

Session Abstracts

Modernization and Mishaps in Private Burials

Presented by Monique Hassman, Vernon County Land Information Office

Description: A few years after Vernon County approved the practice of burials on private land, it became clear that the process for documenting these sites needed improvement. This presentation traces the origin of this provision, outlines the county's initial recording procedures, and explains the factors that prompted a necessary update including the development of a GIS database. It will also highlight the cross departmental and community partnerships involved along with key lessons learned about communication, consistency and the importance of learning and adapting to the human dimensions of this work, especially when those surface in unanticipated ways.

Keywords: *burial, partnership, data quality*

Using Community Engagement and GIS to Honor Washington County Veterans

Presented by Michael Vander Sanden, Washington County

Description: What began as a way to help document and aid in the annual Memorial Day flag laying process evolved into a project that brought together boys and girl scouts, community volunteers and local business leaders to locate the gravesites of Washington County veterans. I will discuss how Survey 123 was used to enable volunteers to locate the gravesites and Experience Builder to present the data as a public memorial locator as well as some of the unexpected benefits of the project.

Keywords: *Survey 123, Experience Builder, Collaboration, Cemetery*

Cemeteries: Helping towns manage and provide

Presented by Rosemary Mosher and Judy Colby-George, VIEWSHED

Description: Cemeteries: Helping Towns Manage Records and Improve Public Access
VIEWSHED has supported many towns in digitizing cemetery records, developing ownership datasets, and connecting maps to existing ownership information. Our projects span everything from basic mapping efforts to full-featured management tools and public-facing online record systems. Along the way, we've encountered a range of challenges, and we'll share the key lessons we've learned about creating accurate, usable cemetery data.

Keywords: *Cemetery digitization, Ownership datasets, Geospatial mapping, Data management, Municipal records*