Nov. 1, 2021

Hello Friends,

Riverside Cemetery at its inception was intended as a sacred burial place and as a living museum of art and history, set in a beautiful landscape.

Our founders were creating a historical legacy and wanted people to visit Riverside to remember loved ones, appreciate the monument art and find peace along the winding paths, by the ponds and under the shade of its trees.

In 2021, we have worked hard to improve the landscape, bring people into Riverside and have begun a campaign to clean and repair monuments.

This year we paved the back road, completing a smooth loop around the cemetery. There are a few roads remaining on our paving program, but we've made considerable progress.

We also repaired the fountain on the lower pond which not only helps the quality of the water but adds a lovely feature to the landscape.

We hired Davey Resource Group to complete a tree inventory and management plan. The inventory will help us care for our trees and provide a planting plan to ensure we have a healthy and diverse tree population for generations. We will use the inventory to apply for arboretum status.

We also hired Martha Lyon Landscape Architecture to complete a land use plan to help us identify places in the cemetery that would be appropriate for additional burial space, the addition of columbaria and perhaps a sprinkling garden.

And we recently took the first steps to repair the beautiful bronze sculpture we refer to as "The Writing Lady." As you may know, the statute was stolen and cut up for scrap 10 years ago. We have asked Daedalus Art of Boston to give us a proposal for putting the Writing Lady back together. We will keep you posted on this project.

Hundreds of people took tours this year, one in the spring and another just recently in October. There was an Osher Lifelong Learning Institute class at UConn on Riverside, and tours by groups including the Prospect Senior Center and local Boy Scouts.

In June, just a few days past the solstice, Riverside presented a woodwind quintet concert. It was wonderful evening, and we are planning another concert next June.

On Oct. 7, Jon Appell from Atlas Preservation gave us a hands-on demonstration on how to clean, repair and reset monuments. Jon's knowledge and expertise in this field is expansive. About 40 people from across the region attended the day-long workshop.

Our intention is to organize volunteers to help us with the monument cleaning and repair work – we will supply the materials and lunch! Please consider helping with this important and necessary work when the time comes.

The Hall Chapel renovation has stalled a bit as engineers complete the bidding documents. Once we have those documents, we can begin seeking grants and raising funds.

Of course, none of this work could be done without your generosity. Please help us maintain the lasting beauty of this national treasure with a gift to our Annual Giving Fund. Thank you.

And please reach out if you any questions, comments, or concerns.

Sincerely,

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