

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

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

TUESDAY, JUNE 19, 2007

7:00 P.M. TO 9:00 P.M.

LEVENSON ROOM

PORTSMOUTH PUBLIC LIBRARY, 175 PARROTT AVENUE

This is the second public design forum sponsored by the African Burial Ground Committee.

**AGENDA**

- ❖ Presentation of conceptual design plan options
- ❖ Feedback from attendees on conceptual design options

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



This flier can be found online at [www.cityofportsmouth.com](http://www.cityofportsmouth.com)  
For additional information contact the Community Development Department, 610-7226.

# AFRICAN BURIAL GROUND ON CHESTNUT STREET

## 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.

A previous Public Design forum was held in May 2007 to collect input from the community on its vision for the memorial and commemorative park.



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