

WOODLAWN
CEMETERY • CONSERVANCY

2025 Annual Report



About The Woodlawn Cemetery

FOUNDED IN 1863 and encompassing 400 acres in the Bronx, New York, The Woodlawn Cemetery is one of the nation's most distinguished historic cemeteries and an accredited Level II Arboretum. Recognized as a National Historic Landmark in 2011, Woodlawn holds a unique place in the cultural and architectural history of both New York City and the United States.

Detail of the first map of Woodlawn, 1868.



ABOUT THIS REPORT: Financial information covers the year ended December 31, 2025. Program and institutional highlights extend through June 30, 2026.

Front cover: the Julius Manger mausoleum.

Letter from Our Board Chair

Dear Friends,

Each year Woodlawn's work grows to meet what families, visitors, and neighbors ask of us.

Our first duty is to the families who come to us at a moment of need, to plan a funeral, to bury someone they love, or to make arrangements in advance for themselves. Our second is to keep the memories entrusted to us. Every name on these grounds was a life, and holding those lives in trust is the reason the cemetery exists.



Beyond those duties, we serve a wide public: people drawn here by history, by the landscape, and by curiosity about the extraordinary company resting at Woodlawn.

Two distinct sources make this work possible. Income from Woodlawn's cemetery funds supports the long-term care of the grounds. Gifts to the Woodlawn Conservancy, our 501(c)(3) charitable affiliate, support preservation, education, workforce development, and public programs.

In June 2026, we welcomed three Woodlawn Conservancy directors—A'Lelia Bundles, Jeffrey Laufer, and the Honorable Jeanette Ruiz—to the Woodlawn Cemetery's Board of Trustees. The two organizations adopted a unified governance structure. Woodlawn's trustees now serve as the Conservancy's directors, providing coordinated oversight while preserving each organization's separate legal identity and distinct responsibilities. Together, we now approach the care of these grounds and our work with the public as a shared understanding of Woodlawn's priorities.

I serve alongside trustees who give Woodlawn real attention. They walk the grounds, ask hard questions, and take seriously what it means to steward a place built to outlast all of us. I am grateful to them for their service and for the care and judgment they bring to Woodlawn's future.

Sincerely,

IAN M. ROWAN

Chair, Board of Trustees

Letter from Our President

Dear Friends,

More than 310,000 people rest at Woodlawn, among them Duke Ellington, Fiorello LaGuardia, Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Madam C. J. Walker, and Herman Melville. They lie within one of the finest surviving nineteenth-century garden cemeteries in America, a landscape of more than 1,300 private mausoleums, including work by McKim, Mead & White, Carrère & Hastings, the Tiffany Studios, and other celebrated architects and artisans. What we owe each of them is the same, whether they were buried last spring or in 1865: care that endures.



That promise of care must be renewed every day. Forty-three inches of snow fell in the Bronx this winter, and we closed twice to clear it. We came through with no damage to monuments and no loss of trees. Our grounds crew and Bridge to Crafts Careers trainees had the roads and walkways open for the families who needed them.

Much of the year's most consequential work is work most visitors will never notice. We spent more than a million dollars on our mausoleums, their bronze doors, and their interiors. At the Woolworth Chapel, restoration of the historic windows continued through the year, and the building never closed for a single service.

Some of it you will notice. Earlier this year we published *Where Harlem Rests*, a self-guided tour of twenty-five figures of the Harlem Renaissance researched by Eric K. Washington, and Woodlawn joined Bloomberg Connects, making more of its history accessible both on the grounds and online. We are also pursuing Level III arboretum accreditation, a standard reserved for collections that contribute to conservation and science.

Stone weathers, bronze ages, and trees grow old. Our responsibility is to anticipate what this landscape will need next and to ensure that the people, skills, and resources are in place to care for it. That is the work described in the pages that follow. My thanks to the Board for backing it, to the staff and trainees who do it, to the donors and friends who make much of it possible, and to the volunteers who place a flag at the grave of every veteran here.

Come walk the grounds.

Yours sincerely,

CHRIS JEANNOPOULOS

President and Chief Executive Officer

Cemetery Services

SINCE ITS FOUNDING IN 1863, The Woodlawn Cemetery has been a non-sectarian cemetery offering a range of burial options, from in-ground burial to crypts, community mausoleums, and cremation niches. Woodlawn's non-denominational chapel is available for funeral services. Our staff is dedicated to ensuring the most sensitive care for those making interment and cremation decisions. The cemetery has preserved family memories with dignity in a historic cultural landscape ever since.

Monument & Mausoleum Care

Woodlawn prioritizes care for its grounds, historic structures, and welcoming landscape. In 2025, Woodlawn invested more than \$1,000,000 protecting and repairing its extraordinary ensemble of mausoleums, bronze doors, and fine interiors, and assessing its collection of stained-glass windows. Alongside this work is the ongoing maintenance of the trees, flowers, lawns, and landscape features that make Woodlawn a unique destination.

In 2025, there were:

- 2,272 cremations
- 869 interments
- 152 foundations poured
- 59 mausoleums restored
- 97 mausoleums cleaned
- 691 monuments restored
- 125 stained glass windows surveyed
- 14 bronze doors restored
- 251 trees pruned
- 216 trees and shrubs planted
- 484 declining trees removed
- 27 new plant species added



Promises Day

Promises Day, held annually at Woodlawn, honors the memory of a loved one with a special ceremony accompanying the placement of cremated remains in a permanent location. This ecumenical ceremony is open to all. This year, family members and friends gathered under an overcast sky and intermittent rain, but the weather did not diminish the day. A harpist played, prayers were recited, and those in attendance expressed their love once more for someone whose remains are now permanently in the care of Woodlawn, placed in a fitting spot to bring peace and serenity to their families and friends.

Genealogy and Historical Research

Woodlawn responds regularly to requests from genealogists and historians. Volunteers have completed extensive research, enabling Woodlawn to work with individuals and families with a Woodlawn connection to deepen their appreciation for their personal legacy and the role Woodlawn plays in their lives. In 2025, Woodlawn volunteers responded to 718 requests for genealogical information.



Illustration from a 1906 promotional brochure for Woodlawn Cemetery.

Preserving the Historic Fabric

WE SPEAK FREQUENTLY about preserving the legacy of those individuals who are entrusted to us. We preserve memories of the accomplishments of the many people who have left their mark through heroic actions, inventions, devotion to their craft, and the way they touched the lives of their family, friends, and colleagues. What we don't always speak about is Woodlawn's own legacy. In 2026, as Woodlawn marks 163 years of service, the cemetery has some preservation needs. Whether it is caring for the stunning art and architecture on our grounds or maintaining the historic landscape and its character, each year Woodlawn invests in assuring its historic landscape is welcoming, healthy, and adhering to the design aesthetic developed over the decades. In 2025 and 2026, we faced many challenges as we balanced all this work with the unexpected 43 inches of snow that fell in the Bronx this winter.

Woodlawn was very fortunate that many of the measures put into place in recent years fortified the grounds to

Mapping the Flow

As an example of the unseen work that protects Woodlawn's grounds and improves the visitor experience, we are engaged in a multi-year project to map and inspect all catch basins on the property. They are unnoticed by most visitors, but making sure they are in the right places, in good working order, and keeping water from pooling in areas where people walk or drive is an essential maintenance project. We are adding all this information to our GIS database, so that problems are noted and addressed quickly and we know where all the catch basins are located.



withstand the heavy snowfall. We sustained no damage to the buildings, minimal vegetation damage, and no loss of trees, and only had to close twice to clear snow to allow safe access for our visitors. This is a great testament to the work of the staff and our Bridge to Crafts Careers trainees, who pitched in immediately to assist with grounds care needs.

This spring we said good-bye to our carved wooden animals that served as guideposts for many visitors. On Earth Day in 2018 and 2019, an artist turned trees that were taken down into these fanciful animals. These sculptures quickly became favorite markers for many visitors who delighted in seeing the buffalo, owl, squirrel, and hawk. Exposure to the elements and the heavy snow this year brought their role on Woodlawn's grounds to an end. We will miss them, but they had long lives at Woodlawn, first as trees and then as follies.

Our various Earth Day activities over the years are emblematic of Woodlawn's desire to be a good steward of its landscape. In 2025 and 2026, we utilized wood chips from trees that needed to be taken down to serve as a protective barrier around many of our healthy and thriving trees. We also have an area on which we compost vegetation and after an appropriate aging process, this becomes topsoil on our grounds. Our environmental efforts offer chances to improve the sustainability and resiliency of our landscape.

The carved owl is one of four wooden animal sculptures retired this spring after years in the elements.

Stone, Bronze, and Glass

Some of the most consequential work of the year is the work no visitor ever sees. We replaced the water meter at the chapel and the boiler that heats it. Neither will draw a second glance. Both keep a beloved building in service for the families who need it.

Woolworth Chapel, which turned 90 in 2026, was also the focus of a more visible conservation project this year. The chapel stands just inside the Jerome Avenue gate, and is often the first structure visitors see when they arrive. It welcomes families for funeral services and the public for concerts and lectures. Restoring historic windows

in a building of that age asks for a high standard of craftsmanship and a schedule that keeps the doors open throughout. We are proud to say we held to both.

Behind all of this stands our buildings and grounds staff, who survey the mausoleums, headstones, and memorials year-round, recording their condition and flagging what will need attention in the seasons ahead. Those surveys shape our work plans. Those work plans, in turn, train the next class of Bridge to Crafts Careers students, who learn their trade on the same stone and bronze they will one day be hired to restore.

A Commitment That Lasts

Every lot at Woodlawn benefits from the care of our grounds crew, from mowing and seasonal work to the attention that keeps 400 acres serene. The care of an individual family monument, including its cleaning, repair, and special plantings, is a separate responsibility. Many families choose to provide for that care permanently. An endowed care fund, often called perpetual care, sets aside money in trust for the long-term upkeep of a particular lot, so that a family's resting place receives personal attention for generations to come. That care continues even after the last family member who remembers it is gone. The idea is as old as Woodlawn itself, and it works simply. A family's contribution is held in trust under New York State law. The principal is invested for the future, while the income supports care that goes beyond ordinary grounds maintenance, including cleaning and refurbishing monuments, planting and tending trees, shrubs, and flowers on the lot, and placing seasonal remembrances such as palm crosses and wreaths. Today Woodlawn holds 8,891 individual endowment trusts, with combined assets of more than \$226 million. This past year, 17 families established new funds or added to funds their families created long ago, contributing \$538,032 toward care that will continue in perpetuity. By the 1950s, Woodlawn already held nearly 8,000 of these



Examples of endowed lots and their care. For information about creating or adding to your endowment, please email endowments@woodlawn.org.

trusts. The great majority are still at work today, caring for lots whose families moved away generations ago and keeping promises made by people none of us ever met. When you walk the grounds and pass a monument still clean or a planting still tended after a hundred years, you are often looking at an endowment at work. Endowed care is not limited to large family lots or mausoleums. A fund for a single grave and monument can be established for as little as \$4,000, and families may add to existing funds at any time. If you are considering establishing an endowed care fund, or adding to one your family established long ago, write to us at endowments@woodlawn.org. We would also be pleased to speak with families interested in providing for the future care of their lot through their estate plans.

Education, Collaboration, and Conservation

WOODLAWN HAS A LONG HISTORY of opening its gates to the public and inviting conversation about history, legacy, landscape, and training. Our most visible program is Bridge to Crafts Careers, our workforce training program that launched in 2015 and has offered pathways to employment for those interested in careers in the trades. Each year, the trainees perform a variety of tasks that assist Woodlawn in caring for its historic monuments and grounds. The participants

learn valuable skills. The high placement rate for employment is a testament to the seriousness with which each cohort approaches their skills training and their desire to join the workforce and flourish in their jobs. The curriculum, site visits, and instructors reflect the range of possible areas of employment that may be open to those who complete their program at Woodlawn. We've selected 12 images that tell the story of the 2025 and 2026 activities.





Trainees cleaned bronze doors and sculptures, met with NYC Parks conservators, and learned masonry and landscaping skills.

Woodlawn has many community partners, resulting in constant dialogue between our staff, scholars, schools, cultural organizations, and community groups.

In 2025 and 2026, we welcomed dozens of groups to Woodlawn for specialized tours highlighting the many themes that are represented through the legacy of those buried in our landscape. Whether we are celebrating music, theater, science, the arts, military history, immigration, or women, Woodlawn's tours offer a rich introduction to a broad range of topics. The possibilities are endless. That dialogue extends into classrooms as well.

During the last year, Woodlawn staff participated in the career days of local schools including Bronx International High School, PS 94 Kings College School, and Stephen T. Mather Building Arts & Craftsmanship High School. For many students, the idea that the cemetery can offer career possibilities is a great revelation. Beyond the cemetery's burial operations, students learn about caring for the grounds, maintaining the mausoleums, and the horticultural work required across the landscape. The need for masons, gardeners, conservators, and many other specialized activities reveals the complexities of maintaining a historic,

working cemetery. It's for these reasons that Woodlawn staff participate in programs such as the Urban Agriculture Roundtable and the 2026 ReLeaf Annual Conference.

We were thrilled to be a venue for the New York Landmarks Conservancy's annual Sacred Sites Open House program. Their theme this year focused on Holding Community Memories. There is not a better tie-in for Woodlawn as our entire reason for operating is to preserve memories. We encouraged the Sacred Sites visitors to follow the self-guided tour for *Where Harlem Rests*. As this was a recently finished collaboration with historian Eric K. Washington, we were able to feature a new offering to these special visitors and one that fit the theme of Holding Community Memories perfectly. Highlighting 25 of the great figures of the Harlem Renaissance, this research and brochure allow a deeper look at the inventiveness, heroic actions, and accomplishments of an extraordinary group of scholars, entrepreneurs, performers, and social activists who left their mark on New York City, and in many cases, the entire nation.

Woodlawn was a venue for Tisch School of the Arts students once again this year. Last year students used Woodlawn as a setting for operatic pieces inspired by

historic figures buried on our grounds. This year, a student working on a film believed Woodlawn would be the perfect location for a scene that involved the main character visiting his ex-girlfriend's grave, as he confronts grief and the way it affects one's life and relationships in the wake of loss. This is a theme often discussed at Woodlawn as we balance celebrating the lives of those entrusted to our care and our respect for the family and friends who visit those they have lost.

We are fortunate to have a chance to meet many visitors to Woodlawn. Many people stop in the office to ask for directions to the graves or mausoleums for their loved ones. Sometimes they want to tell us about their experiences at the cemetery. And frequently we have terrific conversations with visitors before and after events, trolley tours, walking tours, and concerts that take place on the grounds.

We put much thought into what aspects of Woodlawn's history, architecture, and landscape we wish to highlight through social media. We try to balance posts tied to national holidays, heritage celebrations, and suggestions made to us. Naturally, with the 250th anniversary of the United States, we have thought a great deal about the ways

Mausoleum of Augustus D. Juilliard.





Stained glass in the mausoleum of George M. Cohan (left), and the monument for Ralph Bunche.

in which Woodlawn tells a broad and deep American story. Liz Hunter, Woodlawn's Program Coordinator, prepared an Independence Day Instagram reel highlighting the many accomplishments of just a few of the fascinating individuals resting at Woodlawn. We are happy to share some of Liz's thoughts here in this annual report:

Woodlawn Cemetery was not established at the nation's founding, but those buried here have helped shape the America we know today. The Woodlawn Cemetery is the final resting place of political leaders such as Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes, Mayor Fiorello LaGuardia, and First Lady Angelica Van Buren. Some of this nation's most recognizable patriotic tunes were composed by musicians buried here. Irving Berlin introduced God Bless America to the nation in 1938, and George M. Cohan wrote the famous songs You're a Grand Old Flag and Yankee Doodle Boy.

Jazz and the Blues are widely considered America's truest art forms, and many of the talented individuals who cultivated these styles are buried at Woodlawn, including W.C. Handy, the "Father of the Blues," Duke Ellington, Miles Davis, Lionel Hampton, Max Roach, and so many others.

As our nation grew, Americans boldly and unapolo-

getically sought the rights they knew were owed to all Americans. Leaders of the women's suffrage movement, like Elizabeth Cady Stanton, Mary Garrett Hay, and Carrie Chapman Catt, protested and rallied until women gained the right to vote and achieved economic and political recognition. Civil Rights activists like Madam C.J. Walker, Hubert Harrison, and Ralph Bunche fought tirelessly to gain equal opportunities in schools, workplaces, and politics.

We never forget those who put their lives on the line to protect those rights and freedoms, our great American Veterans. We proudly honor the more than 9,000 veterans, from every major American conflict, who are buried at the Woodlawn Cemetery, including the first Admiral in the United States Navy, Admiral David Glasgow Farragut.

We hold close and honor the lives and legacies of those who are buried at Woodlawn Cemetery. Woodlawn's story is America's story.

Liz is familiar to many visitors and our online followers as she is a frequent leader for many of our tours, school programs, and social media posts. Her knowledge of Woodlawn is substantial, and she enthusiastically shares her knowledge with her fellow staff members and the public.

Engaging Our Audience

WE ARE PROUD TO OFFER a wide range of tours throughout the year that deepen the public's knowledge of the landscape, art, architecture, and fascinating individuals who rest at Woodlawn.

Whether we are celebrating the centennial of Miles Davis, marking Women's History Month, or developing new offerings such as *Where Harlem Rests*, our visitors enjoy a rich array of annual tours and special themes. In spring 2026, we were thrilled to announce Woodlawn's inclusion in Bloomberg Connects, giving new audiences the chance to discover self-guided tours of our most frequently visited areas, whether online or in person: Woodlawn's eight Great Trees, *Where Harlem Rests*, wildlife spotted on the grounds, celebrating Pride Month, and highlights from our archives.

In early 2026, we published *Where Harlem Rests*, a self-guided tour booklet and the culmination of an intense research project by the noted historian Eric K. Washington. We are grateful to the National Trust for Historic Preservation's African American Cultural Heritage Action Fund for its support of this initiative. The brochure offers

short biographies of 25 extraordinary individuals of the Harlem Renaissance, and there are many more who could have been included. Our hope is that it inspires visitors to explore these lives, and many others, whose heroic efforts have benefitted us all.

In 2025, we offered more than 100 events, from webinars and lectures to private tours, free trolley tours, and concerts. Each year brings favorites such as our Earth Day celebrations, our Legacy Lecture, and many thematic walking tours. A highlight of 2025 was our Legacy Lecture featuring board member A'Lelia Bundles in conversation with Eric K. Washington focusing on Bundles' book *Joy Goddess: A'Lelia Walker and the Harlem Renaissance*. Bundles is the great-great-granddaughter of Madam C. J. Walker and the great-granddaughter of A'Lelia Walker. The lecture offered a glimpse of the life of an extraordinary woman who was a central figure of the Harlem Renaissance. She touched the lives of many people from entrepreneurs to authors, actors, writers, and other luminaries of the era. The events she hosted were legendary but it was not until the



Author, historian, and current trustee A'Lelia Bundles in conversation with historian Eric K. Washington at the annual Legacy Lecture.



Professor Kevin McGruder (left) presented a lecture on the life of physician, author, and activist Rudolph Fisher, depicted on the right.

publication of *Joy Goddess* that the public had the chance to understand more of A'Lelia Walker and her life. Woodlawn is proud to preserve and promote the legacy of Madam C. J. Walker and A'Lelia Walker through this program and their inclusion in many tours at Woodlawn.

In 2026, Professor Kevin McGruder delivered the Legacy Lecture on the life of Rudolph Fisher, a physician, author, and activist who died in 1934. Fisher graduated from Brown University and Howard University Medical School and completed a fellowship at Columbia University. A pioneer in radiology, he published extensively on the medical uses of ultraviolet light. He was also a celebrated writer, credited with the first detective novel by an African American author with all-Black protagonists, and he wrote widely on the conditions of African American life. His accomplishments are extensive, and the lecture, moderated by Eric K. Washington, offered deeper insight into one of the people featured in *Where Harlem Rests*.

We provided more than 30 private tours to groups ranging from local senior centers, community groups, and nonprofits interested in history, music, dance, and the arts, to teachers, museum docents, and other professionals drawn to Woodlawn's legacy. We welcomed a similar number of school groups visiting as part of their curriculum. We also offered many free public events that brought to life the musical legacy of the prominent musicians buried at Woodlawn.

An annual highlight is our Illuminated Mausoleums tour each fall, which invites the public to experience the cemetery at night and the unparalleled sight of stained glass windows lit from within. This walking tour allows a rare glimpse of

over 1,300 stained glass windows commissioned by families who chose Woodlawn as their final resting place.

Another special evening this year was a tribute to Nellie Bly, who rests at Woodlawn, using glass lantern slides and readings from her own accounts of her travels. Families spent an evening under the stars, admiring captivating slides from a century ago and listening to the words of an intrepid traveler who left us a rich record of the world and the many people, places, and cultures she encountered.

One of our most important annual events is held in partnership with the New York Hideyo Noguchi Memorial Society. Each year, representatives of the Memorial Society hold a ceremony at Dr. Noguchi's grave and present an award to outstanding emerging medical researchers. This year we were honored to welcome Ambassador Satoshi Katahira, Consul-General of Japan in New York, who spoke of his pride in honoring the young researchers who carry Dr. Noguchi's legacy forward. Mr. Yoshio Kano, Executive Vice President of the Memorial Society, offered opening remarks and served as master of ceremonies, and Dr. Timothy O'Connor, Executive Vice President of The Rockefeller University, spoke of Dr. Noguchi's extraordinary life and the profound effect his research has had on our understanding of infectious diseases and their treatment, a century after his work concluded.

This is just one example of the many engaging activities that take place across the grounds throughout the year, as we honor and preserve the memory of those entrusted to our care.

Preserving Woodlawn's Landscape

THROUGHOUT THE LAST YEAR, staff at Woodlawn have cared for the grounds, which is a very important aspect of our work. Making a good impression on visitors is important, as is maintaining the serene environment for those at rest on the grounds. What is equally important is maintaining the integrity and resiliency of the landscape. Along the borders of the cemetery, you may have noticed an increased number of canopy trees. This is aesthetically pleasing but it also provides shade to pedestrians walking along the sidewalks adjacent to the grounds. Canopy trees are good for the environment as they filter more pollutants, improving the air quality for the neighborhood. They are an important element in thinking about how the cemetery can contribute to the environmental soundness of the area.

Woodlawn is a Level II arboretum and a publicly accessible urban forest spread across 400 acres, home to more than 6,200 trees. Our landscape now holds 512 species and varieties of trees and shrubs, one of the most diverse collections in New York City. This landscape feature is not new. The founders of the cemetery conceived the grounds as a rural oasis from the growing city. The trees, plants, and landscape were meant to serve as comfort, just as they do today.

That living collection is the focus of a long-term plan, and this year we are working to earn Level III Arboretum accreditation, the level reserved for collections that also contribute to conservation and science. The plan is worth sharing, because it reflects how we think about preservation. Preserving a monument means holding it as close as possible to what it was. Preserving a forest is different. A forest is preserved only by renewal. Trees grow, age, and eventually come down, and every open space they leave becomes a choice about the hundred years ahead.

A recent tree-by-tree inventory gave us a clear picture of where we stand. Much of it is beautiful. Some of it is a caution. Like many historic landscapes, Woodlawn leans heavily on a few familiar trees, with maples the most common by far. A landscape can look richly varied and still depend too much on a few kinds of trees.

The trees we have lost tell the rest of the story, and the losses are not random. Eastern hemlocks have come down in large numbers, weakened by the hemlock woolly adelgid, a tiny insect hollowing out hemlock groves across the eastern United States. Our European beeches have mostly come down with age, but beech leaf disease, a newer affliction moving up the Hudson Valley, now threatens the beeches that remain. Flowering dogwoods have declined as a result of the stress of age, a changing climate, and anthracnose,



Woodlawn in winter 2026 (top); our lake this spring (center); and our glorious early summer blooms (bottom).

an aggressive fungus that thrives under wet and humid conditions. A warming climate and a well-traveled world bring pests and pressures faster than trees can adapt.

Our response is straightforward: stop replacing losses in kind. A gap left by a fallen hemlock does not have to become another hemlock in the same vulnerable spot. Each opening is a chance to plant something the collection lacks. Approached this way, diversity is not simply a matter of beauty. It is insurance for the future.

We protect our trees and take measures to foster their resiliency. We also want Woodlawn to be known for particular trees the way a great museum is known for its collections. In 2024, New York City named our Great Black Oak and our collection of Japanese maples among the city's official Great Trees, and Woodlawn is now home to eight of the 29 Great Trees in the Bronx. Those honors point to where our strengths already lie. We plan to build a comprehensive oak collection. Oaks are keystone trees, supporting more birds and insects than almost any other group of trees in our region, and many oak species are well suited to a changing climate. We will curate and clearly label our celebrated Japanese maples as a deliberate collection rather than simply a crowd. And we will deepen our magnolias for spring bloom and our already strong conifers.

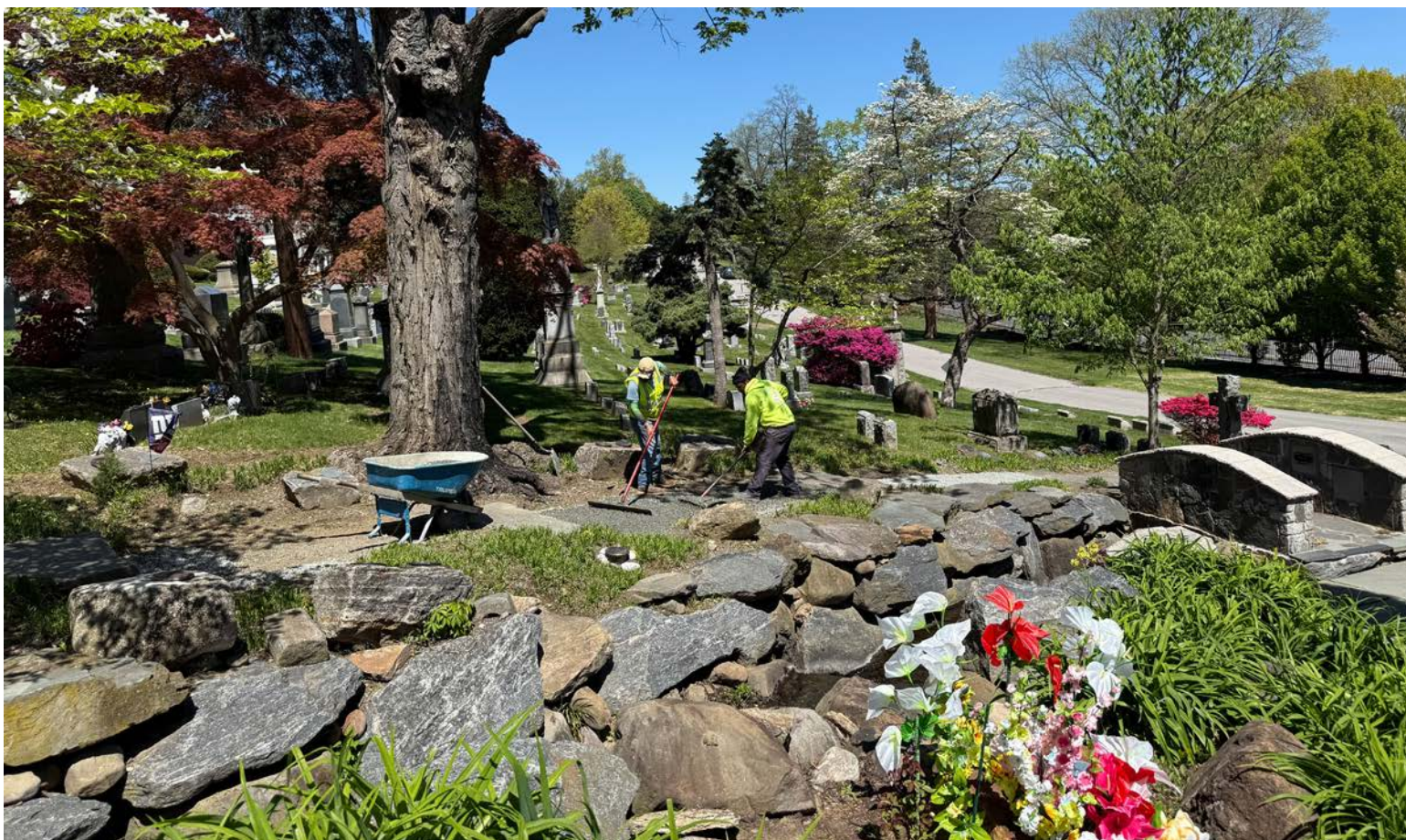
We are planting for the climate our trees face today and for the expected trends of increasingly extreme weather

in winter and summer. The Bronx now sits in a warmer growing zone than it did a generation ago. So we are choosing species that will thrive as summers lengthen, among them willow oak, bald cypress, and black tupelo. These trees also give back to the neighborhood, absorbing carbon, casting shade, and cooling the streets around them.

Perhaps the most meaningful trees we grow are the rarest. Among our collection is the Franklin tree, a small flowering tree that no longer exists anywhere in the wild and survives only because gardeners have kept it alive from seed gathered more than two centuries ago. We also grow the American chestnut, a species all but erased from our forests within a single generation. The chestnut carries a special meaning here as it appears on the Trustees' own list of plantings from 1866. To grow it today is not adding to the collection; rather it is restoring a founding tree. To hold and protect such trees is preservation in its truest sense, the safeguarding of what the world might otherwise lose. It is also the work that earns Level III recognition, and it is fitting for a cemetery, a place that has always understood the value of keeping something safe across generations.

The people who laid out Woodlawn planted trees they knew they would never see grown. The visitors who walk these grounds a century from now will rest beneath canopies we are choosing today. We invite you to walk the grounds, seek out our Great Trees, and watch the collection grow. In a place devoted to memory, our trees are the one memorial that keeps growing.

Woodlawn's staff and Bridge to Crafts Careers trainees tend our landscape throughout the seasons.



Our Community

IN ADDITION TO OUR ACTIVITIES within the gates at Woodlawn, we collaborate frequently with colleagues in the Bronx. Meg Ventrudo, Director of Development & Programs, presents our work frequently at public events. In 2026, she spoke at a Community Board 11 meeting, describing our commitment to workforce development and the successes of the Bridge to Crafts Careers program over the last 11 years. She also served as a judge for Bronx International High School's annual year-end student presentations. Liz Hunter, Program Coordinator, leads many of our private tours and our school group visits. She also speaks frequently at events with colleague institutions. In 2026, she spoke about our public programs and Bridge to Crafts Careers at a meeting of the Woodlawn Taxpayers Association.

Perhaps our most engaging community event is Flagging, which honors more than 9,000 veterans resting at Woodlawn. This annual event brings hundreds of volunteers to our grounds. Armed with maps meticulously prepared by Woodlawn volunteers, groups place a flag at the site of every veteran's grave or outside community mausoleums. The volunteers range from veterans to school groups, Scout troops, family members, local businesses, and eager local residents. Flagging takes place for two weeks before Memorial Day and the flags remain in place until Labor Day. The sight of thousands of flags across the landscape is one of the most moving experiences Woodlawn offers each year. This is a wonderful community event that went on seamlessly this year despite several days of rain that did not deter our intrepid staff and volunteers. Woodlawn is grateful to everyone who participates in this initiative. We must give special thanks to Ginny Michaels, Phil Michaels, Maryann Byrnes-Alvarado, and Efrain Alvarado. They spend tremendous time double-checking information on the maps, updating them with new information, and offering guidance to those new to flagging. We truly could not complete all the work of flagging without their loyal and dedicated leadership.

Woodlawn, connected to and serving this community since 1863, is a proud sponsor of many events in the Bronx and we are happy to share some images from events in 2025 and 2026.





Some highlights of the past year (clockwise from top left): Memorial Day flagging, the 2026 Bridge to Crafts Careers training program completion ceremony, Woodlawn staff participating in the local community's Memorial Day ceremony, the New York Hideyo Noguchi Memorial Society scholarship ceremony, our 2026 Legacy Lecture featuring historian Kevin McGruder, and Woodlawn family service counselors greeting attendees at a local senior day event (center).



2025 FINANCIAL REVIEW

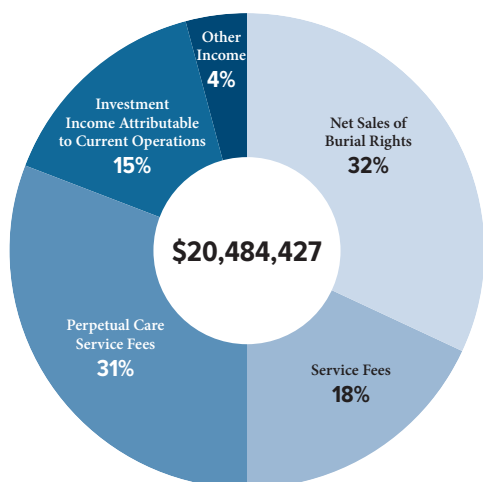
The Woodlawn Cemetery

A not-for-profit 501(c)(13) cemetery corporation

An active cemetery, Level II Arboretum, and a National Historic Landmark, The Woodlawn Cemetery has served families in the Bronx and beyond since 1863.

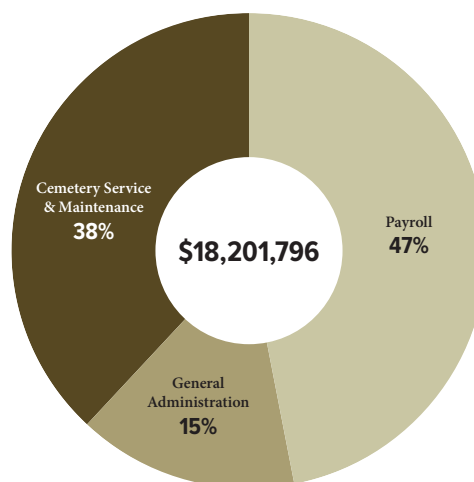


2025 Operating Revenue



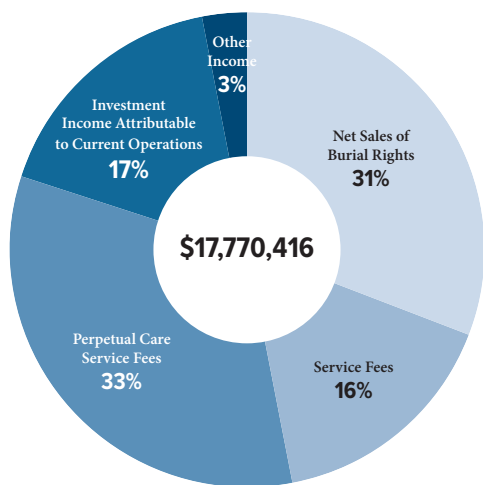
Net Sales of Burial Rights	\$6,460,419	32%
Service Fees	\$3,777,679	18%
Perpetual Care Service Fees	\$6,413,404	31%
Investment Income Attributable to Current Operations	\$3,099,183	15%
Other Income	\$733,742	4%
	\$20,484,427	100%

2025 Operating Expenses



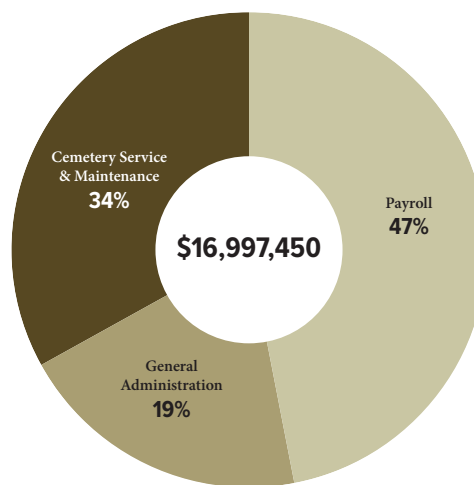
Payroll	\$8,539,834	47%
General Administration	\$2,724,938	15%
Cemetery Service & Maintenance	\$6,937,024	38%
	\$18,201,796	100%

2024 Operating Revenue



Net Sales of Burial Rights	\$5,590,746	31%
Service Fees	\$2,775,810	16%
Perpetual Care Service Fees	\$5,893,327	33%
Investment Income Attributable to Current Operations	\$2,924,556	17%
Other Income	\$585,977	3%
	\$17,770,416	100%

2024 Operating Expenses



Payroll	\$7,979,829	47%
General Administration	\$3,268,865	19%
Cemetery Service & Maintenance	\$5,748,756	34%
	\$16,997,450	100%

2025 FINANCIAL REVIEW

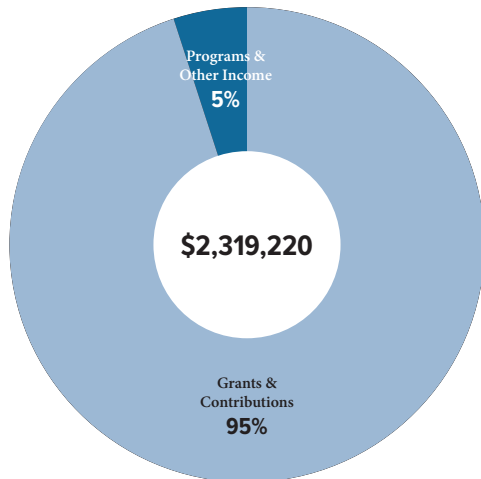
Woodlawn Conservancy

A not-for-profit 501(c)(3) organization

Woodlawn Conservancy is the charitable organization through which Woodlawn receives gifts and grants supporting preservation, education, and public programs.

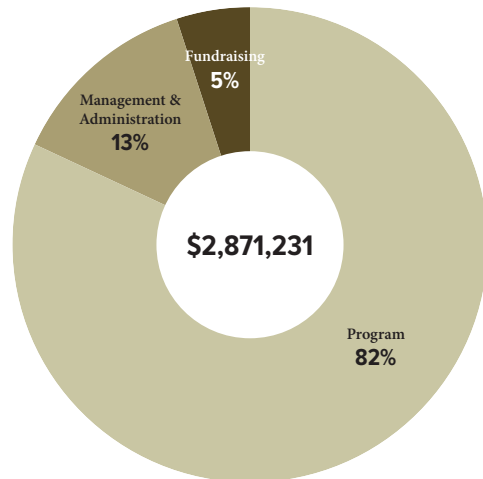


2025 Operating Revenue



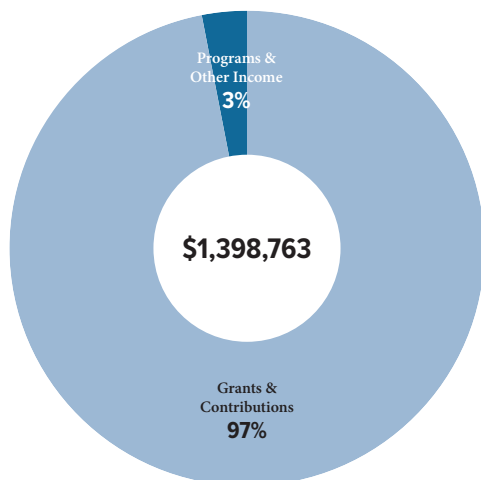
Grants & Contributions	\$2,212,926	95%
Programs & Other Income	\$106,294	5%
	\$2,319,220	100%

2025 Operating Expenses



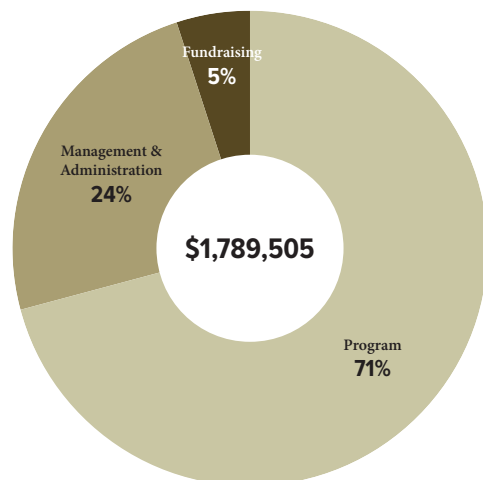
Program	\$2,341,358	82%
Management & Administration	\$384,814	13%
Fundraising	\$145,059	5%
	\$2,871,231	100%

2024 Operating Revenue



Grants & Contributions	\$1,359,384	97%
Programs & Other Income	\$39,379	3%
	\$1,398,763	100%

2024 Operating Expenses



Program	\$1,274,947	71%
Management & Administration	\$421,363	24%
Fundraising	\$93,195	5%
	\$1,789,505	100%

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Woodlawn is deeply grateful to the individual donors, foundations, and government agencies that support our public programs, workforce development initiatives, and horticultural enhancements.

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01/01/2025–06/30/2026

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The Bronx Zoo
The Central Park Conservancy
Columbia University
The Davey Institute
The Davey Tree Expert Company
The Door—A Center of Alternatives
The Dorothy Parker Society
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New York Hideyo Noguchi Memorial Society
NYC Department of Veterans Affairs
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EVERYTHING IN THIS REPORT begins with our desire to serve the families who choose Woodlawn as the final resting place for their loved ones or for themselves. We are grateful to them, to the lot owners and descendants who return year after year, to the staff who care for these grounds every day, and to the donors whose generosity makes so much of this work possible. To every visitor who spent time with us this year: come back often. The gates are open every day from 8:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

To support this work, please give to the Woodlawn Conservancy, our 501(c)(3) charitable affiliate. Gifts are tax-deductible to the fullest extent of the law. Scan the QR code for our newsletter, calendar, and ways to give.



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CEMETERY • CONSERVANCY

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