Both historic cemeteries and pre-contact burial areas are located in Indiana. They are part of our cultural landscape in which more and more citizens are becoming interested. Indiana Code 14-21-1-13.5 authorized the Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology (DHPA) to create a registry of all cemeteries and burial grounds in Indiana.

The DHPA is creating the statewide cemetery registry to help know the locations of as many cemeteries as possible to help provide better protection of these resources. The DHPA will be the lead agency for the creation of the registry.

The registry will involve coordination with agencies and organizations such as: historical societies, museums, genealogical groups, archaeologists, and private individuals. Many groups and individuals have already compiled great amounts of resources regarding cemeteries, and through partnerships, we will bring together everyone’s information into the statewide registry.

The immense, advanced, and complex scope of this project is a challenge which the DHPA welcomes, given its, and the public’s strong interest in protecting and preserving these important resources. Our state will join a growing number of states that have taken on the task of compiling information about the cemeteries within their borders. This project will help to insure that future Hoosiers will have a wealth of information to draw upon regarding the location of the resting places of those who have gone before.

The DHPA is committed to helping increase public awareness regarding these sites and their importance. We have a cemetery question and answer sheet that is available free of charge from our office or can be found on our webpage. Look for further cemetery information and publications in the future.

To learn more about the Indiana Cemetery and Burial Grounds Registry, to share information about a cemetery in your area, or to volunteer with the project contact:

Division of Historic Preservation and Archaeology
402 W. Washington St, Room W274
Indianapolis, IN 46204
317/232-1646
www.in.gov/dnr/historic
jrdinius@dnr.state.in.us