

2020 Report

St. Louis Preservation Crew

Email: StLouisPreservationCrew@gmail.com

Website: SavingWashingtonPark.com

Tel: 314.494.0600

St. Louis, Mo 63042



TABLE OF CONTENTS

TO OUR STAKEHOLDERS	3
Strategic Highlights	3
Financial Highlights	3
Operating Highlights	3
Looking Ahead	4
2020 Highlights	6
Successful Projects	7
2020 Objectives & Results	8
Moving Forward	9
Social Media Efforts	10
Notable Donations	11
Financial Statements	12
Notes to Financial Statements	14
Accounts	14
Debt	14
On-going Concerns	15
Contingent Liabilities	15
The Preservation Plan	17
Youth Education	20
2020 Progress	22
Before & Afters	26

TO OUR STAKEHOLDERS

The St. Louis Preservation Crew and our many volunteers are so proud of our recent work to restore Washington Park Cemetery, and we'd like to thank so many for being an active supporter of this effort. Our mission to restore this 42-acre heritage site in severe disrepair after decades of neglect and abandonment is a huge undertaking! We are saving these grounds, not only from the desecration it is in, but also valuable history for so many St. Louis descendants. We need additional help to continue this work.

Strategic Highlights

The **Saving Washington Park** project has already gained the compassionate support of the Chicora Foundation, St. Louis County NAACP, ESRI, the St. Louis Genealogical Society, Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner, Hallmark Stone, Beyond Housing, Washington University, St. Louis University, the local and State Missouri Preservation Offices, the St. Louis Area Archivists Association, the Daughters of the American Revolution, North County Technical School and a generous donation from Midwest BankCentre for 2020. (Donations are made through our online donation page or the *St. Louis Preservation Crew PayPal* page).

At this time, we are raising \$120,000 to hire a descendant led crew to maintain the lawn in the 22 cleared acres and help remove the overgrowth in the remaining 20. This crew will also assist our consultants and engineers on site who are working hard to help the volunteers and families implement the critical and significant Preservation Plan.

Financial Highlights

Because of a generous \$10,000 donation from Midwest Bank Center in 2020, we were able to sustain campaign operations, hire local youth for weekend projects and purchase the supplies to level stones, and clear overgrowth in two sections of the cemetery! One section had been covered in 2 feet of mulch for many years and was completely undetectable without prior knowledge. Through other supportive contributions from the community, businesses and organizations we received over \$30,000 in monetary and in-kind donations and services.

Operating Highlights

In 2020, before we became involved, by the end of April the grass had grown to nearly 3 feet tall. It took an "angel" sponsor and a crew of 25 men with equipment to just make the site visible again. The remaining weeks were spent removing thatch and uncovering headstones. The beauty of Washington Park was once again revealed, and you can see today that we have continued this hard work and have rallied an effort larger than any before to finally reconnect to and honor the place where so many St. Louisans rest. Through sponsorship, volunteer and partnership efforts this year we were able to hire a full time crew to maintain the cleared sections and restore 3 covered sections of the cemetery, including recovering over 20 sunken headstones in the Infant section! We were also able to meet and work with so many families who are just as committed to the restoration of Washington Park.

Our mission remains to not only honor and connect with our past, but to also develop a path to move the next generation forward by providing them with an opportunity to earn a living wage, learn new trade skills and gain a profound understanding of their role in preservation. We were able to partner with Teens for Tomorrow and St. Louis Probation & Parole to locate youth and young adults interested in a career in Landscape Maintenance. Through our Community Clean Up Day events and weekend work opportunities we were able to train and mentor these young men and women while introducing them to ancestral guidance and connections, social responsibilities, and hard, purpose-driven work. By working at the Cemetery, our youth have access to practical, hands-on experience with Preservation, Research, Landscaping and Ground Maintenance, GIS Technology, Tree and Road Services and Project Management.

This year, we were able to locate the ancestors of over 20 families and help them find the headstones or burial location of their loved ones. Many of these descendants have become an active force in leading the restoration of the cemetery, and are invested in the long-term stability, success and legacy of these sacred grounds.

As a nonprofit organization, though, our efforts completely rely on community support. None of our work would be possible without the help of donors, volunteers, and supportive community members like you.

Current fundraising efforts are underway to hire 4 full time crewmembers who will ensure the maintenance, restoration and preservation of Washington Park Cemetery this year.

Looking Ahead

Before the cemetery can become a north county attraction, we need additional community sponsors and funding for a full-time crew and quality mowing equipment to maintain the cemetery's cleared 25 acres. This 25-acre area also needs some grading, re-seeding and tombstone work and re-alignment. Volunteers are busy clearing the approximately 14 acres of the cemetery that is overgrown and has not been maintained for years.

To bring back its glory, prestige and awareness and ensure restoration follows the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Preservation, we are creating a Preservation Plan and mapping survey and finding additional crew members from the community to continue to document the location, names and history of this ancestry.

Our youth, crew and volunteers will continue to collaborate with Landscape Architecture and Civil Engineering Professionals, Stone Masons, and Ancestry and Data Tracking Programs. With these skills we are becoming more familiar with mapping out genealogical trees and the historical research to trace the known, and unknown, aspects of lineages that have been lost due to unjust treatment and neglect. With GIS Technology more of our youth will soon begin to identify and reconnect with this ancestral guidance and direction and develop a sense of deep belonging. The preservation of cemeteries involves a wide range of disciplines,

including landscape architecture, historic and archival research, conservation, archaeology, and engineering. We must also ensure the cemetery is treated appropriately.

Particular care will be taken to be sure nothing is lost to history. We are creating an accurate headstone marker inventory and assessment to know exactly what is present, its condition, and its treatment priority. Our comprehensive preservation plan will integrate issues of rehabilitation and treatment of markers, features, and landscape with our priorities and budget. This will ensure we have the information on which to make sound decisions. Unfortunately, inaccurate and lost cemetery records have decreased access to exact burial locations. From locating stones to compiling genealogical research, it is important to have an understanding of the exact placement of each grave and break down this overall cemetery layout into more easily digestible information.

Military stones and other family stones—many are works of art—can be seen in the overgrown areas. We are honoring our veterans through commemorative events, locating their grave markers and military records, and by researching and sharing their stories with the community.

Before elders and school children can come out for field trips, roads and walkways must be repaved. We are establishing relationships with organizations like CCDI and other minority contractors to accomplish this goal.

Our Crew will remain up to date and trained in the latest preservation technology and familiar with the best materials for restoration. We continue to work hard on organizational development and securing trust in our organization. We are working with the Missouri State Preservation Office to nominate Washington Park for the National Historic Registry, host workshops at the cemetery and we look forward to working with the Chicora Foundation to provide further education.

And with the skills and relationships we gather for Washington Park, we are hoping to be able to lend this same support to Greenwood Cemetery and other historic sites in need of preservation and restoration. As always, any and all support is greatly appreciated and so encouraging. We're excited to get back to work in the Spring! Thank you for being a part of our community and this story. And thank you for reading our report!

Aja Corrigan, Chair
St. Louis Preservation Crew
March 2021

First, Let's Point Out Some Highlights of 2020...

In honor of the **100th Anniversary** of the cemetery, the community came together to discuss what to do about this historic site which has been sitting in neglect and abandonment for quite some time. By May, the grass had grown to over 36 inches. **Hallmark Stone**, a local granite manufacturer, brought 25 of their employees to cut the grass down to a manageable level. It took over 5 lawnmowers, 15 weedwhackers, and other equipment. Through an ongoing partnership with Hallmark Stone we were able to hire a full-time crew to ensure the grass was maintained for the rest of the year. Soon after, we were blessed by an emergency donation by **Midwest BankCentre** that helped sustain our restoration efforts that made much of the work of 2020 possible. Through their funding we were able to connect with **B&D Hauling**, descendants of Washington Park, to clear debris from the roads and lay rock so that cars can access the newly cleared sections, hire youth on the weekends to help trim overgrowth, and obtain the software needed to begin the GIS mapping survey. Through a partnership with **ESRI** and the **St. Louis Genealogical Society** we are creating a much-needed map of the entire cemetery, while offering a unique opportunity to introduce our youth to the burgeoning geospatial industry. Our monthly Community Update Meetings and Community CleanUp Days were also a huge success! Our crew, data and volunteer teams continue to grow, and we were so thankful for the hard work put forth by Mr. Shelton and his **Teens for Tomorrow**. Through new connections made this year, we have been able to raise additional awareness and interest around the state of the cemetery and the restoration in process!



A group from August 15th Community Clean Up Day on a mission!

We also....

- ★ Were able to assist over **20 families** in locating and visiting the burials of their loved ones!
- ★ Connected with educational institutions like **Washington University, St. Louis University, North County Technical School, CCDI** and the **Boy Scouts of America!**
- ★ Were able to offer part time work (\$14 an hour), Community Service credit hours, mentorship and training to over 20 area youth!
- ★ Were offered the support of a fiscal sponsor, **Beyond Housing**, for large donations!

A Few Successful Projects This Year...



COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP DAY

August 15th

We cleared so much and had so much help! Our youth volunteers had fun trying out the lawn equipment and learning about the site...and we even hired 2 new people for the 2020 crew that started the following week.

Everyone was visually disturbed to see the condition of the cemetery. Hearts were broken AND filled. But everyone fell in love with this beautiful place.

A few months before we stood in the woods of Section 7 and said we would do whatever we could to help...

We didn't know what that was. (And we are still figuring it out.) But with all of the support we have gotten so far, including from the care of the descendants, the love of the volunteers and generous community partnerships we are figuring it out... together!

A VERY special thanks to the "angel" sponsors, Hallmark Stone and Mama Cat and the PotBangerz fam... They always show us how to love those here on Earth with us every day.



COMMUNITY CLEAN-UP DAY

October 17th

We thank all of the volunteers and sponsors who made our Fall Clean Up Day another huge success! An incredible amount of overgrowth was cleared in Section 7 in just a few hours. We could NOT do this work without the love and care of the community.

This event offered another opportunity to social distantly gather and remain productive during a global pandemic.

Our co-hosts and sponsors for this event were the Association for St. Louis Area Archivists, PotBangerz - Feed the Body Mission, Hallmark Stone, St. Louis County NAACP, St. Louis Genealogical Society, Woofies, For the People - STL and many other city and county leadership who came to support.

We thank everyone for supporting a mission that is bigger than any one of us....and even bigger than WPC.

Rena Schergen & Brad Sarno provided the beautiful photos of the day and we are grateful for their ongoing support and dedication.



VETERAN'S DAY CELEBRATION 🇺🇸

November 11th

It was a beautiful day to celebrate our Washington Park veterans! In partnership with the DAR who supplied the flags, we socially distanced and covered all of the cleared sections, paying our respects to each soldier along the way. We are sure our heroes appreciated the care and attention of Senator Williams, the Young family, the headstone cleaners and all of the volunteers who worked so hard to honor them this Veteran's Day.

This was the second to last event for 2020 in honor of the 100th Anniversary. We began preparing for next year and developing a plan for the future of the cemetery, all while continuing the restoration and preservation of Sections 1A & 5A. There were just a few warm weeks left!

Soon the cemetery will have a GIS map to track data that will help locate all of our veterans even faster next year! Our final event of the year was the Community Update Meeting in December.

2020 Objectives & Results



Descendant
Outreach



Community
Outreach



Sponsorship
Outreach



National
Outreach

Descendant Outreach – Advocating for the descendants and ancestry of historic heritage sites is the main goal of the St. Louis Preservation Crew. We believe that monitoring the condition of the site and the necessary restoration work should be led by the descendants of this non-endowed cemetery. Through meetings on the grounds and the *SavingWashingtonPark* website and Facebook page we have been able to connect with many Washington Park Cemetery descendants and have developed a descendant advisory group that is regularly updated and consulted.



Community Outreach - We could NOT do this work without the hard work, love, care and determination of the community. Through our Facebook page and *SavingWashingtonPark.com* website we are able to raise awareness and offer a way to contact and lend support. We have Community Update Meetings bi-monthly. During the other months, we host Community Clean Up Days and other volunteer and commemorative events.



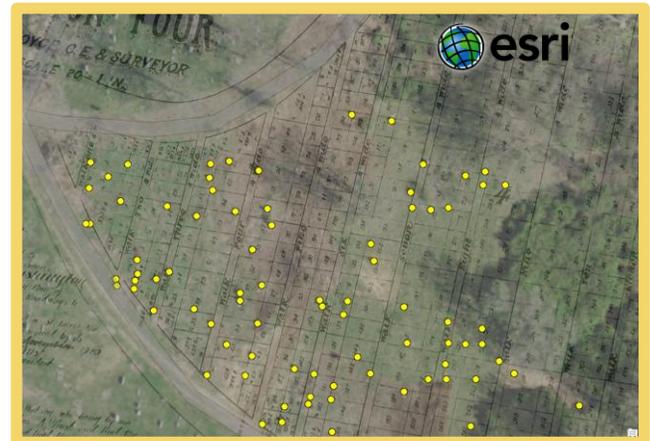
Sponsorship Outreach – Fundraising efforts are year-round. We continue to build relationships and seek innovative ways to reach new sponsors with a strong presence within our community and a commitment to protect endangered heritage sites. These include neighbors, corporate sponsors, local branches of larger companies/organizations, local businesses, churches and sports teams, and personal relationships. We are developing different sponsorship levels and additional ways to get involved in the project or other special events.

National Outreach - This year after a preliminary screening process the site was deemed eligible to be nominated for the National Historic Registry based on two Criterion: Landscape & Architecture Design and Ethnic Heritage! We have also submitted a Letter of Intent for the National Historic Preservation Grant and will submit the nomination for Historic Registry in March 2021.

The Wheels Keep Turning...

GIS Mapping & Surveying

We are working in partnership with the **St. Louis Genealogical Society** and **ESRI** to complete a GIS map that will guide all restoration work. This mapping works with a secure database that allows us to plot and display the location of graves within an intuitive interface. With walk-to-site mobile navigation, descendants, visitors and volunteers can quickly find graves without assistance or explore right from their home computer.



Preservation Plan - In addition to creating the GIS survey and mapping, we are raising funds to create a Preservation Plan that the community, county leadership and preservationists will follow. This plan will integrate issues of rehabilitation or treatment of markers, features, and landscape with issues such as priorities and the available budget. It will also address the long-term needs of the cemetery, particularly maintenance. Moreover, it will be “future-oriented” and able to remain flexible while providing real-world assistance. For example, there are severe drainage issues in the western and northern areas that may have been a result of the highway construction, but also may be due to an underground spring. The Preservation Plan will provide recommendations for resolving this issue, what other cemeteries around the country have done and the priority it should be placed.



CHICORA
Foundation, Inc.

The Pieces Are Coming Together.



Social Media Efforts

In 2020, SavingWashingtonPark.com had 646 total site visits. This includes 404 unique site visitors who are visiting for the first time, and an average time spent around 4 minutes. Visitors to our site have come as far as Canada, Germany, Israel, Seattle, Philippines, and Turkey.



Our Facebook page currently has over 300 followers and 519 Page Likes of which 63.2% Women, 36.8% Men. Our posts have reached a total of 18,889 people while posting biographies, veteran appreciation and updates 5 to 6 times per week in 2020.

We notify our Facebook audience of our monthly Event and Community Update Meetings and provide information on how they can get involved. We monitor the inbox daily and respond promptly to all inquiries. Many of our descendants, community leaders and volunteers have been able to connect with us through our Facebook and website. Our Research Team, led by Mario Moreno, regularly posts biographies and stories about our veterans to our audience in an attempt to raise awareness of those buried there and reach their descendants. We hope to use this platform to continue to reach descendants and volunteers.

We also use these mediums to announce regular meetings held with descendants to keep everyone connected and updated on the restoration progress.

Notable Donations



\$10,000 – *Midwest BankCentre* – As mentioned, we were blessed by this generous and encouraging donation from Mr. Kimbrough of Midwest BankCentre. This was used for the initial funds to purchase the equipment, pay youth and minority business contractors, and sustain operations for the year. With their support we were able to recover lost headstones and restore Sections 1A (near the entrance) & 5A!



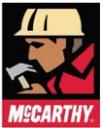
Tools & Supplies - *St. Louis County NAACP* – Mr. Bowman donated funds for tools, gloves and Gatorade for the first 2020 Community Clean-Up Day! With his support we were able to make sure our many volunteers had the water, gloves, bug spray and tools needed to social distantly divide and conquer the work that day.



Youth Sponsorship - *Julia Montroy* – Mrs. Montroy sponsored 4 youth from Teens for Tomorrow for the weekend of Oct 15th. However, her ongoing support and reliable source of encouragement for this mission is priceless!



Food & Water - *PotBangerz - Feed the Body Mission* – Mama Cat and her PotBangerz provided the in-kind breakfast and lunch for two Community Clean-Up events. They fueled our mission during that 90° Summer day, and in the Fall, she made a Hamburger Soup filled with love that warmed both our bodies and our hearts.



Safety Supplies – *McCarthy Construction* – Ryan Molen, VP, provided our crew with a generous supply of hard hats, safety goggles, safety vests and gloves. It was such a nice and welcomed surprise, and helped to ensure the safety of our crew and volunteers!



Pro-bono Legal Services – *Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner* – Mr. Kehrer has been an incredibly reliable source of support for the St. Louis Preservation Crew. From assisting with the application for 501(c)(3) exemption to drafting documents and partnership agreements and discussing other legal issues, he is always quick, responsive and willing to provide or research the answers we need.



Our “Angel Sponsor” has contributed over \$30,000 in labor and equipment. They also added our youth crew to their staff and helped with their supervision. Once the season was over the crew were all offered the opportunity to interview and continue a career with the sponsoring company.



And a very special thank you to St. Peters Cemetery for loaning us the equipment to level sunken headstones until we could purchase our own!

Financial Statements

Statement of Financial Position

As of December 31, 2020

	<u>Total</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Bank Accounts	
Checking – STLP Crew	10,424.58
Total Bank Accounts	\$ 10,424.58
Total Current Assets	\$ 10,424.58
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 10,424.58
LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	
Total Liabilities	
Equity	
Retained Earnings	
Net Income	10,424.58
Total Equity	\$ 10,424.58
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND EQUITY	\$ 10,424.58

Statement of Financial Activities

January 2020 - December 2020

	<u>Total</u>
Income	
Donations	11,279.12
Total Income	<u>\$ 11,279.12</u>
Gross Profit	<u>\$ 11,279.12</u>
Expenses	
Advertising & Marketing	16.50
Bank Charges & Fees	10.00
Board of Directors	68.25
Contractors	117.28
Job Supplies	592.30
Office Supplies & Software	28.21
Postage	22.00
Total Expenses	<u>\$ 854.54</u>
Net Operating Income	<u>\$ 10,424.58</u>
Net Income	<u>\$ 10,424.58</u>

Statement of Cash Flows

January 2020 - December 2020

	<u>Total</u>
OPERATING ACTIVITIES	
Net Income	10,424.58
Adjustments to reconcile Net Income to Net Cash provided by operations:	
Net cash provided by operating activities	<u>\$10,424.58</u>
Net cash increase for period	<u>\$10,424.58</u>
Cash at end of period	<u>\$10,424.58</u>

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Accounts

Advertising - Includes any amount spent on ads for restorations and project awareness that appear in television, newspapers, radio, print or digital magazines, billboards, and direct mail. This category will also include charges related to online display or video ads, social media, SEM (or paid search), email marketing, sponsored content and remarketing. employee benefits like career development, networking, housing and domestic help.

Board of Directors Expenses - Emergency and annual board meetings where the organization or issues are discussed will be included. We have created an approval procedure for our organization and have a good policy in place for what qualifies for this category.

Office Expenses - Common costs our organization incurs that are necessary in order to run the organization, like new equipment, software, subscriptions, printer, etc. Also includes office Supplies like pens, paper, staplers, printer ink and postage.

Professional Services - Fees charged by contractors with training in a specific field, hired by our organization to perform a service. These services exist when we do not have all the resources we need in house. Accountants, lawyers, tradesmen, security, marketing consultants - all of these are considered 'professional services.'

Job Supplies - Materials that relate to the restoration or project work we are doing. Also includes the cost of buying products, parts, or raw materials for a particular job or products that are transported directly by the vendor or other freight costs, storage costs, and shipping costs.



Debt

At this point, we do not have any debt. We are happy to report that we have continued to budget wisely and, due to unexpected pro-bono and in-kind services, still have a large portion of our donated funds from 2020 remaining! Although we are awaiting our 501(c)(3) eligibility we try and obtain additional in-kind services and discounts whenever necessary.

On-going Concerns

We are always looking for ways and generous community members who would love to help us restore this heritage site for future St. Louisans.

We are also looking for ways to reach our elder descendants and any other youth organizations that would benefit from Preservation, Ancestry or Historical Education.

We have quite a bit of money to raise; to ensure we pay our local entrepreneurs and our youth preservation crew a living wage while they are mastering these valuable skills. To partner with us on ensuring the grounds are maintained until an endowment can be established, please let us know!



Our Logo: "Sankofa"

(san - to return; ko - to go; fa - to fetch, to seek and take)

Sankofa is a word in the Tiwi language of Ghana that translates to "Go back and get it" and also refers to the Bono Adinkra symbol with a stylized heart shape or by a bird with its head turned backwards while its feet face forward carrying a precious egg in its mouth. It symbolizes taking from the past what is good and bringing it into the present in order to make positive progress through the benevolent use of knowledge.

Sankofa is often associated with the proverb: "Se wo were fi na wosankofa a yenkyi," which translates as: "It is not wrong to go back for that which you have forgotten."

Contingent Liabilities

We are also very invested in the outcome of the Ownership situation regarding the cemetery. Ownership will affect grant eligibility and the amount of progress we are able to make with the funds raised.

St. Louis must make administrative changes in the way the cemetery is operated and the ordinances that govern the property. The cemetery requires caregivers that give careful attention to the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Preservation. Most fundamentally, it is critical that the cemetery have a solid, permanent funding base. The requirements of cemetery maintenance do not change based on political vagaries or economic forecasts. In fact, the funding requirements only increase with age.

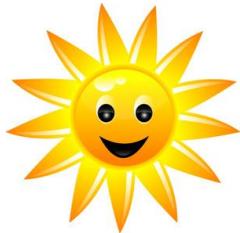
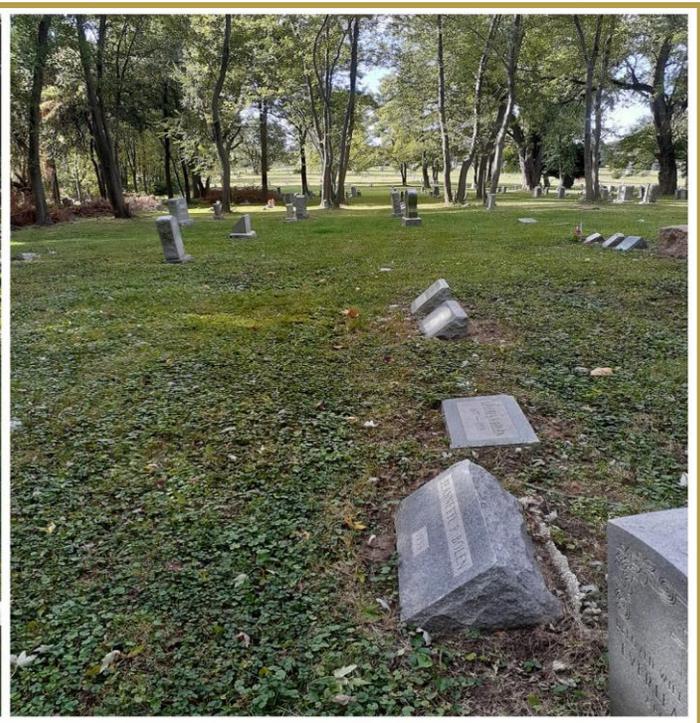
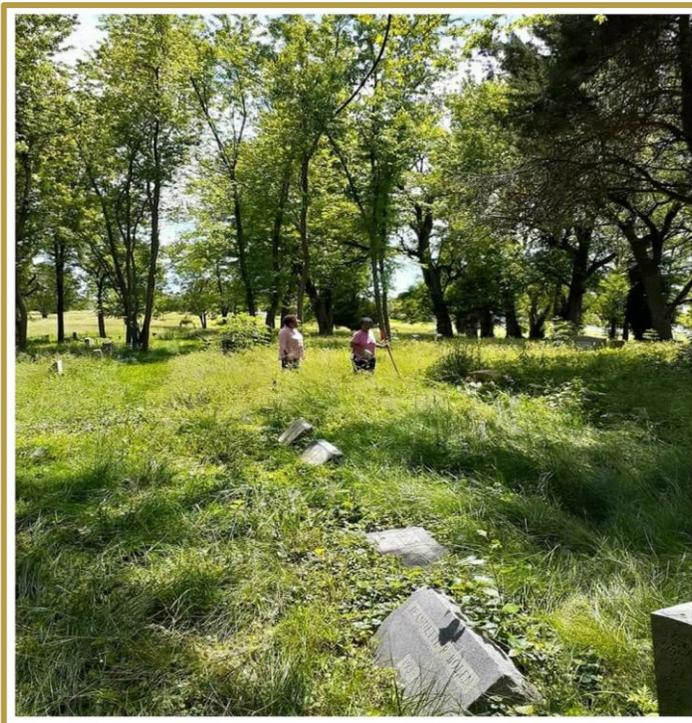
St. Louis has been slow to recognize its responsibility to these African American citizens. Because they were excluded from the city's segregated burial grounds, they had no choice but to create their own. Denied the opportunity to be buried in cemeteries with perpetual care programs, it is now appropriate that funds be extended to these burial grounds.

It is incumbent on the city council to take the steps necessary to ensure that this is made possible. Then, it is up to this leadership to fulfill its role in maintaining and preserving our African American heritage sites. This role will involve extensive efforts to bring the cemetery complex up to a reasonable standard - cleaning ditches to promote drainage, leveling the topography, resetting coping and stones, and replacing military memorials. These activities are necessary because of delayed care.

While we are aware that with current budgetary limitations actions will take time, it also seems appropriate that the needs of the African American cemeteries - ignored for decades by the City of St. Louis - be placed at the top of the city's list of responsibilities. Had they not been ignored for so long, these valuable spaces would not need the level of intervention they do. Preservation costs are continuous. We cannot, every few years, suddenly remember the cemetery and devote attention. The cemetery must receive constant and on-going care and preservation efforts.

Key Takeaways:

- ★ Our GIS Mapping of the cemetery has already begun! Volunteers of all ages are needed!
- ★ We must raise funds for a **Fulltime Crew** to maintain Washington Park Cemetery until an endowment fund can be established!
- ★ The **Preservation Plan** will ensure everyone works together to make the restoration is achievable, cost-effective, and consistent with good preservation principles.



Soon it will be Spring again and the grass will be reaching for the skies!



2020



2021

THE PRESERVATION PLAN

The **Chicora Foundation** has formalized the planning process to ensure that all critical components are covered in a clear and consistent fashion. They make certain every Preservation Plan they produce covers all of the critical issues that work together to make cemetery preservation achievable, cost-effective, and consistent with good preservation principles.

All reports begin with an Introduction. This initial section of the report describes the project and explains why and how the study was conducted. This helps future readers better understand the context in which the report was produced.

The **Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Preservation** are clearly stated. It can be easily abstracted and provided to stakeholders and helps in making long-term decisions for the cemetery and ensuring everyone is cognizant of why preservation is a critical issue. All work will also follow the American Institute for Conservation's Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics.

The cemetery, its setting, and its context will be explored. This provides an opportunity to document the physical and social setting of the cemetery. Additional research ranges from statistics and demographics of the surrounding neighborhoods to the crime rate in the vicinity of the cemetery. These are extra-local factors that affect the condition of the cemetery, the likelihood of its being used by the public, and also outline threats it may face. The plan also outlines the features that define the landscape - features that require very special preservation if the cemetery is to remain true to its original design and maintain its historic character and integrity.

Factors that continue to affect the landscape character, including the soils, the rainfall, and the plant hardiness zones of the cemetery will be researched. Many plant problems can be traced directly to improper plants being chosen and this section helps prevent that problem. The pH levels of rainfall for the cemetery will be examined, since this condition has a direct and inescapable bearing on the long-term preservation of many stones.

Administrative and legal issues that affect the cemetery will also be outlined. The critical topic of administrative control of the cemetery and how decisions are made will be reviewed.

The Preservation Plan also includes an Historical Overview or Synthesis. This section will include available maps and aerial photographs, providing a visual record of how the cemetery has changed over time.

Roads and Pedestrian Issues will also be considered. This will cover the roads in the cemetery, as well as how pedestrians navigate through the property. The condition of the pathways, and issues such as how the infrastructure has changed over time, as well as maintenance issues, will be investigated. The descendants hope to provide “universal access” to the cemetery. It is always beneficial to encourage public use of historic properties such as cemeteries. Simple modifications can encourage and support greater public use.

Vandalism prevention, lighting and security options for Washington Park will also be recommended. Cemeteries are regrettably often a target for vandalism. We will note damage due to accidents, as well as, natural events. Targets can be more effectively hardened to minimize the opportunity for vandalism. There are also opportunities for volunteer efforts, as well as other partnerships and steps that we may take. The issue of lighting is often seen as a solution, although it may dramatically affect the character of the cemetery and there is little factual evidence that it actually deters vandalism in cemeteries.

Landscape Maintenance

Oftentimes landscape maintenance is viewed only as mowing. While this simple task certainly requires the majority of maintenance budgets, there is much more to cemetery landscape maintenance and these other features, if ignored, will result in a steady decline in the landscape. In addition, through appropriate maintenance practices a great deal of stone conservation may be avoided.

Staffing needs of the cemetery should be met by adequate staffing levels. An untrained staff is little better than no staff at all. We will explore the quality of supervision and will review agreements and assess contracted job being performed.

Trees in the cemetery, planting issues, maintenance issues, and pest control will also be assessed. The selection of shrubbery, planting, fertilization, and pruning will be documented. We will work with a professional arborist and the Missouri Department of Conservation to ensure proper pesticide techniques are followed.

We will examine our mowing, fertilization, and weed control issues. In particular fertilization is a critical issue. Although often necessary for the health and well-being of the grass, many fertilizers are damaging to stones. This is where the expertise of conservators plays a critical role in developing a

sound maintenance program. We will need expert advice on fertilizers that will minimize damage to stones.

Other Maintenance Issues that will be assessed include topics such as signage, public outreach, flowers and other grave decorations, and trash problems. We will examine the general types of stone damage present at Washington Park, such as broken stones, the presence of ferrous pins, and stones that are tilted or require simple resets. Conservation methods and recommendations will represent the best practice in the field today.

Evaluations and recommendations concerning plot fences and ironwork will be included. The Preservation Plan will provide clear specifications on painting, since this task alone will often add years to the life of cemetery ironwork - and it is a task that can be readily accomplished by volunteers.

Priorities

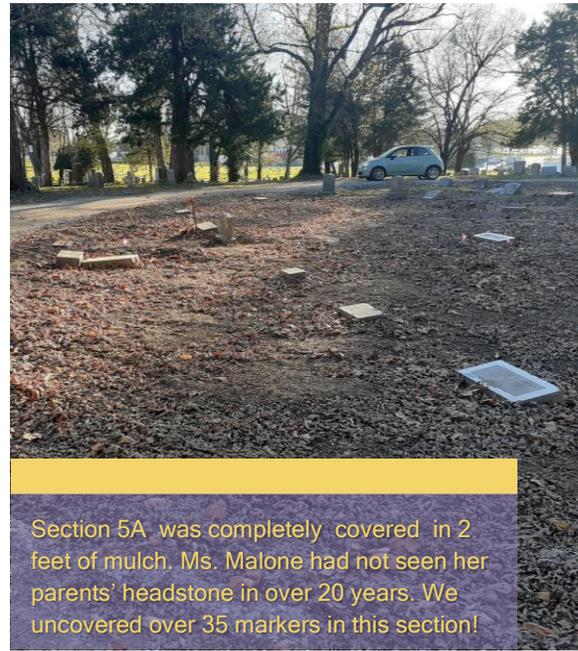
All of the recommendations will be prioritized and assigned costs (where possible). Priorities are outlined as 1st, 2nd, and 3rd. First priorities are those recommended for action during the current fiscal or calendar year. Some may be issues that have the potential to affect the health and safety of the public. Many are planning issues that require immediate attention of city council or require other administrative changes. Second priorities are those that should be budgeted for over the next 2-3 years. And third priorities are those that may be postponed for 3-5 years. Their lower priority, however, should not be mistaken for the actions being trivial or unimportant. [Priorities will provide a good map of capital projects necessary at Washington Park and may include repair of vaults, individual stones, roads, major landscape restoration, etc.]

YOUTH EDUCATION





2020 PROGRESS



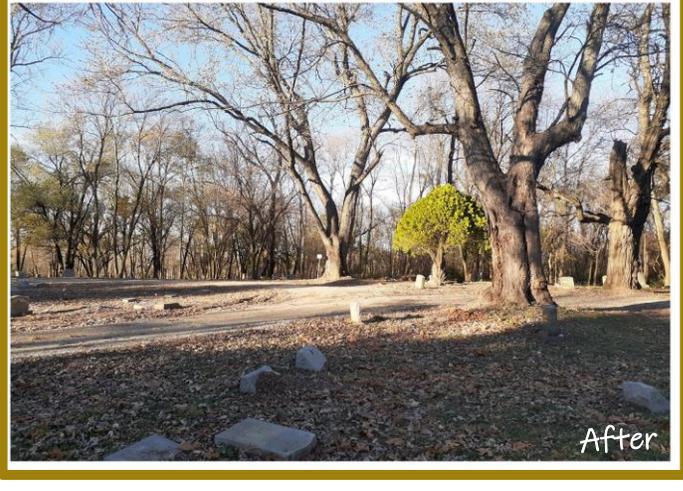
Section 5A was completely covered in 2 feet of mulch. Ms. Malone had not seen her parents' headstone in over 20 years. We uncovered over 35 markers in this section!

Locating Ancestry









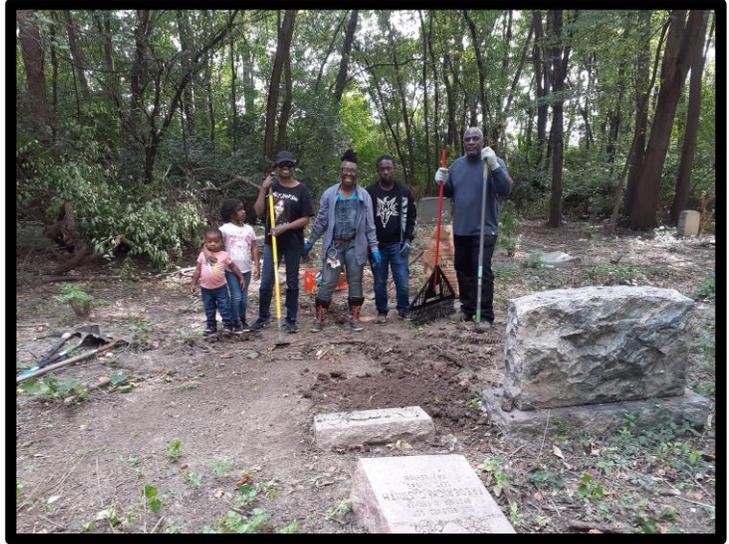
BEFORE & AFTER







THANK YOU Descendants & Volunteers!!!



See you
in 2021!!!



