



CHAPTER SIX

LANDSCAPE PRESERVATION



LANDSCAPE PRESERVATION

Importance

Oakland is a historic, inviting park in the middle of the city, attracting visitors with its beautiful landscape that is a refuge and place of calm amid the surrounding urban activity. The aesthetic and serenity experienced at Oakland would not be possible without continual maintenance, preservation, and new installation of trees, shrubs, perennials, groundcover and turf.

Existing Conditions

Just as hardscape restoration conditions vary widely throughout Oakland, landscape elements - trees, shrubs, perennials, groundcover, and turf - have been added or removed over time due to changing tastes, environmental change, and cost considerations. If known and where possible, Historic Oakland Foundation (HOF) has rehabilitated landscapes with the original plant material. If the plant materials are unknown, replacement is done with plant materials and landscape styles that would have been appropriate to the time period representative of the burial. Still, for landscaped areas not maintained by HOF, lots have been maintained and restored by individuals, families, the City of Atlanta,

and organizations. Today, the plantings seen in Oakland fill a wide spectrum of suitability and historic integrity.

Closely tied to hardscape preservation, sensitivity in landscape preservation efforts follow the same standards established in the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes*. In conjunction with those standards, the Landscape Management Plan for Oakland Cemetery, completed in 2011, outlines the Secretary of the Interior Standards and lists



Vines and volunteer vegetation covers this lot in the Old Cemetery.

appropriate treatments to character areas, and attempts to identify some appropriate species for installation. The Landscape Management Plan is most beneficial because it outlines a detailed process for determining appropriate plant material for individual lots. This gives HOF staff flexibility to make changes based on a case-by-case basis.

The Landscape Maintenance map on the following page shows areas that have been restored and are currently maintained by HOF garden staff or third-party contractors affiliated with HOF. Generally, garden staff follow restoration staff as part of a coordinated preservation effort. In addition, garden staff work to address maintenance of existing trees and plant material that may be outside the restored areas. The first enhanced areas encountered by most visitors are to the north and south of the main entrance (West Gate/Old Hunter Street Gate). Other areas of enhancement include the Bell Tower and eastern portions of the Old Cemetery. HOF maintains the hedge around the perimeter of the Confederate Section, other select areas dispersed throughout the Rural Cemetery, and East Hill.

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LANDSCAPE MAINTENANCE

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While initially less costly, Oakland's diverse landscapes require greater yearly maintenance costs than ongoing maintenance for hardscape preservation. Unlike hardscapes, plant material is an ever-changing, living component. This reinforces the need for increased maintenance funds and accurate and safe record keeping.

The Anatomy of a Cemetery Restoration graphic on the following page depicts landscape preservation components at the lot level, though these same preservation principles representing shade and ornamental trees, shrubs, turf, perennial plantings, and turf extend to all landscapes within Oakland. Less visible but equally important components to this landscape are soil restoration through compost, establishing new plantings, and water distribution (discussed in Chapter 8).

"Enjoying nature" was one of the most important attractions to Oakland for online survey respondents. Installation of new plant materials is coupled with preserving the existing natural environment. It is this balance that reinforces the tranquil atmosphere.

Proposed Strategies

Three strategies - all of critical importance - are outlined to continue landscape preservation efforts and increase the pace of preservation going forward.

- Landscape restoration and enhancement should continue to adhere to the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards*. (See pages 76-77.)
- Tree pruning and maintenance is of critical importance for safety of visitors and longevity of existing appropriate trees. Removal of inappropriate species is an ongoing effort as part of restoration plans. The Tree Canopy map shows areas of dense canopy and gaps in tree cover. (See page 78.)
- Annual maintenance of Oakland's 48 acres is an ongoing annual cost. (See page 79.)



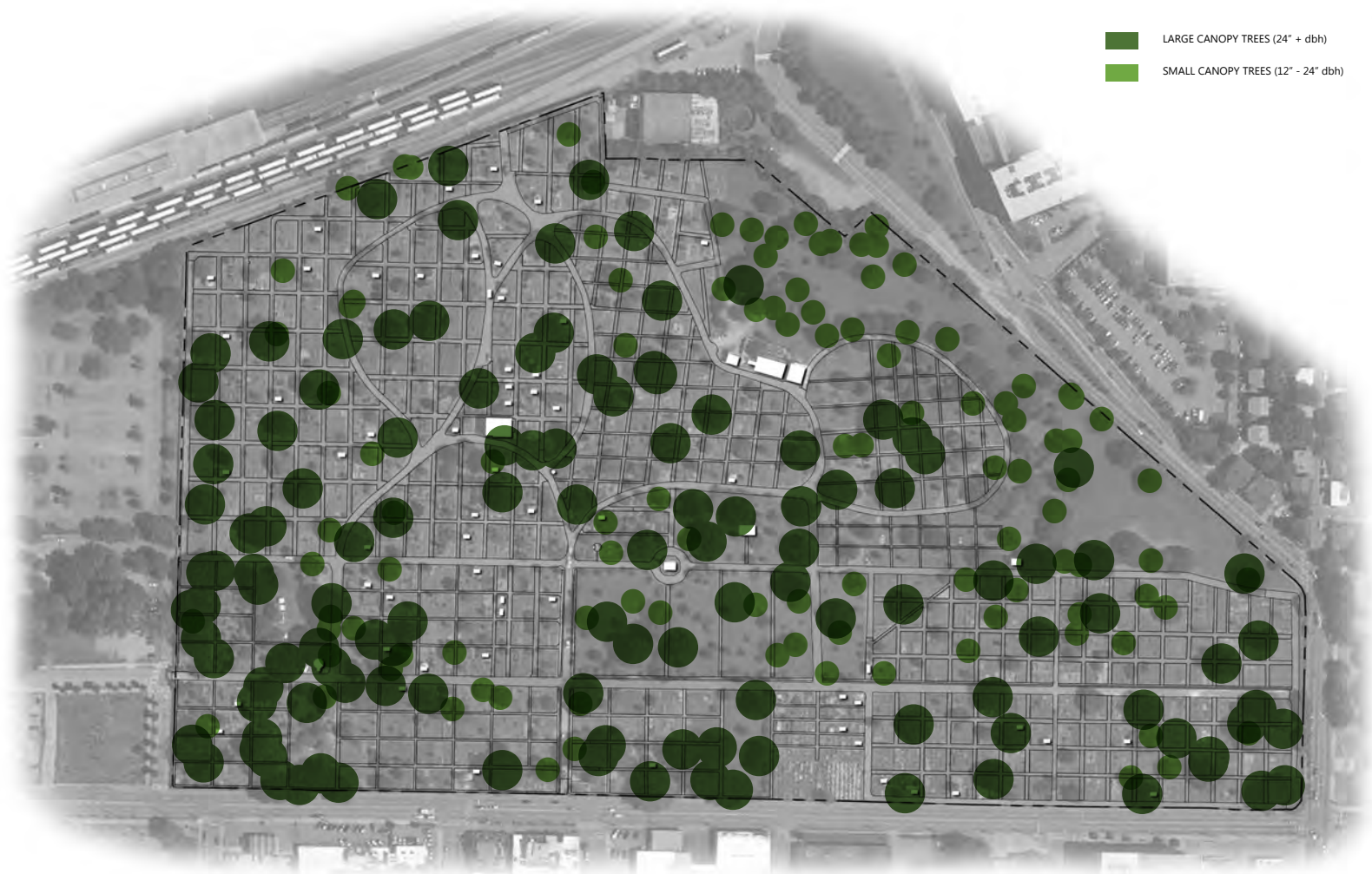
Appropriate plantings should be maintained but not impede access. Tree pruning is important to visitor safety.

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Components of landscape preservation and enhancement.

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TREE CANOPY COVER (MARCH 2017)

Strategy: Landscape Restoration and Enhancement


Description:

Integrity and restoration conditions vary widely throughout Oakland, and landscape elements – trees, shrubs, perennials, groundcovers, and turf – have been added and removed over time, many without regard for the historic or cultural appropriateness of plant material. New turf, shrubs, annuals, perennials, and trees need to be incorporated in all areas of the cemetery based on the process outlined in the 2011 Landscape Master Plan. Primary records should be interpreted when possible. A review of each lot’s dominant period of activity, the style of monuments, any known history, and the family’s wishes should be guides when records do not exist. The tree canopy should be replaced following historic patterns.




Steps Required for Implementation:


1. Coordinate with hardscape restoration team to identify phasing and time period of installation. Landscape installation should follow completion of hardscape work.
2. Identify available records and any active family members. Assess site conditions and needs.
3. Develop design based on historic records, site assessment and input from active family members.
4. Research and source plant species that are historically appropriate and well adapted to the site conditions.
5. Installation should occur when horticulturally appropriate.
6. Hire resources as funding and pace dictates (see Staff Expansion Strategy on page 173).




Cost Type:
Capital Improvement



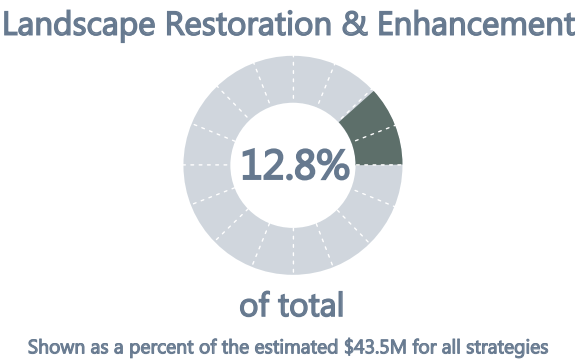
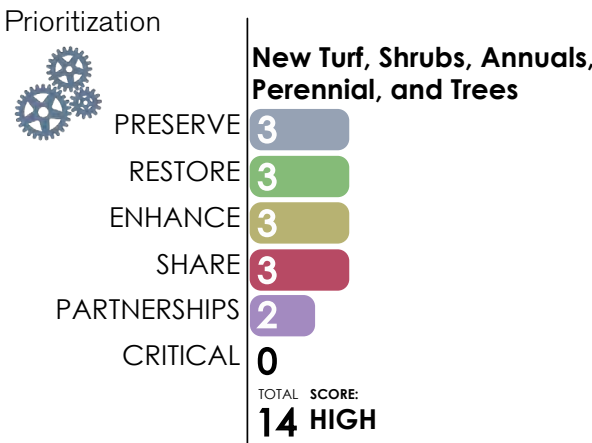
Partners:
Department of Parks and Recreation
Urban Design Commission
Park Pride
Trees Atlanta
Individual and Corporate Donors



Duration:
2018-2037



Cost Range:
\$3,737,500 - \$5,606,250



Strategy: Tree Pruning and Maintenance

Description:

Tree pruning and maintenance is of critical importance for the safety of visitors, integrity of hardscapes, and longevity of existing appropriate trees. Refer to the 2012 Tree Care Action Plan for remedial procedures and preliminary budgets for specific tree-care zones throughout Oakland. The cemetery is divided into thirds for maintenance scheduling. The current

remaining portion needs to be addressed and will serve as the beginning of a new three-year cycle of annual maintenance. Finally, organic soil amendment treatments are necessary for all trees to maintain healthy root systems and to compensate for urban conditions. Oakland’s soil is low in organic matter and plant-available nutrients.

Steps Required for Implementation:

1. Begin annual maintenance by completing the final 1/3 of the 2012 Tree Action Care Plan.

2. Continue maintenance on a three-year cycle.

3. Address emergency situations, including storm damage and disease, with the help of a licensed arborist specializing in tree-care.

Cost Type:

Annual Operating
(Endowment Opportunity)

Partners:

Arborguard Tree Specialists
Individual and Corporate Donors

Cost Range:

\$40,000 - \$60,000
(Annually)

Duration:

Perpetual

Prioritization

Tree Pruning and Maintenance

PRESERVE	3
RESTORE	3
ENHANCE	3
SHARE	3
PARTNERSHIPS	2
CRITICAL	3
TOTAL SCORE: 17 HIGH	

Tree Pruning and Maintenance

0%

of total

Annual operating costs excluded from \$43.5 M total


78

OAKLAND ALIVE

Strategy: Annual Maintenance


Description:

Staff resources devoted to maintaining existing plantings, removing unwanted vegetation, and incorporating new planting should be increased. Plant material continually changes Oakland’s appearance, and when neglected, alters hardscape features. Due to their living and ever changing nature, Oakland’s diverse landscapes will naturally require greater yearly maintenance costs than ongoing maintenance for hardscape preservation.




Steps Required for Implementation:


1. Continue implementation of current annual maintenance.
2. Develop a plan for maintenance of “the next eight” and coordinate with city staff to ensure proper coverage and work balance.
3. Identify and involve lot owners and families when possible.
4. Assure that all maintenance is done in a manner that avoids damage to hardscape and the environment.
5. Re-evaluate maintenance zones and responsibilities for HOF staff, contractors, and city staff annually.
6. Evaluate and plan for new areas and increased staff as preservation work advances.




Cost Type:
Annual Operating
Endowment Opportunity



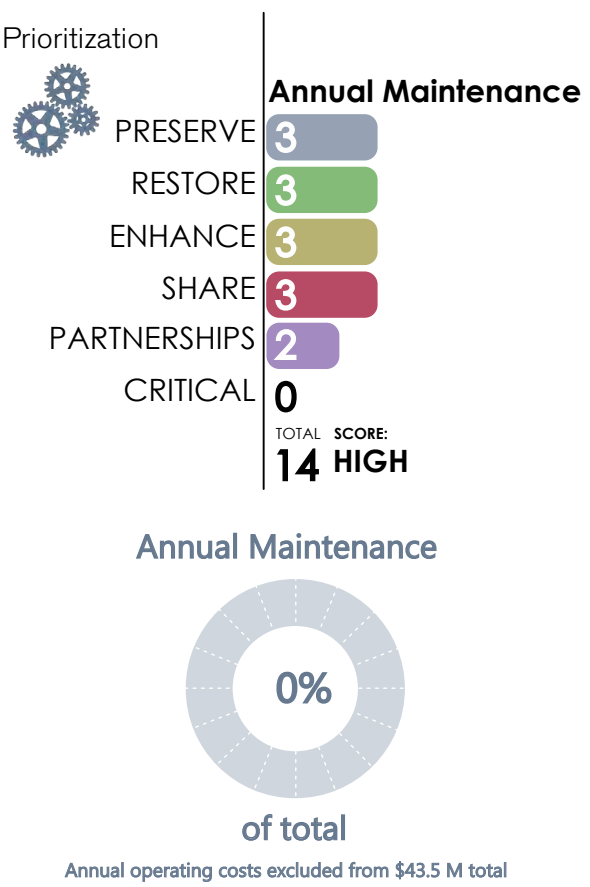
Partners:
Landscape Maintenance Contractors
Department of Parks and Recreation
Lot Owners and Families
Individual and Corporate Donors



Cost Range:
\$1,200,000 - \$1,800,000
(annual for entire cemetery)



Duration:
Perpetual



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