

## A Master Plan for the Future

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Allegheny Cemetery is one of the finest examples of an "American Garden Cemetery" in the United States. Its significance comes from its natural beauty, its exceptional architecture and monuments, and the elegant manner in which these man-made features fit into the natural environment. Since 1844 it has been both a reverent resting place for our families and a unique natural and cultural resource to our community. To insure that it will continue to excel in both of these regards the Cemetery has established a "Master Plan for Long Range Cemetery Development" to guide growth and enrichment for the coming centuries. The overriding goals of this plan are to meet the changing burial needs of the community, to protect and foster the Cemetery's natural and cultural beauty, and to provide special environments for community events, education, and enjoyment.



*The Long Range Master Plan for the Cemetery includes new burial facilities development as well as landscape enhancements, and new community outreach and service facilities.*

Our Cemetery is a place of great comfort, restoration and inspiration in times of loss. It is also a place for enjoying the beauty of nature and for exploring and celebrating the community's rich cultural heritage. Future development being designed to accommodate changing preferences and the variety of burial options that are available today while continuing the traditions of the Garden Cemetery landscape. These changes in contemporary burial choices include an increasing request for cremation options and a renewed interest in traditional burial environments including a preference for upright headstones and family estates. There is also a greater need for outdoor,

garden mausoleums situated in a beautifully landscaped environment. The purpose of the Master Plan is to create opportunities for all of these in ways that build upon, and create anew, the warmth and charm of the historic Cemetery landscape.

What is it that makes the historic Allegheny Cemetery landscape so comforting and appealing? It is simple things that are not always present in modern cemeteries ... the development of new facilities will be based upon these same historic design principals.

- *Visualize* roads curving sympathetically to follow the natural contour of the land, set-in to separate them visually from the burial areas ... tall trees sheltering sections along the roads creating a "ceiling" of leaves.
- *Picture* a variety of sizes and shapes of monuments giving a feeling of openness and individuality.
- *Imagine* ponds within the natural stream channels creating meditation trails, overlooks, and seating areas for solitude and reflection ... family estates integrated into lawn

and woodland areas ... family mausoleums adding the richness of the granite architecture to the roadside landscape.

- *Experience* woodland trails offering in-ground burial of cremains with memorialization on rocks or architectural features such as walls, pergolas, or gazebos ... burial areas designed to preserve the hill and valley terrain creating dramatic views from high points into the historic and natural areas.



*The historic cemetery landscape will be the model for new development that will offer a wide variety of modern burial options.*

- *Envision* obelisks and tall spire monuments, incorporated into lawn burial facilities ... old road areas turned into garden pathways for burial or cremation ... community mausoleums set into hillsides to replicate the historic, earth-sheltered family mausoleums ... columbarium coping gardens integrated into lawn burial sections. All of these designs for new burial facilities meeting the needs of today's families while honoring the scale, quality, and appearance of the historic cemetery.

A Master Plan is a long range strategy for creating environments that will provide special services of community outreach. Examples of this would include an outdoor events stage in a Butler Street lawn amphitheater, a cultural museum of Cemetery and community history in the stables, and a botanical garden at the greenhouse creating opportunities for study and research. The historic fountain could be a meditation court offering refuge for quiet contemplation.

The Master Plan provides the cemetery and the community with a vision for change that insures that Allegheny will continue to serve the changing needs of the community, while preserving its natural beauty.



*The site of the original greenhouses could be a botanical garden with cremation and crypt burial facilities.*