capital Beltway and surrounding development.		39

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41.	47	History and Cultural Survey of Greenbelt Cemeteries	<i>Any idea why Jonathan Walker moved his family out of Washington DC when Lincoln was elected. The way it is written it sounds like there was a specific reason or is just happening at that same time?</i>	The southern states began to form the Confederacy as a result of Lincoln's presidential election win, and the source seems to imply impending war spurred the family to move to a more rural location but unsure if this is the inference of the author or based on anything. Lightly edited to clarify the possible historic events influencing the decision to leave the city.		43
42.	48	History and Cultural Survey of Greenbelt Cemeteries	<i>Clarify all of the organizations with their official names...is it the Greenbelt Museum or the Prince George's County Historical Society? Also, use full name of the Prince George's County Memorial Library System Greenbelt Branch Library...</i>	Changed library name. The letter written by Warren O Simonds is to the Greenbelt Historical Society.		44
43.	48	History and Cultural Survey of Greenbelt Cemeteries	<i>Delete second to last paragraph as it is a duplicate.</i>	Deleted.		44
44.	50	Greenbelt Cemeteries Master Plan	<i>Add "maintain" as well as restore in the first paragraph?</i>	Added.		47
45.	50	Greenbelt Cemeteries Master Plan	<i>Define "monuments"</i>	Defined monument under Install New Interpretive Signage or Monuments section on different page.		51
46.	51	Maintenance Plan	<i>Consider adding "ongoing" and/or "data collection" to "documentation"</i>	Added.		52
47.	51	Greenbelt Cemeteries Master Plan	<i>Consider alternative to "manmade" such as human interventions, or site</i>	Settled on replacing "manmade" with "constructed" based on this article from Chicago Manual of Style (https://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/qanda/data/faq/topi		49, 52

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		And Maintenance Plan	<i>improvements...</i>	cs/Usage/faq0053.html#:~:text=We%20try%20to%20avoid%20using,machine%2Dmade%2C%20and%20constructe d.) Site improvements may also include deliberate plantings, “manmade elements” was intended to capture the constructed elements found in cemeteries that are not grave markers.		
48.	51	Maintenance Plan	<i>I find the changing terms of "quarterly" "biannually" and "annually" confusing from this point forward.</i> <i>Can this report include an example schedule across all three cemeteries for DPW based on the recommendations?</i>	Removed terms. Changing “quarterly” to “seasonal” and defining seasonal throughout the document.		52
49.	52	Maintenance Plan	<i>As it relates to a written record of conditions, does the City of Greenbelt DPW or other department have a ticketing system or some other computerized/organized way to access/reference this data and see changes over time?</i>	I have not seen this but can look into this more or suggest establishing one – could have applicability beyond just the cemeteries as well.		52
50.	52	Recommendations for Capital Improvements	<i>Vague what entity would build, pay for, and/or maintain the new display.</i>	All City owned property, clarifying that City should take charge – either through setting aside budget or alternative funding sources such as grants.		67
51.	53	Recommendations for Capital Improvements	<i>Clearly mark that this is an EXAMPLE photo (not from the sites in this report)</i>	Changed, this and all other non-survey photos		68

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52.	53	Recommendations for Capital Improvements	<i>Who was part of the team of archaeologists on that day (JMT, county, state?)</i>	JMT, edited.		50
53.	53	Introduction	<i>Do you plan to include a team list names/affiliations that were part of this report?</i>	This is something I can add but typically don't for other cemetery and planning documents such as this. Greenbelt Planning or other affinity groups may edit this over time if they wish.		1
54.	55	Recommendations for Capital Improvements	<i>I'd say a major human driven condition here that is the elephant in the room is the removal of stones by the City itself.</i>	Correct - it was well-meaning at the time to address ongoing vandalism and breaking of the stones but ultimately destroyed the historic context and integrity of each cemetery.		52
55.	55	Recommendations for Capital Improvements	<i>Standardize US National Park Service in credits, earlier in report it was just "NPS"</i>	Changed throughout.		53
56.	56	Recommendations for Capital Improvements	<i>Concerned the "inspections" would actually not be appropriate to be completed by volunteers without training. Can a volunteer training by the to-be trained DPW staff and/or another group like Coalition to Protect Maryland Burials Sites be included in the Recommendations? I think Greenbelters would like that opportunity.</i>	Yes, clarifying that volunteers with supervision from Cemetery Maintenance Team can do this but not alone.		54
57.	56	Recommendations for Capital Improvements	<i>Include "current" with "emerging issues on site"</i>	Changed.		50

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58.	56	Recommendations for Capital Improvements	<i>Include "approximate" with "original location"</i>	Changed.		51
59.	57	Maintenance Plan	<i>Include "workers and volunteers" with "visitors"</i>	Changed.		64
60.	58	Recommendations for Capital Improvements	<i>It is my opinion that the stones should not be reconstructed nor reset in the ground but displayed creatively as-is in a display with fully transparent information of past interventions. A new contemporary creative "monument" can be placed at the cemeteries.</i>	Agreed – I'm continuously keeping an eye out for nice examples but not finding many examples out there of similar displays, at least on the site. I've found many examples of displays of gravestones in museum settings but not outside. I think there is a good opportunity for some kind of design contest/design charette process in the future.		51
61.	59	Maintenance Plan	<i>From this page forward, I think that very clear formatting like headings and maybe a chart, should delineate "recommended" vs "not recommended" because otherwise that is lost at the end of the paragraph for each treatment. A graphic like that might actually already exist from NPS or elsewhere can be included as a quick-reference.</i>	"DO"s and "DON'T"s have been added throughout the Maintenance Plan and select sections of the Capital Improvements. I have converted some explanations to charts as well. In many instances the background information of why certain recommendations are made is necessary.		52
62.	60	Maintenance Plan	<i>What is biennial and how does that fit in with the annual and/or quarterly recommendations. Can this report include an example timeline for 2-3 years?</i>	Twice a year, changed to say "NPS guidance notes that two cleanings per year is typical..." I've provided a checklist for seasonal inspections on page 49 – this will repeat at each inspection.		58

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63.	60	Maintenance Plan	<i>Clarify that low pressure also means "no pressure" like a bucket, "little to no pressure" something like that.</i>	Clarified and changed		58
64.	61	Maintenance Plan	<i>This is the first mention of the materials of the stone, here referenced as marble. Are all of the stones marble? Toss that information in earlier in the narrative report.</i>	Marble is now mentioned in each stone description for Hamilton and Turner cemeteries. Walker has cement and granite markers.		59
65.	61	Maintenance Plan	<i>Clarify in one single sentence, "No abrasive materials, such as hard or stiff plastic or wire bristle brushes, should be used in the cleaning of the masonry surfaces"</i>	Changed.		59
66.	63	Maintenance Plan	<i>What is NRB?</i>	National Register Bulletin – spelled out instead, this is a citation.		61
67.	63	Maintenance Plan	<i>Why seed with grass if there was not historically grass and grass is hard to maintain and to mow around stones, if replaced?</i>	Removed language about seeding, but there is some grass/weeds that will need to be tended periodically by landscaping maintenance.		61
68.	63	Maintenance Plan	<i>Standardize capitalization/wording of D/2 throughout</i>	Changed.		58-60
69.	64-65	Maintenance Plan	<i>Format URLs as previously in the document</i>	Changed.		62-63
70.	64-65	Maintenance Plan	<i>Standardize capitalization of spotted lantern fly</i>	Changed.		62-63
71.	64-65	Maintenance Plan	<i>Include recommendations for permeable surfaces</i>	Included.		63

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72.	64-65	Maintenance Plan	<i>Create a long and short (suitable for smaller signage) list of rules</i>	Suggesting short-form signage to be something like this on a yard style sign: "You are in Hamilton/Turner/Walker Cemetery Community Hours are Daily from Dawn to Dusk Please treat this site with respect and leave no trace Please report signs of vandalism to the City of Greenbelt Public Works Department at XXX-XXX-XXXX" The longer list may have utility being posted on a city webpage.		64-65
73.	66	Maintenance Plan	<i>Considering changing w/c from "citizens" to "community members"</i>	Changed.		65-66
74.	69-71	Recommendations for Capital Improvements	<i>Clearly mark these photos as an EXAMPLE not current conditions</i>	Changed with all stock/creative commons photos used throughout.		68
75.	71	Recommendations for Capital Improvements	<i>Expand on the possible forestry or agricultural activities currently around Hamilton and if they are a current threat and/or something is planned?</i>	Something loosely alluded to during public meeting #1 - concern was expressed over being able to continue to plant saplings and protect existing trees in the area where the cemetery is. I don't believe there are plans but there are saplings with protective barriers in the area surrounding the cemetery. I also observed a spotted lanternfly infestation during the survey so continued forestry efforts by volunteers may be impacted by that. I have opted to remove this because it is not a threat to the cemetery and the cemetery is such a small area that it will have minimal impact to available land for gardening or tree conservation activities.		69
76.	71	Recommendations for Capital Improvements	<i>I do not agree that a wooden picket-style fence would be the most attractive or appropriate, metal fencing is more common</i>	Removed – recommending contemporary products. Also recommending that extant fencing at Turner and Walker remain until failure.		69

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			<i>and/or something contemporary to avoid any confusion that the fence is historic.</i>			
77.	73	Recommendations for Capital Improvements	<i>Would it be more appropriate to refer to "New Monument" Rather than include the word building?</i>	Changed to "New Monuments"		71
78.	75	Funding Sources	<i>The simplest way to ensure the implementation of this document is to include funding in the City of Greenbelt budget.</i>	Added "The most straightforward way to ensure the implementation of the recommendations in this document is for the City of Greenbelt to include the maintenance of these places in their municipal budget." Within first paragraph of Funding Sources section		73
79.	75	Funding Sources	<i>Identify specific funding program. Funding sources that should all be called out are Maryland Heritage Area Program, Preservation Maryland, and Coalition to Protect Maryland Burial Sites. I would also think that the County's Historic Preservation Commission grants would also be relevant.</i>	Expanded Grant funding section with grant options for each. Some of these I am finding that activities like landscaping (installing fencing) is not a qualified activity so I am opting to explain the grant and then assess whether the cemeteries meet the award criteria.		73-76
80.	General	General	<i>Cemeteries can be areas for biodiversity and nature conservation, given proper stewardship. Public Works' environmental and sustainability staff do an excellent job in their roles and may be able to use the cemeteries as locations for programming that connects people to nature. As relatively undisturbed areas, cemeteries can</i>	Correct – this is why a light touch is recommended for landscaping treatments.		N/A

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			<i>provide habitat for wildlife through native plants and removal of invasive species.</i>			
81.			<i>I feel very strongly that the general site of Turner Cemetery, along with the short, original entrance road, should have said survey markers noted, or made evident. Plats note the site as being 450 feet x 300 feet in its entirety and the current area of burials is much less than that. Perhaps additional burial sites could be considered using more of the dedicated total area.</i>	As stated previously, identifying areas for additional contemporary burials is outside of the scope of this effort.		N/A
82.			<i>Is this an official city statement or a suggestion from JMT? I question including the Mattapanient, the Patuxent, the Moyaone, and the Pamunkey. I am not aware of any group called the Moyaone; Moyaone was the name of the primary Piscataway town before and during early colonial times. I am not including more detailed comments on this, as Mark Miller has accomplished that with an email to you back in March.</i>	As stated previously, this statement was adapted from the Prince George's County Library System's Land Acknowledgement (https://www.pgcmlls.info/native-american-indigenous-peoples-heritage). As stated previously, the City of Greenbelt does not have an adopted standard land acknowledgement and JMT agreed to provide a placeholder text for the development of this by the City in the future. To establish this language within the parameters of the development of the Greenbelt Historic Cemeteries Master Preservation Plan, when a land acknowledgement will have broad applicability to all actions taken by the City. We also note the reviewer's correction that Moyaone refers to a Piscataway town rather than a distinct group; this will be addressed when the City develops its formal		Inside front page.

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				language.		
83.	1		<i>Replace yellow highlighted word with "from"</i>	Corrected.		1
84.			<i>This document should also note that draft MIHP forms have been completed for the Hamilton, Walker, and Turner cemeteries by M-NCPPC staff (Dr. Jennifer Stabler) and that City of Greenbelt staff provided these draft MIHP forms to JMT at the beginning of this project. Much of the information reviewed in the historic context sections of this report came from these draft MIHP forms.</i>	Correct – we also reviewed the MIHP form's sources ourselves during research.		7
85.			<i>Rectify the Walker family genealogy with the work of Kent Walker as documented on Genealogy.com and Ancestry.com</i>	Corrected – the main thing to correct was the surname of the matriarch of the family, Elizabeth Ferguson Walker. Kent Walker's tree on Ancestry.com was able to locate some missing birth dates.		43
86.			<i>Consider the Revolutionary War Veteran Status of Isaac Walker – could he have been the younger Isaac from the same generation as Nathaniel?</i>	Nathaniel's brother Isaac did serve in the Revolutionary War according to the narrative in the <i>Walkers of Toaping Castle</i> and this is noted in the report. However, he moved to Baltimore County after marrying Charlotte Hamilton and is likely buried there and not in the family plot. Kent Walker was also unable to locate a death date for Isaac in his research.		44
87.	7		<i>If some of these photographs are not included in this report they should be provided to the city.</i>	Providing the full resolution photographs from the survey is part of the final deliverables provided to the City.		N/A

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88.	7		<i>Details of the technology used to determine the “coordinates of features photographed” should be provided in this report. This will assist future managers and researchers in using these maps.</i>	Changed to “The coordinates of features photographed were recorded using a custom ESRI survey tool called Field Maps on an iPad. Data collected via Field Maps was used to make site plans of each cemetery.”		7
89.	7		<i>The full family trees compiled by JMT should be provided to the city, either as an appendix to this report or as a separate document. This will assist future researchers.</i>	It has been noted in the report that a limited tree was compiled to keep information relevant to the immediate generation buried in the cemeteries. What is shown in the report is the full extent of what was noted in the family trees as they were built in Ancestry.com’s online platform. Additionally, providing full family trees is a privacy issue for living descendants were it to be published in an appendix. As standard for all preservation plans, this document needs to remain publicly accessible which necessitates a certain degree of censorship when it comes to archaeological sites and familial information.		N/A
90.	8		<i>At the March 24, 2026, public meeting JMT staff displayed a revised version of this page, with the west edge of the Hamilton Cemetery Boundary (red lines) moved to the east. As we have discussed, that revision makes sense to me based on aerial photos from 1936, 1937, 1938, 1944, and later, as well as current surface topography in that area.</i>	Noted, boundary is now based on historic aerial imagery from 1936.		9

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91.			<i>The source of the base map used for the location map should be identified (1944 edition of the Laurel USGS 7.5-minute quad map).</i>	Added.		9
92.			<i>The key and the map do not show the same pattern for "House Footprint ca. 1944 (Gone)."</i>	The key is the same pattern (it is autogenerated by the mapping program, ArcPro, to match the map) but it is light-on-white so appears different. I have increased the contrast in the key on all maps to show the color on a dark green background instead.		9
93.			<i>The house is visible on the 1938 aerial, so it is not clear why the "house footprint" is depicted here based on the 1944 USGS map.</i>	The house is also noted on the USGS maps. I have changed the basis for the outline on the aerial map.		9
94.	11		<i>As discussed at the March 24, 2026, public meeting, the cemetery location is visible on aerial photos from 1936 and later. At that meeting JMT staff displayed a revised version of the boundary.</i>	Correct.		9
95.	16		<i>Surveying and patenting land did not require occupation of that land.</i>	Correct but this is supported with 1790 census data.		17
96.	16		<i>Capitalize "purchase" as it is part of the tract name "Hamilton's Purchase."</i>	Corrected.		17
97.	16		<i>The census listed all "slaves", whether they were "laborers" or</i>	Changed.		17

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			<i>children too young to labor or elderly too old to labor. It would be best to use “enslaved people” instead of “enslaved laborers.” Please note that I have not repeated this comment for each following instance in this document, so please do a search on the phrase to correct them all.</i>			
98.	16		<i>The 1798 Federal Direct (not District) Tax was levied on three categories of property: 1) dwelling houses valued at over \$100 with up to 2 acres of land; 2) all other land and structures; and 3) enslaved people. So, Andrew’s 184.5 acres was divided into the two acres with his dwelling and three “outhouses” (valued together at \$110) and the remaining 182.5 acres with the tobacco barn (valued together at \$305). Andrew was also assessed for 9 enslaved people, all over the age of 13 and under the age of 49.</i>	Noted and revised.		17
99.	16		The original record lists the 12’x12’ structure as a “quarter”, which was housing for enslaved people.	Changed.		17

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100.	17		In the last sentence, "1798" should be "1789"?	Changed.		18
101.	18		Thanks for this information about where Elizabeth Hamilton died. Endnote 18 (on page 20 (pdf image 85)) cites the source as "Baltimore Patriot & Mercantile Advertiser, May 17, 1834, p. 3." I am curious where this source can be accessed? Is there an online copy available? If so, it is always most useful to include such information in the notes.	There are no online copies unfortunately. This particular date is accessible at the Maryland Historical Society.		18
102.	19		<i>What is the evidence that the Smiths built a new house on the property?</i>	This is largely assumed based on the descriptions, by myself and past researchers as well. Historic maps do show a change in building markings as well.		18
103.	19		<i>Slavery was abolished in Maryland by the constitution of November 1864.</i>	Noted, date changed.		20
104.	19		<i>The yellow highlighted word "had" implies ownership, it would be better to use the word "employed."</i>	Changed.		20
105.	19		<i>It is JMT's assumption that the Alexander household was "on the property." All we can tell from the 1880 census is that the Alexander household was listed immediately after the Smith household.</i>	The 1880 census page lists the Smith's Dwelling No. as and Family No. as 7 and the Alexander's Dwelling No. is also 7, Family No. 8. If not likely sharing a single house, this at least shows that both are on the same property.		20

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106.	19		<i>Please add an endnote citing the source for the statement that Josephine died in 1889. The 1897 deed cited in endnote 29 (on page 20 (pdf image 25 of 85) describes Josephine as deceased, but does not specify when she died.</i>	Added to endnote 29.		21
107.	19		<i>The 1880 census listed three Black people living in the Alexander household.</i>	Yes – Henry Williams, Harriet Brook, and Jane Norton.		20
108.	19		<i>The 219.75 acres sold was what remained of the 438.75 acres after two other sales in the 1870s. This sale was in 1897, ending seven years of court action, as described in deed JWB41:389.</i>	Changed.		20
109.	19		<i>What is the source for the second sentence? Endnote 29 (on page 20 (pdf image 25 of 85) provides a citation of "Prince George's County Deed Records Liber JWB41:389", but none of this detail about the buildings and orchards is in this deed. This type of information is usually found in the notice of public sales required by the courts during equity cases. Please provide both a full citation for this information and a scan of the record itself.</i>	The description was published in <i>Prince George's Enquirer</i> newspaper. I did not take a scan of this record. I viewed the microfilm and wrote notes from that but Dr. Stabler also provided a full transcription in the notes of the MIHP form.		20-21

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110.	21		<i>The source of the base map used for the location map should be identified (1945 edition of the Beltsville USGS 7.5-minute quad map?).</i>	Added.		22
111.	22		<i>It appears to me that the historic Turner Cemetery is located adjacent to the Greenbelt Cemetery, not within the Greenbelt Cemetery.</i>	Turner Cemetery is within Greenbelt Cemetery in modern terms – they share the same tax parcel and the same ingress/egress driveway. Reworded to clarify.		23
112.	24		<i>Leaving out the phrase “it appears that” changes the meaning the cited sentence. He was not so definitive that the 1855 inscribed stone marker was the only inscribed stone marker.</i> <i>See the description of the Turner Cemetery markers in Kyla Hanington’s article titled “Grave Mysteries in Greenbelt” (published on pages 12-14 of the October 15, 2015, issue of the Greenbelt News Review). Hanington reviews earlier descriptions of the cemetery to support an argument that more inscribed stone markers were probably present there but have been stolen or knocked over.</i>	Reworded. Additional inscribed markers are not mentioned even in the earliest cemetery surveys available, which date to the mid-1950s from the DAR and make up the base of the <i>Stones and Bones</i> publication/survey that revisited these places in 1984.		25
113.	25		<i>The statement on the equal</i>	Added to introduction. Keeping deeper clarification within		26

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			<i>likelihood of enslaved burials at all three cemeteries is important and should be highlighted in other parts of this document.</i>	the Turner Cemetery		
114.	25		<i>The number of “unmarked stones” is listed here as 14, but only 13 are depicted on the site map on page 21. My guess is that the symbol for one of the markers is obscured at the scale of the site map. More information on these “unmarked stones” is available from previous work at this cemetery:</i> <i>Dr. Stabler’s draft MIHP form of January 2015 noted “six small stones” and described them as “eroded and sunken and consist of pieces of local ironstone.” Note that these observations were based on a survey of the surface with no subsurface investigation.</i> <i>Later in 2015 Kyla Hanington reported on an effort that included some subsurface work (“Grave Mysteries in Greenbelt” pages 12-14 of the October 15, 2015, issue of the Greenbelt News Review): “Some of the stones we found were literally beneath the</i>	Number was off on the map but correct in the text, now corrected. As established during the first meeting for this project, subsurface work was not part of this survey. This includes actions like brushing dirt off of stones and features. It is likely that stones were covered or uncovered since Hanington’s investigation. Subsurface work should follow the law and consult with the Maryland Historical Trust prior to investigation or alteration.		26

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			<i>dirt. Then, it was only by guessing, based on proximity to stones visible, where to brush away the soil that we located them. Others were invisible beneath fallen leaves, brush and vines. A large pile of gravel-laden dirt had been dumped within a few yards of these graves." Hanington reported finding 15 markers: "seven headstones in a row, each about six feet apart from the other, with four of the corresponding footstones. In a different row, we found an additional four stones that likely mark two more graves."</i>			
115.	33		<i>The source of the base map used for the location map should be identified (1945 edition of the Beltsville and 1945 Washington East USGS 7.5-minute quad maps?)</i>	Added.		35
116.	33		<i>The DAR monuments are located in the center of the fenced area, while this map depicts them as closer to the south side of the fence. Also, the shape of the fenced area depicted on this map does not match the fairly regular rectangle seen on the site.</i>	Edited.		35
117.	35-36		<i>Please check this and other</i>	June corrected to July.		37

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			<i>mentions of the date of field work: was it June or July of 2025?</i>			
118.	35-36		<i>1833 should be 1883</i>	1833 corrected to 1883.		38
119.	36-37		<i>The cited "Letter from Warren O. Simonds, Walker descendant, Walker Family File, Tugwell Room, Greenbelt Public Library." (Endnote 2 (on page 45 (pdf image 50)) also states that the current fence replaced a fence installed by the federal government, presumably the Resettlement Administration.</i>	Added.		39
120.	37		<i>The division of labor between the DAR and the Resettlement Administration (RA) is not clear without further research. I recall seeing mention of the RA doing the construction of the 1936 monument.</i>	I have not been able to find this definitively but it would make sense for the RA to play a role, even if just the labor of installing the marker while the formal dedication and potentially funding provided by the DAR.		39
121.	37		<i>The 1936 monument is a pentagon (five-sided).</i>	Changed.		39
122.	37		<i>The metal plate on the 1936 monument is probably brass.</i>	Bronze is also a possibility and more common in outdoor uses than brass. The MIHP form also refers to it as bronze, though I think we concur that the level of weathering is more aligned with brass. Changed to "copper alloy."		39
123.	39		<i>In the article "Grave Mysteries in Greenbelt" (pages 12-13 in the</i>	Likelihood of burials of enslaved people is noted.		N/A

**Greenbelt Historic Cemeteries Master Preservation Plan
Comment Response Matrix**

Document Title		Greenbelt Historic Cemeteries Master Preservation Plan Comment Response Matrix		Preparer	Carolyn Gimbal, Senior Architectural Historian at Johnson, Mirmiran, and Thompson (JMT)	
Item No.	Page	Document Section	Comment	Response		New Page
			<i>Greenbelt News Review of October 15, 2015) Kyla Hanington stated that a 1969 letter to the Prince George's County Historical Society from Warren O. Simonds stated that the cemetery included burials of "a number of ... good and faithful slaves." This 1969 letter may have been a revision of the 1968 letter cited by JMT.</i>			
124.	39		<i>The JMT field crew did not walk far enough along the trail to reach Indian Springs. The springs are at the base of a steep slope, adjacent to the wetlands JMT photographed. The springs were enclosed within a masonry wall constructed during the early years of the Greenbelt project.</i>	We walked the length of the trail shown in the map to Walker Cemetery, along the stream beds, and along the transmission line corridor that cuts through the north side of the parcel in an attempt to look for alternative access areas. There is presently no pathway, even a rugged one as the path to Walker Cemetery is, to Indian Springs as there was in the past.		
125.	40		<i>Dating and citation of original photo needs correction. This photo is from a 1935 document produced by a realtor for the federal government. This 1935 document is curated at the National Archives II facility in College Park, Maryland. The NARA catalog citation (https://catalog.archives.gov/id/502858081) is Record Group 196: Records of the Public Housing</i>	Changed. Scan provided of original document, but the photo contains a glare so I am keeping my scan from Williamson's book in the document.		

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			<i>Administration, Series: Records Relating to the Management and Disposition of Greentown Projects, File Unit: "Appraisal for the Resettlement Administration of the Berwyn Project and Individual Appraisals of Parcels", prepared by Curtis Walker, 1935". This "file unit is a black 3-ring binder with tilted "Appraisal for the Resettlement Administration of the Berwyn Project and Individual Appraisals of Parcels numbered 49, 76, 83, 127, 147, 147A, 154, 165, 198, and 247A". This document is not available online yet, but I have photographed this document and can share it as a PDF file. However, it does not mention the Walker Cemetery.</i>			
126.	40		<i>Note that this house site is about 1500 feet southeast of the cemetery.</i>	Noted. An address was given to where the ruin once stood, added measurement.		

CITY OF GREENBELT, MARYLAND

OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

25 CRESCENT ROAD, GREENBELT, MD. 20770



Josué Salmerón
City Manager

TO: Council
From: Josué Salmerón, City Manager
Date: June 5, 2026
RE: Recommendations to Improve the Annual Budget Process

The FY 2027 budget process highlighted several opportunities to improve the City's annual budget-development and adoption cycle. Most importantly, the City must move its budget adoption date earlier to align with Prince George's County's deadline for certifying the real property-tax rate. The deadline for FY2027 was May 15, 2026 and the City Council adopted real property rates on May 26, 2026. The process should also provide Council, staff, and the public with earlier time to determine the feasibility of adjusting real property tax rates and to evaluate the City's financial outlook and consider difficult policy trade-offs.

I recommend the following improvements for the FY 2028 budget process and future years:

1. Establish an Annual Pre-Budget Work Session in December

Following the release of updated State assessment data, staff should present an early financial outlook identifying projected revenues, known expenditure increases, capital needs, reserve levels, and the preliminary gap between recurring revenues and expenses. This will allow Council to begin discussing potential tax, fee, service-level, and staffing decisions several months before the proposed budget is introduced.

2. Adopt the Budget and Property-Tax Rate Before the County's May 15 Deadline

Prince George's County requires municipalities to submit tax-rate certification forms by May 15 each year so that the County can prepare and administer property-tax bills. Historically, Greenbelt has adopted its budget in late May, after the County's deadline. For the FY 2027 budget, the County agreed to a one-time accommodation allowing the City to submit its certification forms after the May 26 budget adoption.

Going forward, the City should schedule final budget adoption no later than the first regular Council meeting in May. The budget calendar should be adjusted accordingly, with earlier and fewer work sessions, public hearings, and decision points. This will avoid reliance on ad hoc extensions and provide adequate time to complete the County certification process.

A NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK

PHONE: (301) 474-8000 www.greenbeltmd.gov

FY2027 Budget Work Session Schedule

Work Session Date	Budget Section	Pages	Suggested Question Deadline	Packet Date
4/8/2026	Overview	1-60	3/31/2026	4/3/2026
	Revenues	61-100		
	General Government	101-140		
	Other Funds	253-266		
	Non-Departmental and Fund Transfers	248-252		
	Economic Development	119-121		
	Planning and Community Development	140-150		
4/15/2026	Public Works (Greenbelt Connection)	163-190, 247	4/7/2026	4/10/2026
	Capital Projects	276-288		
4/20/2026	Misc. – Grants & Contributions	246	4/14/2026	4/17/2026
	CARES	191-206		
	Greenbelt Cinema			
4/22/2026	Recreation	207-244	4/14/2026	4/17/2026
4/27/2026	Regular Meeting/First Public Hearing			
4/29/2026	Public Safety	151-162	4/21/2026	4/24/2026
5/4/2026	Green Ridge House	267-274	4/28/2026	5/1/2026
5/6/2026	Recognition Groups (Group 1)	separate packet		
5/11/2026	Regular Meeting/Second Public Hearing			
5/13/2026	Recognition Groups (Group 2)	separate packet		
5/18/2026	Final Budget Review			
5/26/2026	Regular Meeting/Budget Adoption			