



Evergreen Cemetery

Public Engagement Summary

DECEMBER 7, 2017



Evergreen Cemetery is a historic African American burial ground, created in 1891 and located in the East End of Richmond, VA. It is the resting place for many of Richmond's African American leaders of the 19th and 20th centuries, including Maggie L. Walker, John Mitchell, Jr, and Rev. J. Andrew Bowler. There are an estimated 5,000 plots in Evergreen, most of which have become overgrown after over 40 years of neglect.





Dear Evergreen Families and Friends,

It has been a pleasure getting to know so many of you over the past several weeks, as I've settled into my role as Caretaker of Historic Evergreen Cemetery. My position is a humbling one, and you have generously shared your memories, offered suggestions, and discussed the many ways that Evergreen is special to you and your loved ones. Thank you!

The word "caretaker" embodies nicely the scope and spirit in which the Enrichmond Foundation is approaching the renewal and restoration of Evergreen. Our mission (and that of all who work or volunteer here) is to take care—of visitor needs, as facilitators for families looking for loved ones; of grave markers, as stewards of this sacred place; and of records, as scholars of the cemetery's—and our nation's—history.

How do we make it easier for families to locate loved ones at Evergreen? How should we go about restoring and maintaining this special place? And how do we properly honor those resting here, so that their lives and contributions are appreciated by more of our young people, locally, regionally, and nationally? These are just a few of the critical questions that you raised at our community gathering November 4th, which was a meaningful and important turning point in a journey that began long ago.

For years, stalwart volunteers, determined family members, and passionate public officials have called for Evergreen's restoration and a renewed commitment to honoring those resting here. There have been false starts and detours along the way, but today there is real momentum behind Evergreen's renaissance, and our shared mission continues to capture the hearts and minds of volunteers of all ages, who choose to dedicate their time and energy to shining a light on this treasure and the 10,000 or more heroes buried here.

There is much work to do together. Many grave markers are threatened and require urgent repair. Cemetery records are in need of conservation and processing. Brush and overgrowth must be removed, in ways that allow for easy maintenance moving forward. And family memories and histories need to be recorded and preserved for future generations. How do we work together to accomplish all of this and more?

We must continue the conversation begun November 4th—in subsequent informal community gatherings, while pulling weeds together on-site, and in discussions by phone and email. We need to get to know one another, openly share our ideas and concerns, and discuss constructive solutions that move us forward.

Just a few years ago, a successful, ambitious restoration of Evergreen was unthinkable. Today, it is not only possible, but within our reach over the next few years.

Thank you, again, for returning to Evergreen and for joining in this remarkable restoration effort. I have no doubt that, together, we will ensure Evergreen's future, forever.

Yours,

Ted Maris-Wolf

"Just a few years ago, a successful, ambitious restoration of Evergreen was unthinkable. Today, it is not only possible, but within our reach over the next few years."



The Enrichmond Foundation Mission Statement

Our mission is to serve the people, parks, and public spaces of the City of Richmond. Since 1990, we have enacted our mission by supporting The Department of Parks, Recreation, and Community Facilities through citizen involvement, education, and fundraising. The most prevalent of these services is acting as an umbrella non-profit organization for over one hundred volunteer groups and special initiatives or 'Friends' groups.

Our partners include community and civic associations, outdoor enthusiasts, garden and history groups, and other citizen-based groups whose primary interest is to maintain, restore, preserve, or improve Richmond's public recreational resources.

By affiliating with our Foundation and becoming an official partner, these committed individuals are given the opportunity to apply for grants and solicit tax-deductible contributions.

In addition, they can lean on us for organizational leadership, resources and networking. The Enrichmond Foundation is governed by a board of directors and works closely with The Department of Parks, Recreation, and Community Facilities. This relationship began when the Foundation was first established in 1990 with the assistance of the Citizen's Advisory Board and The Department of Parks, Recreation, and Community Facilities. The purpose is and has always been to provide a means for citizens to give back to their communities.

The purpose of this document

The path forward for the Evergreen Cemetery is one filled with possibility. Enrichmond is committed to the ongoing efforts of preservation and enhancement of this historic property, and this document summarizes the public input gathered during an outreach workshop on the grounds of Evergreen Cemetery. This information will be the starting point for design discussions, programming explorations, and preservation strategies.



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Why This Plan, Why Now?



Introduction

The sacred grounds of Evergreen Cemetery are in need of not only restoration and preservation but also a renewed vision. This planning process will allow the community of Richmond to create that vision along with a sustainable plan for maintaining the property moving forward.



Enrichmond's New Role

Enrichmond Foundation acquired the cemetery in May 2017 and, in partnership with the Virginia Outdoors Foundation, will place it under a conservation easement to protect it from future development. In addition to protecting the land, Enrichmond will enlist volunteer, professional, and nonprofit assistance to return Evergreen to an accessible state. Major efforts over the next several years will include: clearing overgrowth and refuse, maintaining cleared areas, mapping gravesites, recording grave information, increasing visitor safety, and making the cemetery and its records available to families of those interred.

Enrichmond's acquisition of Evergreen is the culmination of six years of research, relationship-building, partnerships, and persistence. For three years Enrichmond has supported volunteer groups in the cemetery and witnessed their heroic dedication and effort. The next chapter for Evergreen will continue to include many of its amazing volunteers and committed organizations, with the added support from Enrichmond's 26 years of successful public space building and partners.

Enrichmond is dedicated to making Evergreen's sacred grounds public and accessible to all – most especially to family members of those interred. The acquisition also represents Enrichmond's

first step in bringing the three cemeteries of Evergreen under one coordinated restoration effort. For the last year, Enrichmond has applied the same dedication and persistence to the acquisition of East End Cemetery and the Paupers' cemeteries.

The Purpose of This Process

This process provides a refreshed community outreach approach that gathers vital input and a common vision for the Evergreen Cemetery. Funding from Dominion Energy made the event possible.

The purpose of this plan will be to:

1. Establish a community-driven vision for the ongoing preservation and rehabilitation of the Evergreen Cemetery property while defining more specific visions for the future; and
2. Create guiding principles for the development of a detailed master plan and toolbox of best practices to guide future improvements to Evergreen Cemetery.

"It always seems impossible until it is done."

—Nelson Mandela





1891

Evergreen Cemetery is Established

The Evergreen Cemetery Association begins the cemetery but makes no allowance for perpetual care in its charter.



1970

The Property is Sold

In 1970, the Evergreen Cemetery Association sold its more than 5,000 plots to Metropolitan Memorial Services, which soon went bankrupt.



1990s

Property Declines

Little upkeep and maintenance occurred during the 90s.



2017

Conservation Conversations Begin

John Sydnor, executive director of Enrichmond, had a lunch meeting with Katrina Entzminger, the eldest child in the Entzminger family, to discuss how Enrichmond could help maintain the cemetery and protect this historic treasure. Over the next six years, another twenty or so meetings would take place, and Katrina introduced John to the other members of the Entzminger family.

Property Timeline



1934

Maggie Walker's Death

After a lifetime of breaking barriers for not only African Americans but also women, Maggie Walker dies and her body is interred in Evergreen Cemetery.



1981

The Property Changes Hands Again

A group of black funeral-home directors bought the site at auction. Eventually, Mr. Entzminger bought out the other owners and became sole owner of the property.



1999

Volunteer Efforts

In 1999, NPS employee Jim Bell led volunteer efforts to clear the overgrown vegetation in Evergreen Cemetery. In 2007, Veronica Davis spearheaded renewed volunteerism on the site, and in 2008, John Shuck joined the charge. Mr. Shuck has sustained a stalwart team focused on Evergreen and East End Cemeteries up to the present.



2017

Enrichmond's Aquisition

After six years of earned trust and relationship building, the Enrichmond Foundation officially purchased the Evergreen Cemetery property from the Entzminger family.

Evergreen's Story

The timeline above indicates a few of the major milestones in Evergreen Cemetery's history. The earliest vision for the property was to create a place of honor for the affluent African American community as a counterpart to the Hollywood Cemetery and the Oakwood Cemetery that only allowed Caucasian burials. While the property originators had good intentions, no funding of perpetual care was planned for the property. This would prove unfortunate for the maintenance and care later in the twentieth century.

Notable Burials from the Early Twentieth Century

- » John Mitchell Jr. (July 11, 1863 – December 3, 1929) a newspaper publisher, city alderman, banker and advocate for African American equality
- » Maggie Lena Walker (July 15, 1864 – December 15, 1934) a community leader and the first woman bank founder and president in the United States.
- » John Andrew Bowler (March 1, 1862 – October 7, 1935) a Baptist minister and schoolteacher who helped organize the first school for blacks in Church Hill
- » Sarah Garland Boyd Jones (February 1866–May 11, 1905) Virginia's first African American woman doctor

The property changed hands several times during the latter part of the twentieth century. This was also a time when burials were still taking place in New Evergreen plots; however, the historic burials grounds were largely ignored with little maintenance which allowed invasive species to take over many of the areas.

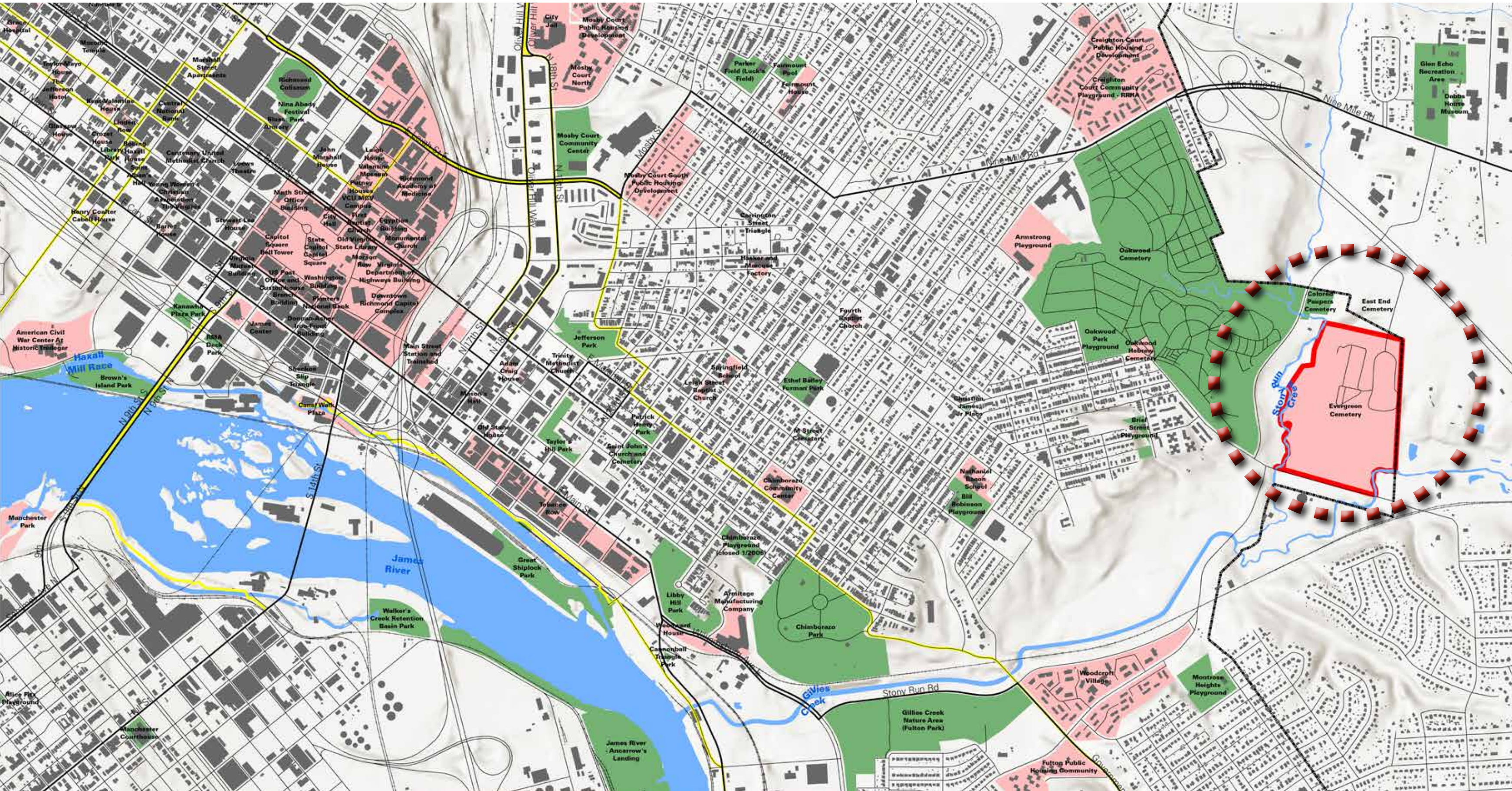
The twenty-first century brought new relationships and conversations about the potential to put the property into conservation permanently. Negotiations between the Entzminger family, the owners, and the Enrichmond Foundation yielded a way to protect this historical asset in a way that would truly give it back to the citizens of Richmond.

The acquisition of the property in May of 2017 meant that a vision of preservation and enhancement could be realized for Evergreen Cemetery. The Enrichmond Foundation enlisted the consultants at Stantec along with staff/students from the L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs Center for Urban and Regional Analysis to begin a master planning process in September of 2017. In November of 2017, the cornerstone public outreach event took place in the cemetery with around 75 community members participating in various activities and providing their crucial input.

The master plan process will continue into 2018, and a more detailed schedule can be found in Chapter 3 of this document.

Property Context

All mapping provided by the L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs Center for Urban and Regional Analysis



- Evergreen Cemetery
- Area of Interest
- Park/Public Area
- City Boundary
- Building Footprint
- Major Road
- Road
- Bike Route
- Railroad
- Body of Water

Context Map of Evergreen Cemetery in Downtown Richmond's East End Neighborhood



Top, left to right / 1 Yucca plant representative of African American cultural landscape / **2** Stony Run Parkway / **3** Existing entry monument

Bottom, left to right / 4 Open space burials from late-twentieth century / **5** Historic burial sites overgrown with vegetation

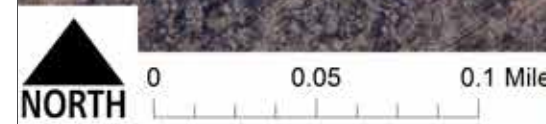


 Property Boundary

Property Description

The Evergreen Cemetery property of 60 acres is accessed off of Stony Run Parkway. The western edge is delineated by a stream corridor with Oakwood Cemetery just on the other side of the adjacent roadway. To the north, both the Pauper's Cemetery and East End Cemetery are part of the current approach sequence into the Evergreen property. Gilles Creek Recycling is located across the eastern boundary of the property, and East Richmond Road creates the southern boundary. The following pages illustrate the physical features of the site including topography, floodplains, tree cover, and resource management.

Evergreen Cemetery Aerial

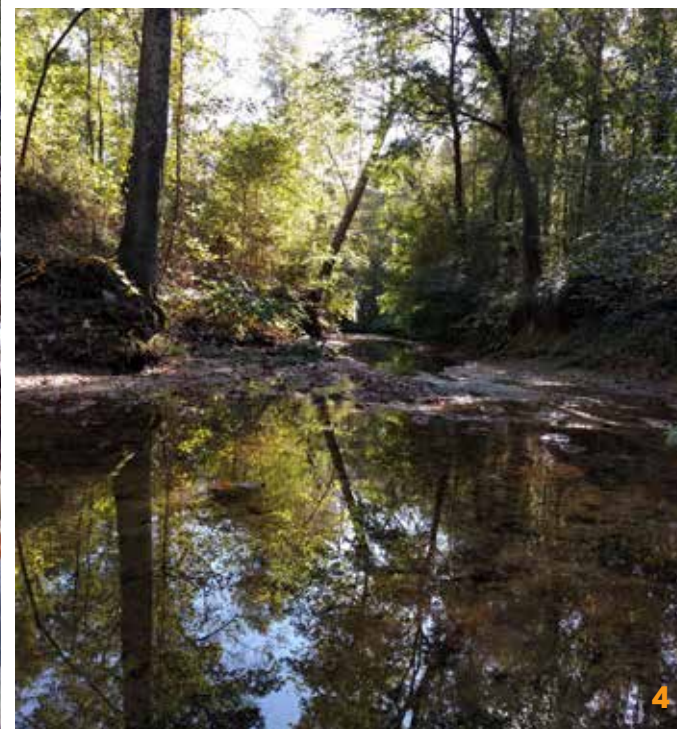




Left / 1 Tree lined, winding stream corridor

Bottom / 2 Severe erosion cutting away at stream bank

Right / 3 Evident erosion along stream exposing tree roots
4 Stream is key ecosystem on the property

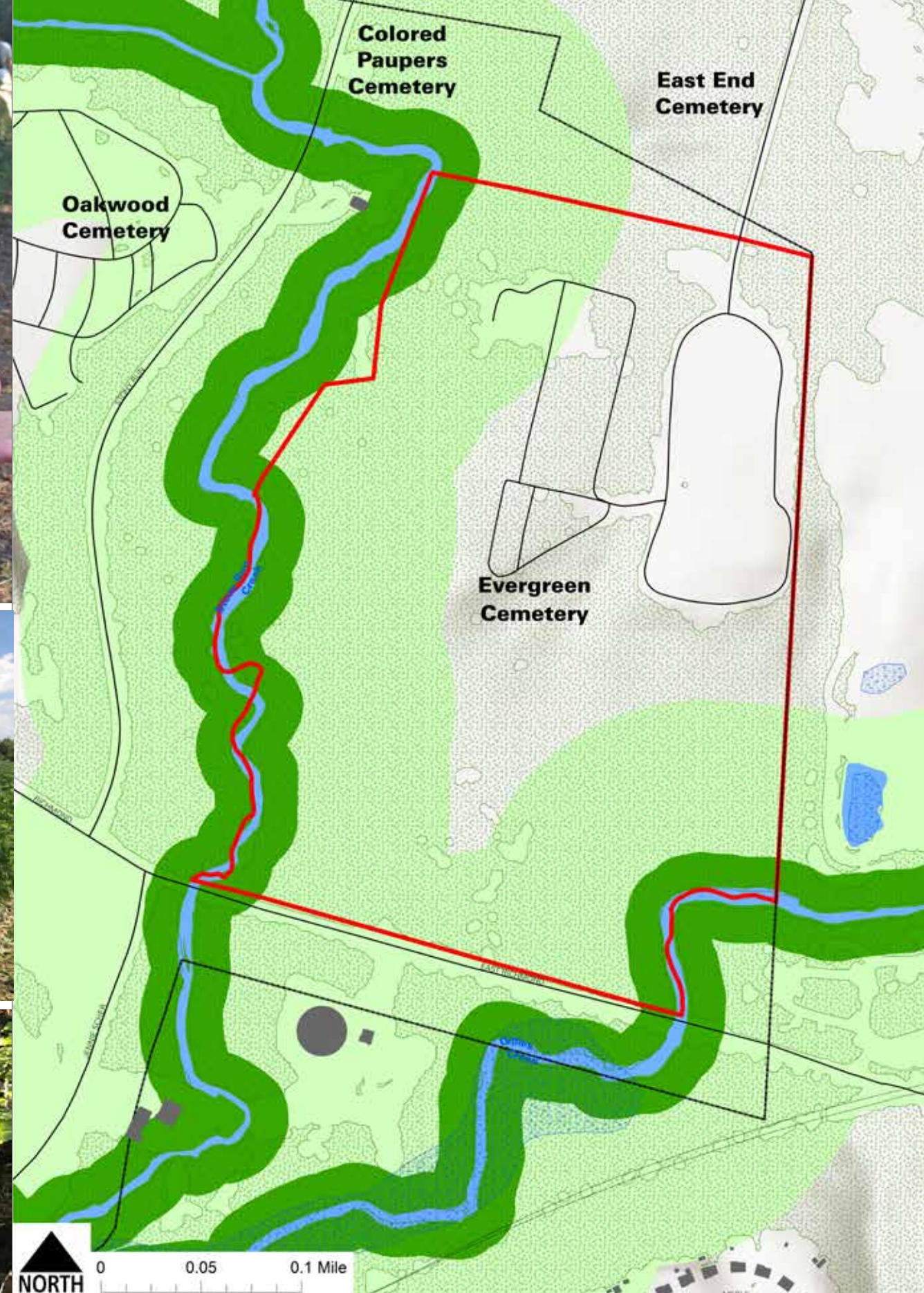


- █ Evergreen Cemetery
- Building Footprint
- 10' Contour
- Road
- ▨ 100 Year Flood Plain
- Railroad
- █ Park/Public Area
- █ Body of Water
- City Boundary

Evergreen Cemetery Contour Map & Floodplain



Top, left to right / 1 Unique caterpillar
/ 2 Box turtle **/ 3** Baby turtle
Center, left to right / 4 English ivy,
 an invasive exotic species on site **/ 5**
 Kudzu, an invasive exotic species on
 site
Bottom / 6 Stream bed with river rocks



▭ Evergreen Cemetery
▭ Forested Area
▭ Wetland Area
▭ Resource Protection Area
▭ Resource Management Area
▭ City Boundary
▭ Building Footprint
 Road
 Railroad
 Body of Water

Evergreen
 Cemetery
 Forest, Wetland
 and Resource
 Protection

2

Where We Want To Go



GUIDING THE VISION

Evergreen Cemetery is a burial ground but is also a public park. The sacred space should respect its history while welcoming visitors of the twenty-first century.

Outreach Strategy

On a cool, damp Saturday morning in early November, the community gathered at Evergreen Cemetery to create a vision for its future. A half day workshop was crafted to solicit input on a variety of themes including: ENVIRONMENT, HISTORY, COMMUNITY, and IMPLEMENTATION.

Weeks of logistical planning and site preparation came together to create a successful event filled with valuable community input.

Opening remarks were given by the following individuals:

- » John Sydnor Executive Director, Enrichmond
- » Mark O. Webb, Senior Vice President, Dominion Energy
- » Viola Baskerville, Trustee, Virginia Outdoors Foundation

The Stantec consulting team then gave the audience an overview of the master plan process and presented initial opportunities and challenges. Before breaking out into the activity stations, the crowd participated in live polling utilizing their smart phones. The input received during those polls is outlined in the following section.

After the live polling, the crowd was divided into four groups that then rotated through the activity stations in thirty minute increments. Casual strolling and discovery also took place during the morning with many participants marveling at the grandeur of the family burial plots.

The day concluded with the Enrichmond Foundation planting a tree to serve as a temporary memorial for all those buried in Evergreen Cemetery. The tree symbolizes the initial step of honoring this special place and the history it holds.

Tremendous enthusiasm for the beginning of this process could be felt by the crowd of around 75 participants. The team shared that this was only the first opportunity to provide input and to expect to see the team again in early 2018.

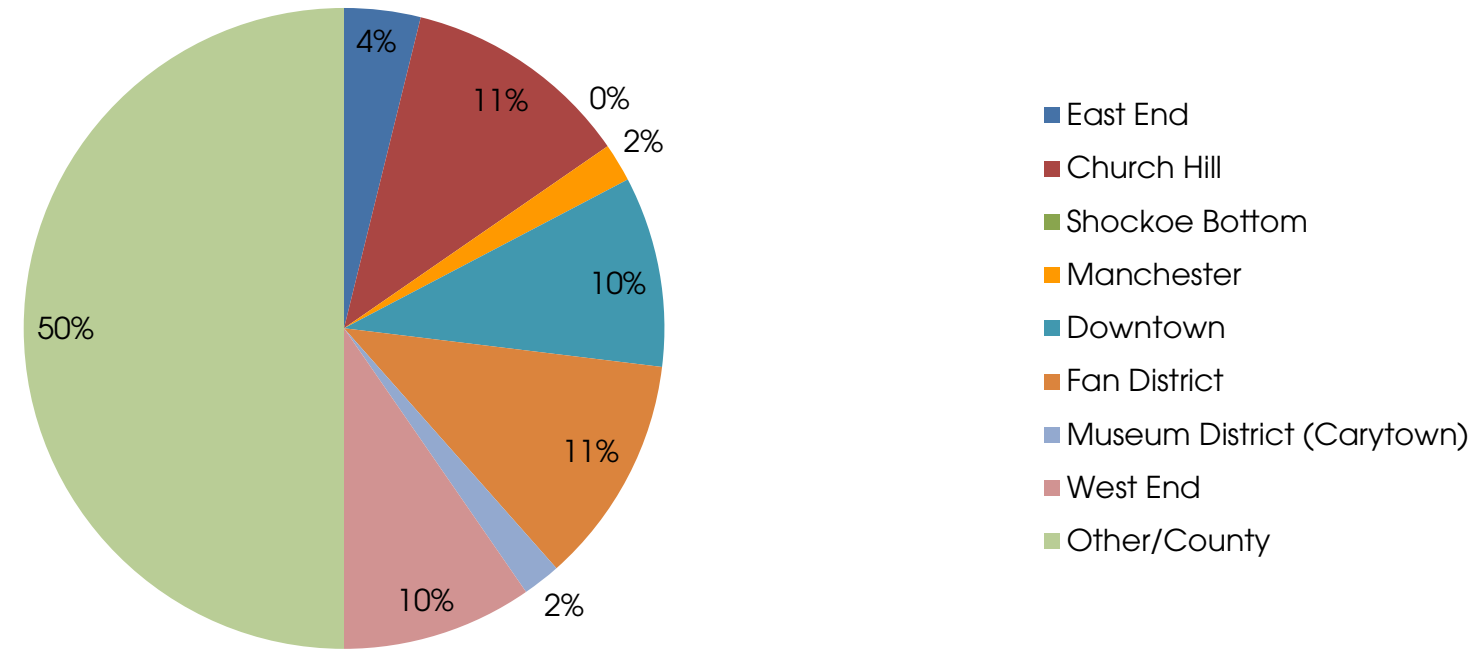
"To stand still in the same old rut would be a positive crime. Make no SMALL plans. Small plans have NO MAGIC to stir people's blood. LET US BE STRONG AND MAKE BIG PLANS."

—Maggie Walker

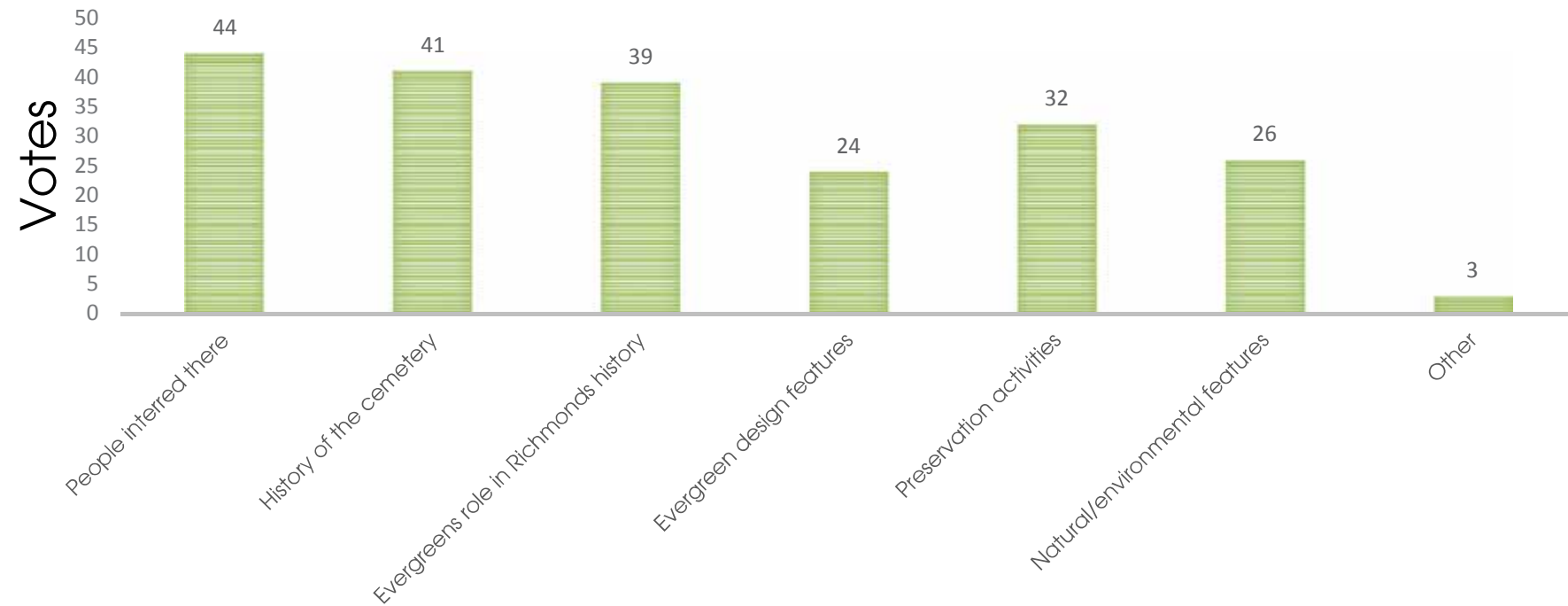


Live Polling Results

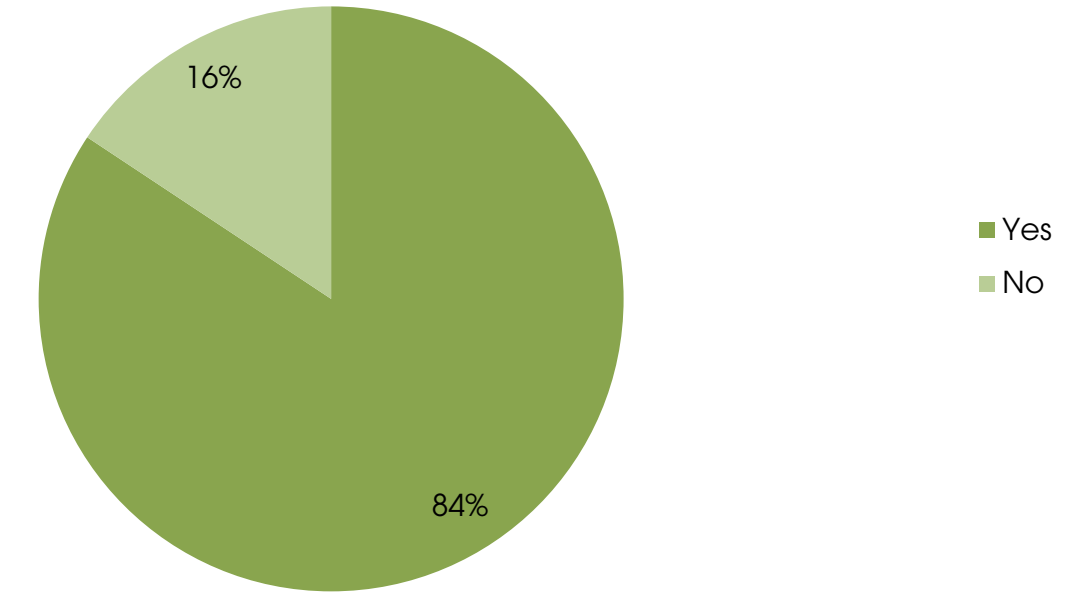
Where in Richmond do you reside?



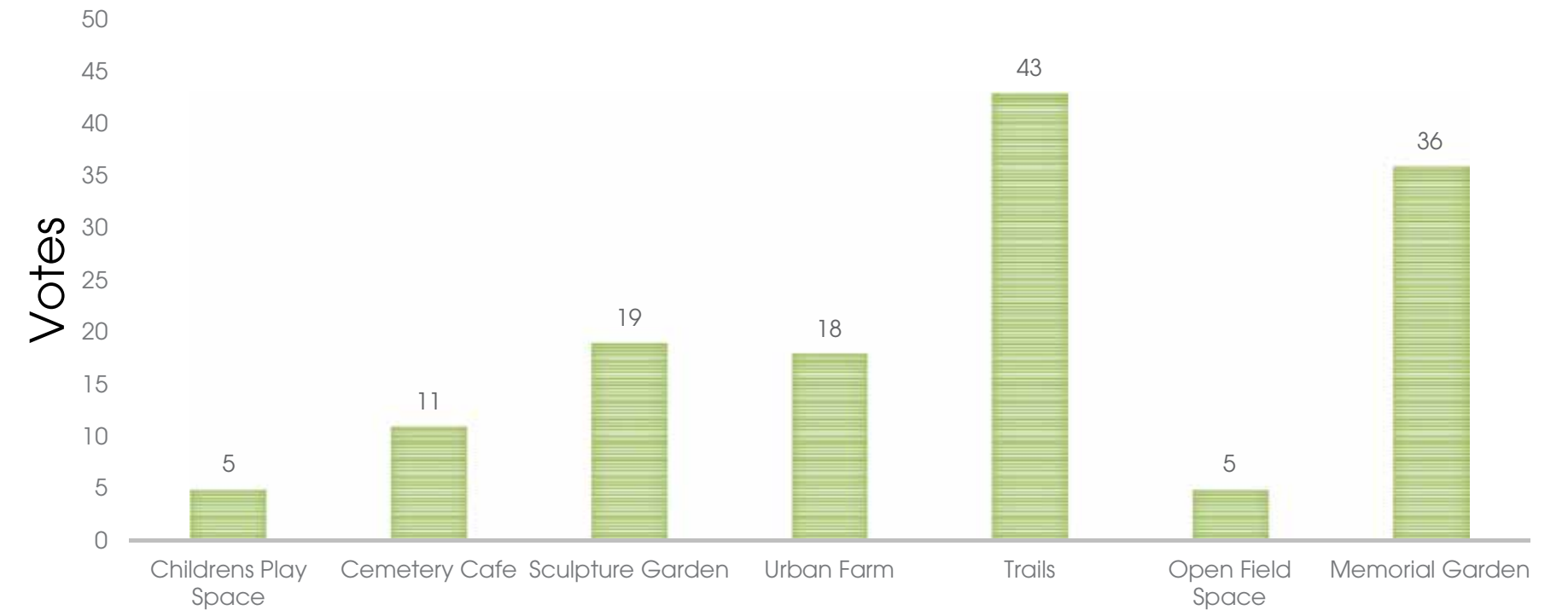
If you went on a tour of Evergreen Cemetery, what would you be interested in learning about? Select all that apply.



Is the Evergreen Cemetery a space you feel safe in currently?

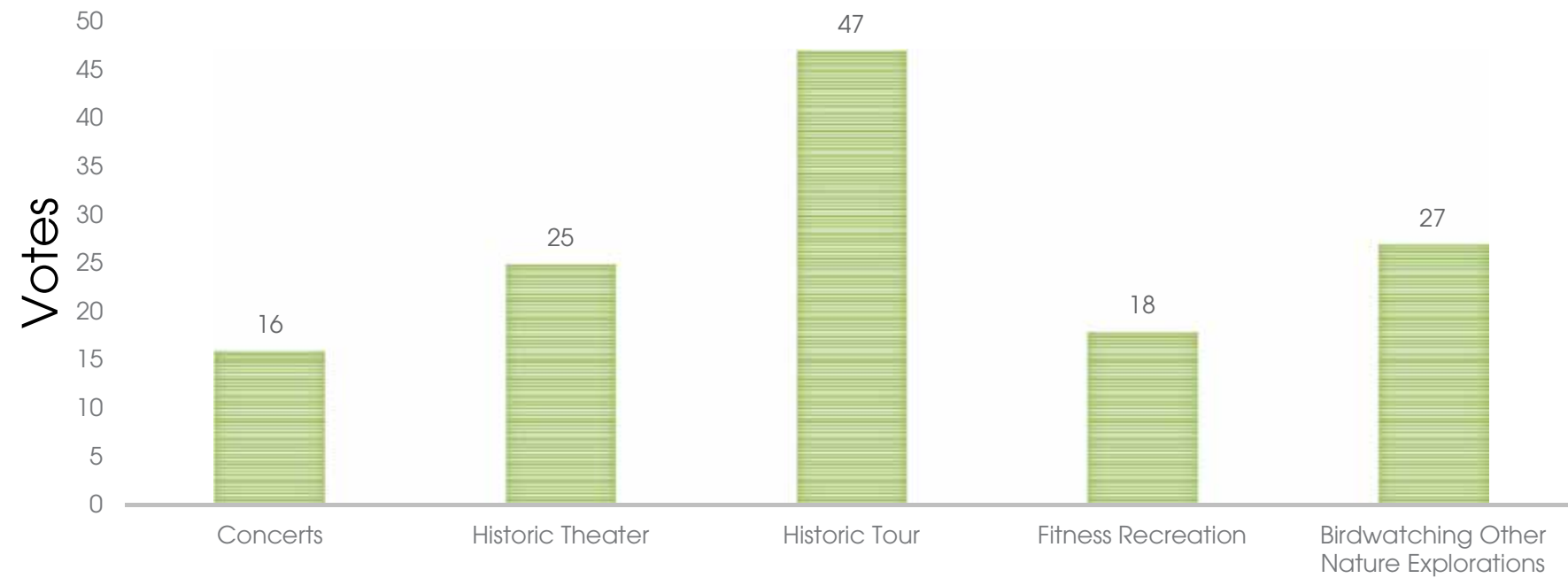


Which of the following potential amenities are you likely to utilize here at Evergreen Cemetery?

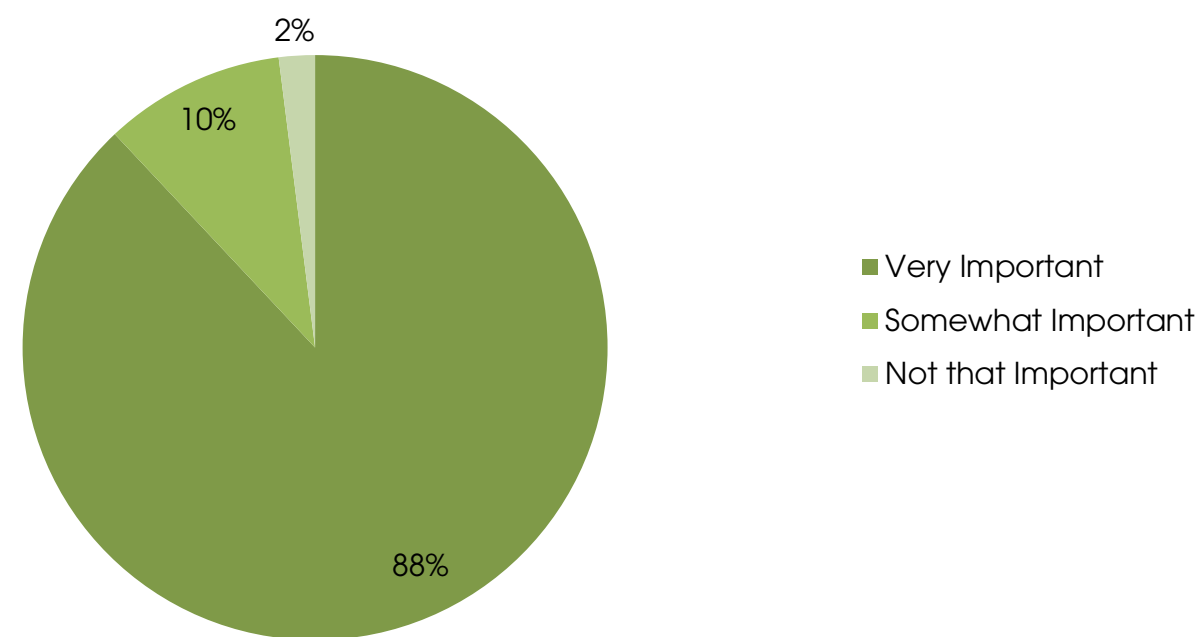


Live Polling Results

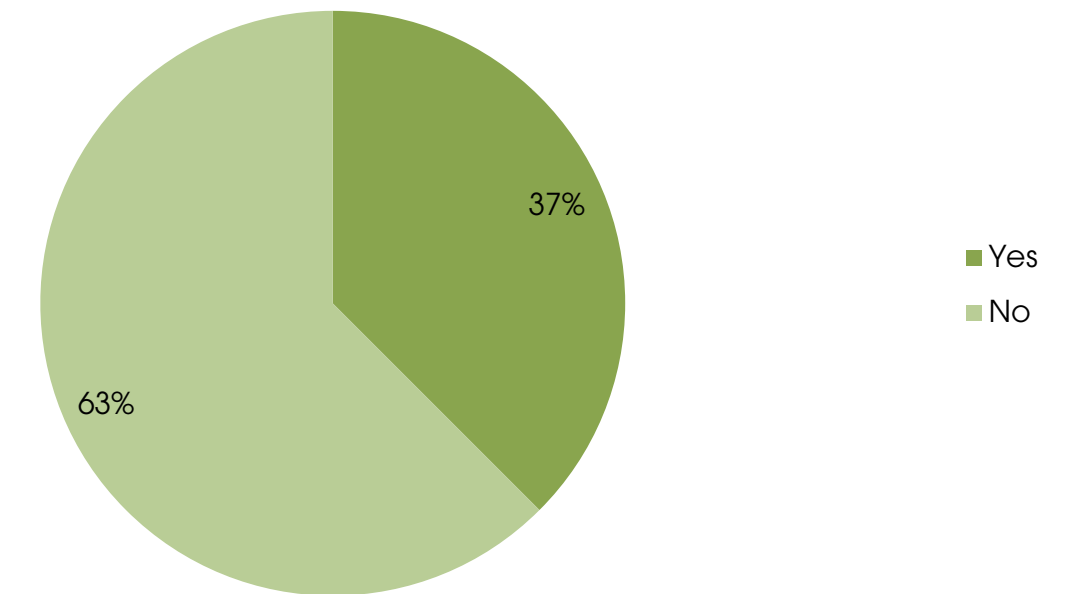
Which of the following programs are you likely to participate in at Evergreen Cemetery? Select all that apply.



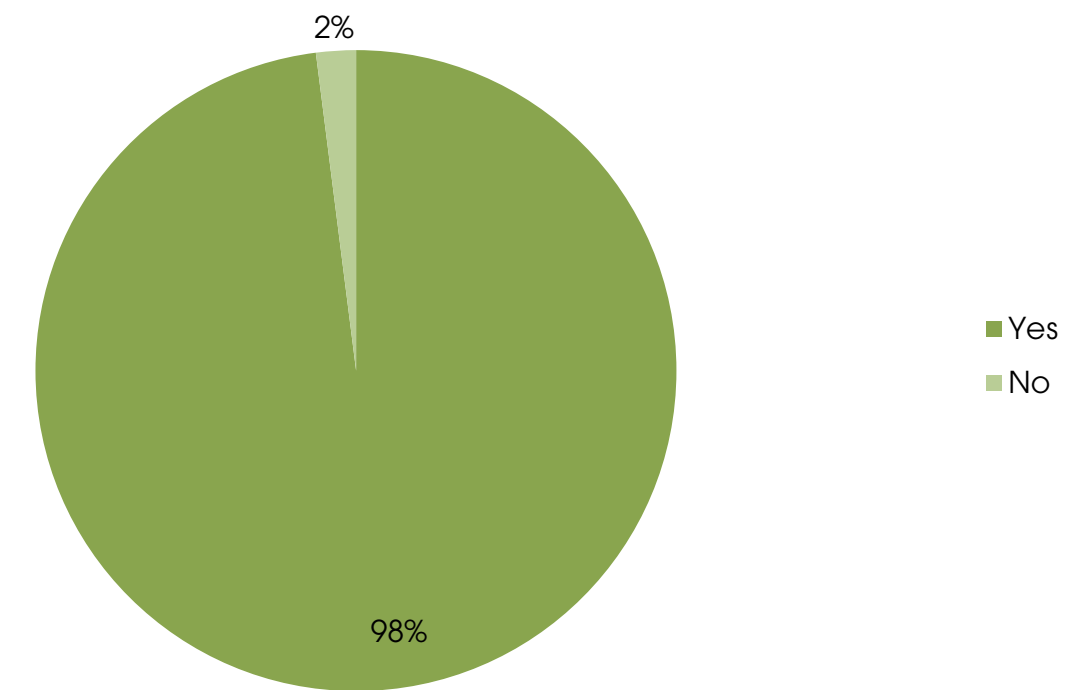
How important is providing interpretive signage within Evergreen Cemetery?



Have you ever participated in volunteer efforts at Evergreen Cemetery?



Would you be willing/able to volunteer in the future?



Environment Station Notes

The following ideas are from event participants at the Environment Station:

Memorial Day Cycle of Care: People visit gravesites on Memorial Day, and clean/maintain gravesites. How do we create a more frequent pattern of care from this annual cycle?

Slave gravesites: Event attendees from the Valentine Museum mentioned that slaves of prominent white families have

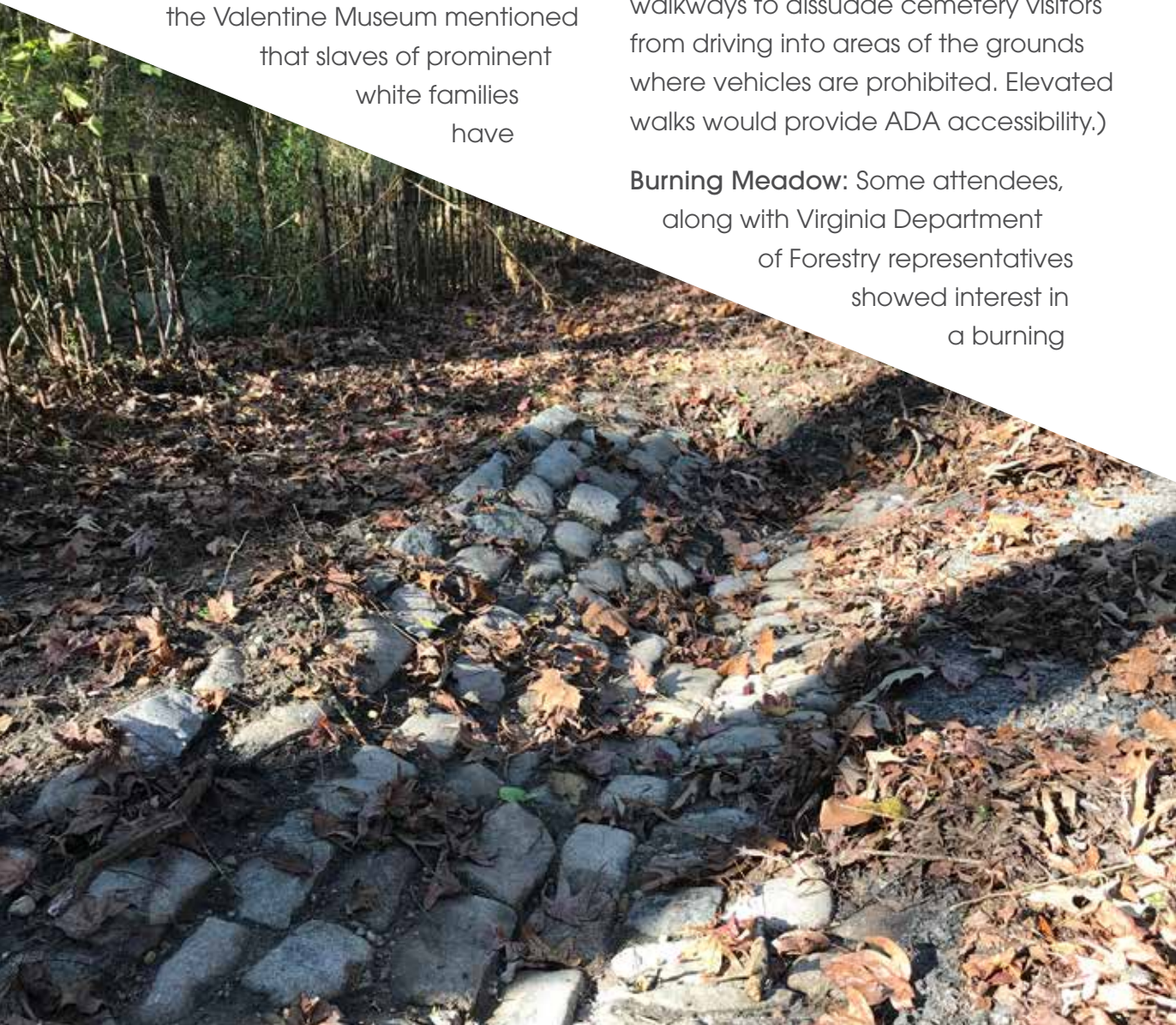
their own plots at Evergreen. They were uncertain if their grave markers persist today.

Elevated walks: Many attendees mentioned little need for elevated boardwalks, aside from lower elevation areas near the old entrance that may potentially get wet. Still, these areas rarely flood. (Some attendees did note the value of established elevated walkways to dissuade cemetery visitors from driving into areas of the grounds where vehicles are prohibited. Elevated walks would provide ADA accessibility.)

Burning Meadow: Some attendees, along with Virginia Department of Forestry representatives showed interest in a burning

meadow. This could be an educational tool, and valuable in areas with few grave markers. Potential areas include the current “kudzu field,” and large open loop road that must be mowed.

Memorial Grove: The current kudzu field could be planted with Long Leaf Pine (or Short leaf, or Bald Cypress trees), to function as a kind of cathedral. This “memorial grove” could acknowledge persons interred without grave markers. This memorial grove could be programmed/ have group gathering space.



Gillies Creek runs along the western border of the cemetery property. Participants took a walkabout down to the stream corridor during the workshop. The original cobblestone entrance to the cemetery was also discovered.



Left, top & bottom / Participants contemplate their input on the visual preference surveys.

Above / Participants take a look at the beautiful view down Gillies Creek.

Miscellaneous design-related ideas:

- » Use plant species intentionally to bring people to Evergreen. Tree and shrub species as teaching tools; arboretum.
- » Incorporate trees in an allée, or on the inside perimeter of the loop road. This will discourage visitors from driving on grounds inside of the loop.
- » Selectively thin forested areas. Replant with stable/desirable trees.

- » Utilize goat herds to control vegetation. Herd will need to visit Evergreen multiple times each year to demonstrate vegetation control. Goat herds can dovetail into programming to get young people interested in visiting Evergreen more frequently.
- » Richmond Tree Stewards is a local group interested in forest health and tree care. They may be a good resource as Evergreen decides how to maintain a healthy forest while eradicated unwanted vegetation.

- » An attendee from VCU mentioned a valuable text specifically concerned with Richmond’s African American Cemeteries by Veronica Davis. *Here I Lay My Burdens Down: A History of the Black Cemeteries of Richmond, Virginia*

Environment Station Results | Open Space Visual Preference Survey

Participants voted utilizing "dotmocracy" and were given three colored dots to vote on their preferred design approach to open space within Evergreen Cemetery. The results are below:

Wildflower Meadow



Animal Pasture



Pick Your Own Bouquet Cutting Garden



Terraced Lawn



Grasses & Sedges



Orchard



Urban Farm



Grasses with Mown Paths



Multi-use Green



Hay Field



Environment Station Results | Stream Restoration Visual Preference Survey

Participants voted utilizing "dotmocracy" and were given three colored dots to vote on their preferred design approach to stream restoration within Evergreen Cemetery. The results are below:



30%



21%



17%



14%



5%



5%



3%



2%



2%



2%

Environment Station Results | Stream Restoration Visual Preference Survey

Participants voted utilizing "dotmocracy" and were given three colored dots to vote on their preferred design approach to stream restoration within Evergreen Cemetery. The results are below:



25%



21%



13%



11%



11%



6%



6%



4%



2%



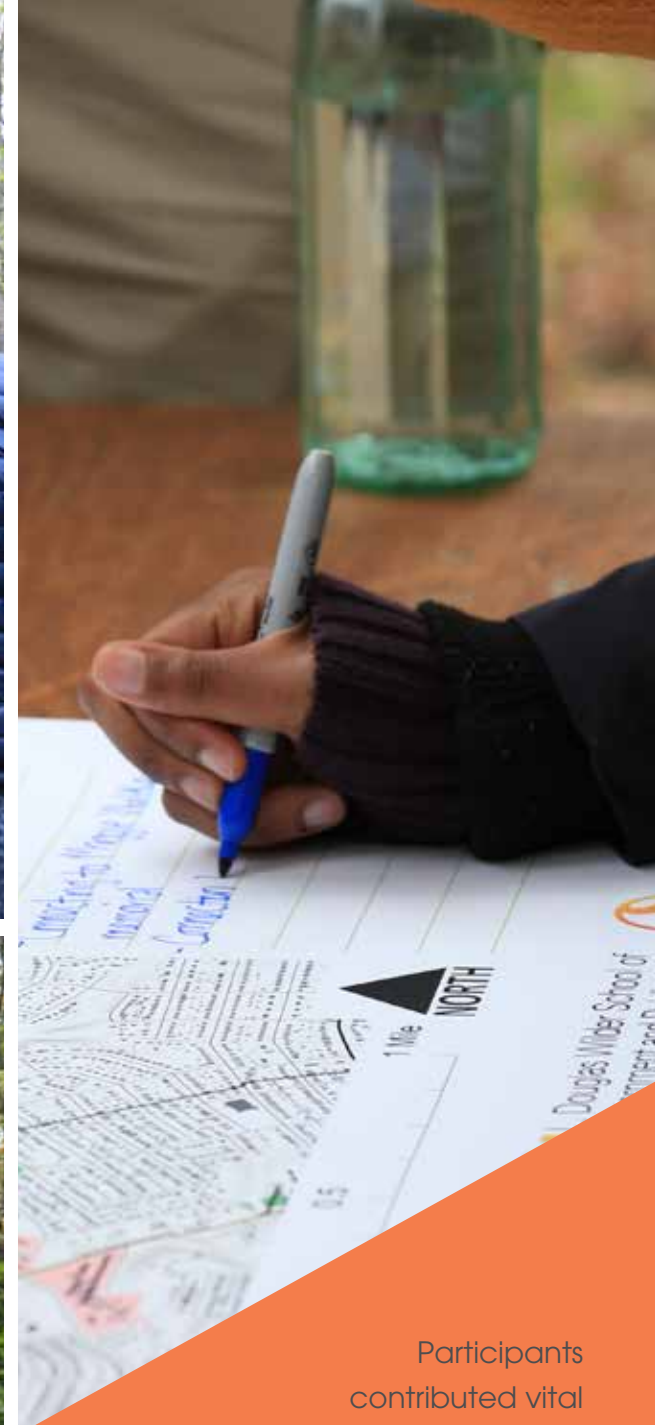
2%

Community Station Results | Wordle of Preferred Community Uses & Future Amenities

Participants were encouraged to freely think about potential community uses and future amenities and write them in the provided word bubble. Those responses have been compiled into the wordle below, a graphic that increases the size of the word the more often it appears.



The Community Station included a mapping exercise that asked participants to explore the potential community connections to and from Evergreen Cemetery.



Participants contributed vital local connections for consideration and also gave valuable feedback on potential and appropriate community uses for the site.

Community Station Results | Community Uses Visual Preference Survey

Participants voted utilizing "dotmocracy" and were given three colored dots to vote on their preferred design approach to community uses within Evergreen Cemetery. The results are below:

Sculpture Garden



History Tours



Historical Theater



Beekeeping



Fitness



Play Space



Cemetery Cafe



Concerts



Urban Farm



Yoga



Community Station Results | Trails Visual Preference Survey

Participants voted utilizing "dotmocracy" and were given three colored dots to vote on their preferred design approach to trails within Evergreen Cemetery. The results are below:



28%



27%



17%



12%



5%



5%



5%



4%



4%






1%

Community Station Results | Compiled Results Mapping Exercise

Community members were shown a context map with the extents of Richmond's Downtown, East End, portions of Henrico County, and Evergreen Cemetery's location. Participants were encouraged to draw physical connections (pedestrian, hiking, biking) and discuss larger community connections related to culture, history, and society.

BIKING/PEDESTRIAN CONNECTIONS (refer to map)

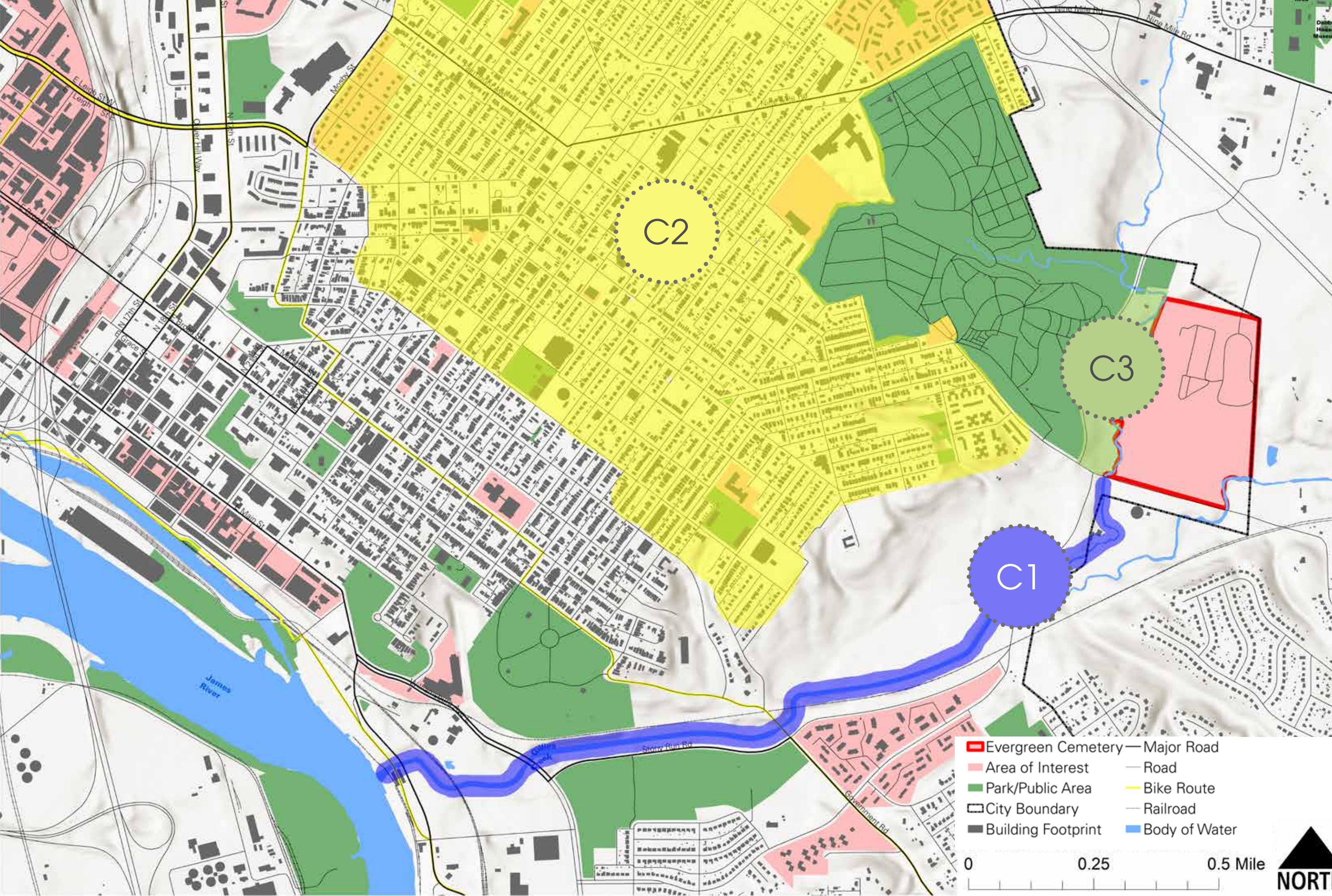
-  C1: Evergreen could serve as the terminus of a Gillie Creek Greenway that connects to the Capital Trail.
-  C2: Creation of bike infrastructure on the edge of the city could spur safer cycling routes in the underserved East End.
-  C3: Connect a nature trail between Evergreen and Oakwood Cemeteries across Stony Run Creek.

HISTORICAL CONNECTIONS

- » Connect the story of those interred to the larger history of Richmond including the Slave Trail.
- » Connect this cemetery thematically to additional cemeteries in the area (African American, Native American, Jewish, Confederate, and others).

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS

- » Connect with local churches and other faith organizations for volunteer events and programming.
- » Connect historical/environmental programming to local public/private schools in the Richmond area for field trips and other educational opportunities.



History Station Notes

The following ideas are from event participants at the History Station:

- » Audio component to signage is highly desired
- » Mobile app or connection to informational website for marker tracking throughout the cemetery for visitors

- » Suggestion of a Labyrinth style memorial garden
- » Great interest in signs near historic grave markers to provide background on the individual and their importance to Richmond and society
- » The scale of the memorial gardens should be carefully considered to not take away from the markers themselves; consider placement in the more transitional zones of the cemetery.
- » Sculpture gardens should not take away from the sculptural grave markers in the cemetery.

- » Signage package should include overall maps for visitors and perhaps plant identification markers.



The history station included visual preference surveys related to memorial gardens and interpretive signage along with a grave identification exercise.



Above / The youngest participants study the possibilities for interpretive signage and give their opinion. **Left, top & bottom / Top** Stantec consultants facilitate the station exercises allowing everyone's voice to be heard. **Bottom** Participants were able to learn more about Enrichmond's role in Evergreen Cemetery along with interesting facts about Maggie Walker. **Below /** The marker activity gave everyone an opportunity to explore; some went into the wooded areas which emphasized their desire to continue finding hidden markers. Marker restoration is extremely important to the community..



History Station Results | Interpretive Signage Visual Preference Survey

Participants voted utilizing "dotmocracy" and were given three colored dots to vote on their preferred design approach to interpretive signage within Evergreen Cemetery. The results are below:



History Station Results | Memorial Gardens Visual Preference Survey

Participants voted utilizing "dotmocracy" and were given three colored dots to vote on their preferred design approach to memorial gardens within Evergreen Cemetery. The results are below:



20%



17%



15%



10%



9%



7%



7%



5%



5%



5%

Implementation Station Results | What do you value most about this property?

Participants were encouraged to freely think about what they value most about Evergreen Cemetery write their answers in the provided word bubble. Those responses have been compiled into the wordle below, a graphic that increases the size of the word the more often it appears.



The Implementation Station included visual preference surveys, word bubble questions, and priority ranking.

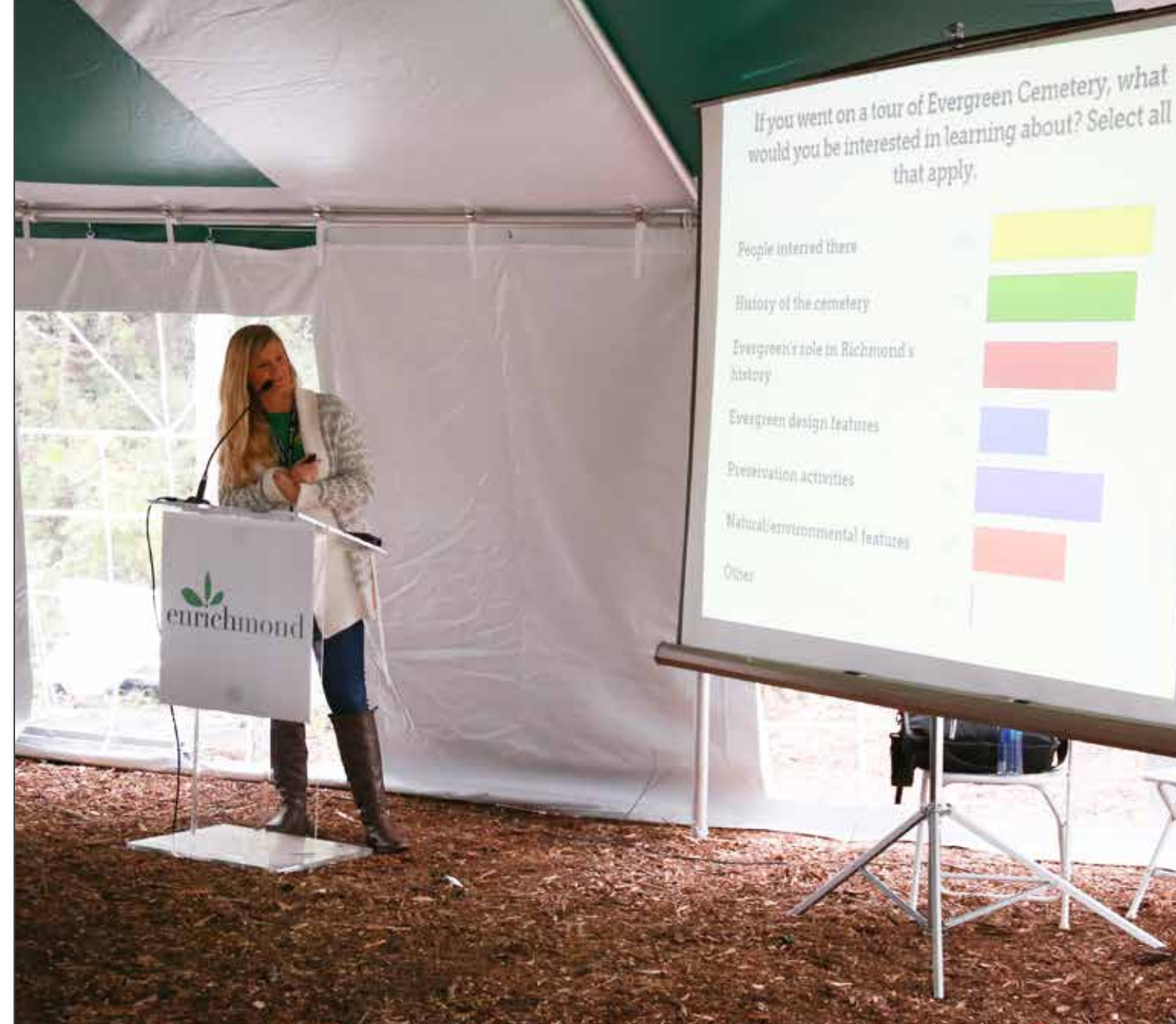
Implementation Station Results | What is the best way to celebrate this place?

Participants were encouraged to freely think about how Evergreen Cemetery should be celebrated in the future and write their answers in the provided word bubble. Those responses have been compiled into the wordle below, a graphic that increases the size of the word the more often it appears.



Implementation Station Results | How will YOU utilize this property in the future?

Participants were encouraged to freely think about how they will personally utilize Evergreen Cemetery in the future and write their answers in the provided word bubble. Those responses have been compiled into the wordle below, a graphic that increases the size of the word the more often it appears.



Left & Below (inset) / Participants gave their input on implementation and programming through the station exercises and also through the interactive live polling. Results from those questions are found starting on page 16.



Left / Participants discuss the property with the National Park Service representative

Right / Participants consider their responses during hands-on activities at the Implementation Station



Left / Brett Christina Glymph and Viola Baskerville with the Virginia Outdoors Foundation along with John Mitchell and John Sydnor plant a tree at the conclusion of the workshop as a temporary memorial to all those buried in Evergreen Cemetery.

Right / Jessica Maffey, Enrichmond Marketing Specialist, guides participants during the workshop.



Implementation Station Results | Ranking Your Priorities

Participants voted utilizing "dotmocracy" and were given four colored dots to vote on their priorities for improvements within Evergreen Cemetery. The results are below:

Marker Rehab



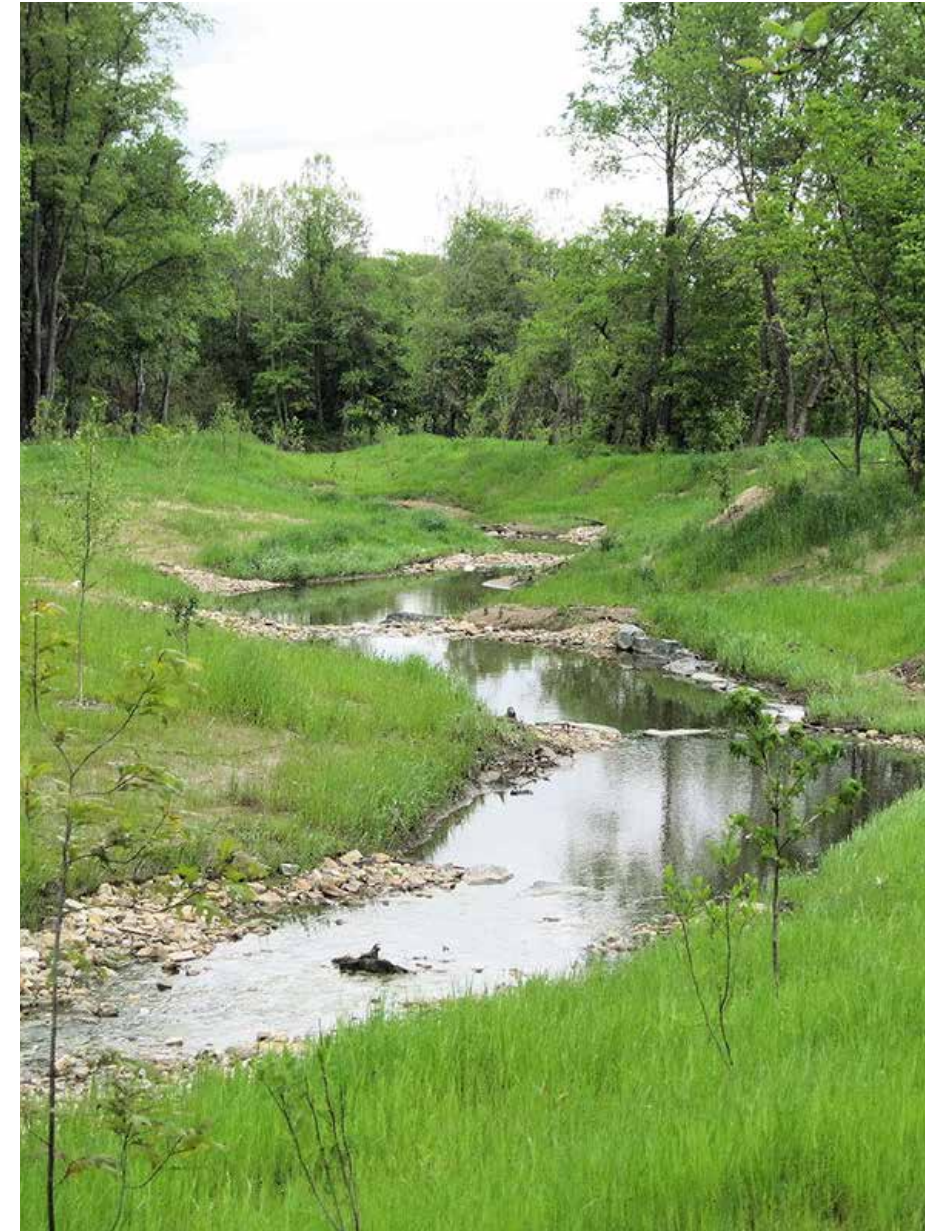
Priority 1

Trails



Priority 2

Stream Restoration



Priority 3

Memorial Gardens



Priority 4

Implementation Station Results | Branding Style Visual Preference Survey

Participants voted utilizing "dotmocracy" and were given three colored dots to vote on their preferred design approach to branding for Evergreen Cemetery. The results are below:



32%



16%



13%



10%



10%



6%



6%



4%



2%



0%

Implementation Station | Learning from Others

The Implementation Station included the following explorations of other African American cemeteries around the country that have gone through similar renovation efforts.



CASE STUDY: Cove Haven Cemetery, Lexington, KY

- » Efforts to revitalize were started by a 16-year-old who noticed the overgrown lot with marked and unmarked graves.
- » The efforts led to the discovery of marked graves of five veterans from WWI and WWII.
- » The 16-year old began the work as an Eagle Scout project before partnering the Lee County Cemetery Preservation Commission.
- » The plan consists of barrier fence along the front, benches, a gravel path, removal of overgrown vegetation, and plans for a historical marker.



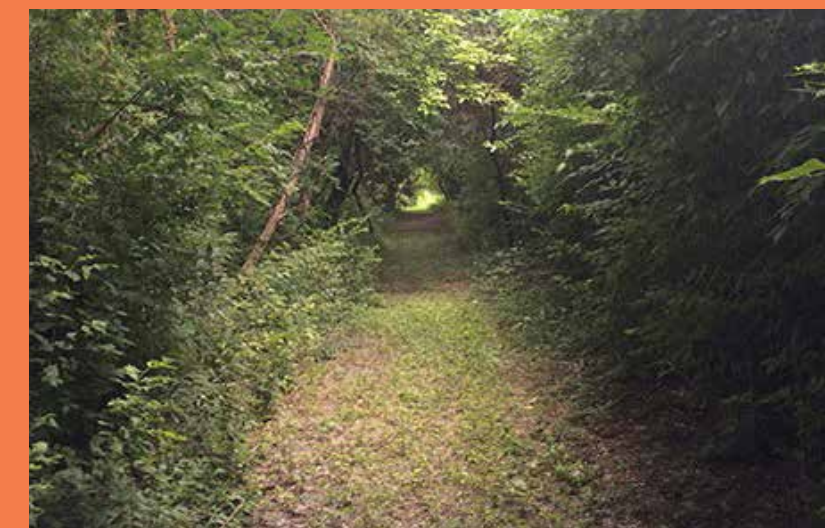
CASE STUDY: Cove Haven Cemetery, Lexington, KY

- » The clean-up and restoration efforts began with assistance from the Lexington Police Officers and volunteers.
- » Officers have been fundraising and working to remove dead and dying trees and establish relationships with the community around the cemetery.
- » A Veteran's Day ceremony was held to bring awareness because over 440 of the interred were veterans.



CASE STUDY: Greenwood Cemetery, St. Louis, MO

- » The cemetery had fallen into disrepair since ending burial services.
- » An Olmsted Scholar working with the Greenwood Cemetery Preservation Association studied the site to be re-imagined as a multi-functional public space.
- » The Association has been working with local community groups and schools to clean up debris, maintain gardening, and build new seating on site.



3

How We Get There: Next Steps



DEVELOPING THE VISION

The public outreach has laid the framework for conceptual plan development. The design team will continue to look to the community for a preferred direction throughout the process.

Guiding Principles

As noted in the previous chapter, the community has a clear vision for what Evergreen Cemetery should be moving forward. Their input will continue to guide the master plan development.

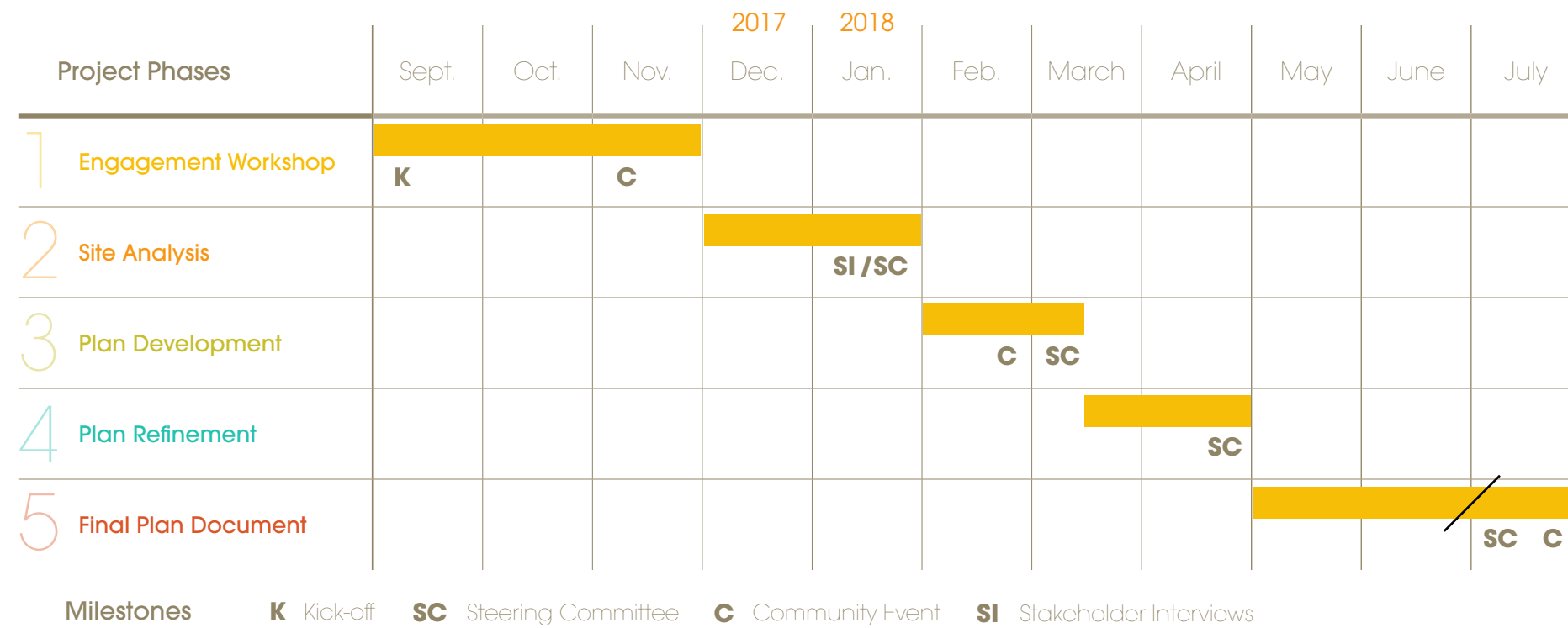
- » Maintain the **sacred reverence** of Evergreen Cemetery.
- » Celebrate the **history** of these Richmond **ancestors** and expose their **stories** to visitors.

- » **Restore** the existing monuments and find permanent ways to **memorialize** those unmarked today.
- » Create natural surface, **accessible pathways** for visitors to explore the property.
- » Manage the vegetation on the property with long-term **sustainability** in mind.

If you wish to move mountains tomorrow, you must start by lifting stones today.

—African Proverb





Methodology & Schedule

The master planning process will be completed by a core team which consists of Enrichmond team members along with consultants from Stantec, staff and students from the L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs Center for Urban and Regional Analysis, and the National Park Service.

A Steering Committee will be formed in early January that includes Richmond residents, families of Evergreen, and community leaders. Several champions were identified during the initial public workshop and should be enlisted as part of this group of 10-12 individuals. Responsibilities include being a sounding board for the design team as ideas begin to develop. The steering committee will also be tasked with getting the word out

about public events and reviewing final deliverables for quality control.

Site Analysis The team will need to complete a thorough site analysis of the property prior to conceptual design development. This will involve another site visit and additional GIS mapping for the property. The physical elements investigated include but are not limited to: slope analysis, multi-modal site circulation analysis, open space and tree cover analysis, and stream erosion issue identification.

Plan Development A series of draft conceptual plans will be developed based on the community input and the physical site analysis. A minimum of two options will be designed and vetted through an additional public workshop. The goal of this interaction is to agree

on a preferred design direction from the community.

Plan Refinement After this event, the design team will refine the final master plan based on any tweaks noted during the community event. An illustrative plan and supporting graphics for key locations throughout the property will be provided.

Final Plan Document The final plan document will build on this initial report and include not only the master plan but also a set of best practices for cemetery maintenance and sustainability. Phasing plans along with a toolbox of implementation strategies will help Enrichmond and the Richmond community realize the vision for Evergreen Cemetery.

