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2021 Capital Grant Request Brewer Hill Cemetery Storm Water Repairs

Capital Grant Request - \$110,000

As part of a 2004 erosion and sediment control permit for the development at 200 Westgate Circle, the developer was required to treat storm water associated with the site, including addressing storm water entering the cemetery property from the outfall on West Street and replacing the outfall pipe.

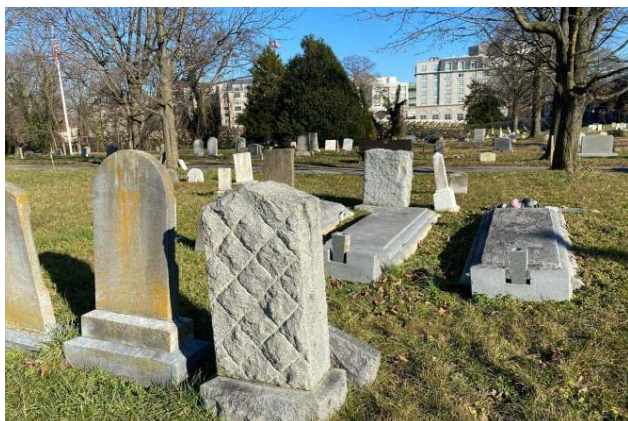
The City of Annapolis has been working with the developer of 200 Westgate Circle and Brewer Hill Cemetery to devise a plan to address the erosion and protect gravesites. The developer hired an engineering firm to design a solution that reduces the volume and velocity of storm water on the site and protects the gravesites. Before that design may be completed, ground penetrating radar must be employed to find gravesites and human remains that may be located in the area where the project is planned. To date, only clearing of debris and woody material in the area of the project has been performed.



History

A group of prominent African Americans from Annapolis purchased Brewer Hill Cemetery before 1884. The Anne Arundel County Judge of the Orphans' Court buried enslaved persons and his servants, those of his prominent white colleagues, and employees in the black community on the land. Many of Annapolis' African American leaders are buried in Brewer Hill, including Wiley H. Bates, who was influential in creating the first school in Annapolis for African-American children; the school still bears his name.

The Brewer Hill Cemetery is located on approximately four acres bordering West Street (a state road), the Annapolis National Cemetery, and the backyards of homes along Brewer Avenue. The cemetery is managed by the cemetery's Board of Directors and maintained with donations. The cemetery is rich in Annapolis history. More than 7,000 people are interred there.



Current Conditions

This historically significant property is in a state of disrepair. Currently, the most egregious problem is the ongoing erosion to the property caused by storm water flowing from an outfall pipe under West Street that empties directly onto the property. The area is incised by the storm water flows, uprooting grave-stones and causing erosion in the cemetery and damage to an adjacent stream. This storm water is also severely degrading the condition of the stream. The stream carries sediment and other pollutants from storm water to College Creek, the Severn River, and the Chesapeake Bay.

The City of Annapolis has been working alongside the property owner and developers of nearby properties to address these severe storm water and erosion issues. This project will include repairs to the storm drain on the east end of the property and will address damage to the cemetery, including exposure of human remains, caused by substantial channel erosion.