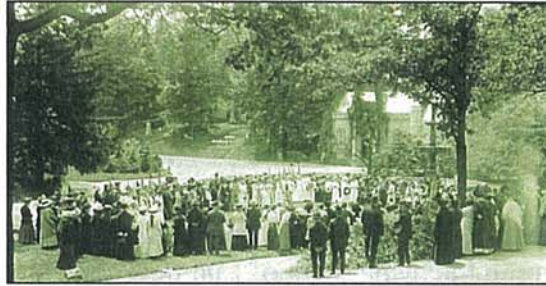


MOUNT HOPE CEMETERY

CULTURAL LANDSCAPE REPORT

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CHAPTER III: MOUNT HOPE CEMETERY

LANDSCAPE EXISTING CHARACTER

A. MOUNT HOPE CEMETERY TODAY

Mount Hope Cemetery today is an icon of the mid-19th century rural cemetery movement and a treasured landmark of the City of Rochester. The narrow winding valleys and domed hills are edged by curving drives and characterized by burial plot and headstone geometries with focal monument art. The cemetery landscape was and continues to be a place of respite for Rochester residents and visitors alike. Established as a rural cemetery on the outskirts of the core city, Mount Hope Cemetery was sited to the east of the Genesee River on glacial deposits with varied topography that offered both interior landscape scenes and views to the surrounding landscape. Today, few of these visual relationships are intact, though the overall spatial organization and land patterns of the cemetery remain strong and contribute to the overall landscape character, despite changes over roughly 170 years. The character of the cemetery has been largely retained through recent preservation efforts undertaken by the Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery (FOMH) and the City of Rochester. Preservation efforts have focused on a variety of issues including historic building and gravestone repair, replanting vegetation, and overall interpretation of the cemetery through special events and public tours.

While preservation efforts and projects provide continuity of the historic character, municipally owned and managed Mount Hope Cemetery faces challenges in the 21st century. The undulating topography that led to the selection of the Mount Hope Cemetery acreage is difficult to maintain, exhibiting a multitude of invasive species, slope erosion, mature tree decline and weathering of built elements. Remaining historic vegetation is nearing the end of its lifespan, and dozens of grand historic trees have been lost to natural decline, disease and storm damage. Current standards deem a few of the historic trees as not only exotic, but undesirable invasive species. Remnants of the original circulation system and small-scale features remain, including drive traces, cobblestone gutters, retaining walls, stone steps, stone and concrete bollards, metal railings, and the cemetery perimeter iron fence. Many are in need of stabilization, repair, replacement in-kind, or reconstruction. Based on discussions with stakeholders and on-site

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observations, the following sections elaborate on the current cemetery landscape character and cemetery use, and note issues to be addressed.

B. MOUNT HOPE CEMETERY LANDSCAPE AREAS & CHARACTER

Additional detail on the existing character and condition of the Mount Hope Cemetery landscape is presented in the following sections that describe and illustrate the 2008 landscape using the landscape areas and character-defining features as organizing elements. Character-defining features for the cemetery are discussed using existing conditions photographs taken by Heritage Landscapes and the *2008 Existing Conditions Plan, EC*. The definition of landscape areas is illustrated on the *2008 Landscape Areas Overlay Plan, OP-2008*. A summary of the woodland composition inventory conducted during fieldwork sessions is an additional detail. The more detailed vegetation inventory, carried out by Wendel Duchscherer, is provided in the following chapter and paired with numerical charts presented in Appendix B that quantify and tally the conditions of tree species within the cemetery.

Landscape Area 1: Cemetery Entrance

The spatial organization, land patterns, and visual relationships of Area 1 are interconnected with the topography, circulation, and vegetation of the entrance landscape. The area contains the historic entrance to the cemetery with the 1874 gatehouse, 1862 chapel, 1875 Florentine Fountain, and 1872 gazebo. Upon entering the cemetery from Mount Hope Avenue, the entrance drive leads through the iron gates and stone piers to a visually contained area defined by topography, open lawn, and additional cemetery drives. (See Figure III.1.) The few burial plots in the area are aligned to the cemetery drives in a radial pattern. The steep slopes to the north and south frame and direct views to the fountain and chapel. As one progresses to the west toward the open lawn area, views unfold to the south, but remain defined and somewhat enclosed by a line of evergreens located in the lawn area bordering Area 2. Visual relationships include a series of inferior and superior views from within the central lawn area up to the steep edge slopes and from the edges of the area down to the central lawn space. (See Figures III.2 and III.3.) The carefully framed spatial and visual relationships at the Cemetery Entrance convey the overall character of the broader cemetery landscape.

The topography of the broad cemetery has a considerable impact on the overall character and user experience of the cemetery landscape. The overall dramatically sloping ground plane strongly influenced the decision to locate the public cemetery in this area south of the city core. It greatly contributes to the overall picturesque quality of the cemetery grounds. Additionally, the sloping ground plane impacts the ability of the City to manage and sustain the cemetery into the future.

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Topography of Area 1 is bowl-like with a nearly level bottom and steep slopes to the north, west, and south that define the key-shaped area. Ten feet of elevation change within 400 feet is found in the central core of the area, while the west slope exhibits 34 feet of elevation change over an expanse of 50 feet. The western slope exhibits a grade above 33%, making it unmowable. The turf ground plane found through much of the remainder of the area is fairly level; combined with the limited burial monuments, the level ground makes the central area manageable with a riding or push mower. The ground along the north edge of Indian Trail Avenue presents an intermediate slope ranging between 10 and 32%. While still mowable, this slope may be more difficult to manage with a riding mower, particularly given fairly dense tree canopy. The shape of the ground plane dictates the position of circulation routes, burial plots, and mausoleums, as well as views and overall spatial organization. Additionally, the slope gradients impact the management and sustainability of the area.

Vegetation in Area 1 is a combination of woodland species, ornamental trees, and flowering perennials. The steep west slope that defines Area 1 contains relatively dense woodland with Norway maple (*Acer platanoides*), black locust (*Robinia pseudoacacia*), red oak (*Quercus rubra*), sassafras (*Sassafras albidum*), grape (*Vitis* species), and poison ivy (*Toxicodendron radicans*). Other slopes include individual deciduous and evergreen trees over mixed species lawn. Individual trees are recorded in the tree inventory in the following chapter. Of particular note is a silver linden recently planted to replace a large, historic beech west of the fountain. Around the fountain are planting beds containing flowering perennials, which are tended by the Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery. (See Figure III.4.) Additional planting beds are located along the foot of the northern slope. The combination of woodland species, ornamental trees, flowering perennials, and mixed species turf grass in the Cemetery Entrance reflect the augmented, naturalistic character found throughout the rest of Mount Hope Cemetery.

Circulation routes in Area 1 consist of the asphalt entry drive from Mount Hope Avenue. The drive splits to form Indian Trail Avenue to the north and Ravine Avenue to the south. Indian Trail Avenue leads upslope to the west, where it follows a high ridgeline throughout Area 2. Ravine Avenue links to Lawn and Elwood Avenues farther south in Area 3. Near the chapel, Ravine Avenue also connects to the trace of an unnamed and unpaved carriage drive that loops around to the intersection of Indian Trail Avenue, Ravine Avenue, and the entrance drive. The unpaved carriage drive is narrower in width and edged with large episodic blocks of stone. (See Figure III.5.) Though currently a remnant feature with mixed species turf grass, some paving and base material may remain as in-ground archeological features. Also of note is the steep uphill section of Indian Trail Avenue that is paved in stone. The cemetery entry drive is a primary feature in Area 1 and provides connections to the network of internal cemetery drives and paths.

Many paved pedestrian paths are located within Area 1. A sidewalk parallels Mount Hope Avenue along the street frontage and connects to two pedestrian walks at the pedestrian entry gates. Walks to the south of the entry drive surround the gatehouse and connect to the south to walks in Area 2, to the west toward the open lawn and fountain area, and to the north toward

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the gazebo. The north side walks encircle the gazebo and lead uphill to burial plots in Area 2. A narrow concrete walk also lines the south edge of the open lawn area. Several pedestrian paths are located in the Cemetery Entrance area, providing convenient access from Mount Hope Avenue into the landscape.

Water Features in Area 1 include the Florentine Fountain, dating to 1875. The fountain was repaired in recent decades, though one of the base panels is missing. The fountain is currently operational during summer months. Centrally located, the ornamental fountain is a prominent feature in the Cemetery Entrance landscape.

Area 1 includes multiple structures, site furnishings, and objects. Structures include the gatehouse, chapel and crematory, gazebo, mausoleums, and stone retaining walls. Other small-scale elements include the cemetery iron perimeter fence, concrete posts lining the drives, wood slat benches, signs in multiple styles, entry gates, drinking fountain under the gazebo, and gravestones. (See Figures III.6, III.7, and III.8) Mausoleums and gravestones are limited in Area 1, but are positioned in a radial pattern at the foot of the north and west slopes. Numerous structures, site furnishings, and objects are located in Landscape Area 1 and convey a sense of the character of the broader Mount Hope Cemetery landscape.

Landscape Area 2: Cemetery Core

Area 2 is complex in terms of spatial organization, land patterns, and visual relationships. Steep slopes, rolling topography, and other glacial landforms continue to define the network of drives, paths, and burial plot arrangements. Varying combinations of monument density, tree canopy density, and slope gradients define several smaller-scale sub-areas within the Cemetery Core. The area conveys a woodland ramble feel with circuitous circulation routes and changing views within the heavily vegetated area. (See Figure III.9.)

Choreographed superior and inferior views are defined by topography, circulation systems, and mature vegetation that create a visual progression throughout the cemetery core. Views of the cemetery are ever-changing as one progresses through the landscape on the former carriage drives. The drives are positioned within the topography to have superior views over the valleys and inferior views of hills, high points, and monuments. For example, from West Avenue, superior views from the drive look over Section W and inferior views look up to the west edge of the knoll known as Patriot Hill. (See Figure III.10.) From atop Patriot Hill, views are focused on nearby gravestones and monuments. (See Figure III.11.) At Ravine Avenue, the drive follows descending topography and provides superior views over the entry landscape of Area 1. (See Figure III.12.) From Sylvan Waters, one gains inferior views of the terraced burial sites along Hillside and Highland Avenues. In contrast, Indian Trail Avenue has mainly superior views over most of the cemetery as it follows a prominent ridgeline. (See Figure III.13.)

Views from pedestrian paths are also a combination of superior and inferior views, though superior views are more prevalent as paths traverse the topography to the high points of the

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landscape. Views from high points reflect the historic basis for selecting the property with multiple views of the city of Rochester and the surrounding lands. However, views have changed with the development of the city and adjacent university. In addition, the maturing tree canopy and presence of additional invasive species have partially obstructed many of the historic views. The historic view from the Fandango is no longer evident, primarily a result of vegetative growth. (See Figure III.14.) One view of the high-rise buildings of downtown Rochester persists from the high point in Section C. (See Figure III.15.) Another view to the southeast is also apparent from Section M. (See Figure III.16.) Multiple views to the adjacent University of Rochester River Campus are noted in Sections A and W, and the single grave section along the west edge of the area. Views from high points throughout the cemetery create bucolic and picturesque scenes as direct views of the carriage drives and circulation systems are diminished. For example, in Section I on top of Mount Hope, Hope and Hillside Avenues drop into the topography and are not visible when looking toward Section K and Sylvan Waters to the south and southwest. (See Figure III.17.) Fifth Avenue is similarly positioned in the grade for an unimpeded view from Section I to Sections S and T. (See Figure III.18.) In general, the sequence of scenic views progresses through the woodland ramble overlooking ravines and hollows, gently sloping valleys, and hillsides.

Though the natural form of the overall topography of the area remains relatively intact, the ground plane today is the result of both natural and man-made actions. Glacial activity formed the topography of Area 2 into valleys, rolling hills, steep slopes, ridges, and bowl-like depressions known as kettles, which continue to characterize the topography and natural systems in Area 2. (See Figures III.19 and III.20.) The area is divided by a prominent ridgeline, defined by Indian Trail Avenue. To either side of the ridge are several sloping valleys framed by site circulation features and knolls. The ground plane at the northern edge of the area to either side of Indian Trail Avenue exhibits large swaths of nearly level ground with smaller transition spaces of steeper slopes. A long, narrow slope stretching north-south approximately halfway between Indian Trail and Linden Avenues reaches the steepest grades, above 33%. The highest elevation in the cemetery is also located in Area 2; a knoll in section I, near the eastern cemetery edge between Highland and Fifth Avenues, extends 682 feet above sea level. This is the approximate location of the former observation tower known as the "Fandango." Four kettles are also found in this area. Sylvan Waters, the only water-filled kettle, is situated at the southeast corner of Area 2 and is the largest of the circular depressions. Three smaller, dry kettles are located to the west of Sylvan Waters and contain burial plots and graves. Older graves and burial sites are somewhat mounded, often enclosed by low walls or railings, while newer plots are more level. Additional changes in topography have occurred through erosion, particularly on steep slopes where pedestrian movements and stormwater flows have affected the ground plane. Interaction of human actions and natural processes has formed the topography as it exists today.

Much of the vegetation in Landscape Area 2 is woodland species found growing on the steep hillsides with hundreds of individual trees over open mixed species lawn. The slopes to either side of Indian Trail Avenue contain fairly dense woodland with Norway maple, black locust, red

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oak, American elm (*Ulmus americana*), white oak (*Quercus alba*), honeysuckle (*Lonicera* species), sassafras, buckthorn (*Rhamnus cathartica*), euonymus (*Euonymus* species), weeping forsythia (*Forsythia suspensa*), grape, Virginia creeper (*Parthenocissus quinquefolia*), and poison ivy. Other prominent plant species found throughout the slopes of Area 2 include ash (*Fraxinus* species), hickory (*Carya* species), sugar maple (*Acer saccharum*), American linden (*Tilia americana*), Norway spruce (*Picea abies*), tree-of-heaven (*Ailanthus altissima*), bramble (*Rubus* species), box elder (*Acer negundo*), dogwood (*Cornus* species), scarlet oak (*Quercus coccinea*), witchhazel (*Hamamelis virginiana*), Colorado spruce (*Picea pungens*), black walnut (*Juglans nigra*), yew (*Taxus* species), red maple (*Acer rubrum*), Austrian pine (*Pinus nigra*), eastern redbud (*Cercis canadensis*), Japanese maple (*Acer palmatum*), and barberry (*Berberis vulgaris*). Overall, the vegetation in the area is a combination of natural, planted, and volunteer growth found on the steep slopes with areas of open lawn. (See Figures III.21 and III.22.)

A number of maturing volunteer shrubs and saplings are also found between gravestones, and at drive intersections throughout the area, affecting the landscape character and spatial relationship between the densely wooded slopes and areas of open turf. When near gravestones or other built elements, the volunteer growth can cause issues related to conservation of the stones and maintenance of other landscape features. (See Figure III.23.) Perennial plantings can be found at a number of gravesites in the area that have been included in the FOMH Adopt-a-Plot program. (See Figure III.24.) Overall, FOMH strives to implement plantings that are consistent with the character of a rural or lawn type cemetery. Together with the wooded hillsides, the specimen, perennial, and volunteer vegetation cover much of the ground plane of the Cemetery Core and greatly contribute to the character of this area.

Much of the gracefully curving system of drives traverses Landscape Area 2. Indian Trail Avenue spans the top of a prominent ridgeline, gently winding under the tree canopy and serving as a main access route through the area. It enters Landscape Area 2 near the northeast corner, making a near 90-degree turn as it curves around the steep hillside that separates Areas 1 and 2. This northern spur of Indian Trail Avenue is surfaced in historic cobblestones and remains open to vehicular traffic year-round. Scuppers exist along the drive, although they do not effectively direct stormwater runoff. The main portion of Indian Trail Avenue, which extends north-south through Area 2 is surfaced with asphalt and continues to provide a series of choreographed visual and spatial experiences as cemetery visitors traverse the winding drive.

Several additional drives branch off of Indian Trail Avenue, connecting to the various burial sections. At the north, it connects with Linden Avenue; together the two drives form an elongated loop that extends into Area 3. Near the intersection with Linden Avenue, West and Glen Avenues branch to the west and form two additional elongated loops. (See Figure III.25.) These loops encircle high points in the landscape, including the knoll known as Patriot Hill, or alternatively, Revolutionary Hill or Rochester Hill. (See Figure III.26.) To the east, Hope Avenue provides a linear connection with Ravine Avenue, which extends north-south, circling Sylvan Waters to the south and leading toward the entry landscape to the north. At the northern end, the portion of Ravine Avenue north of Hope Avenue is composed of historic cobblestones reset

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by FOMH. While the efforts to repair the historic stone drive were well-intentioned, they were not carried out with historic accuracy, notably, the mortar utilized for the repair. Large, concrete planters that do not date to the historic period prohibit vehicular access to this cobblestone drive section north of Hope Avenue. (See Figure III.27.) The southern portion of Ravine Avenue is surfaced with asphalt. Dell Avenue also branches to the east from Indian Trail Avenue, connecting at the south with Grove Avenue. Together, the southern portion of Indian Trail Avenue and Dell Avenue enclose a roughly diamond-shaped high point to the west of Sylvan Waters. Other drives in Area 2 include Highland and Hillside Avenues, which are no longer accessible by vehicle. These drives are degraded and covered in mixed species turf grass, leaf litter, duff, and herbaceous plant materials. (See Figures III.28 and III.29.) It is unclear whether the drives have been removed or remain under the organic material; however, substantial lengths of cobblestone gutters are noted in situ. Because of their condition, Highland and Hillside Avenues are accessible only to pedestrians, and appear to be less frequently used than other paths. In total, the curvilinear drive network is not only a functional feature, providing access through the landscape and negotiating the steep terrain; it also contributes to the overall landscape character, providing a strong sense of historic design, workmanship, use, sensory experience, and spatial and visual relationships..

In addition to the drives, pedestrian paths are located throughout the Cemetery Core. Many of the paths are informally defined with either mown turf or compacted earth. In several locations, simple stone steps provide convenient access to burial sites, negotiating the steep terrain. Many portions of the original network of paths, especially to the west of Sylvan Waters, remain today. These path sections are surfaced with mixed species turf grass and are typically narrow swaths between burial plots. Concrete paths are limited in the area, although a few exist. Remnants of stone paths are also limited. In addition to these identified pedestrian paths, existing drives serve as wider, informal pedestrian paths for recreational activities. Today, the overall layout of the pedestrian path system remains evident in the landscape. Overall, the simple pedestrian paths augment the function and character of the scenic drive system, contributing to the character of Area 2.

Water Features in Area 2 consist of a series of four natural kettles. Sylvan Waters is the largest of the four and the only one that contains water year-round. A stone fountain is sited at the center of the Sylvan Waters to re-circulate water and provide a scenic effect; however, volunteer growth covers much of this central feature. (See Figure III.30.) The three additional kettles are located in close proximity to Sylvan Waters. Two are directly adjacent, positioned to the north and west with grave stones. (See Figure III.31.) The third kettle is located within Section G, in the diamond-shaped area enclosed by Indian Trail and Dell Avenues. This kettle is similar in size to Sylvan Waters, but is degraded with overgrown volunteer vegetation. (See Figure III.32.) The westernmost kettle is the closest to a kettle in its natural state and is the deepest of the four, although its perimeter is smaller than that of Sylvan Waters. It has a limited number of burial plots around its upper rim and six laid stone piers of undetermined origin or function on its eastern slope. The three smaller kettles do not retain water and surface runoff in the same way as Sylvan Waters. However, it is likely that during times of intense rain, they do

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retain some water. Other water features in the Cemetery Core are limited and include a series of water faucets that connect to underground pipes. The primary water feature, Sylvan Waters, provides a scenic and reflective setting for visitors.

Area 2 includes several non-habitable structures, site furnishings, and objects, notably retaining walls, large mausoleums, gravestones, and small memorial objects, which include small features that visitors place at gravesites. Many of the mausoleums have been sealed, restricting access to the interior space. A consistent sealing approach that considers the value of the mausoleums as important historic resources has not been set forth. Iron fencing is located at the northeast edge of the area that fronts on Mount Hope Avenue. Sections of fencing and metal railings are also found in several locations throughout the area, delineating gravesites. These iron features characterize the landscape of the burial plots and became so prolific during the historic period they were not permitted in the southern half of the cemetery. Some of these fence enclosures remain today, although in various conditions. Others have been removed from the landscape entirely for ease of maintenance. Stone retaining walls and steps are also found throughout the area, retaining grade and providing access around gravesites and constructed mausoleums. (See Figure III.33.) Painted white concrete posts identify drives and burial sections. Large concrete planters and logs have been laid across some drives in Area 2 to restrict vehicular access. Overall the structures, site furnishings, and objects contribute to the character of the Cemetery Core and the broader Mount Hope Cemetery landscape.

Landscape Area 3: North Cemetery Edge & Maintenance Yard

Landscape Area 3 has an overall grid-like and rectilinear spatial arrangement, with land patterns and landscape character that were evident during the historic period. This area is north of Areas 1 and 2 and extends to the northern cemetery boundary. The area itself is roughly rectangular, with a smaller rectangular extension at the northwest edge, which surrounds the maintenance yard. The relatively level ground plane of this area provides a clear spatial distinction from the rest of the cemetery landscape. The north-south linear rows of burial plots through the area reinforce the geometric organization. Toward Mount Hope Avenue, the ground plane is open with no burial plots or drives. Because of the grid-like organization and patterns that characterize the North Cemetery Edge & Maintenance Yard, this area is spatially distinct from the broader cemetery landscape. (See Figure III.34.)

Views in Area 3 are primarily open within the area because of the relatively level ground plane and limited trees over a turf grass lawn. In particular, views in the eastern third of the area are open, with no gravestones or monuments, as it was historically the location of the Superintendent's Residence. Because of the dense tree canopy in adjacent areas, views southward into the broader cemetery landscape are limited. Dense woodland vegetation along the northwest and western property boundaries also limits and contains views. Overall, visual relationships in Landscape Area 3 are open but contained within the northern cemetery edge.

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Topographically, Area 3 differs from the typical, dramatically sloping ground plane found throughout much of Mount Hope Cemetery. At the northern edge, the ground plane becomes fairly level with gentle slopes to the north and east. To the south, the ground gradually slopes upward to the steep topography of the Cemetery Core. At the west edge, the ground plane is fairly level until the property boundary, where it slopes steeply toward the adjacent property. Along Mount Hope Avenue the topography is slightly sloped and was likely altered with the demolition of the Superintendent's Residence and entry drive. The alignment of the residence entry drive can still be seen in the topography today. Overall, the topographic change in this area is roughly 18 feet of elevation, making it considerably more level than the steep topography that characterizes much of Mount Hope Cemetery.

Vegetation in Landscape Area 3 is comprised primarily of individual deciduous, evergreen, and ornamental trees with areas of open mixed turf grass. Near the perimeter of the area, vegetation becomes denser, particularly at the northwest property boundary. Here, woodland species include Norway maple, ash, black locust, hickory, lilac (*Syringa vulgaris*), grape, Virginia creeper, poison ivy, and stinging nettle (*Urtica dioica*). As the woodland vegetation extends along the western edge, it includes sycamore maple (*Acer pseudoplatanus*), American linden, box elder, black walnut, eastern cottonwood (*Populus deltoides*), tree-of-heaven, and honeysuckle. A row of approximately 5-foot tall mission arborvitae (*Thuja occidentalis* 'Techny') is located along the iron fencing providing a screen between the maintenance yard and the public cemetery landscape. (See Figure III.35.) In the center of Area 3, deciduous, evergreen, and ornamental trees are scattered over a mown turf ground plane. Of particular interest is a mature weeping European beech tree (*Fagus sylvatica* 'Pendula'), likely planted during the mid-to-late 19th century. (Figure III.36.) In addition, some perennial plantings and volunteer vegetative growth were noted around gravesites. More information about the tree species in Area 3 is included in the tree inventory chapter. Overall, the relationship of the woodland edge along the property boundaries and the open lawn ground plane interspersed with free-standing trees creates a character from this area that is somewhat different from the rest of the cemetery landscape.

Area 3 contains a limited amount of drives and pedestrian paths. Maple Avenue forms a rectangular vehicular drive through the center of the area and connects with the loop created by Linden and Indian Trail Avenues to the south, in Landscape Area 2. At the northeast corner of Maple Avenue, a spur drive provides access to the maintenance yard. At the southeast corner of Maple Avenue, a trace of the former Superintendent's Residence entry drive is evident in the topography, although the drive itself is no longer extant. An informal network of turf pedestrian paths forms a grid pattern between burial plots and graves. The circulation in the North Cemetery Edge & Maintenance Yard area is limited and more rectilinear than other circulation features found in the cemetery landscape. The geometric spaces defined by the circulation features reflect the overall grid-like spatial organization of the area.

No water features were documented in Landscape Area 3 during field work sessions. However, there may be simple water faucets in the area that aid in care for gravesite plantings.

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Area 3 contains several non-habitable structures, site furnishings, and objects. These include the iron cemetery perimeter fence, cast iron fence posts, chain-link fencing, gravestones, and memorial objects. The iron cemetery fence defines the north edge of the public landscape and separates the main cemetery from the maintenance yard. It also extends along the Mount Hope Avenue frontage. Interestingly, the section of the northern perimeter fence has different cast iron posts than the section of fence along Mount Hope Avenue. (See Figure III.37.) At the western cemetery edge, chain-link fencing marks the property line and provides a barrier between Mount Hope Cemetery and the adjacent property. (See Figure III.38.) Other structures include the brick maintenance barn to the north of the cemetery, and the former Assistant Superintendent's Residence along Mount Hope Avenue, although the residence is no longer part of the cemetery and is now a separate private property. The structures, site furnishings, and objects found within Landscape Area 3 contribute to the overall character of the area.

Landscape Area 4: West Cemetery Edge & River Frontage

Overall, Area 4 is spatially divided into three sections by topography, stone walls, and circulation routes. The western half of the area is a low-lying, sloping section with trees scattered over open mixed species turf lawn. To the east, Pine Avenue, a partially sunken cemetery drive lined with stone retaining walls defines a roughly rectangular space with nearly level topography. To the north, another drive with stone walls creates a rectangular parcel with a high point in the center. Vegetation within Area 4 is fairly dense to the east and becomes more open to the west. The burial plots in Area 4 are aligned in rows in roughly a north-south arrangement, aligned to the adjacent cemetery drives. The spatial organization and land patterns for Landscape Area 4 reflect the original arrangement as laid out during the historic period.

Visual relationships in Landscape Area 4 are defined by the topography, vegetation, and built features. The partially sunken drives lined with retaining walls frame views through the area, limiting views out to the adjacent landscape. The views are further contained within the area by the ground plane, which slopes steeply at the south and east edges. At the west, although the ground plane slopes down, dense vegetation prevents views into the University of Rochester River Campus, although some campus buildings are visible. (See Figure III.39.) Overall, the relationships among various landscape features in Area 4 create framed, limited views.

The topography of Area 4 exhibits a considerable change in elevation and generally slopes to the west, toward the University of Rochester River Campus and the Genesee River. The lowest point in the area is near the southwest corner. Here, the ground plane is 532 feet above sea level, which is also the lowest elevation in Mount Hope Cemetery, including the lawn-type cemetery area south of Grove Avenue. From here, the ground plane gradually slopes up to the northeast, exhibiting 28 feet in elevation change between the west edge and the intersection of Pine and Glen Avenues. The area enclosed by Pine Avenue is slightly more level with 18 feet of change. Farther north, in the northeast corner of Area 4, the topography is steeply sloping with a highpoint of 606 feet above sea level and a total of 74 feet of change. Retaining walls along

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the drives help maintain the sloping ground plane. In general, the topography in the West Cemetery Edge & River Frontage area is comparable with the dramatically sloping ground plane that characterizes the broader Mount Hope Cemetery landscape.

Vegetation within Landscape Area 4 includes both deciduous and evergreen species, though evergreen species are more dominant in this area than throughout other sections of the cemetery. (See Figure III.40.) Individual trees are clustered together at the east and northeast and become more scattered to the west. The steep slopes at the south and west edges of the area are densely vegetated, primarily with volunteer growth. However, recent efforts by the City of Rochester in August 2008 have cleared the volunteer growth on the steep southern slope between Landscape Areas 4 and 5. (See Figure III.41.) Dominant species on the west slope includes Norway maple, tree-of-heaven, dogwood, honeylocust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*), eastern white pine (*Pinus strobus*), ash, red oak, eastern cottonwood, Virginia creeper, honeysuckle, bramble, sumac (*Rhus glabra*), grape, poison ivy, Russian olive (*Elaeagnus angustifolia*), buckthorn, and thistle (*Cirsium* species). Ground plane vegetation consists of mown mixed species turf grass in the west and south portions of the area; however, native grasses, flowers, and regenerating oak trees persist in the northeast quadrant. (See Figure III.42.) Due to the surrounding high walls, it appears that the area is not mowed as frequently as the surrounding areas, which have allowed native herbaceous plants and trees to regenerate. Overall, the vegetation found in Area 4 is unique with a prevalence of evergreens and native grasses, flowers, and regenerating trees.

Circulation routes within Area 4 are limited. Glen Avenue, paved in asphalt, defines the east edge, and Cedar Avenue, a gravel drive, defines the south boundary. At the westernmost point of Cedar Avenue, Pine Avenue, also asphalt, extends to the north and then makes a 90-degree turn eastward to connect to Glen Avenue. Buell Avenue, another gravel drive, extends north from the east-west section of Pine Avenue and makes a 90-degree turn east to connect to Glen Avenue, enclosing the northeast corner of Area 4. Where Pine and Buell Avenues turn, road traces are visible in the topography extending to the west. These roads once extended to Area 6, the area now part of the University of Rochester, and were likely abandoned when the University acquired the property. Near the center of the area, both Pine and Buell Avenues become sunken drives with stone retaining walls and rising surrounding ground planes. (See Figures III.43 and III.44.) Pedestrian circulation in the area is informal. Pedestrians walk along the drives or across the open ground plane. Steps are also present to navigate the steep topography and retaining walls in the northeast portion of the area. Circulation features in Landscape Area 4 contribute to the character of the area, providing access to burial sites, negotiating topography, and framing spatial and visual relationships.

Area 4 contains no documented water features. However, the road trace at the Pine Avenue elbow-turn exhibits ponding with standing water present during most of the summer. (See Figure III.45.) Other water features may include metal water faucets.

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Non-habitable structures, site furnishings and objects in Area 4 include stone retaining walls, steps, gravestones, and small memorial objects. The stone walls are prominent features along Glen, Pine and Buell Avenues. Painted white concrete posts identify drives and burial sections. Together, the structures, site furnishings and objects found in the West Cemetery Edge & River Frontage area contribute to the scenic, naturalistic landscape character.

Landscape Area 5: Cemetery Public Grounds & Street Frontage

Spatially, the overall organization for the Area 5 consists of topography, vegetation, circulation routes, and burial plots that create distinct sub-areas that reflect somewhat differing landscape characters. Area 5 is an L-shaped area that is bounded by the internal cemetery drive and walk, East Avenue and public city street Mount Hope Avenue to the east, Grove Avenue to the south, Fifth Avenue to the west, and Cedar Avenue to the north. The area serves as the public frontage of the cemetery along Mount Hope Avenue and it provides a transition between the picturesque, woodland ramble to the north and the flat, open lawn cemetery south of Grove Avenue. (See Figure III.46.)

Area 5 is more grid-like and geometric than the adjacent Cemetery Core area. The northern arm that comprises much of the Mount Hope Avenue frontage and extends between East and Fifth Avenues is characterized by a steep slope with rows of burial sites and gravestones that parallel Fifth and East Avenues in a north-south alignment. Burial plots and gravestones in the remaining section consist of larger mausoleums aligned east-west, paralleling Grove Avenue. A series of short, straight connector drives run between Grove Avenue at the south and Cedar and Indian Trail Avenues at the north, adding to the rectilinear organization of the area. The westernmost section of Area 5 is mostly gently sloping open lawn with no gravestones. Overall, the spatial organization of the area is largely defined by the existing tree canopy, sloping ground plane, and circulation features that frame views and separate space. In particular, circulation features and the layout of burial sites define rectilinear spaces punctuated by clusters of vegetation within the regular spatial pattern.

Similar to spatial organization, the visual relationships in Landscape Area 5 are defined by the sloping topography, tree canopy, and built features. Open views are present from Fifth Avenue to the east and from the eastern portion of Indian Trail south due to sloping topography. Conversely, views into the Cemetery Core from the southern edge of the area along Grove Avenue are limited because of the steep hillsides. Views are framed and narrowed along a short sunken segment of Glen Avenue, but expand upon approaching Grove Avenue to the south. (See Figure III.47.) Vegetation clusters throughout the area also serve to frame views. Because of the proximity to the River Campus at the west edge of Area 5, student dormitories are visually dominant. While some features, such as drives, retaining walls, and vegetation enclose and frame views, overall, the sloping topography establishes visual connections with the lawn-type section of the cemetery south of Grove Avenue and with the adjacent public frontage along Mount Hope Avenue.

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The topography of the area varies, but in general slopes down to Mount Hope and Grove Avenues to the east and southeast. Topography in the westernmost section, west of Glen Avenue slopes down to Unit 4 to the north. Steep slopes located along Cedar Avenue at the north edge of the area are maintained with stone retaining walls that line the southern edge of the drive. Stone retaining walls also line Glen Avenue. In the northern area, between Fifth Avenue and East Avenue, the average topographic change is 36 feet with additional slopes at the north and south edges. Between Indian Trail and Cedar and Grove Avenues and east of Glen Avenue, approximately 32 feet of elevation change occurs. West of Glen Avenue, the ground plane descends approximately 28 feet from Grove Avenue toward the north. Although the spatial organization in Area 5 differs from much of the broader cemetery landscape, the steep slopes are comparable with those found throughout Mount Hope Cemetery.

Vegetation within Area 5 is primarily deciduous and evergreen trees over mown turf. Patterns of vegetation vary throughout the area with a number of small tree and shrub clusters and rows as well as individual trees found on the sloping ground plane. (See Figure III.48.) Many of the evergreen trees and shrubs in rows were planted as part of memorial plantings around burial plots, but have since become overgrown. A dense cluster of trees is located near the intersection of Glen and Cedar Avenues. This cluster includes Norway maple, black locust, Canadian hemlock (*Tsuga canadensis*), eastern cottonwood, Norway spruce, eastern white pine, eastern arborvitae (*Thuja occidentalis*), dogwood, eastern red-cedar (*Juniperus virginiana*), sumac, yew, grape, and poison ivy. Additional smaller vegetation masses are located west of Glen Avenue. A grouping of Norway maple, Virginia creeper, grape, and pachysandra (*Pachysandra terminalis*) surrounds a drainage-way. (See Figure III.49.) A few additional small massings of similar plant types are located further west. At the westernmost edge of Area 5, dense vegetation extends south, along the western property line of the cemetery. Dominant species include Norway spruce, American linden, Norway maple, ash, red oak, red mulberry (*Morus rubra*), white spruce (*Picea glauca*), eastern white pine, box elder, Virginia creeper, grape, buckthorn, and poison ivy. At the northeastern corner of Area 5, the hillside is covered with a massing of tulip poplar (*Liriodendron tulipifera*), Norway spruce, Japanese maple, and Canadian hemlock. The effect and spatial patterns defined by massings and individual plants with areas of open turf characterize the vegetation found in Area 5.

Area 5 contains multiple circulation routes for both vehicular and pedestrian traffic. Current or former drives form the perimeter of the area. East Avenue runs parallel to Mount Hope Avenue at the east edge. At its connection with Grove Avenue at the south, East Avenue functions as a drive. The drive extends northeast for approximately 320 feet before narrowing to a 5-foot wide pedestrian path. (See Figure III.50.) This section of the drive was narrowed following the repair of the stone retaining wall that lines the east edge of the cemetery on Mount Hope Avenue. First, Second, Third, and Fourth Avenues provide convenient routes between Indian Trail and Cedar Avenues and Grove Avenue. First Avenue is the only asphalt drive of these four. While it is likely that each drive was originally surfaced with cobblestones or some form of pavers, no deterioration or wear in the asphalt was observed that revealed evidence of extant cobblestone beneath. However, archeological investigation could be undertaken to conclusively

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determine if any extant historic pavers remain beneath the asphalt surface. Second Avenue has a cobble surface while Third and Fourth Avenues are a mixture of gravel and compacted earth with herbaceous overgrowth. (See Figure III.51.) A sunken portion of Glen Avenue also provides a north-south route between Cedar Avenue and Grove Avenue farther west. A trace of Cedar Avenue remains evident near the steep slope between Areas 4 and 5. Maintenance vehicles often use this road trace as a short-cut. (See Figure III.52.) Pedestrian circulation in Area 5 is largely informal with visitors strolling along vehicular circulation routes or traversing the open turf. The combination of vehicular drives and limited pedestrian paths contribute to the character and functionality of Landscape Area 5.

No water features were documented within Area 5. However, it is likely that a number of water faucets are located in the area that connect with underground piping that were not readily observed during field work sessions.

Area 5 contains multiple non-habitable structures, site furnishings, and objects. These include the iron cemetery boundary fence, stone retaining walls, gravestones, mausoleums, and various stone and metal fences and posts that define and mark the edges of burial plots. The simple, unimposing character of the various structures, site furnishings, and objects contribute to the overall naturalistic landscape character.

Landscape Area 6: Western Slopes & Fields

This landscape area is located entirely within the University of Rochester River Campus landscape following the development and expansion of the college campus. The open, gently sloping area that fronted on the Genesee River has been replaced with campus facilities, including student dormitories, tennis courts, and a large asphalt parking lot. Fairly dense vegetation creates a barrier between the cemetery and campus landscapes, obscuring views into the River Campus. (See Figures III.53 and III.54.) Although this area is no longer associated with Mount Hope Cemetery, the rough stone and mortar wall constructed during the historic period remains intact, serving as a vestige of the character of this former portion of the cemetery landscape.

2008 Landscape Character Summary

While each of the landscape areas that comprise Mount Hope Cemetery embodies its own individual features and character, in general, the areas reflect a unified landscape character evident throughout the cemetery. Curving drives provide access to burial sites and traverse the steeply sloping ground plane. Stone steps and formal and informal pedestrian paths help visitors negotiate the steep terrain. A dense tree canopy covers much of the landscape, although areas of open mixed turf grass species are present. Together, the topography, circulation features, and vegetation frame shifting, picturesque views of the cemetery landscape with some views out toward the city. Structures, furnishings, and objects are distributed throughout Mount Hope Cemetery. The overall style and siting of these features in the

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landscape is such that they are unimposing, allowing visitors to focus on the naturalistic beauty of the landscape. While a number of small-scale features, such as signage and benches, have been added since the end of the historic period, they generally do not detract from the overall landscape character. However, uniformity among these contemporary features is limited. Overall, the combined characters of each landscape area define a cohesive, scenic character for Mount Hope Cemetery that largely reflects the historic landscape character.

C. MOUNT HOPE CEMETERY LANDSCAPE TYPOLOGIES

Landscape areas and character-defining features provide a description of the physical appearance; landscape typologies offer a framework for organizing the cemetery into discrete categories based on use and management. In addition to character defining features, landscape typologies contribute to the understanding of the landscape. Mount Hope Cemetery conveys two distinctly different broad landscape typologies: the lawn cemetery and the rural cemetery. The southern half of the cemetery is reflective of the lawn cemetery type with level topography, straight drive alignments, and more limited tree canopy. The rural cemetery type with undulating topography, curvilinear circulation systems, and dense tree canopy comprises the northern half of the cemetery, which is the focus of the CLR. Within this rural cemetery landscape, several smaller-scale landscape typologies are evident for topography, vegetation, and circulation features. Distinct landscape typologies are a valuable tool to guide maintenance and management of the historic landscape.

The rural cemetery of Mount Hope is generally characterized by both dense and scattered trees over lawn with a high density of monuments and burial markers. Using the character-defining features of the Mount Hope Cemetery landscape, landscape typologies can be defined based on three main factors that affect the visual and sensory experience and management regimes throughout the cemetery: slope gradient; vegetation cover including ground plane and tree canopy; and monument density. Variation of these factors results in great differences in the visual and sensory aspects of the cemetery. For example, a steep slope with an ivy groundcover, overhead tree canopy, and a dense array of monuments is notably dissimilar to a steep slope with open turf grass, no tree canopy, and limited monuments.

Together, these three typology factors also affect maintenance regimes and types of equipment used. Multiple objects with grave markers and tree trunks present obstacles to mowing with traditional riding mowers, whereas more level areas with no monuments and tree trunks are more conducive to mowing. Generally, slopes greater than a 1-foot rise over a 3-foot distance are too steep to be mown using standard mowing methods. In these cases, alternative ground covers can be planted to reduce maintenance efforts or alternative mowing techniques may be explored. The overall concept and framework of Mount Hope Cemetery landscape typologies are presented in this chapter while more in-depth discussions pertaining to analysis and management strategies are presented in the following chapters.

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In general, landscape typologies for Mount Hope Cemetery can be best defined and organized by exploring the change in slope gradients. Further exploration of the variations of ground cover and tree and monument density reveals numerous specific smaller-scale landscape typologies. Definition of these variations results in over two dozen smaller-scale typologies. Because of this high number, the discussion of landscape typologies will focus on the changes in slope gradient with summary discussions of the ground cover and density variations observed. Slopes were defined in three categories: relatively flat with slopes ranging between 1 and 9 %; gently sloping between 10 and 32%; and steep slopes measuring 33% and above. In general, slopes in the first two categories, between 1 and 32% are mowable. Steeper slopes should be considered non-mowable. In total, approximately 26% of the Mount Hope Cemetery landscape is comprised of slopes ranging from 1-9% with 52% from 10-32% and 20% at 33% or above. This indicates that about 78% of the landscape is mowable, although other landscape features, such as vegetation and monuments, impact the ability to mow the turf ground plane. Additional areas of the cemetery landscape not included in these totals are 0.71% encompassed by the service area, 1.42% of edge or perimeter landscape, and 0.02% of gardens. A more in-depth discussion of the impact of the landscape typologies on cemetery character, management, and use is presented in the following chapter.

In addition to slope gradients, circulation features were also inventoried to determine specific typologies. Within Mount Hope Cemetery, the vehicular drives serve as the route of experience. As noted earlier in the chapter, the condition of the drives varies greatly. Based on on-site observations, the factors affecting drive typology include: functional versus restricted; access, including vehicular and pedestrian; and material, including pavement, cobblestone, compacted earth trace, and gravel. The character and type of drives found in Mount Hope Cemetery impact the broad cemetery character, management, and visitor use and experience. Specific circulation types noted in the cemetery landscape are discussed in the following chapter.

D. MOUNT HOPE CEMETERY LANDSCAPE USES

Mount Hope Cemetery exhibits a variety of day to day uses from multiple users. Local residents use the cemetery landscape as a neighborhood park, often enjoying the scenic landscape for recreational purposes. Noted uses of the cemetery include fitness walking, social walking, dog walking, jogging, and biking. Walking and jogging takes place along the various paved carriage drives. Biking was also seen along the drives, however, traces of mountain bike trails were noted in some burial areas with steep topography. Though use of the cemetery as a park is a continued 19th century tradition for Rochester residents, intensive activities such as mountain biking may not be compatible with the nature of the site. Dogs within the cemetery may also pose problems in terms of feces disposal. A strong City of Rochester Police presence was also noted during on site investigations. Both police cars and police bikes were seen along the drives of the cemetery.

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A second group of users includes families and friends of deceased persons. Visitors to the cemetery today often visit and tend loved ones' graves. Family genealogists also come to the cemetery in search of lost relatives. The cemetery today continues as an active burial ground, and two burials were noted during on-site field investigations. Recent burials were located along Grove Avenue in the newer lawn-style cemetery grounds south of the historic cemetery core.

A third group of users at Mount Hope consist of tourists and the FOMH. Hundreds of tourists come to Mount Hope Cemetery looking for famous people including Frederick Douglass, Susan B. Anthony, Hiram Sibley, John Jacob Bausch, Henry Lomb, Frank E. Gannett, and other well-known Americans and former Rochester residents. FOMH leads a variety of guided walking tours of the famous gravesites and cemetery grounds through the summer months. Free tours are given every Saturday at 1:00 PM and Sunday at 2:00 PM and 2:30 PM from May to October. Twilight Tours that showcase various highlights of the cemetery are held on Thursday nights at 7:00 PM from May 15 through August 7. Twilight and Special Tours are \$4.00 per person, while Friends are free. Tours feature multiple topics from the cemetery landscape, to famous people of Rochester, to art and design of gravestones, to military history, among others. Specific tours for 2008 included the following: The "New" Section, East Avenue, Jewish Roots, Zinc Monuments, Mischief, Murder & Mayhem, Famous Artists, Brewery Tour, Section G, Civil War Tour, Ice Cream Tour, Speaking Stones, The Revolutionary War, Geology at Mount Hope, Fall Foliage Tour, and the Grand Finale Luminaria Tour.

E. MOUNT HOPE CEMETERY STAFF & VOLUNTEER EFFORTS

Mount Hope Cemetery is currently maintained through the combined efforts of City of Rochester staff and FOMH volunteers. In general efforts focus on maintaining cemetery vegetation. Additional special projects are undertaken to address features such as gravestones and monuments. Although each group operates with a relatively limited budget, work performed has a considerable impact on the existing landscape condition and on future management efforts.

With regard to the FOMH volunteer efforts, from January through October 2008, the group recorded 3,567 hours. Of the total hours, the Adopt-a-Plot and Gardening Committees account for about 1,000 hours. Other primary activities that comprise the remaining time include tour related issues such as planning, preparation, and presentation, genealogical research, newsletter preparation and distribution, and administrative tasks. In addition to the FOMH volunteer efforts, a considerable number of individuals spend volunteer hours at Mount Hope Cemetery. A large part of this is accomplished through organized events and programs, such as the annual United Way Day of Caring in Rochester and Rochester's Clean Sweep. School groups, scout troops, and other organizations also perform volunteer work throughout the year. It

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should be noted that the total volunteer hours recorded are for FOMH volunteers only and do not include other programs or groups.

In addition to volunteer efforts, the City of Rochester also provides some maintenance for Mount Hope Cemetery. Currently, the City employs two full-time workers and eight seasonal staff who work full-time hours eight months per year. In terms of specific work undertaken, mowing, weed trimming, burials, and pouring footers for monuments are daily operations. About 40 or more hours each week are spent on these tasks. After mid-May to August mowing and weed trimming is limited. From August to early October special projects are performed, which include repairing gravestones and removing overgrowth shrubbery. Mid-October thru December is leaf season. Activities from December until March focus on snow removal and preparing for spring. The current staffing and labor levels do not provide adequate support to maintain the unique character of the Mount Hope Cemetery landscape.

In terms of budgeting, FOMH does not have specific budget items allocated for landscape maintenance tools or equipment. A budget of \$4,500 is provided for tree and turf care. This yearly activity is expended in an arborist selection and bid process under the direction of one of the board members. The City of Rochester provides a budget for landscape maintenance. The total 2008-2009 Mount Hope budget from the City of Rochester is \$754,685, with \$471,898 for grounds and \$282,785 for office/administration. A total of \$19,800 is allocated for materials and supplies for the cemetery grounds, including construction materials, machine parts and tools, horticultural supplies, and petro lubricants. An additional \$309,498 is reserved for wages, temporary and part time workers, and overtime for grounds personnel services at Mount Hope. Services including equipment maintenance, motor equipment charges, dues and subscriptions, travel and training, administrative charges, refuse collection charges, and water charges total \$128,400 of the total Mount Hope grounds budget.

F. MOUNT HOPE CEMETERY LANDSCAPE ISSUES

Through field reconnaissance and meetings, existing landscape issues have been identified that relate to preservation of historic character and features, maintenance, vegetation management, erosion and stormwater control, safety, and wayfinding. These issues hinder optimal use, functionality, and maintainability of Mount Hope Cemetery. Resolution of these issues needs to be considered in future treatment and management objectives.

Current management of historic character and features is undertaken primarily through the coordinated efforts of FOMH and the City of Rochester Division of Cemeteries. The overall landscape character as well as a considerable number of features remain from the historic cemetery period. Preservation of several individual features, primarily buildings, has been undertaken. However, a unified approach for the preservation of the overall character and landscape quality of Mount Hope Cemetery has not been holistically addressed. A number of

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features exhibit deterioration and weathering. (See Figure III.55.) Additionally, historic features, such as stone grave markers, iron fencing, retaining walls, and historic circulation routes, are impacted by other landscape features, particularly vegetation. An appropriate management and preservation strategy needs to be implemented to resolve these issues.

The method of managing a balance between natural and built features is an important issue to address. Several instances where natural features are negatively affecting built features were observed throughout the Mount Hope Cemetery landscape. In particular, some vegetation has grown adjacent to grave markers and monuments, which can cause the stones to shift and break. (See Figures III.56 and III.57.)

Maintenance of the cemetery landscape also needs to consider historic character and features. Because of the steeply sloping topography, mowing the turf ground plane can be challenging. (See Figures III.58 and III.59.) Particular care needs to be taken to ensure the continued integrity of cemetery grave markers and stones and vegetation. Maneuvering mowers too closely to these features can cause damage. Additionally, extra care needs to be taken to ensure the safety of maintenance employees when mowing steep slopes.

Also related to maintenance is the issue of site vegetation management. Historically, the natural site vegetation was augmented with additional plantings. The combination of native and non-native plant materials created a diverse, naturalistic landscape that greatly contributed to the overall character and sense of place of Mount Hope Cemetery. Today the overall character defined by vegetation during the historic period remains intact. However, a number of issues exist that need to be addressed. In order to maintain this diversity into the future, a long-term plan is needed. Typically, native plants will generally resow, establishing themselves into the future while the non-native trees generally will not. However, at Mount Hope Cemetery, almost all areas of the cemetery have been disturbed over time, including some of the steepest slopes. This impacts the ability of all trees, including native species to regenerate. Competition from invasive species also limits native tree regeneration. As the collection of trees decline, the intended diversity of vegetation will not persist. In order for the diverse mix of native and non-native trees and shrubs as laid out during the historic period to continue into the future, desired species will need to be replanted. A plan that establishes procedures for the long-term renewal of vegetative diversity needs to be set forth.

Volunteer growth is another vegetation-related issue. A large amount of volunteer vegetative growth has occurred since the end of the historic period. Much of this is concentrated on steep slopes and alongside cemetery drives. The volunteer growth includes invasive and pest species, notably poison ivy, which grows prolifically throughout the cemetery grounds. Invasive species have spread in specific areas, competing with native vegetation and planted features. Non-native species intentionally planted during the historic period will not sustain themselves into the future without adequate planning and care. Managing volunteer growth will also help to reestablish some of the vistas to the city and surrounding lands. During the historic period, these impressive views attracted large numbers of users to the cemetery grounds. With the

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proliferation of vegetation throughout the landscape, these views have become limited and obscured. Through planning efforts, vegetation in Mount Hope Cemetery can be managed to enhance use, perception of both original and planned elements of the landscape in terms of character, spatial and visual relationships, and overall user experience.

Because of the steep topography, erosion and stormwater management are important existing interrelated issues. Erosion is evident in several locations in Mount Hope Cemetery, most prominently on steep hillsides. A combination of stormwater running down the slopes and site visitors taking shortcuts on short, open hillsides has caused the ground plane to erode in certain areas. In some instances, this is affecting site vegetation. (See Figure III.60.) Management of stormwater and surface runoff also needs to be addressed. Currently, the overland flow of surface runoff down the steeply sloping ground plane contributes to erosion issues. Additionally, stormwater flows along historic circulation features, impacting the extant paving materials. Instances of standing water were also observed during field work sessions. (See Figure III.45.) In order to maintain the unique character and distinct topographic features of Mount Hope Cemetery into the future, appropriate erosion and stormwater control measures need to be implemented.

Another concern is issues of user safety. Both police cars and police bikes travel the drives of the cemetery, creating a sense of safety in the cemetery landscape. Safety issues relate more to visitor use of cemetery features. In particular, stone steps and metal railings are placed throughout the cemetery. However, many of the steps have shifted over time, resulting in uneven walking surfaces. Because of the steep terrain, steps are important to visitor use and circulation through the grounds. Safe use of the steps can be improved by lifting and resetting the treads to create a level walking surface. (See Figure III.61.) Additionally, many of the steps either do not have railings or have inadequate or deteriorated railings. The overall design of many of the railings does not meet current standards and codes.

Also related to user safety is tree management and path maintenance. Given the extensive visitor use of the entire cemetery landscape, both along defined paths and across burial sections, understanding the condition of trees in the cemetery is important. Trees that are either standing dead or have dead branches in the canopy pose an issue with regard to the safety of users. At least one instance was observed of deadfall blocking a circulation path. (See Figure III.62.) Additionally, leaf litter is deposited on the ground plane, paths, and drives as stormwater drains over them. This can result in slippery and uneven walking surfaces. Pruning of trees near popular use areas can enhance the character and safety of the Mount Hope Cemetery landscape.

Wayfinding was also identified as an important issue at Mount Hope Cemetery. A few features have been implemented that aid in visitor wayfinding. A large sign with a map of the cemetery and the locations of burial sites of prominent people is located near the north cemetery entrance. Throughout the cemetery, painted white posts are inscribed with interior street names and section numbers. Because of the curving layout of the drives and the steep

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topography, direct routes through the cemetery grounds are not always clear. Additionally, the most direct routes to a specific destination may be across the turf or along the deteriorated stairways, which further affects other issues, such as user safety and slope erosion. Areas of overgrown vegetation also limit views into surrounding areas, making wayfinding challenging.

Issues identified at Mount Hope Cemetery focus on preservation of historic character and features, user safety, vegetation management, maintenance, erosion control, and wayfinding. Vegetation management is a prominent issue that interrelates with and impacts landscape character, historic features, and user safety. Future planning and treatment efforts should consider these issues. With an appropriate approach defined, these issues can be addressed and the historic landscape character, sense of place, and user experiences enhanced.

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Figure III.1. Upon entering the cemetery from Mount Hope Avenue, the entrance drive leads through the iron gates and stone piers to a visually contained area defined by topography, open lawn, and additional cemetery drives. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-MTH-15Jul08-0006-Unit1.jpg)

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Figure III.2. Visual relationships include a series of inferior and superior views from within the central lawn area up to the steep edge slopes and from the edges of the area down to the central lawn space. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-MTH_20080813_4720-Unit1.jpg)

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Figure III.3. The carefully framed spatial and visual relationships at the Cemetery Entrance convey the overall character of the broader cemetery landscape. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-MTH_20080813_4811-Unit1.jpg)

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Figure III.4. Around the fountain at the cemetery entrance are planting beds containing flowering perennials, which are tended by the Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-MTH-15Jul08-0109-Unit1.jpg)

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Figure III.5. Near the chapel, Ravine Avenue connects to the trace of an unnamed and unpaved carriage drive that loops around to the intersection of Indian Trail Avenue, Ravine Avenue, and the entrance drive. The unpaved carriage drive is narrower in width and edged with large episodic blocks of stone. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-MTH-15Jul08-0131-Unit1.jpg)

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Figure III.6. The Cemetery Entrance area includes multiple structures, site furnishings, and objects. Structures include the gatehouse, chapel and crematory, gazebo, mausoleums, and stone retaining walls. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-MTH_20080813_4905-Unit1.jpg)

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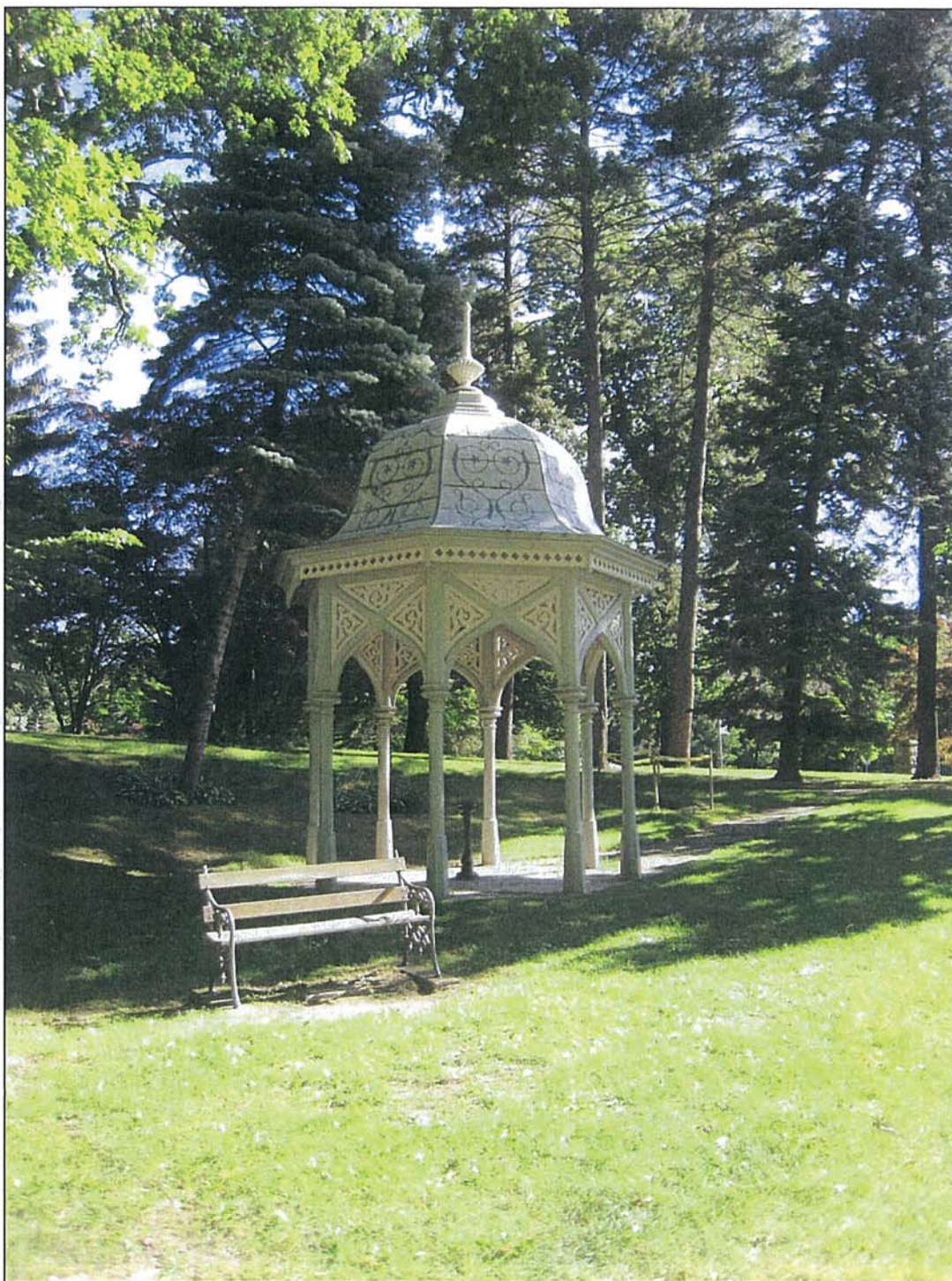


Figure III.7. Area 1 contains multiple structures, site furnishings, and objects, including wood slat benches and a gazebo sheltering a drinking fountain. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-MTH-15Jul08-0007-Unit 1.jpg)

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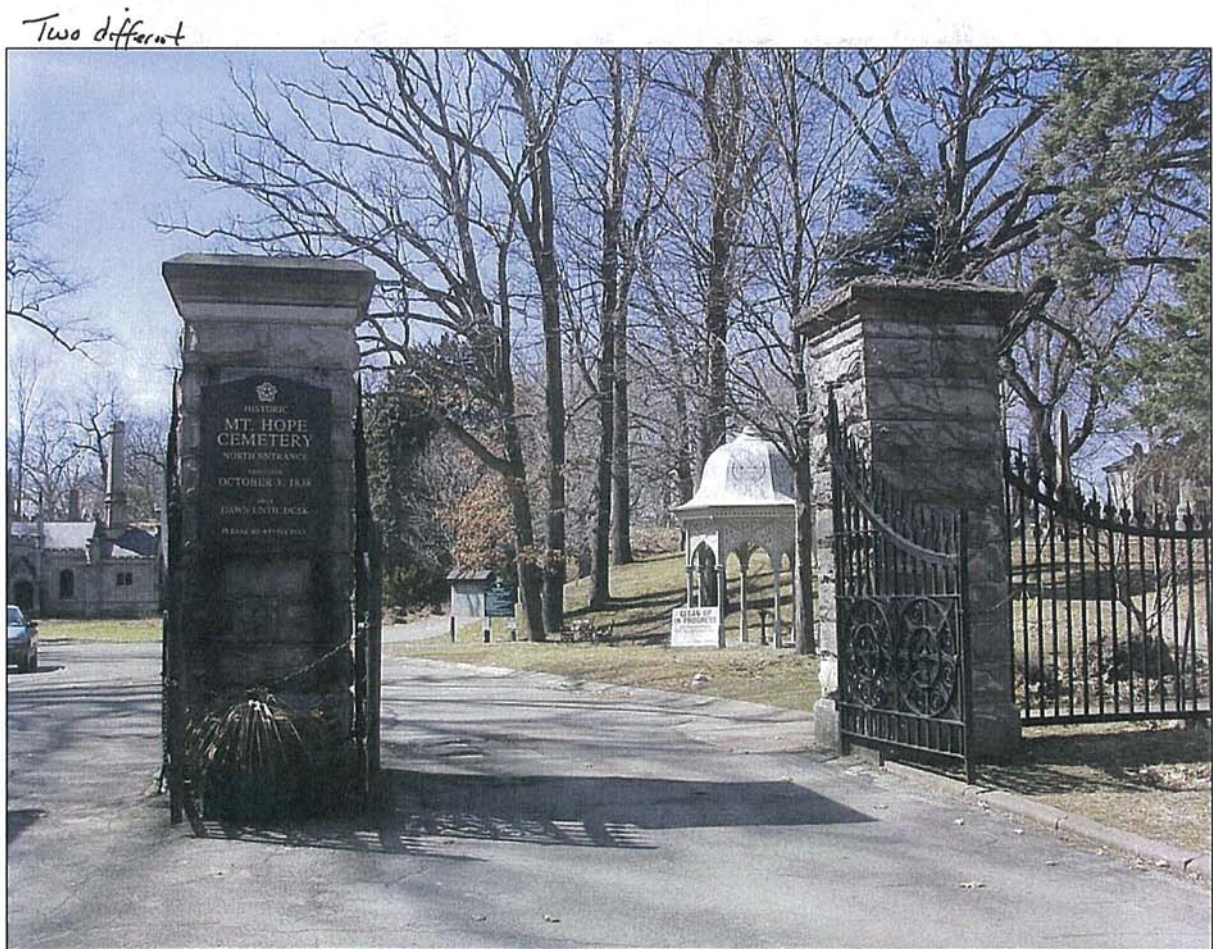


Figure III.8. The Cemetery Entrance, Area 1, includes small-scale elements such as the cemetery iron perimeter fence, entry gates, signage, concrete posts lining the drives, and planters. Courtesy Frank Gillespie. (R-MTH-FG-NorthGate-View4.jpg)

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Winter Time

Trim back Trees



Figure III.9. Landscape Area 2, Cemetery Core, conveys a woodland ramble feel with circuitous circulation routes and changing views within the heavily vegetated area. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-MTH-15Jul08-0102-Unit2 Character.jpg)

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Figure III.10. From West Avenue, superior views from the drive look over Section W and inferior views look up to the west edge of the knoll known as Patriot Hill. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-MTH_20080813_4825.jpg)

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Figure III.11. From atop Patriot Hill, views are focused on nearby gravestones and monuments. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-MTH_20080813_4684.jpg)

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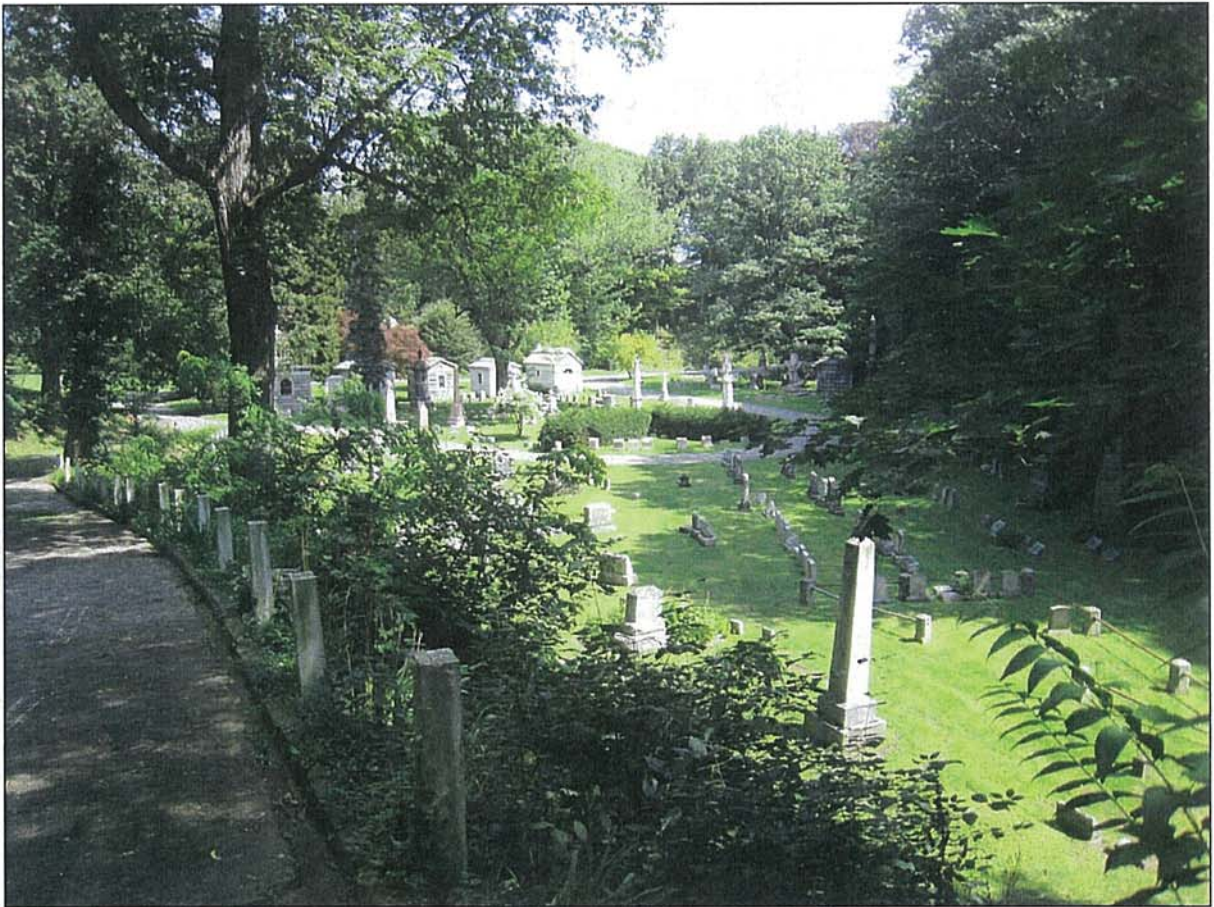


Figure III.12. At Ravine Avenue, the drive follows descending topography and provides superior views over the entry landscape of the cemetery entrance, Area 1. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-MTH_20080813_4717.jpg)

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Figure III.13. Indian Trail Avenue follows a prominent ridgeline and has mainly superior views over most of the cemetery. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-MTH_20080813_4772-Unit2.jpg)

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Figure III.14. The maturing tree canopy and presence of additional invasive species have partially obstructed many historic views. The historic view from the Fandango is no longer evident, primarily a result of vegetative growth. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-MTH_20080813_4711-Unit2 fandango.jpg)

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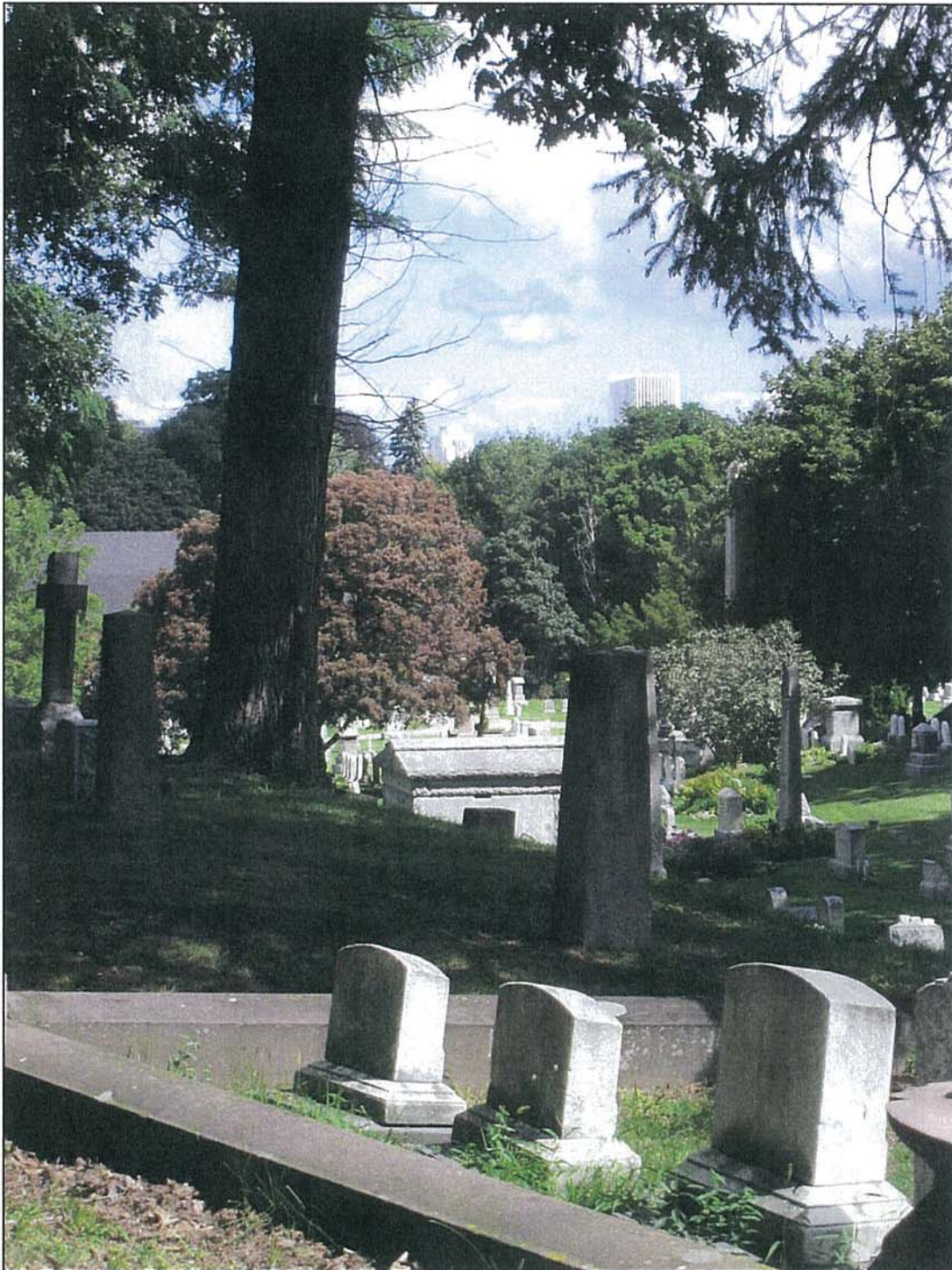


Figure III.15. A view to downtown Rochester high-rise buildings persists from the high point in Section C. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-MTH_20080812_4519-views to city from Unit 2.jpg)

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Figure III.16. A view of Rochester to the southeast is apparent from Section M. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-MTH_20080813_4873.jpg)

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Figure III.17. Views from high points throughout the cemetery create bucolic and picturesque scenes as direct views of the carriage drives and circulation systems are diminished. In Section I on top of Mount Hope, Hope and Hillside Avenues drop into the topography and are not visible when looking toward Section K and Sylvan Waters to the south and southwest. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-MTH_20080813_4699-Unit 2-no road.jpg)

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Figure III.18. Fifth Avenue is positioned in the grade for an unimpeded view from Section I to Sections S and T. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-MTH_20080813_4702-Unit 2,5, no road.jpg)

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Figure III.19. Glacial activity formed the topography of Area 2 into valleys, rolling hills, steep slopes, ridges, and bowl-like depressions known as kettles. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-MTH_20080813_4791-Unit2 Hilltop.jpg)

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Figure III.20. Glacial activity, which formed the topography of Area 2, continues to characterize the topography and natural systems in Area 2. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-MTH_20080813_4858-Unit2.jpg)

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Figure III.21. Much of the vegetation in Landscape Area 2 is woodland species found growing on the steep hillsides with hundreds of individual trees over open mixed species lawn. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-MTH_20080812_4564-Unit 2 lower.jpg)

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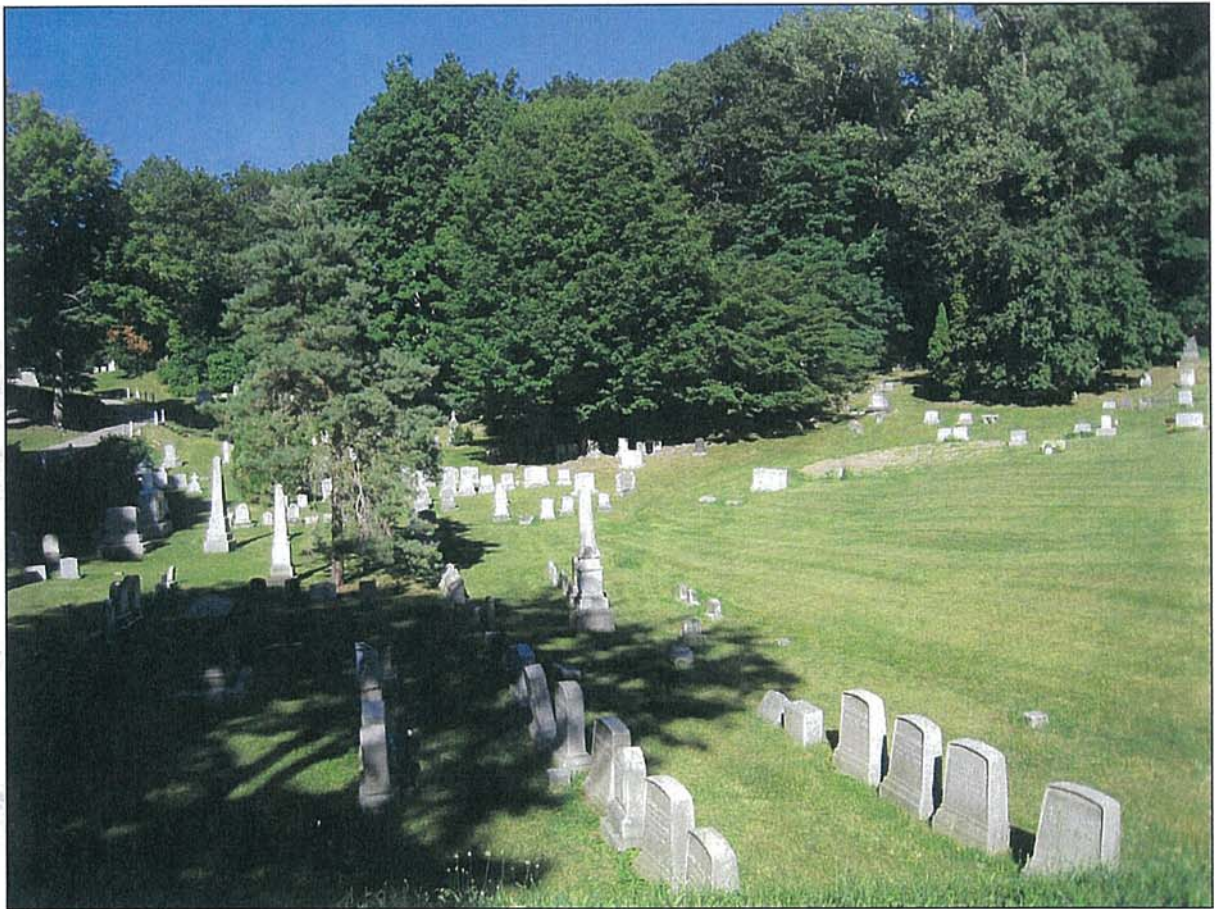


Figure III.22. The vegetation in Area 2 is a combination of natural, planted, and volunteer growth found on the steep slopes with areas of open lawn. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-MTH-15Jul08-0209-Unit2 open slope.jpg)

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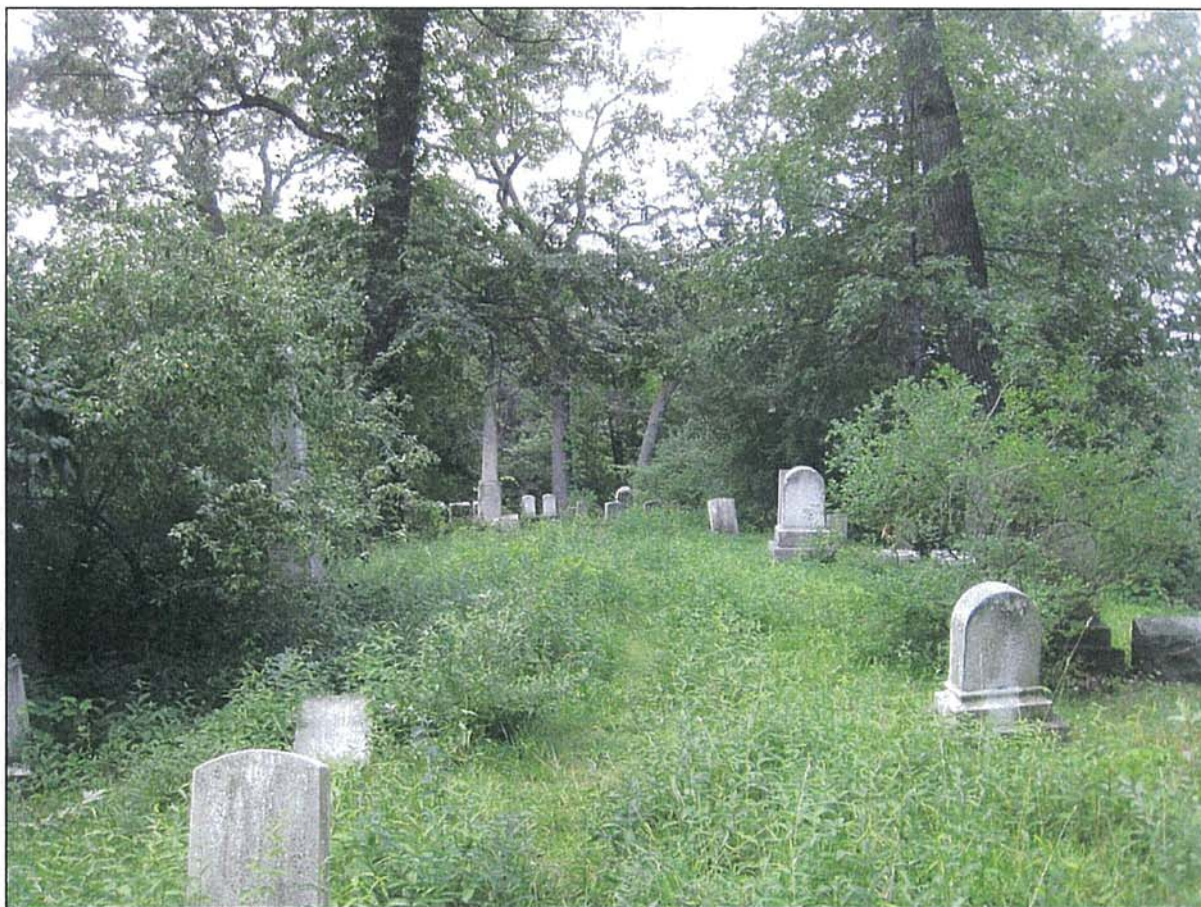


Figure III.23. A number of maturing volunteer shrubs and saplings are found between gravestones, affecting the landscape character and spatial relationship between the densely wooded slopes and areas of open turf. When near gravestones or other built elements, the volunteer growth can cause issues related to conservation of the stones and maintenance of other landscape features. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-MTH_20080813_4863-Unit2.jpg)

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Figure III.24. Perennial plantings found at a number of gravesites in Landscape Area 2 have been included in the FOMH Adopt-a-Plot program. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-MTH-15Jul08-0040.jpg)

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Figure III.25. Near the intersection with Linden Avenue, West and Glen Avenues branch to the west and form two additional elongated loops. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-MTH_20080813_4672-Unit2.jpg)

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Figure III.26. Loop drives encircle high points in the landscape, including the knoll known as Patriot Hill, or alternatively, Revolutionary Hill or Rochester Hill. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-MTH_20080812_4530-view from patriot hill.jpg)

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Figure III.27. At the northern end, a portion of Ravine Avenue is composed of historic cobblestones re-laid by FOMH. Large, concrete planters prohibit vehicular access to this drive section north of Hope Avenue. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-MTH-15Jul08-0077-Unit2ravine.jpg)

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Figure III.28. Drives in Area 2 include Highland and Hillside Avenues, which are no longer accessible by vehicle. These drives are degraded and covered in mixed species turf grass, leaf litter, duff, and herbaceous plant materials. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-MTH_20080813_4743-Unit2-HillsideAve.jpg)

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Figure III.29. Historic drives in Area 2 are degraded and covered in mixed species turf grass, leaf litter, duff, and herbaceous plant materials. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-MTH_20080813_4714-Unit2, highlandAve.jpg)

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Figure III.30. A stone fountain is sited at the center of the Sylvan Waters to re-circulate water and provide a scenic effect; however, volunteer growth covers much of this central feature. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-MTH_20080813_4627-Unit2sylvan.jpg)

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Figure III.31. Three small kettles are located in close proximity to Sylvan Waters; two are directly adjacent, positioned to the north and west with grave stones. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-MTH_20080813_4623-Unit 2-dry kettle.jpg)

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Figure III.32. A kettle located within Section G, in the diamond-shaped area enclosed by Indian Trail and Dell Avenues, is similar in size to Sylvan Waters but degraded with overgrown volunteer vegetation. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-MTH_20080813_4789-Unit2 Kettle.jpg)

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Figure III.33. Stone retaining walls and steps are also found throughout Landscape Area 2, retaining grade and providing access around gravesites and constructed mausoleums. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-MTH_20080813_4771-Unit2.jpg)

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Figure III.34. Toward Mount Hope Avenue, the ground plane is open with no burial plots or drives. Because of the grid-like organization and patterns that characterize the North Cemetery Edge & Maintenance Yard, this area is spatially distinct from the broader cemetery landscape. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-MTH_20080812_4490-Unit3.jpg)

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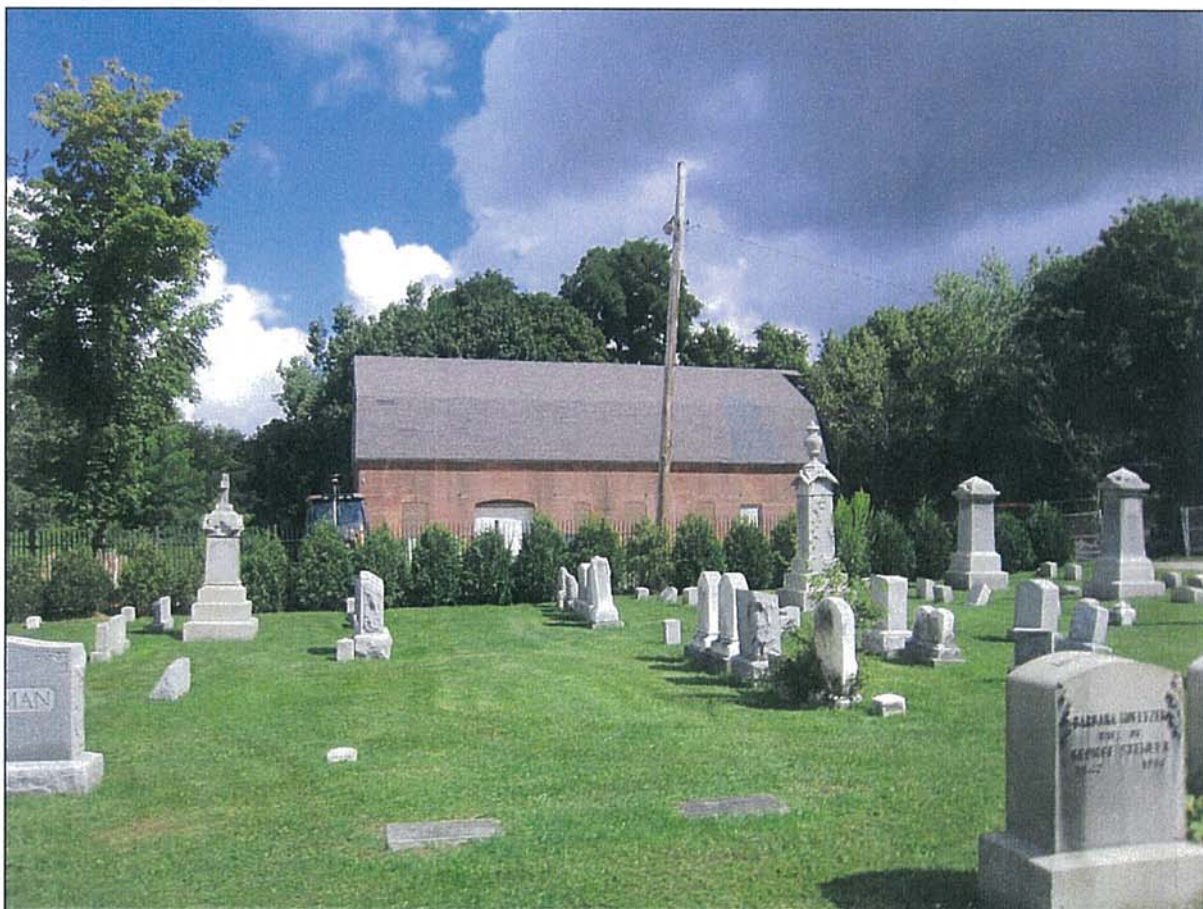


Figure III.35. A row of approximately 5-foot tall mission arborvitae is located along iron fencing, providing a screen between the maintenance yard and the public cemetery landscape. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-MTH_20080812_4494-Unit3.jpg)

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Figure III.36. In the center of Area 3, deciduous, evergreen, and ornamental trees are scattered over a mown turf ground plane. Of particular interest is a mature weeping European beech tree, likely planted during the mid-to-late 19th century. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-MTH-15Jul08-0024.jpg)

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Figure III.37. In Area 3, the iron cemetery fence defines the north edge of the public landscape and separates the main cemetery from the maintenance yard. The section of the northern perimeter fence shown in this image has different cast iron posts than the section of fence along Mount Hope Avenue. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-MTH_20080812_4497-Unit 3 fence.jpg)

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Figure III.38. At the western cemetery edge, chain-link fencing marks the property line and provides a barrier between Mount Hope Cemetery and the adjacent property. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-MTH_20080812_4502-Unit3-views through.jpg)

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Figure III.39. At the west, although the ground plane slopes down, dense vegetation prevents views into the University of Rochester River Campus. However, some campus buildings are visible. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-MTH_20080812_4539-edge condition-Unit 4-5.jpg)

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Figure III.40. Vegetation within Landscape Area 4 includes both deciduous and evergreen species, though evergreen species are more dominant in this area than throughout other sections of the cemetery. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-MTH_20080812_4575-Unit 4 evergreen.jpg)

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Figure III.41. The steep slopes at the south and west edges of Landscape Area 4 are densely vegetated, primarily with volunteer growth. However, efforts by the City of Rochester in August 2008 have cleared the volunteer growth on the steep southern slope between Landscape Areas 4 and 5. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-MTH_20080812_4545-city slope-Unit 4-5maintenance.jpg)

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Figure III.42. Ground plane vegetation consists of mown mixed species turf grass in the west and south portions of the area; however, native grasses, flowers, and regenerating oak trees persist in the northeast quadrant of Area 4. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-MTH_20080812_4573.jpg)

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Figure III.43. Near the center of Landscape Area 4, both Pine and Buell Avenues become sunken drives with stone retaining walls and rising surrounding ground planes. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-MTH_20080813_4692-Unit4.jpg)

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Figure III.44. Near the center of Landscape Area 4, both Pine and Buell Avenues are delineated by adjacent retaining walls and rising ground planes. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-MTH_20080813_4840-Unit4.jpg)

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Figure III.45. In Area 4, the road trace at the Pine Avenue elbow-turn exhibits ponding with standing water present during most of the summer. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-MTH_20080812_4552-ponding former road-Unit4.jpg)

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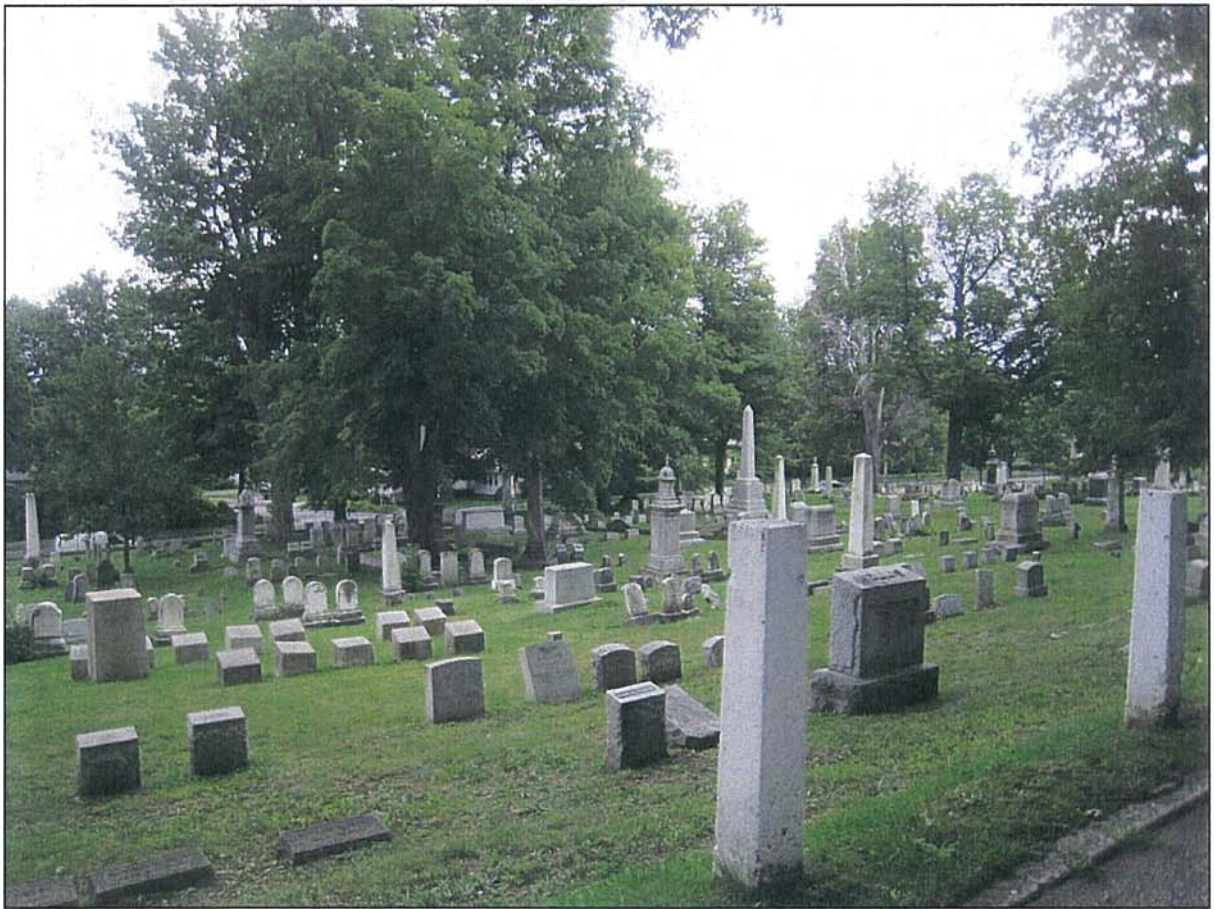


Figure III.46. Landscape Area 5 serves as the public frontage of the cemetery along Mount Hope Avenue and provides a transition between the picturesque, woodland ramble to the north and the flat, open lawn cemetery south of Grove Avenue. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-MTH_20080813_4755-Unit5.jpg)

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Figure III.47. Views are framed and narrowed along a short sunken segment of Glen Avenue in Area 5, but expand upon approaching Grove Avenue to the south. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-MTH_20080812_4576-Unit 5 sunken road.jpg)

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Figure III.48. Patterns of vegetation vary throughout Area 5 with a number of small tree and shrub clusters and rows as well as individual trees found on the sloping ground plane. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-MTH_20080813_4885-Unit5-yews, cedar.jpg)

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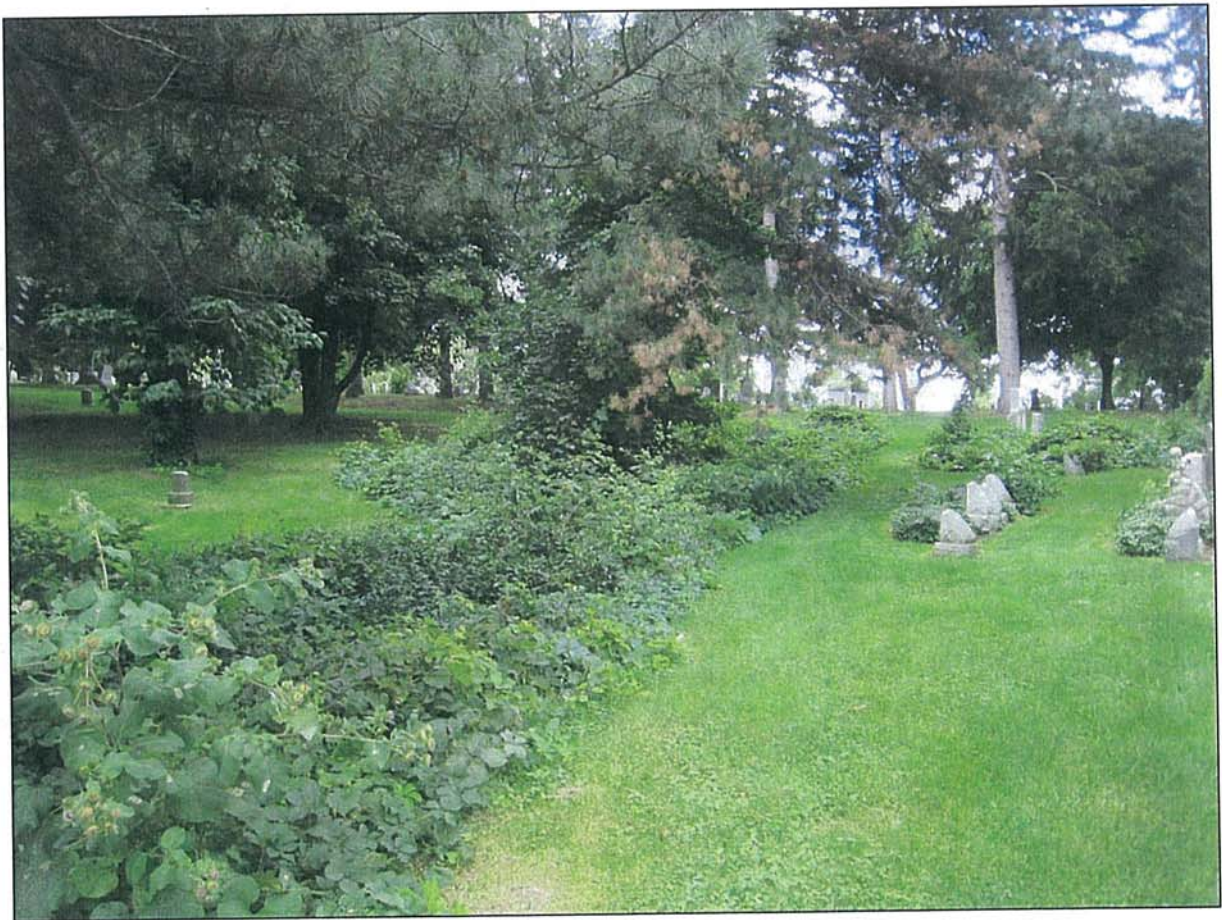


Figure III.49. A grouping of Norway maple, Virginia creeper, grape, and pachysandra surrounds a drainage-way in Landscape Area 5. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-MTH_20080812_4581-drainageway-Unit5.jpg)

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Figure III.50. At its connection with Grove Avenue at the south, East Avenue functions as a drive. The drive extends northeast for approximately 320 feet before narrowing to a 5-foot wide pedestrian path. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-MTH_20080813_4896-Unit5 East Ave.jpg)

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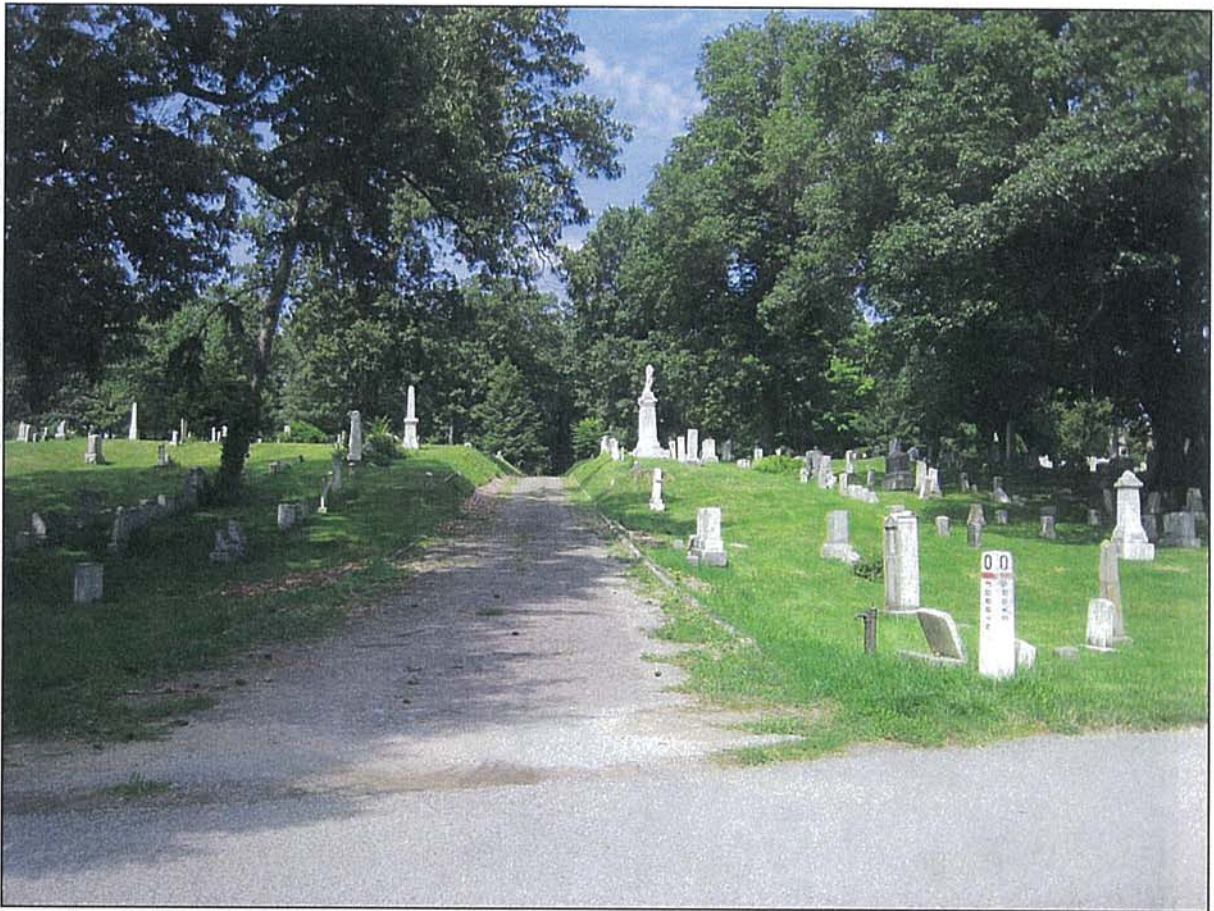


Figure III.51. First, Second, Third, and Fourth Avenues provide convenient routes between Indian Trail and Cedar Avenues and Grove Avenue. First Avenue is the only asphalt drive of these four. Second Avenue has a cobble surface while Third and Fourth Avenues are gravel. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-MTH_20080813_4894-Unit5 FourthAve.jpg)

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Figure III.52. A trace of Cedar Avenue remains evident near the steep slope between Areas 4 and 5. Maintenance vehicles often use this road trace as a short-cut. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-MTH_20080812_4540-Unit 5 open.jpg)

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Figure III.53. In Landscape Area 6, dense vegetation creates a barrier between the cemetery and University of Rochester River Campus landscapes, obscuring views into the campus. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-MTH_20080812_4582-Unit6.jpg)

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Figure III.54. The open, gently sloping area that fronted on the Genesee River at Area 6 has been replaced with University of Rochester River Campus facilities, including student dormitories, tennis courts, and a large asphalt parking lot. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-MTH_20080812_4561-views to UR-Unit6.jpg)

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Figure III.55. A considerable number of features remain from the historic cemetery period, but a unified approach for the preservation of Mount Hope Cemetery has not been holistically addressed. A number of features such as this historic retaining wall exhibit deterioration and weathering. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-MTH_20080813_4620-wall failure-Unit 5.jpg)

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Figure III.56. Natural features are negatively affecting built features throughout the Mount Hope Cemetery landscape. In this image, vegetation has grown adjacent to grave markers and monuments, which can cause damage. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-MTH-15Jul08-0016.jpg)

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Figure III.57. At Mount Hope Cemetery, the balance between natural and built features must be addressed. In this image, a tree has grown between grave markers, causing the monument stones to shift and break. Courtesy Friends of Mount Hope Cemetery. (R-MTH-FOMH-Tree-Graves-nd.jpg)

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Figure III.58. Maintenance of the cemetery landscape needs to consider historic character and features. Because of the steeply sloping topography, mowing the turf ground plane can be challenging, and maneuvering mowers too closely to these features can cause damage. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-MTH-15Jul08-0064-mowing.jpg)

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Figure III.59. Particular care needs to be taken to ensure the continued integrity of cemetery grave markers, stones, and vegetation. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-MTH_20080812_4523-mower damage.jpg)

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Figure III.60. A combination of stormwater running down the slopes and site visitors taking shortcuts on short, open hillsides has caused the ground plane to erode in certain areas at Mount Hope Cemetery. In some instances, as in this image, erosion is affecting site vegetation. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-MTH-15Jul08-0038-erosion.jpg)

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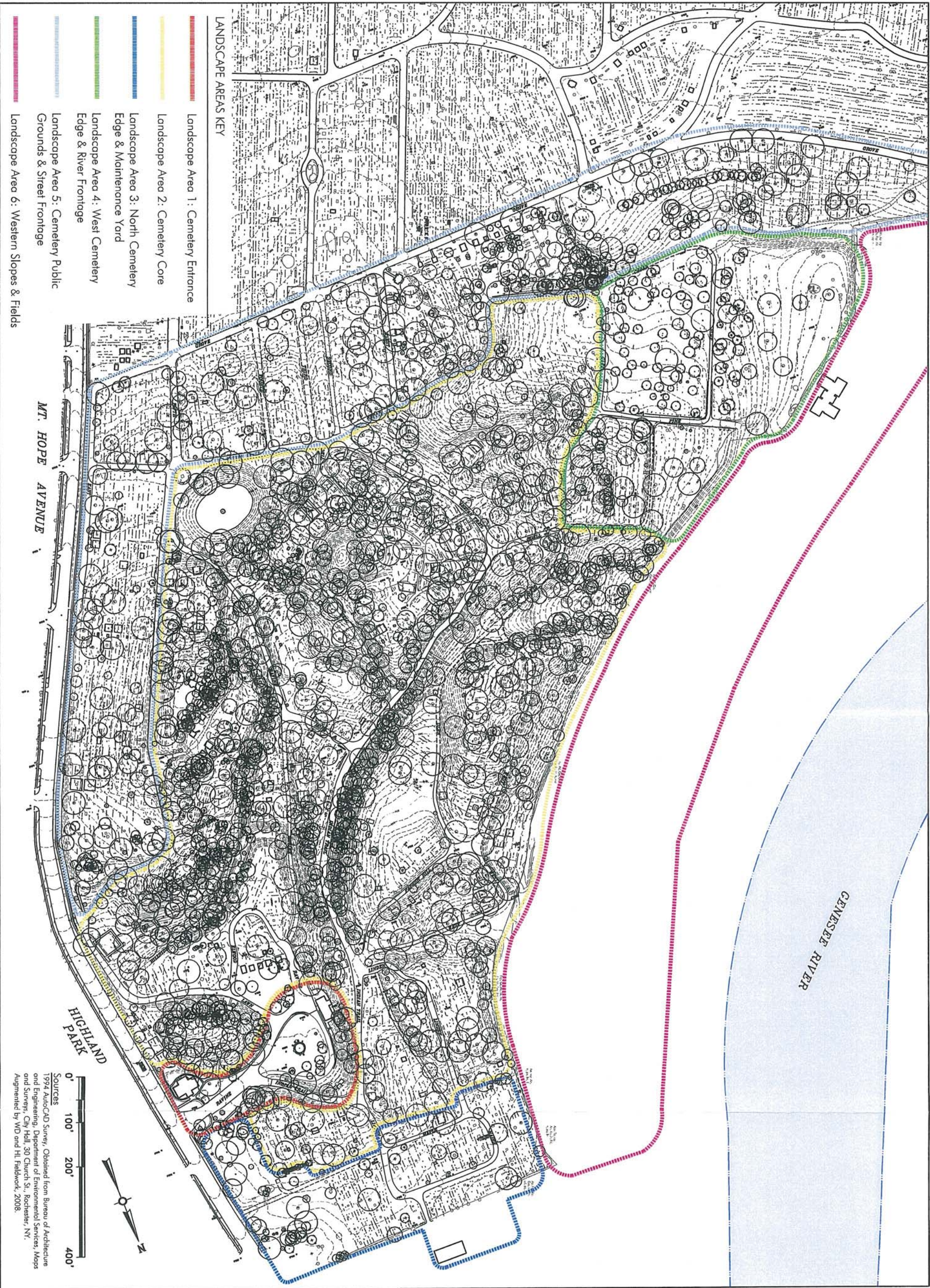


Figure III.61. Because of the steep terrain, steps are important to visitor use and circulation through the cemetery grounds. Safe use of the steps can be improved by lifting and resetting the treads to create a level walking surface. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-MTH_20080813_4712-steps.jpg)

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Figure III.62. Trees that are either standing dead or have dead branches in the canopy pose an issue with regard to the safety of users, particularly when declining trees are located near the walking paths. In this image, deadfall blocks a circulation path. Courtesy Heritage Landscapes. (R-MTH_20080812_4513-Unit3-west edge-deadfall.jpg)



Mount Hope Cemetery

Cultural Landscape Report

Rochester, New York

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