

Fairfax County Cemetery Preservation Association (FCCPA)
www.honorfairfaxcemeteries.org

Adopt A Cemetery

Fairfax County Cemetery Preservation Association (FCCPA) is a non-profit organization whose mission is to preserve cemeteries in our county. There are over four hundred cemeteries located in Fairfax County of which seventy-five percent are family cemeteries, which were originally located on family farms. Through the years many of these small cemeteries have been engulfed by suburbia.

Some family cemeteries have been completely obliterated by development. For example, a family cemetery was located at the JEB Stuart high school athletic fields area, prior to its construction. Today there are no grave stones and no records of the bodies ever being removed from the area. Another was located at the site of the Fairfax County Government Center. The bodies were removed to a commercial cemetery on Braddock Road. Because that cemetery does not allow vertical stones, the original grave stones lie in a landscaped area near the entrance to the county government center.

These cemeteries, which are located in residential and commercial areas, are the final resting places of farmers, homemakers, storekeepers, soldiers etc., whose lives constituted the fabric of our community. Today, many of the cemeteries are abandoned or neglected. Our association has worked with scouts at over twenty clean-ups at cemeteries. But, each cemetery needs continual maintenance, not just one Eagle Scout project.

Our association is asking community groups and individuals to adopt a cemetery. The adopting group or individuals would be involved in maintaining the grounds, picking up trash, and calling the police if any vandalism is noticed at the cemetery. This is not a legal arrangement, more like a community initiative, similar to adopt a highway.

Our county's history is tied to the lives of those who are buried in the cemeteries. In preserving the cemetery, we preserve the history of our county.

Please contact the association through our website, if you are interested in adopting a cemetery. www.honorfairfaxcemeteries.org



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Adopt A-Cemetery Program

Why adopt a family cemetery?

- ❖ The cemetery is abandoned/ neglected.
- ❖ The cemetery is threatened by development.
- ❖ Vandalism at the cemetery has occurred.
- ❖ Owners can not be located.
- ❖ Owners are incapable of caring for the cemetery.

Who can adopt a cemetery?

- ❖ Civic organizations
- ❖ Church groups
- ❖ Scout troops
- ❖ Philanthropic organizations
- ❖ School clubs/organizations
- ❖ Historical organizations
- ❖ Individuals

This program is not a legal arrangement, but is considered a community initiative.

What are the responsibilities of the cemetery owner/ neighbor?

To grant permission for daylight access to the cemetery for purpose of maintenance.

What are the responsibilities of the adopting organization?

- ❖ Provide periodic ground maintenance
- ❖ Clear the cemetery of trash
- ❖ Report to the police any evidence of vandalism

What are the responsibilities of the Fairfax County Cemetery Preservation Association?

- ❖ To act as a liaison between the owners/neighbors and adopting organization
- ❖ To obtain permission of owners/neighbors of the cemetery
- ❖ To provide written instructions to the adopting organization/individual concerning cemetery preservation and maintenance and safety issues
- ❖ To meet with the adopting participants at the cemetery prior to the adoption to describe the cemetery boundaries, identify markers, field stones, and depressions
- ❖ To periodically visit the adopted cemeteries
- ❖ To maintain contact with the owners /neighbors and adopting organizations or adopting individuals