Laurel Cemetery Project
Symposium
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1852 1958
**Background Information**
Laurel Cemetery (1852-1958) existed for over 100 years as a nonsectarian cemetery for Baltimore's African American community. In its early years, it was a premier burial site for people across Black Baltimore's socioeconomic spectrum. However, years of improper maintenance led to the eventual demolition of the site in 1958. Today, the Belair-Edison Crossing shopping center occupies the footprint of the old cemetery.

**History of the Laurel Cemetery Project**
In spring 2014, University of Baltimore and Coppin State University professors initiated the Laurel Cemetery project as an inter-institutional project for students interested in cultural resource management, history, archaeology, and environmental sustainability. Through archaeological excavation, faculty and student researchers found conclusive evidence of existing burials. Their current efforts focus on public education, research into the lives of those buried at the site, and the erection of a memorial to recognize the burial ground.

**Advocacy for Burial Site Protection**
Contact your local representative to advocate for the African American Burial Grounds Network Act. Find more info @ mceachin.house.gov/media/press-releases/reps-mceachin-and-adams-introduce-african-american-burial-grounds-network-act