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Updates & News from the Red Hills Community Cemetery

Letter from the RHCC Board of Directors

Dear RHCC Members & Supporters,

The new year finds RHCC in a position we did not anticipate. When we met our membership goal in October, we expected to finalize financing with Hickory Preserve (HP) and spend the next 18 months actively preparing the site and finalizing policies and implementation tasks to open the cemetery by April 2027. However, as we communicated before the holidays, the Hickory Preserve Board accepted financing from the North West Florida Water Management District that does not allow a cemetery to be in or adjacent to HP's Conservation Easement.

The RHCC Board immediately responded by starting implementation of a site acquisition strategy. We have:

- Created a Site Acquisition Committee consisting of both Board of Directors and Cemetery members with skills in building, development, and planning;
- Connected with and are now working with two realtors that specialize in rural and agricultural land sales;
- Created a detailed evaluation matrix, identifying specific requirements for use in analysis and comparison of available properties, including location, distance from the center of Tallahassee, acreage, price, topography, soil types, vegetation, and permit ability, among other criteria;
- Evaluated 22 potential sites using the matrix and eliminated all but 4 because of price, insufficient acreage, or shallow water table.

The Board and Land Acquisition Committee is currently focused on 2 of these sites, 1 in Leon County and 1 in Gadsden County. We have carried out an extensive tour of one property and have an appointment to see the other property, and we are continuing to seek possible properties of interest for the RHCC.

The Board is discussing ways to involve the membership in approving a site, once one is identified that meets our criteria. **We will advise membership when we have identified the site we feel is most promising. At which point we will likely want to move very quickly to communicate with members and show the site to those interested, as is feasible.** [If you are not yet a member but intend on becoming one and wish to provide input on site selection, we urge you to become a member now.](#) The Board is anxious to get to this point, and we assure you we are working as hard as we can on this effort.

In addition to these site acquisition activities, the RHCC Board continues to carry out ongoing duties, including organizing all year-end financial and reporting requirements to file our 2025 IRS Form 990. We are working on compiling and reaching out to all members who have volunteered to assist in various RHCC tasks (for which we thank you). If you are interested in volunteering and have not yet signed up follow the button below.

It has been wonderful to witness the community coming together in flexibility and hard work as we shift gears, while continuing to share the common goal of respecting ecology, death practices, and our lasting connections to the land and each other.

*With Ongoing Appreciation,
Red Hills Community Cemetery, Inc.
Board of Directors*

[Sign Up to Volunteer](#)[Membership](#)

Building a community cemetery takes a COMMUNITY, thank you for your support and involvement. Contact@RedHillsCommunityCemetery.com if you have any questions.

The Mission of the RHCC is to preserve and protect land using natural burial methods. Further, it is the Vision of the RHCC to further develop meaningful relationships between people, life, death, and ecosystems.

By subscribing to this newsletter, opting to become a paid member, or helping to volunteer *you* are part of the RHCC community.



contact@RedHillsCommunityCemetery.com

More information and FAQs: www.RedHillsCommunityCemetery.com

Red Hills Community Cemetery, Inc. is a 501(c)13 not for profit corporation; EIN: 99-0578028
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