



Building a Community of Caretakers: How to Develop a Cemetery Preservation Alliance

Preserving cemeteries is essential for honoring the past and preserving history. Learn how to develop a Cemetery Preservation Alliance to ensure the preservation of historic headstones and engage the community.



by **Christina Griswold**

Why a Cemetery Preservation Alliance?

Hands-on Preservation

Take a practical approach to preserving cemeteries through activities like headstone cleaning and cemetery maintenance.

Networking for the Common Good

Connect with like-minded individuals and organizations to collaborate on preserving and protecting cemeteries.

Roles of a Preservation Alliance

Preservation of Historic Headstones

Ensure the conservation and restoration of historic headstones to preserve the memory of those who came before us.

Documentation and Record Keeping

Assist cemeteries with creating comprehensive records of cemetery plots, burials, and historical information for future research and reference.

Educational Outreach

Engage the community through educational programs and events to raise awareness about cemetery preservation.

Community Engagement

Involve the local community in cemetery preservation activities to foster a sense of ownership and pride.

Advocacy and Legislation

Advocate for Cemetery Protection

Work towards pursuing changes in legislation and policies to protect cemeteries from neglect and destruction.

Research and Historical Interpretation

Conduct research to uncover the historical significance of cemeteries and interpret their stories for the public.

Interfaith and Cultural Respect

Promote inclusivity and respect for diverse religious and cultural practices within cemetery preservation efforts.

Public Awareness Campaigns

Launch campaigns to raise public awareness about the importance of cemetery preservation and its impact on communities.

Benefits of Collaborating

1 Leveraging Expertise

Tap into the collective knowledge and skills of individuals and organizations dedicated to cemetery preservation.

2 Resource Sharing

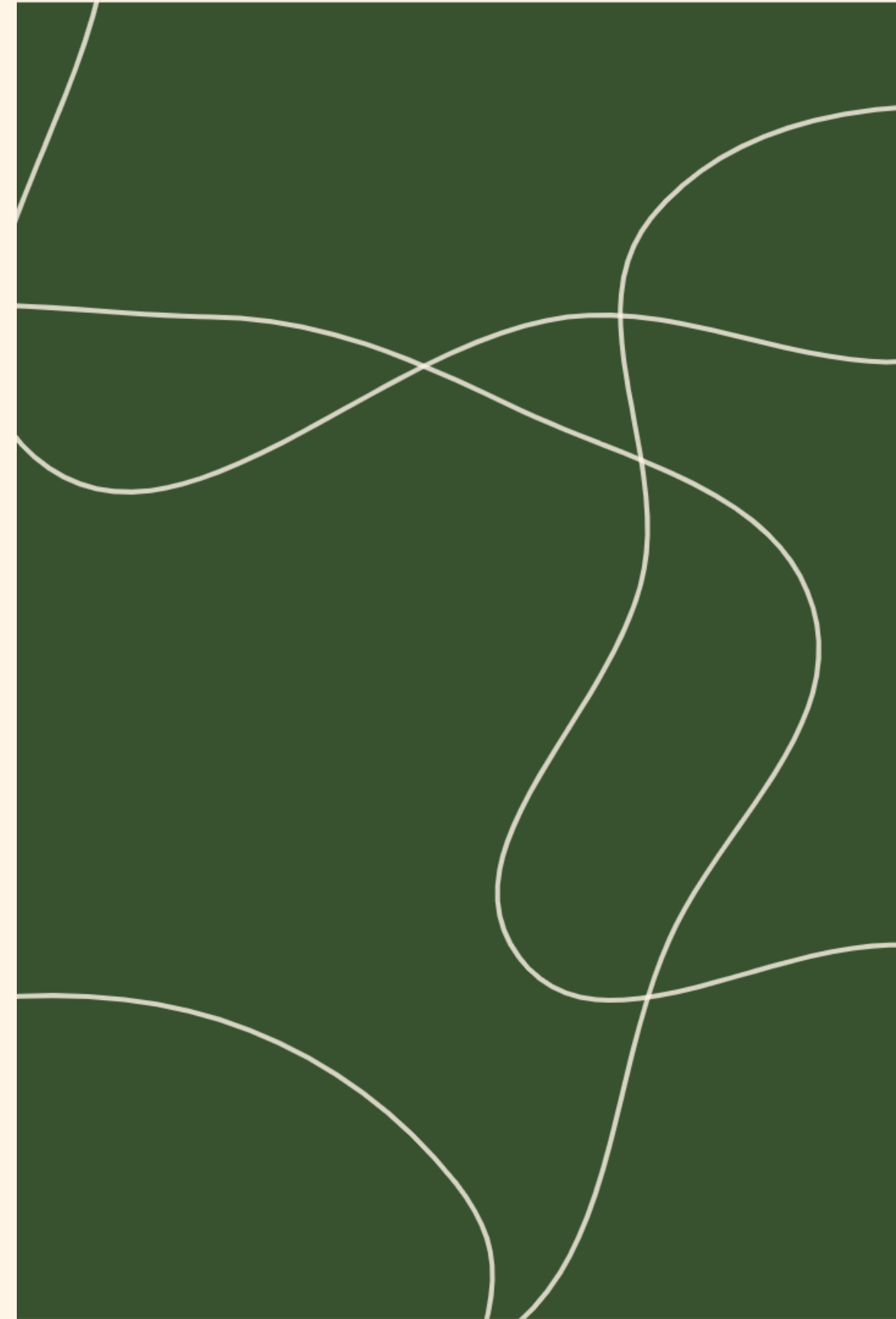
Pool resources, tools, and materials to maximize efficiency and effectiveness in cemetery preservation efforts.

3 Expanded Networks

Grow your network of contacts, creating opportunities for collaboration, learning, and mutual support.

4 Combined Advocacy Efforts

Unite voices to advocate for cemetery preservation at a larger scale, garnering more attention and support.



Building Your Foundation

Identify Stakeholders

Engage genealogists, historians, cemetery owners, government agencies, educational institutions, local businesses, religious leaders, and funeral directors to build a diverse and dedicated network.

Create a Mission Statement

Craft a clear and impactful mission statement that inspires both internal and external stakeholders, aligns with your vision, and guides your activities.

Legal Considerations

1 IRS Compliance

Understand the specific language and requirements set by the IRS for corporate formation documents to maintain compliance.

2 Tax ID and Incorporation

Obtain a Tax ID (EIN) and establish Articles of Incorporation, defining the nonprofit organization's structure and purpose.

3 Members vs Nonmember Organization

Consider the advantages and disadvantages of having members in the organization, including decision-making processes and fundraising strategies.



Building a Strong Community

Outreach and Education

Organize educational events, leverage social media platforms, and assist homeowner associations (HOAs) in preserving cemeteries.

Engaging Volunteers and Community

Utilize popular platforms like TikTok to showcase the restoration process, tell captivating stories, and encourage community involvement.

Fundraising Strategies

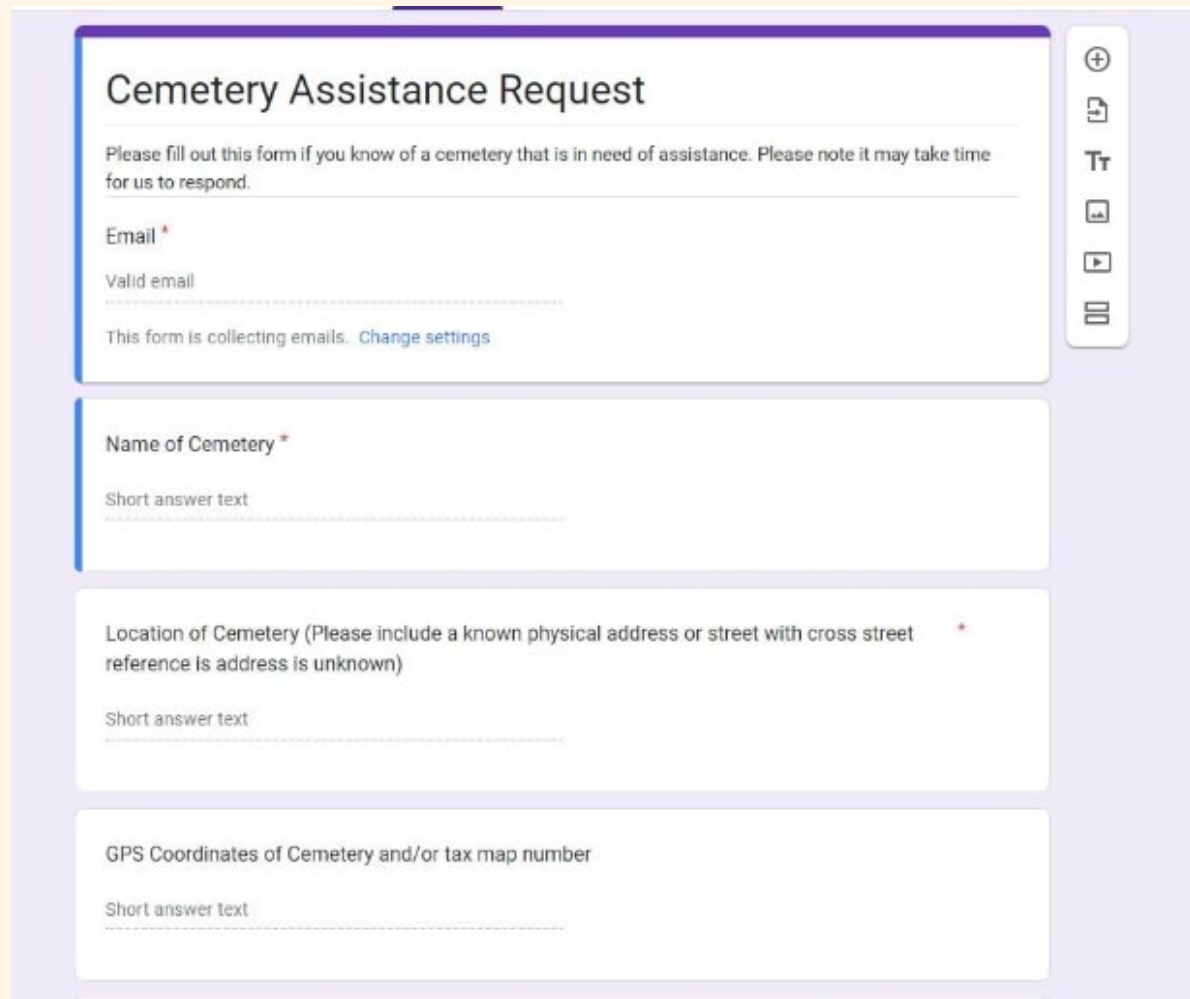
Explore creative fundraising options such as creating an Amazon wishlist, launching a GoFundMe campaign, or organizing flower sales to support preservation efforts.



TikTok
@upstatecemeterypr

LUCILE
MILLER
OCT. 1, 1925
MAR. 1, 1941

Technology



The image shows a Google Form titled "Cemetery Assistance Request". The form is set against a light purple background. It contains the following sections:

- Title:** Cemetery Assistance Request
- Introductory text:** Please fill out this form if you know of a cemetery that is in need of assistance. Please note it may take time for us to respond.
- Email field:** Labeled "Email *", with a "Valid email" error message below it. A note at the bottom of the field says "This form is collecting emails. [Change settings](#)".
- Name of Cemetery field:** Labeled "Name of Cemetery *", with a "Short answer text" error message below it.
- Location of Cemetery field:** Labeled "Location of Cemetery (Please include a known physical address or street with cross street reference is address is unknown) *", with a "Short answer text" error message below it.
- GPS Coordinates field:** Labeled "GPS Coordinates of Cemetery and/or tax map number", with a "Short answer text" error message below it.

On the right side of the form, there is a vertical toolbar with icons for: adding a new question, deleting a question, duplicating a question, adding a section, and a menu icon.

- Google Doc form
 - Easily way to collect and organize data
- Doxie Scanner for on the go scanning
- Phone apps
- Google Sites for Nonprofits

Case Studies



Springwood Cemetery

Assisted the Friends of Springwood with digitalizing some of their records.



Rose Hill Cemetery

Hosted Atlas Preservation and has served as a training cemetery.

Case Studies Continued



New Golden Grove

Allowed to practice using our GPR here and are still cleaning and documenting this cemetery.



Coachman Plantation HOA

The Coachman Plantation HOA was facing several challenges with maintenance of a cemetery within their community. UCPA hosted a clean up day where people from the community help clear thick brush.

Partnerships



The Families and Community

The New Golden Grove Methodist Cemetery is not only a historic site but a reflection of the lives of the many families and communities that once lived, worked, and were enslaved there. Their stories have been carefully researched and documented to ensure that they are remembered and honored. The families have been instrumental in our work. Trusting us to care for their loved ones grave markers and sharing their stories.



Woodmont Middle FFA

The Woodmont Middle FFA is committed to supporting the Upstate Cemetery Preservation Alliance by providing volunteer assistance in cleaning up local cemeteries. Through this partnership, the Woodmont Middle FFA students and the Alliance hope to preserve and honor the memories of the individuals buried in these cemeteries.

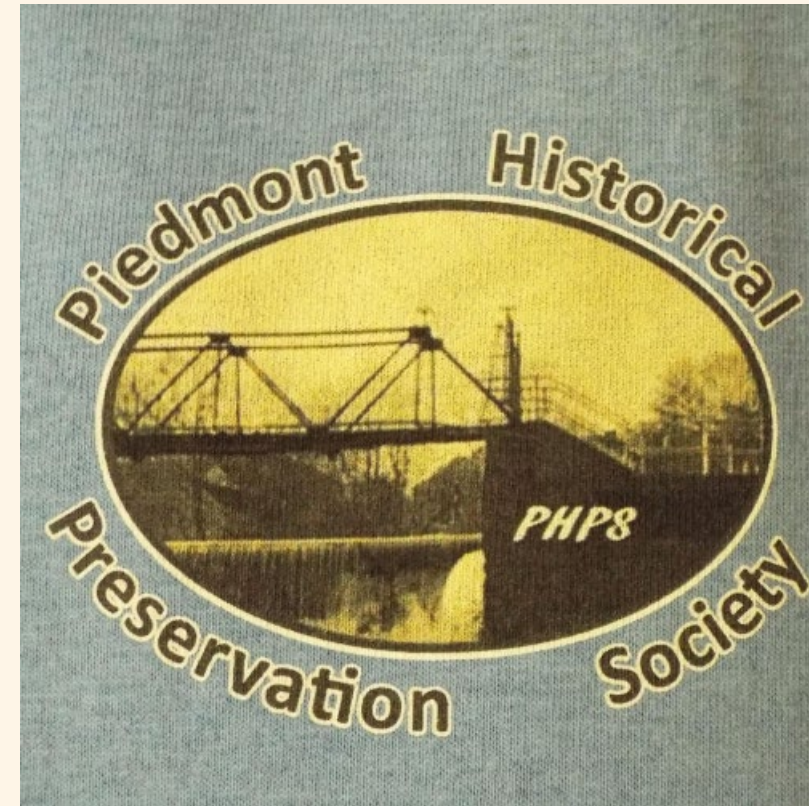


BMC Landscaping and Outdoor Services

Cain with BMC Landscaping and Outdoor Services has been an invaluable partner to the Upstate Cemetery Preservation Alliance. They have provided tremendous assistance in cleaning up large fallen trees and supplying the gravel needed for the 48 State Tour Workshop. Their expertise and dedication have contributed significantly to the safety, accessibility, and overall success of our

Partnerships

The Piedmont Historical Preservation Society has been our guiding light, providing invaluable insights into our organizational structure and stepping up as our fiscal sponsor on our journey to becoming an official 501(c)(3) entity. Their partnership not only lends credibility but also amplifies our mission's reach.



Resources

1 SC Dept of Archives and History

Timber maps, land records, cemetery, ARCHGIS

3 Interview local residents and local historians

5 SCDOT Maps

2 The SC Room at the Greenville County Library

Wealth of local information and we add to their collection by sharing our findings

4 Newspapers

6 The Carolina Room

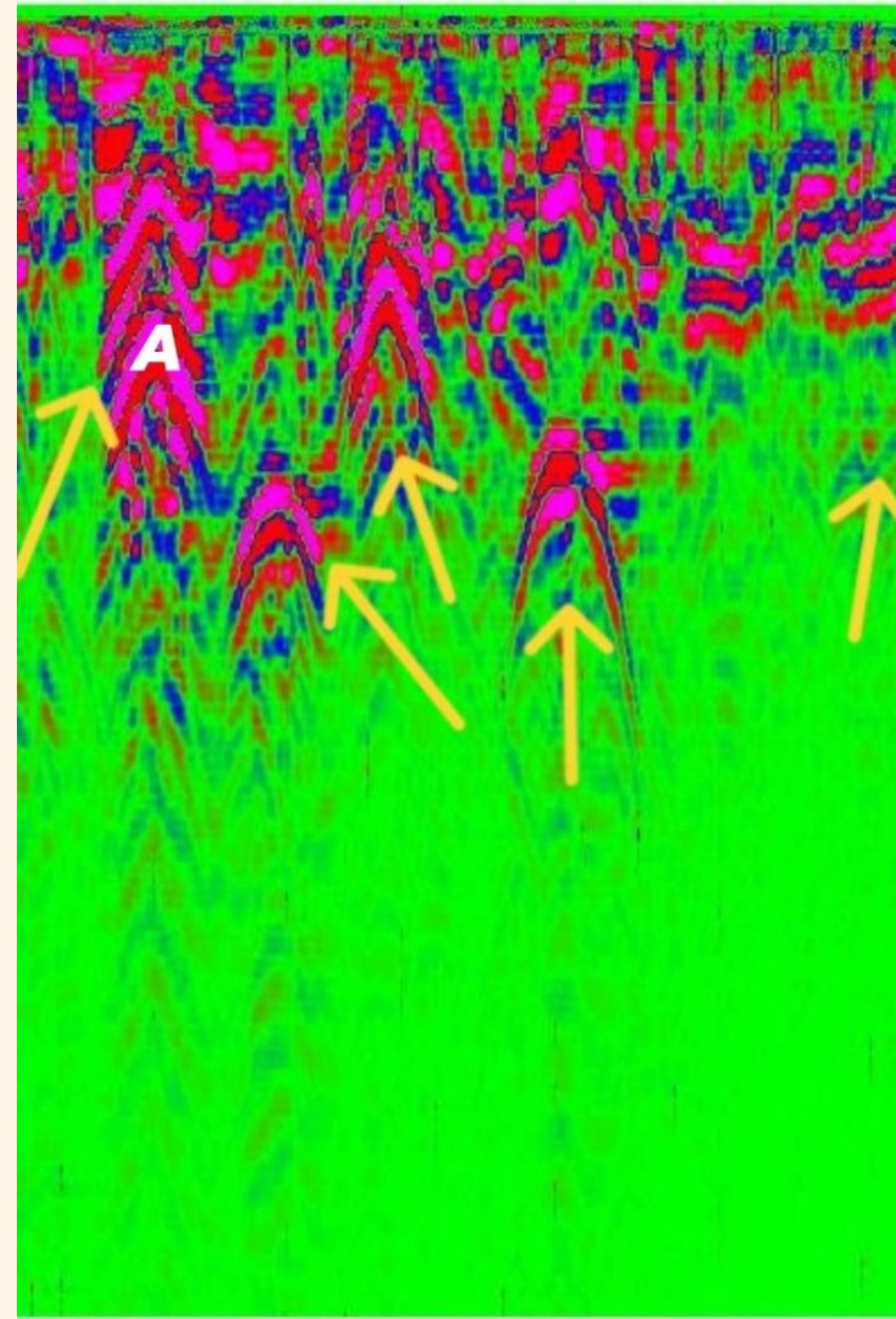


Best Practices for Handling Criticism

- Know what you are doing and why you are doing it.
 - Carb off paper is a controversial tool in our toolbox.
 - Our team consulted with industry experts Mike Alexander of Cemetery Conservators for United Standards and Jon Appel of Atlas Preservation for their professional opinion's.
- Learn how to embrace diverse opinions, build a strong community, and move forward with confidence.

Ground Penetrating Radar

- Unit purchased privately from Karl at Easy Radar USA
- <https://easyradusa.com/>
- Our service, we will provide, will require client to cover the cost of the back processing of data to be done by Bigman Geophysical
- Client will also cover any additional cost related to any additional equipment rental i.e. GPS/GNSS





Bigman Geophysical and LearnGPR.com

- Daniel Bigman, PhD, founder of LearnGPR and owner of Bigman Geophysical in Norcross GA.
- Bigman Geophysical will handle all the backside processing of our data, i.e. validate and confirm findings which will cover us from a liability standpoint
- <https://bigmangeo.com/>

Future Goals

- Collaborate with local governments on cemeteries and land use policies
- Host a conference targeting realtors, land developers, and county officials
- Expand to other Upstate counties as we grow





**Upstate Cemetery
Preservation Alliance**

Stay connected with us!

- Connect with us on Facebook and TikTok (@upstatecemeterypr)
- Support us by making a one-time donation here <https://paypal.me/UCPASC> or purchase an awesome shirt from our online shop <http://bit.ly/3PLb18x>
- Questions or would you like join us? Send an email to CPASCUpr@gmail.com