

# Out&About

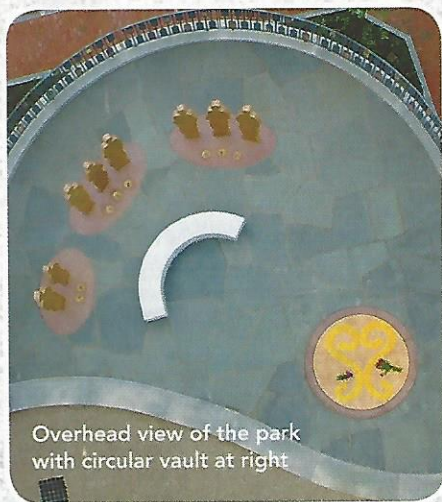
[ Places to go and things to see, near and far ]

[ Opening Scene ]

## A Gold-Hued Remembrance

In 2003, road crews working in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, uncovered fragments of wooden coffins and human remains. Archaeologists and DNA experts revealed that the bones were of African descent and dated back to the 18th century. The find confirmed studies suggesting that the area was once the burial ground for some 200 free and enslaved Africans. It also led to the establishment of the **African Burying Ground Memorial Park**, opened in 2015 to “stand in honor of those forgotten.” At the State Street entrance to the small, solemn site stand two figures: a female, representing Mother Africa, and a male (pictured, right), representing the first enslaved African brought to Portsmouth. A gold-hued vault where the remains of those unearthed were reburied is a centerpiece. The memorial is especially conducive to contemplation at night. Soft lights illuminate the vault lid, which contains the West African Adinkra symbol Sankofa: “Return and get it—learn from the past.” (603) 610-7226; [africanburyinggroundnh.org](http://africanburyinggroundnh.org).

—Diane Bair and Pamela Wright



Overhead view of the park with circular vault at right