

The City of Portsmouth and
the Mayor's African Burial Ground Committee invite you
to attend a

**PUBLIC DESIGN FORUM
FOR THE
AFRICAN BURIAL GROUND ON CHESTNUT STREET**

SATURDAY, MAY 5, 2007

8:30 A.M. - 1:00 P.M.

LEVENSON ROOM

PORTSMOUTH PUBLIC LIBRARY, 175 PARROTT AVENUE

This public forum is intended to engage residents, abutters, and interested community members in creating a design for a memorial and commemorative park for the African Burial Ground on Chestnut Street.

At this public forum, participants will:

- ❖ learn about the history of the African Burial Ground;
- ❖ participate in small group discussions to develop and share ideas for the commemorative park.

**All members of the community are invited and encouraged to attend.
Light refreshments will be served.**

PROJECT BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE

In October 2003, City contractors carrying out infrastructure upgrades near the intersection of Court and Chestnut Streets discovered a series of coffins. Under the direction of the State Archaeologist, a total of thirteen coffins were found at the site and eight were temporarily removed. Archaeological, historical and scientific protocols were followed throughout this process and a team of researchers has now analyzed the historic records, artifact and skeletal remains, as well as DNA samples. The findings of the combined research support the interpretation that this location was the "Negro Burying Ground" shown on a 1705 City Map.

In April 2005, the African Burial Ground Committee unanimously recommended a site configuration for a fitting memorial and commemorative park, which was accepted by the City Council and includes a partial closure of Chestnut Street. The community, the African Burial Ground Committee and the State Archaeologist determined that the human remains that were disturbed in 2003 should be re-interred at the site.



For additional information contact the Community Development Department, 610-7226.