

# Elmore

*Design Collaborative, LLC*

## LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE

- Cultural Landscape Preservation
- Preservation Planning
- Site Planning & Design

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CT: Disabled Small Business  
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Maine Licensed Landscape  
Architect, also licensed in  
Connecticut, Massachusetts,  
New York, Rhode Island, and  
Virginia

## Methods & Procedures to Reduce Yearly Operational and Maintenance Costs Nov, 20, 2018

### *Initial Thoughts*

**GOAL:** To reduce seasonal operational and maintenance costs at cemeteries by reducing the frequent of costly and labor intensive activities

**OBJECTIVE:** Change the species of grass to reduce the frequency of mowing

**PROCEDURE:** To achieve the stated goal and objective the following procedures are recommended:

1. An assessment of existing conditions must be undertaken.
2. Soil samples must be taken and analyzed.
3. Test plots are established for various seed and groundcover types.
4. Records are maintained and analyzed on the success or failure of each test plot.
5. Recommendations are made on how to change the grass species and which species are selected for implementation.
6. Maintenance procedures are established for the new species.
7. Implementation begins.
8. Maintenance procedures are reviewed and updated, as needed.
9. Record keeping procedures are established, maintained, and reviewed moving forward.

### First Activity – Spring 2019

Immediately, reduce the frequency of mowing the existing grass. This will save money now and will permit time to implement these other activities.

### **IMPLEMENTATION:**

1. **Assessment:** An assessment of existing conditions includes, but is not limited to, an inventory and evaluation of the sunny and shady conditions, slope (how steep of flat is the land), soil conditions, vegetation types and life span, existing mowing and grass trimming procedures, water frequency - if any, types and frequency of fertilization, and others to be determined.
2. **Soil Samples:** 12 soils samples will be taken around each cemetery and sent to UCONN Extension Services for analysis. Their recommendations will be reviewed and considered for implementation.
3. **Test Plots:** Test plots will be established in each cemetery ranging in size from 1,000 sf to 1,500 sf. These plots will be roped off and documented. Testing will include killing and/or removal of existing grass and groundcover species by various means and procedures without exposing the existing seed bed in the soil. New seed or plugs will be planted, fertilized, watered, and maintained.

4. Record Keeping: Meticulous record keeping will be established to document and record the activities in each test plot.
5. Recommendations: The records and existing field conditions of each test plot will be reviewed and analyzed. Based on the success or failure of each test plot, recommendations for grass removal and new seed mix/es are made.
6. Maintenance: procedures are established and followed for the new species.
7. Implementation begins by carefully following the procedures established earlier in the process.
8. Maintenance procedures are kept and reviewed. Changes to procedures are recommended, approved, and implemented, as needed.
9. Long-term record keeping is established and maintain. These records are reviewed and evaluated, and changes to maintenance procedures are discussed and implemented.