

The Perimeter Project: Cemetery Zoning Used in Fragile Lands Protection

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***Part I:
Conceptual Overview and Implementation
Strategy, Memorialization, Pilot Project, and
Virtual Cemetery Visualized Using
Google Earth and SketchUp***

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Conceptual Overview: Burial Practice

- Conventional US burial practice involving chemical embalming and cement vaults damages the environment.
- Scattering of ashes following cremation removes this difficulty but offers little constructive to the environment
- Green or natural burial also removes this difficulty and may offer even more to the environment when done with care.

Conceptual Overview: Memorialization, Conventional and Creative

- Scattering and Green burial approaches offer no means for memorialization. The Internet does so, when website memorials are trust-funded in the same manner as conventional cemeteries. Such memorialization has the added advantage of integrating far-flung family members in virtual space.
- Archived Memorials Online offers such capability (AMO = “I love” in Latin). Sample Basic AMO Memorial on the next slide.

In memory of

Marian H. Schinske

1921-2008



SCHINSKE - Marian H. Schinske, aged 87, was called to God on Friday, December 26, 2008, in Denton, TX. Marian was employed by General Motors Diesel Division in Wyoming, MI, for many years and is a graduate of Union High School.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Clarence and Anna Young; her siblings, Virginia Zanella, Percy, Bud, Gerald and Bob Young. She is survived by her children, Richard VanDyke, Patricia Miller, Linda Rutty, Terry VanDyke, and John Schinske, 14 grandchildren; 16 great grandchildren; three great-great grandchildren; and sister, Betty DeBoer. The Bible says that a day with God is like a thousand years on earth, so though it seems sometimes like an eternity of loss, our time apart is but a brief moment. The Funeral Service will be held 1:00 p.m. Friday, January 2, at Stroo Funeral Home, with Rev. Tom Meyer officiating. Interment in Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens.

Lot Location: Masonic 155 B 4

Memorialization: Zoning Implications

- Thus, one might employ online memorials as a means to encourage more environmentally-sensitive burial practice.
- Furthermore, with such encouragement in place, one might turn the idea around and attempt to protect fragile lands by acquiring cemetery zoning for them (which is the most difficult to change--zoning can be a moving target that responds to the political whim of varying administrations).

Perimeter Project: Mission

- It is the mission of the Perimeter Project to implement the idea of using cemetery zoning to protect environmentally sensitive lands
- Many of these lands/waters represent a "perimeter" between land and water, competing landuse types, and so forth. Thus, a "Perimeter" might be
 - Physical—coastal, for example.
 - Perceptual or cultural
 - Related to Environmental Justice—adjacent to a “lulu”
 - Use imagination...

***Pilot Project:
Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens
Grand Rapids, Michigan***

- A sample of the more than 300 online memorials, “AMOs”, appears in the movie on the next slide. A small set of AMOs has been online since 2003.
 - The Pilot Project at Chapel Hill began January 1, 2009 as the first time integration of AMOs with an actual cemetery occurred
 - That project has generated hundreds of new Basic AMOs as part of the standard burial package (more in Part II of this talk).
- The AMOs appear at various sizes to fit into a standard movie frame (next slide)
<http://www.ArchivedMemorialsOnline.com>

***“Not marble nor the gilded monuments of princes
Shall outlive this powerful rime”*** William Shakespeare, Sonnet LV
...Nor perpetual Internet memorialization!

Virtual Cemetery

Visualized Using Google Earth and Google SketchUp

- Associated cemetery maps are embedded on the Google globe
- Balloons mark burial location
- AMOs popup when clicked on within the Google Earth browser interface
- Associated features add extra reality
 - Mausoleum buildings created in SketchUp
 - 3D trees found online
 - Street views interior to the cemetery from field photographs
 - Special events visuals of various kinds

Fly To Find Businesses Directions

Fly to e.g., Hotels near JFK

Places Add Content

- Vassar College, 1964, Dorms
- Michigan Cemeteries
- Michigan Cemeteries
- Michigan Cemeteries
- Monograph2.kml
- Monograph2
 - Berlin Rohrpost
 - Paris Reseau Pneumatique
- lambethMD.shp
- AMO Virtual Cemetery
- Archived Memorials Online
- Individual Markers
 - Marker is placed at last location known for the
- Group Arrangements
- ChapelHillMemorialGardens
 - Archived Memorials Online
 - Archived Memorials Online
 - Street View Detail
 - Chapel Hill Memorial G...
 - Map CHMG
 - Updated map August, 2009.
 - Map Old_Chapel Hill Memc
 - Original map
 - Trees
 - Tombstones
 - Memorial Day Event
 - May 25, 2009.
 - <http://www.cemeterygral>
 - Garden of the Apostles
 - Garden of the Last Su...

Layers

- Primary Database
- Geographic Web
- Roads



Directions...Memorialization

- Beyond the Basic AMO
 - Custom AMOs with added visuals or videos—possible associated contacts: PWilliams productions
 - GEOMAT personal biographies: Ann Larimore, Ph.D. and Robert Haug Ph.D. Candidate—developed in a conflict resolution context over three years of classroom experience.
- Facebook—Personal Memorialization Wall,
in association with Jen Osburn, CHMG
- Teaching of new staff
 - Handbook in progress
 - Online materials in progress

Directions...Related Pilot Projects

- Extensions to other existing cemeteries might offer opportunities to learn more about database management and related issues
- Municipal extension might involve
 - Matt Naud, City of Ann Arbor Environmental Coordinator
 - Roger Rayle, CSF Research Associate and Chair of Scio Residents for Safe Water
 - Allen Creek Greenway or other citizen groups
- Regional extension might involve various groups as spin-offs from Pilot Projects, especially in association with land acquisition issues.
- International extension to developing nations and database management issues will involve DevInfo and Kris Oswalt (CSF).

Directions...Connections and Feedback

- In cremation it is necessary (lest the crematorium explode), and in green burial it is desirable, to remove pacemakers and other metal from the body. We have necessary contacts, from funeral homes, to handle such removals.
- Kim Eagle, M.D. and Timir Baman M.D. (Cardiovascular Center, University of Michigan) have a pacemaker recycling project in progress in which pacemakers will be recycled in hospitals in developing nations.
 - When hospitals and online legal forms are ready from UM, we are prepared to supply pacemakers.
 - As both projects evolve, there may be further opportunity for synergistic effort in the international arena.

***Part II:
Pilot Project, Marketing, Extension Strategy
to Other Cemeteries***

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Pilot Project

- Chapel Hill Memorial Gardens
- Memorialization
 - Evolution of “Basic AMO” project
 - Extension to “Custom AMOs”
- Green burial
 - Perception by clients
 - Legal issues
 - Environmental issues

Marketing

- The importance of bundling the AMO with other items
- Interdisciplinary issues: perception problems with funeral director industry
- Legal issues: consent forms and more.
- Perception issues associated with cremation
- Attitudes toward “green” burial

Extension Strategy

- Other existing cemeteries—the easiest extension
- Land acquisition issues—zoning is often for a parcel larger than immediately foreseen (as in cluster housing, for example). Mixed use is critical with cemetery zoning for the entire parcel. Orchards, tree farms, and various other uses mix well with cemetery use.
- Leveraging funds: water towers and other locally undesirable uses might help
- Support from the political and environmental communities sought:
 - Crematoria are incinerators and use fossil fuels and may produce pollution and similar problems.
 - Green burial integrates the remains throughout a site—into the grass, trees, and elsewhere: zoning is most permanent (in conventional burial, the remains are together and conceivably could be moved).

Extension Strategy, continued

- Investigation of alternative methods of disposal of human remains continues—both from the scholarly and real-world vantage points:
 - Resomation: conversion of the remains to a liquid that might be used in garden or forested areas. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Resomation>
 - Natural burial: use of support for a vertically-buried body to prevent an accordion effect. Ann Larimore notes a need to use a disposable casket or to accommodate, in a sensitive manner, a variety of preference.
 - Cryogenics: Fred Goodman notes a personal communication involving routine applications of this freezing process in Western Europe. <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Cryopreservation>
- Spatial planning: use small hexagonal plots and arrange them in a hierarchy to take advantage of fractal central place analysis for close-packing and associated benefits in movement and administration. <http://www-personal.umich.edu/~copyright/image/books/Spatial%20Synthesis2/>

THE END

Many thanks to Kris Oswalt for his support of this project.

CSF archive

<http://www.csfnet.org>

Information related to this topic

<http://www.MyLovedOne.com>

<http://www.ArchivedMemorialsOnline.com>

<http://www.ChapelHillGrandRapids.com>