



Celebrating & Preserving Rhode Island's Historic Cemeteries

By Elena Pascarella



The walled burying ground of the Noyes family dating back to the early 1700s is still maintained by descendants of the Noyes family. / image: Elena M. Pascarella, ASLA, PLA



North Burial Ground: a view of the gravesites of Americans who fought in the Civil War. / image: Kenneth C. Zirkel via Wikimedia Commons, licensed under CC BY-SA 4.0

RI Historic Cemeteries Awareness and Preservation Weeks: April 1-May 31

Rhode Island has 39 cities and towns, and all have historic cemeteries within their boundaries. These historic cemeteries provide a window into the developmental patterns of each community and demonstrate the social and economic growth, as well as the changes that have occurred throughout each community.

The Rhode Island Advisory Commission on Historical Cemeteries maintains a website that provides members and other interested parties with information about historical cemeteries as well as a comprehensive database to search historical cemeteries by location (map), by cemetery, or by gravestone. The website also provides valuable information about gravestone conservation, the history of the database, a handbook about Rhode Island's Historical Cemeteries and the rules and regulations for maintaining them.

To read more about about Rhode Island Cemeteries continue reading the article in [The Field. Click Here.](#)

Spring Event at Shepard's Run!



It's finally time to reconnect in real life!

You are invited to an evening of reconnecting with friends and colleagues at the historic Hazard-Sturges estate known as Shepard's Run, now a destination winery with a restored Beatrix Farrand Garden. The event will include a short tour of the property, light fare and a glass of estate wine.

Location: Shepard's Run

Date: April 26th, 5:30-8:00

Cost: 25\$ (Members)

Your ticket is waiting here:

REGISTER

Photo from [Shepard's Run](#)



Trustee's Report

Nathan Socha, ASLA

Greetings everyone,

We are gearing up for Landscape Architect Month with a spring event at Shepard's Run on Tuesday, April 26th from 5:30-8pm. All members are invited to an evening of reconnecting with friends and colleagues at the historic Hazard-Sturges estate known as Shepherd's Run, now a destination winery with a restored Beatrix Farrand garden. The event will include a short tour of the property. I am looking forward to a break from the virtual meetings and seeing some familiar faces.

RSVP here: [Spring Event - Shepherd's Run - RSVP](#)

Last month, National reached out to the chapter to bring to our attention of House Bill 7426, which would remove the landscape Architect Seat from the state building code standards committee. Our current understanding is that we have not been successful in nominating a landscape architect into the designated seat, despite several attempts and for this and a few other concerns the RIASLA and the ASLA State Government Affairs Manager have decided not to pursue maintaining the landscape architect seat.

Elena Pascarella, ASLA, the RI chapter HALS Liaison, is bringing a little bit of notoriety for Rhody. She recently published an article in ASLA's professional practice networks' blog. Big kudos to Elena for bringing some attention to the state and our chapter.

We welcome John Luca, ASLA as the newest executive committee member. John is a URI graduate and an associate at Traverse Landscape Architects. We look forward to his new energy and help with the Chapter.

The RIASLA has awarded the 2022 ASLA Student Honor award to Paige Shepard and the Merit Award to Nelson Vargas. Both students are studying Landscape Architecture at the University of Rhode Island. The ASLA Student Honor and Merit Award program, administered through the ASLA chapters, is designed to be a collaborative effort between and ASLA chapters and landscape architecture programs. The awards recognize academic achievement, design competence, and interpersonal skills. The chapter hopes to be involved RISD's student awards ASLA in May.

The efforts to promote a regional event with the other New England chapter has slowed but we continue to meet and discuss, our last meeting was in February 2022.

A few highlights from National ASLA:

On March 2, ASLA President Eugenia Martin, FASLA, kicked-off Women's History Month with a video introduction of the WxLA and ASLA series, WxLA Wednesday Walks, in which women leaders in landscape architecture conduct Instagram Live tours of landscapes they have designed across the country. Inspired by civic action, equality movements around the world, and the personal experience of its founders, WxLA emerged in 2018 as a vocal advocacy initiative for gender justice in landscape architecture.

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2021-2022 Rhode Island Chapter ASLA Executive Committee

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ASLA Vice President of Education Ebru Ozer, ASLA, CEO Torey Carter-Conneen, and Director of Accreditation and Education Kristopher Pritchard represented the Society at the Council of Educators in Landscape Architecture (CELA) Conference, March 16-19, which included providing an ASLA update at the CELA Program Administrator's Meeting on March 16. The update focused on ASLA's new mission, vision, and strategic plan; ASLA's new partnership with Land8 and LABash; as well as the new Women of Color Licensure program. VP Ozer also participated in CELA's board meeting while at the conference.

ASLA launched the Women of Color Licensure Advancement Program to support women of color in their pursuit of landscape architecture licensure and increase racial and gender diversity within the profession. In its inaugural year, the program will provide 10 women of color with a two-year, personalized experience that includes up to \$3,500 to cover the cost of sections of the Landscape Architectural Registration Exam (LARE), along with exam preparation courses, resources, and mentorship from a licensed landscape architect. Learn more on how to apply to become part of the ASLA Women of Color Licensure Advancement Program. The deadline for applications is April 1, 2022. See the press release on the Women of Color Licensure Advancement Program, which was covered by The Architect's Newspaper.

Landscape Architects Advocating for Change:

Recently, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) released a report to Congress, Moving to a Complete Streets Design Model: A Report to Congress on Opportunities and Challenge, detailing the agency's commitment to advance widespread implementation of

the Complete Streets design model to help improve safety and accessibility for all users. The report identifies five overarching opportunity areas that will inform FHWA as it moves ahead with its efforts to increase the proportion of federally funded transportation projects that are routinely planned, designed, built, and operated as Complete Streets. ASLA worked with FHWA to include landscape architects Rob Loftis, ASLA, Peg Staeheli, FASLA, David Lustberg, ASLA, David Crawley, ASLA and Ryan Bouma in discussions with the department to identify policy and design barriers to implementing Complete Streets projects. ASLA's contributions are recognized in the report.

The Center for Landscape Architecture officially received WELL Gold certification last week. The WELL Building Standard® is a performance-based standard focused on human health and wellness and is based in design and construction best practices and evidence-based health and wellness interventions. The renovation of the Center targeted both WELL and LEED certification. The Center received the LEED certification in 2019. A press release will be issued later this month.

As of March 14, thirty-seven states are convened for legislative session. Staff is tracking 180 occupational licensing bills. The state Government Affairs team continues to work closely with several chapters on legislative advocacy initiatives.

Nate Socha, ASLA
RIASLA Trustee




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President's Letter

Steven D'Ambrosia, ASLA

*The wintergreen, the juniper
The cornflower and the chicory
All the words you said to me
Still vibrating in the air
The elm, the ash and the linden tree
The dark and deep, enchanted sea
The trembling moon and the stars unfurled
There she goes, my beautiful world*

- Nick Cave, 'There She Goes, My Beautiful World'

We continue to live in a world that does nothing but bring the unexpected amidst the expected.

Spring has sprung, growth is renewed, hope is blooming while death and destruction occurs across the ocean and on our TV's and in our social media every day.

We're once again looking at a season flush with the anticipation of the creation of life juxtaposed with the opposite.

My heart first goes out to the people who have lost everything and the people that have died. It's impossible to imagine loss on that scale and in that way. I then look at the annihilation of entire cities. Cities with populations equivalent to Chicago, San Antonio, Seattle, Denver, and others. We can't fathom those cities being reduced to rubble or being shattered ruins of once vibrant cities with iconic architecture and famous places. Imagine Wrigley Field, Willis Tower, or Millennium Park, destroyed. Ukraine's Freedom Square and Babyn Yar Holocaust Memorial Site have met that fate amongst many others. There she goes, their beautiful world.

How does a country rebuild from this level of destruction? How do they clean up? How do they bring people back and living their lives again amidst the ruins with no homes, businesses, or infrastructure? It's daunting to say the least.

The travesty occurring is deeply affecting and there is a strong feeling of hopelessness for those of us that cannot help. The best we can do at this point is show support and donate to worthy causes that can help the refugees such as [UNICEF](#), [World Vision](#), and [World Central Kitchen](#).

So, as we start our spring work, creating and building again, let's not forget how fragile life and the world can be and appreciate what we have and what we can do to make the world a better place – after all that is our job as landscape architects.

Slava Ukraini

Steven D'Ambrosia, ASLA
RIASLA President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SDA', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.



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RIASLA Merit Award Highlight

KFA



Image from [KFA Landscape Architects](#)

Project Statement:

This historic farmhouse and studio, used by famous 19th century painter and stain glass artist John LaFarge, were built in 1870 but began their complete restoration in 2016. The project scope includes 3 acres and was implemented over several years. An existing pool is the only major original element retained in the new landscape. The clients are passionate about plants and avid gardeners which allowed for a cohesive landscape with endless horticultural diversity.

Project Narrative:

When beginning this project over 5 years ago the team was tasked with upgrading a 3-acre landscape located in the heart of a valley that had been the subject for generations of artists. The challenge here was to protect the native ecosystems, maintain the natural beauty of the existing landscape, connect to the Victorian farmhouse vernacular, and enhance the overall site for clients that are horticulturist at heart.

All aspects of the design for the landscape were conceived by the landscape architect, while collaborating with the architect

to connect the new landscape to the overarching building renovations. Our primary role was as designers working directly with the client in developing the site. The design process included site analysis, master plan, schematic design, local and wetlands permitting, design development, construction drawings, construction observation and the selection and procurement of the furnishings. The team worked closely with the clients to develop a layered, complex and unique plant palette across the property.

The scope of the overall design includes a renovated pool, new driveway, new pergola and shower structures, new fencing, rain gardens, invasive species management, vegetable and perennial gardens, and invasives management for an intermittent stream. The team worked closely with an arborist to preserve most of the existing trees, including the spruce grove.

The property sloped to a narrow intermittent stream, so drainage was carefully managed to minimize disruption to the fragile environment. Runoff from roof and hardscape areas were directed to rain gardens which were located to provide naturalized areas of seasonal color as well as to intercept surface



Image from [KFA Landscape Architects](#)

flow directed at the stream. Wood decking was selected for most of the landscape use areas because of its porous quality that could permeate to a gravel area below. Organic lawn and plant management are indicative of the clients' concern for their special landscape and willingness to support recommended best practices for the maintenance of this delicate environment.

Transplanted material included a large European beech, Japanese maple, weeping cherry, several large arborvitae and dozens of shrubs and perennials. The privet hedge along the street was replaced with a tapestry hedge made up of a mix of native shrubs. The team created an extensive perennial and rose garden for the clients to enjoy across the seasons, and provide a bountiful harvest of cut flowers. This garden consisted of over one thousand individual plants and hundreds of plant varieties. The landscape architect designed the planting beds in shapes that created a river-like lawn flowing towards the stream. Each group of plants was laid out by hand and thoughtfully placed to ensure three seasons of bloom and a balanced color palette. Inspired by the history of artists, the perennial garden is like a dynamic, living painting, changing from one moment to the next. It is located in an ideal spot for sun and afternoon shade, and adjacent to the vegetable garden so that both clients could be in their gardens – separate but connected.

The existing pool was the only major element that was included in the new landscape. Originally a raised concrete structure enclosed within a metal fence, new wood decking brought the surrounding areas flush with the coping, and created a soft, open perimeter with several areas for pool-side relaxation. New pool enclosure fencing was almost completely contained within the planting which provided a direct connection to the lawns and gardens surrounding the pool. A new wood pergola added a sense of enclosure and protection from the sun, as well as soft lighting for the evening hours. A new driveway replaced the former axial circular entry and gave the property more parking. The client's use of the front porch seemed natural given the farmhouse architecture, but previously was exposed to the street, so the new driveway orientation gave the clients more privacy and a view of a tapestry hedge and garden containing a stone trough fountain and roses.

This project shows a cohesive landscape with endless horticultural diversity and allows the micro-climates to speak to the nature of the created space. This design engaged the hearts of the clients, looking for ways to highlight the landscape's natural rhythms and activities.

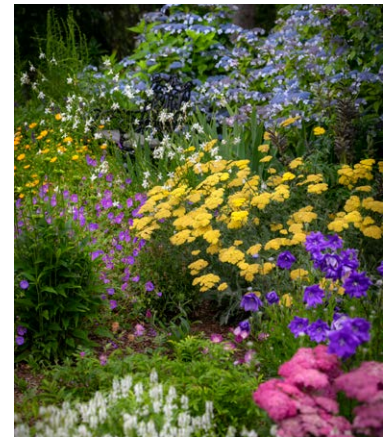


Image from [KFA Landscape Architects](#)

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Local Significance:

The property's connections to many famous local artists created a unique opportunity to embrace and build upon the historical significance of the landscape. The studio on the property was originally built in 1870 for famous 19th century painter and stain glass artist, John LaFarge. The property also sits within a larger, well-known landscape, known as Paradise Valley, that was painted and enjoyed by artists like William Trost Richards and John Frederick Kensett. The original studio space is now a music studio with a concert piano. The clients' passion for gardening, love of nature and desire to create a home for multiple generations of family, was inspiration for our work. Vistas to their property on the other side of the stream were sensitively managed around the native stream ecology.

The property is bisected by an intermittent stream which flows from a wetlands that is the result of the surrounding area watershed. The northeast corner near the vegetable garden has a high water table, thus the raised beds were an essential element for a successful planting medium. Deer, rabbits and voles are constant threats to the gardens and were managed by fencing with high cables for the deer and below

grade wire for the rabbits and voles. In some cases, such as in the new stone walls, the attitude of live-and-let-live was the best solution.

Special Features:

This project was especially unique because of the client's personal interest in horticulture and gardening. This allowed for the team to create layered plantings throughout the property but specifically within the perennial garden. The result of this design is a landscape that embraces its local significance and elevates the natural and native plantings with custom touches throughout the property. Efforts were made to protect a failing chestnut and the clients committed to replacing with another. Custom wooden structures such as the pergola and shower are homes to climbing roses and clematis.



Image from [KFA Landscape Architects](#)

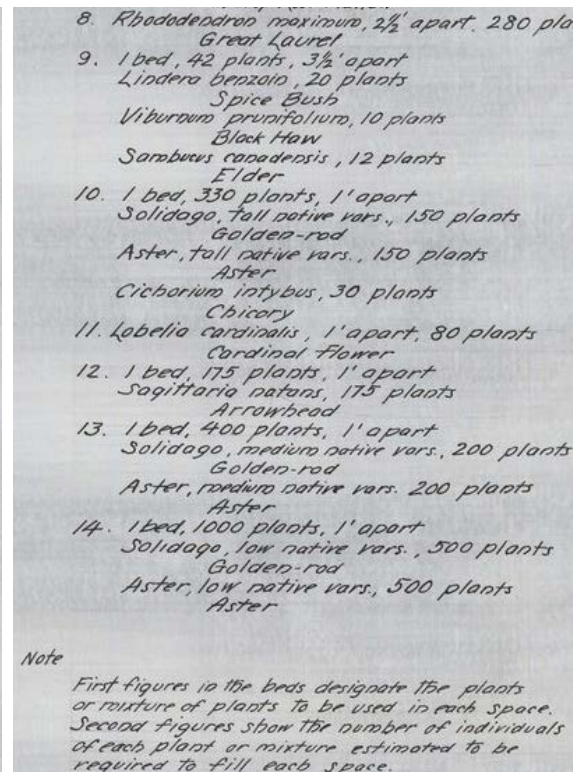
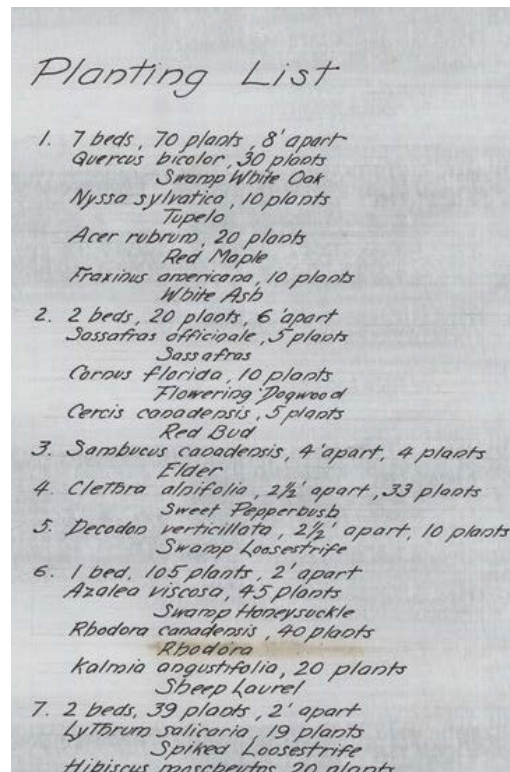
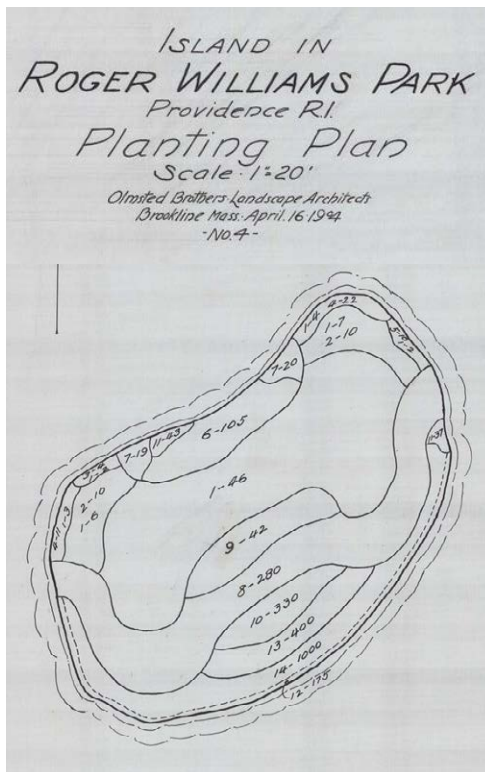
The Olmsted Challenge

As outlined in the Winter 2022 Newsletter, RIASLA is celebrating the birth of Frederick Law Olmsted by celebrating his work within our amazing State. To do this, we have ask firms to share projects they have worked on that are connected to Olmsted or Olmsted Brothers. How to submit a project can be found on the [RIASLA website](https://www.riasia.org/).

Island Planting, Roger Williams Park

Project: Island Planting at Roger Williams Park by Olmsted Brothers, Providence RI - 1904

Description Original: The Olmsted Brothers worked on a small planting plan for an Island within Roger Williams Park. Below are images of the original plan and plant list. Today the location is called Flower Island, likely influenced by the original planting scheme with Asters, Goldenrod, Rhododendron and more.



Plan and list from [Nation Association for Olmsted Parks](https://www.nationassociationforolmstedparks.org/)

Recent Project: Although not a part of the Island, Horsley Witten Group has worked on other projects within the park, to improve water quality within the lake and surrounding Flower Island. Both projects utilized similar planting palletes and reinforce the naturalized beauty of the park through layered, integrated native planting schemes.



Click the map to find Olmsted and Olmsted Brothers projects within Rhode Island



Rhode Island Historical Cemeteries

Awareness and Preservation Weeks, April - May 2022

Join cemetery tours, clean-ups, hikes, conservation workshops, monument cleaning demos, and other outdoor programs throughout Rhode Island. Free and open to the Public.

For more information visit: www.preservationconferenceri.com



Image: Williams Burial Ground, Roger Williams Park, c.1907 (Providence Public Library)



R.I. Advisory Commission on Historical Cemeteries
R.I. Historical Preservation & Heritage Commission