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Creating a better way to obtain and manage cemetery information.
CABE is calling for local authorities to realise the full potential of burial grounds by including them in their green space strategies.

Cemeteries breathe life into tourists

By Jessica Ravitz, CNN
October 30, 2009 4:06 p.m. EDT

In Ventura, the plot thickens

Residents clash over returning a park to its past life as a cemetery.

Design cemeteries for the living, not just the dead

31 October 2007

CABE is calling for local authorities to realise the full potential of burial grounds by including them in their green space strategies.
In the UK there are an estimated 20,000 cemeteries and burial grounds, and North America has over 300,000. Some of these cemeteries represent up to half of all the open green space in the region. These are just two examples of the many countries not utilizing cemeteries and burial grounds as functioning public parks.

Imagine if we realized the full potential of burial grounds and cemeteries by including them in our public green space strategies.
The area of St. Boniface, home to the largest French-speaking Canadian population outside of Quebec, was established in 1818 by Fr. Joseph - Norbert Provencher and was annexed by the city of Winnipeg in 1972.

St. Boniface Cemetery is located in Central St. Boniface and lies across the Red River from The Forks.
Downtown Winnipeg and St. Boniface are visually and physically connected by the Provencher Bridge.
St. Boniface Cathedral is an important spiritual focal point for the surrounding community. Many families have lived in the area for generations and feel invested in the site and its future.
No physical boundary allows entry to the site from any point. This eliminates the important hierarchy of the main entrance.

The entire site is covered in poorly maintained turf-grass, which struggles to grow under the large amount of shade trees.
A strip of well-maintained turf will reinforce the linear main entry and tie into the axial connection to The Forks.

An expansive mulch cover will provide a better medium for new and existing vegetation. The new mulch will allow for easy integration of user-defined path systems.
A wall around the site provides a defined border and effectively reinforces desired access points.

Lighting the site allows for extended hours of use and helps eliminate stereotypes of nighttime cemetery activity.
Convincing the public to use a cemetery as a park will take more than a new design. A new mindset is needed to break current perceptions of cemetery use.
Portable, raised planter boxes provide opportunities for community-building activities. Studies show that activities such as gardening can relieve stress and help people deal with the feelings of loss and grieving.
A stone wall reinforces the site boundary and leads visitors to entrances. Various plants and flowers are used to highlight prominent gravestones.
The main walkway functions as the physical connection, from West to East, and the visual connection, between St. Boniface and The Forks.
Secondary pathways throughout the site allow access to gravestones and provide alternative routes to enjoy the park.

SITE: PROPOSED
WINNIPEG, MB
The paved area near the cathedral entrance provides a space for raised planter boxes as well as opportunities for community gatherings.
NORTH LIGHTING allows for extended hours of use and creates a visual connection between St. Boniface and downtown Winnipeg.