
APPENDIX K

COMMUNITY MEETING #5

JANUARY 24, 2015



AUSTIN CEMETERIES MASTER PLAN

Community Meeting #5 – Summary Report
Steph McDougal, McDoux Preservation LLC
January 26, 2015

The Austin Cemeteries Master Plan project (2014–2015) has produced a long-range planning document to help the City of Austin manage the preservation and future development of the five city-owned cemeteries: Austin Memorial Park Cemetery, Evergreen Cemetery, Oakwood Cemetery, Oakwood Cemetery Annex, and Plummers Cemetery.

The public engagement portion of the project included five community meetings, to be held approximately every two months throughout the project period. At these meetings, members of the public received information about the project and were encouraged to provide input and feedback on various aspects of the Master Plan.

The fifth and final community meeting was held on Saturday, January 24, 2015, from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Austin Public Library Carver Branch at 1161 Angelina Street. Approximately 50 people attended the meeting, including Austin City Council Member Leslie Pool; Joe Petronis, aide to Council Member Don Zimmerman; and Beverly Wilson, aide to Council Member Ora Houston.

Project team members in attendance included:

- Kim McKnight, project coordinator, PARD Cultural Resources Specialist
- Mason Miller (AmaTerra Environmental, Inc.)
- Laura Knott (JMA/John Milner Associates, Inc.)
- Steph McDougal (McDoux Preservation LLC)

City staff members Gilbert Hernandez (cemeteries manager), Lara Schuman (PARD Urban Forestry), and Laura Esparza (Division Manager, PARD History, Art, and Nature) also were present.

After welcoming everyone and introducing the project team, city staff, and dignitaries, Kim McKnight explained the format of the meeting, which included an open-house session at the end for questions and comments. Steph McDougal then described the organization of the draft master plan document and gave a brief overview of the “Policy and Funding Recommendations” section. The majority of the meeting consisted of a presentation by Laura Knott, who discussed existing conditions and shared her recommendations for

general management guidelines (those common across all five cemeteries), as well as the conditions and recommendations for each cemetery.

At the end of the meeting, team members manned stations for each cemetery, where large-scale plans, illustrating the recommendations, were available for viewing. Participants were encouraged to share their opinions on the recommendations. Team members made notes of all verbal comments, and attendees also wrote their comments on post-it notes and large sheets of paper affixed to each table. Approximately 45 minutes were set aside for the open-house portion of the meeting.

The meeting then adjourned.

Community Comments/Questions

Comments are presented here in the order that the presentation and master plan present the cemeteries, from oldest to most recent.

Overall Comments/Questions

- Contemporary kiosks don't blend with these cemeteries. Design for each cemetery.
- Please replant trees that were removed at the same spots and of the same species. Water trees during time of insufficient rainfall. Mulch trees to as much as possible of the root zone but no more than 3 inches deep. Apply 1 inch of organic compost (not Dillo Dirt) on grass just below the blade if can't apply mulch.
- "One size fits all" benches do not work with historic cemeteries. Make the cemeteries furniture relate to the architecture. After all, outdoor furniture was invented for cemeteries!
- Cost of burial has skyrocketed and many families are scattering cremains in parks (salting arch. sites). Giving spaces for ceremonies and scattering brings families back to Austin city cemeteries. Support more family do-it-yourself burials.
- There has been too much talk, not enough "boots on the ground."
- City needs to put perpetual fund money into the cemeteries, not into the general fund.
- Need to mark each unknown grave with small marker after locating them (with ground penetrating radar or other means).
- Would like to get more information about how cemeteries should be irrigated and whether they are currently being irrigated sufficiently.

Oakwood Cemetery/Oakwood Cemetery Annex

- How would someone go about proving that they have the right to be buried in a family plot? (Gilbert Hernandez advised that the person would need to document their ancestry and family connections.)
- Street signs are desperately needed in Oakwood Cemetery.
- Improve the ditch.
- Shell mounds – SAC members note that they may have photos of these graves showing previous condition, before damage took place.
- SAC members are cleaning graves with water and soft brushes. They suggested that

the team might include before-and-after photos of the cleaning of the Townsend monument in the master plan report. Photos may be available on the SAC website or from Dale Flatt. They have also recently made some repairs to the McKinney marker.

- SAC founder Dale Flatt created a “cradle” for broken marker close to the wall behind the chapel. (He subsequently shared more information with the master plan team.)
- Wants City to replace all curbs at Oakwood Cemetery. Number one priority should be pipe ditch and plant on top. Doesn't want cedar trees.
- Phil Baum (chair of Congregation Beth Israel's cemetery committee) wanted to make sure that the recommendations for Oakwood generally also applied to the two Beth Israel sections.
- Would like to see a pavilion/shelter in or adjacent to a scatter garden in all cemeteries, if possible, for graveside services.
- Would like to know where benches can be located in Oakwood Cemetery.

Plummers Cemetery

- I am opposed to closing off the cemetery to vehicular traffic because the cemetery is large and the landscape is rolling; it would be a precarious, difficult walk for visitors to reach graves.
- I do not like the boulders. Why are there boulders here but fences everywhere else?
- Parking is needed along Springdale Road, along the bike path.
- Consider a driveway loop or, alternatively, two entrances on Springdale Road.
- Where is the plat information for this cemetery?
- If a remote sensing survey is conducted, have a permanent marker for each of the likely unmarked graves. Even if it is small, the local community would want to know where their predecessors are.
- Austin has actively tried to marginalize this community, so please do not forget about Plummers Cemetery.
- It was not a rural cemetery. It was the center of the community for east Austin.

Evergreen Cemetery

- If a garden area is added under the old oaks by the current entrance, please stay away from the critical root zone (a circle with a radius of 1 ft per 1 inch of trunk diameter measured 4.5 feet from ground) to avoid soil compaction from people. Those oaks are doing well because very few people walk in that area. Mulch these trees to the edge of the canopy with no more than 3 inches of mulch and keep people away by not adding features or walks under these trees. Same for all very large trees, specially post oaks and live oaks. Thanks for caring for the trees!
- If there is going to be an entrance on Tillery, we need a sidewalk on that side of the street as well as speed bumps. Cars drive very fast through there and it's dangerous.
- Concerns about how funeral processions would be able to use the Tillery entrance and how that would affect traffic when processions are trying to turn onto Tillery from 12th Street.
- Important to keep the main entrance on 12th Street. If you add a gate or sign over an entrance, it should be at the 12th Street entrance because that is the historical entrance and the prominent families are buried there.

- It wasn't that long ago that 12th Street wasn't paved, because we (African Americans) didn't get services. This cemetery is important and we should get the same treatment as everybody else.
- Would like some way to scatter ashes over the creek, such as from a footbridge.
- It was not clear that the new restroom would be a proper facility and not just another portalet. Want the old restroom to be removed.
- Equity among the cemeteries is critical.

Austin Memorial Park Cemetery

- Street names should not be after specific people or families; instead, name streets after trees, plants, landforms, etc. (in other words, generic names).
- Have a concern about security at this entrance.
- I support public gathering spaces for memorial gatherings such as what is happening at Laguna Gloria and Mayfield.
- Concerned about wet, depressed area and footstones.
- Please be specific about use.
- Would like to see something about the hedges separating the Congregation Agudas Achim cemetery section from the rest of the cemetery, in regard to Jewish traditions.



**Cemetery Master Plan
Public Meeting #5
10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m., January 24, 2015**

**Austin Public Library/Carver Branch
1161 Angelina Street
Austin, TX 78702**

AGENDA

Purpose of Meeting

To present the draft City of Austin Historic Cemeteries Master Plan, to receive your comments, and to gather your input.

Purpose of Feedback

Feedback will be reviewed and used to help guide revisions to the draft master plan.

- | | |
|-------------------------|---|
| 10:30 – 10:40 a.m. | Welcome and introductions (Kim McKnight) |
| 10:40 – 11:00 a.m. | Overview of the Master Plan document (Steph McDougal) |
| 11:00 – 11:45 a.m. | Highlights of the Master Plan (Laura Knott) |
| 11:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m. | Opportunities to ask questions and provide feedback |

For updated information about the master plan process,
Visit: <http://www.austintexas.gov/departments/cemetery-master-plan>
Call Kim McKnight at (512) 974-9478 or email kim.mcknight@austintexas.gov
Email kim.mcknight@austintexas.gov



*The City of Austin is committed to compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act.
Reasonable modifications and equal access to communications will be provided upon request.*



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City of Austin
Cemetery Master Plan Community Meeting #5
Carver Branch, Austin Public Library
10:30 am-12:30 pm, January 24, 2015



First Name	Last Name	Email	Affiliation/Interest	Zip Code
Kaye	Blackbeard			78746
Sharon	Blythe			78750
Sandra	Kirk			78704/02/22
Kay	Bayer			
Myrtle	Wilson			78721
Joe	Rebronis			
Jan	Root			78757
ELISABETH	KIHLBERG			78701
NORMAN	KITTREDGE			78727
DALE	KATT			
Dee	Stacey			78747
DOROTHEA	ADAMS			78722
Carolyn	Dallmeyer			78757
Lara	Schuman			78723
LESLIE	WOUFENDEN			78758
Sally	Baulch			78745
DOUG	BELL			78750
DIANE	RENT			78737
STAN	ETZMAN			78727
EVELYN	JOHNSON			78702



City of Austin
Cemetery Master Plan Community Meeting #5
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First Name	Last Name	Email	Affiliation/Interest	Zip Code
Beth	Pickett			78702
Sally	Victor			78747
Arelly	Alejandro			78741
Sisto	Ramirez			78703
Megan	Spencer			78704
Beverly	Wilson			78701
Leslie	Pool			
Amy	Smith			
Angelica	Royola			78702
Courtney	Webster			78681
Zoila	Vega			78745



City of Austin Cemetery Master Plan Community Meeting #5

Carver Branch, Austin Public Library
10:30 am-12:30 pm, January 24, 2015



First Name	Last Name	Email	Affiliation/Interest	Zip Code
JESSICA	MAY			78705
Irene	Ramirez			78703
Laura	Espanza			78739
Britney	Borton			
Patrick	Carver			78723
GILBERT	Alvarez			



Austin Cemetery Master Plan

Community Meeting #5

January 24, 2015



Agenda

- Welcome and introductions (Kim McKnight)
- Overview of the Master Plan document (Steph McDougal)
- Highlights of the Master Plan (Laura Knott)
- Breakout sessions to collect public feedback on individual cemetery plans



Process to Date

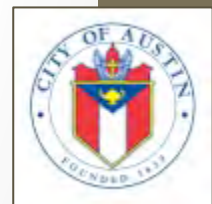
- Summer, 2013: 6 meetings to develop Scope of Work
- Fall, 2013: RFP issued
- March, 2014: Contract with AmaTerra Env. executed
- April 30, 2014: Community Mtg. #1, Carver Branch
- June 26, 2014: Community Mtg. #2, NW Rec. Center
- August 23, 2014: Community Mtg. #3, Ruiz Branch
- November 2, 2014: Community Mtg. #4, Zilker Bot. Garden
- January 24, 2015: Community Mtg. #5: Carver Branch



Process Going Forward

Please note that this is a tentative timeframe and subject to change

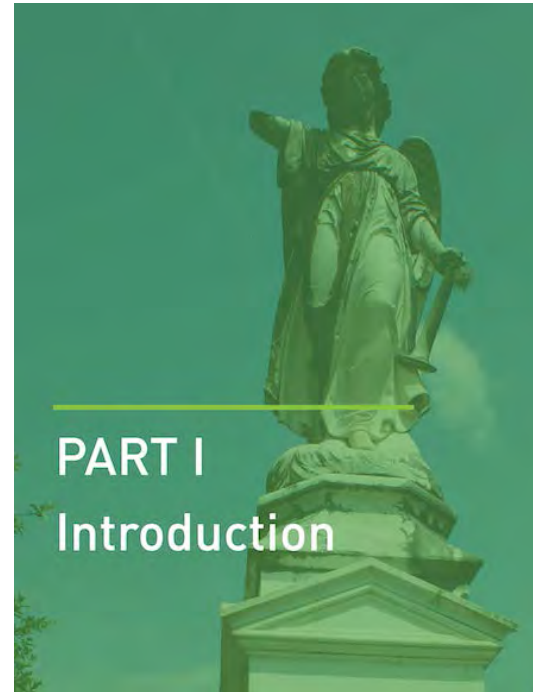
- January 23, 2015: Draft Master Plan Posted to Website
- January 24, 2015: Community Meeting #5, Carver Branch
- March 6, 2015: Deadline for first round of feedback; revisions made to final plan
- Mid-March, 2015: Post final draft for Boards, Commissions & Council
- April, 2015: Present final draft plan to Urban Forestry Board & Historic Landmark Commission
- May, 2015: Present final draft plan to Land Facilities & Program Committee, Parks and Rec Board, Planning Commission
- June, 2015: Present final draft plan to Austin City Council



The draft Master Plan

Part I: Introduction

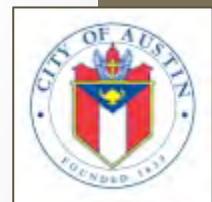
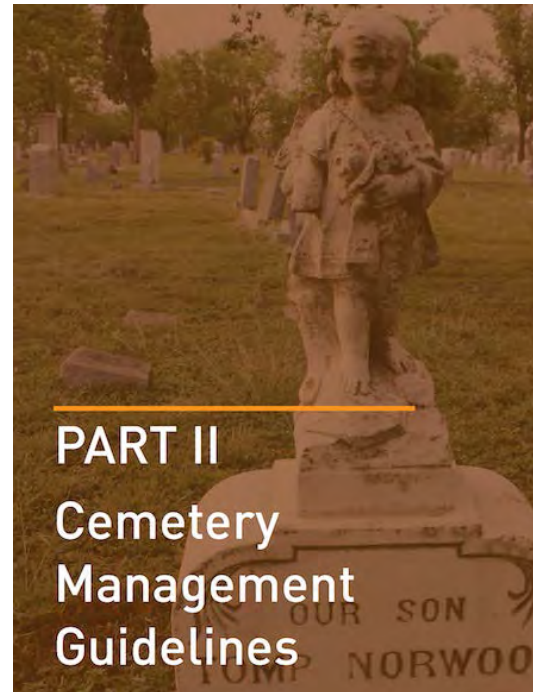
1. Introduction
2. Natural, Historical, and Cultural Contexts



The draft Master Plan

Part II: Cemetery Management Guidelines

3. General Management Guidelines
4. Oakwood Cemetery
5. Oakwood Cemetery Annex
6. Plummers Cemetery
7. Evergreen Cemetery
8. Austin Memorial Park Cemetery



The draft Master Plan

Part III: Policy and Funding Recommendations

9. Regulations and Laws
10. Cemetery Oversight
11. Emergency Preparedness
12. Historic Designations
13. Grave Ornamentation
14. Funding and Revenue
15. Partnerships and Programs

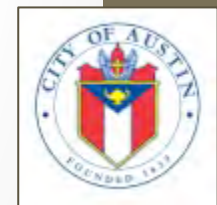


General Management Guidelines

Rehabilitation

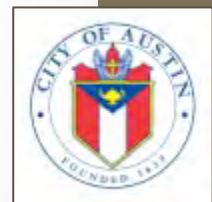
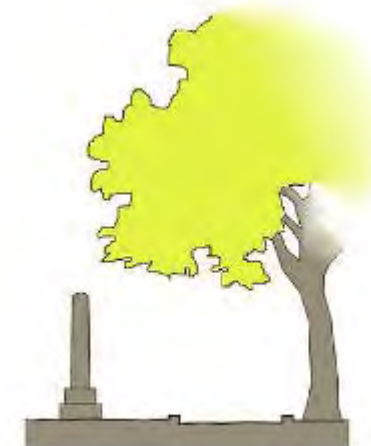
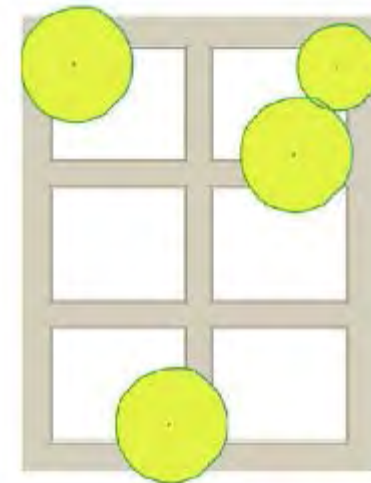
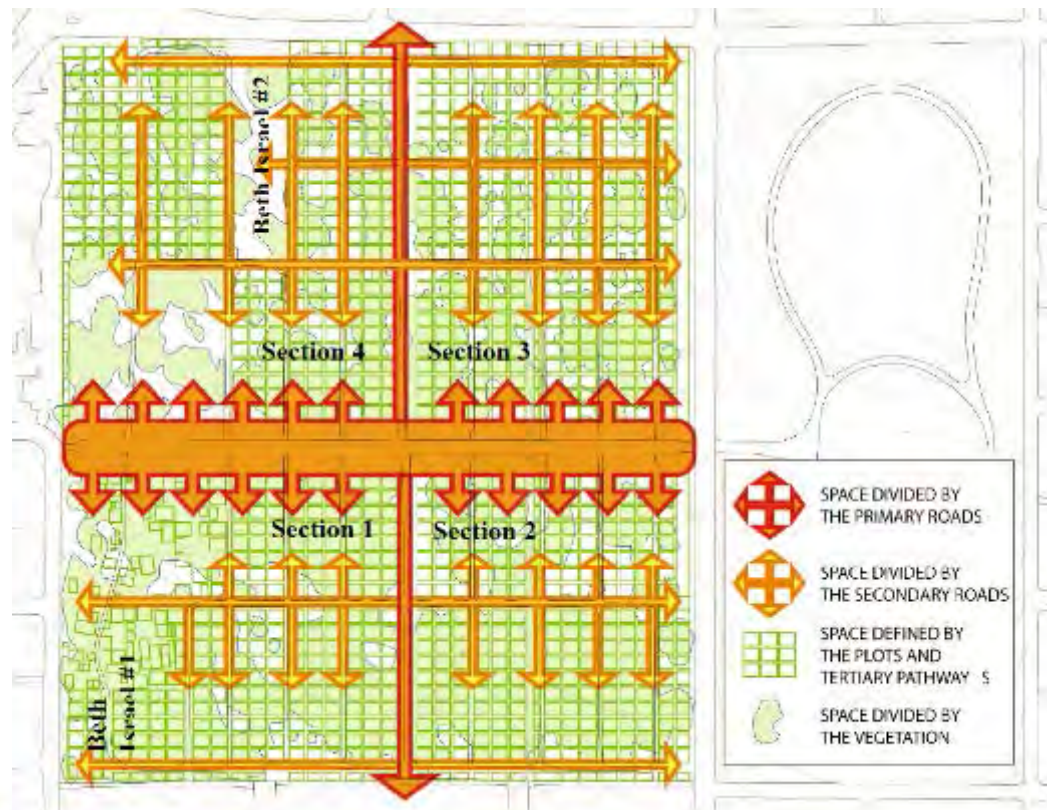
- *Document, document, document!*
- *Repair before replace*
- *Replace in-kind*
- *New work complements historic character*
 - *Differentiated from old*
 - *Compatible in material, size, scale, proportion, and massing*
 - *Subordinate to historic features*

The screenshot shows a webpage from the National Park Service, Department of the Interior. The page title is "The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties: 4 Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes". The page includes a navigation menu with options: INTRODUCTION, PRESERVING, REHABILITATING, RESTORING, and RECONSTRUCTING. A large aerial photograph of a cultural landscape is featured on the left. On the right, there is a table of contents with links to: Overview, Preservation Planning, Factors to Consider, Special Requirements, Using the Standards + Guidelines, Organization of the Guidelines, Terminology, Bibliography, and Acknowledgments. Below the photograph, there is a paragraph of text explaining the purpose of the guidelines. At the bottom, there is a detailed paragraph about the history and application of the Secretary of the Interior's Standards, mentioning their origin in 1979 and their use by State Historic Preservation Officers and the National Park Service. It also notes that the standards were revised in 1992 to be applicable to all historic resource types and that the revised standards were codified in 36 CFR Part 63 in 1993.



General Management Guidelines

Spatial Organization and Circulation



General Management Guidelines

Vegetation



General Management Guidelines

Vegetation

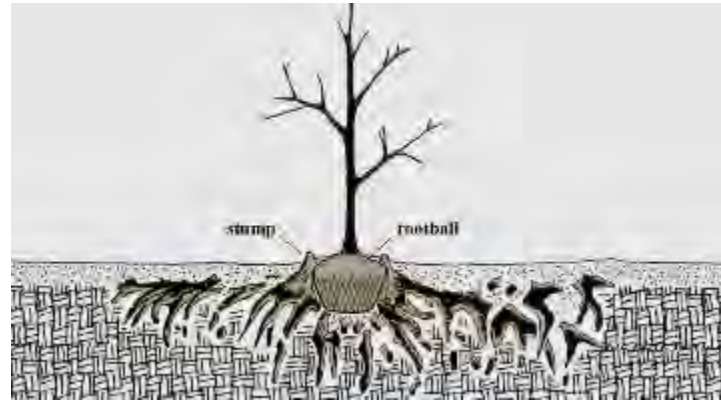


General Management Guidelines

Vegetation

The Critical Root Zone - Development Impact Zones

Example: 20 inch diameter tree



General Management Guidelines

Vegetation



General Management Guidelines

Vegetation



the mix

HABITURF® is a mix of *Bouteloua dactyloides* (buffalograss), *Bouteloua gracilis* (blue grama), *Hilaria belangeri* (curly-mesquite), and others. It needs less mowing, watering and weeding and also replicates nature's shortgrass prairies. Although the species are different, these grasses have almost identically shaped leaves and color and produce a great-looking, even-textured, dense lawn for full sun or partial shade where the grass gets at least five hours of direct sunlight.



= HABITURF®



Appropriate range for HABITURF® use.



General Management Guidelines

Fences



General Management Guidelines

Grave Markers, Plot Curbs, Plot Fencing—Level One



General Management Guidelines

Grave Markers, Plot Curbs, Plot Fencing—Level Two



General Management Guidelines

Grave Markers, Plot Curbs, Plot Fencing—Level Three



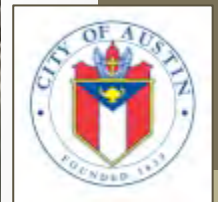
General Management Guidelines

Site Furnishings



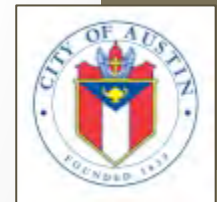
General Management Guidelines

Site Furnishings



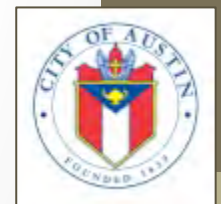
General Management Guidelines

Site Furnishings--Signs



General Management Guidelines

Site Furnishings--Kiosks



Cemetery Treatment Guidelines

Oakwood Cemetery



Cemetery Treatment Guidelines

Oakwood Cemetery Overall: Vegetation Conditions



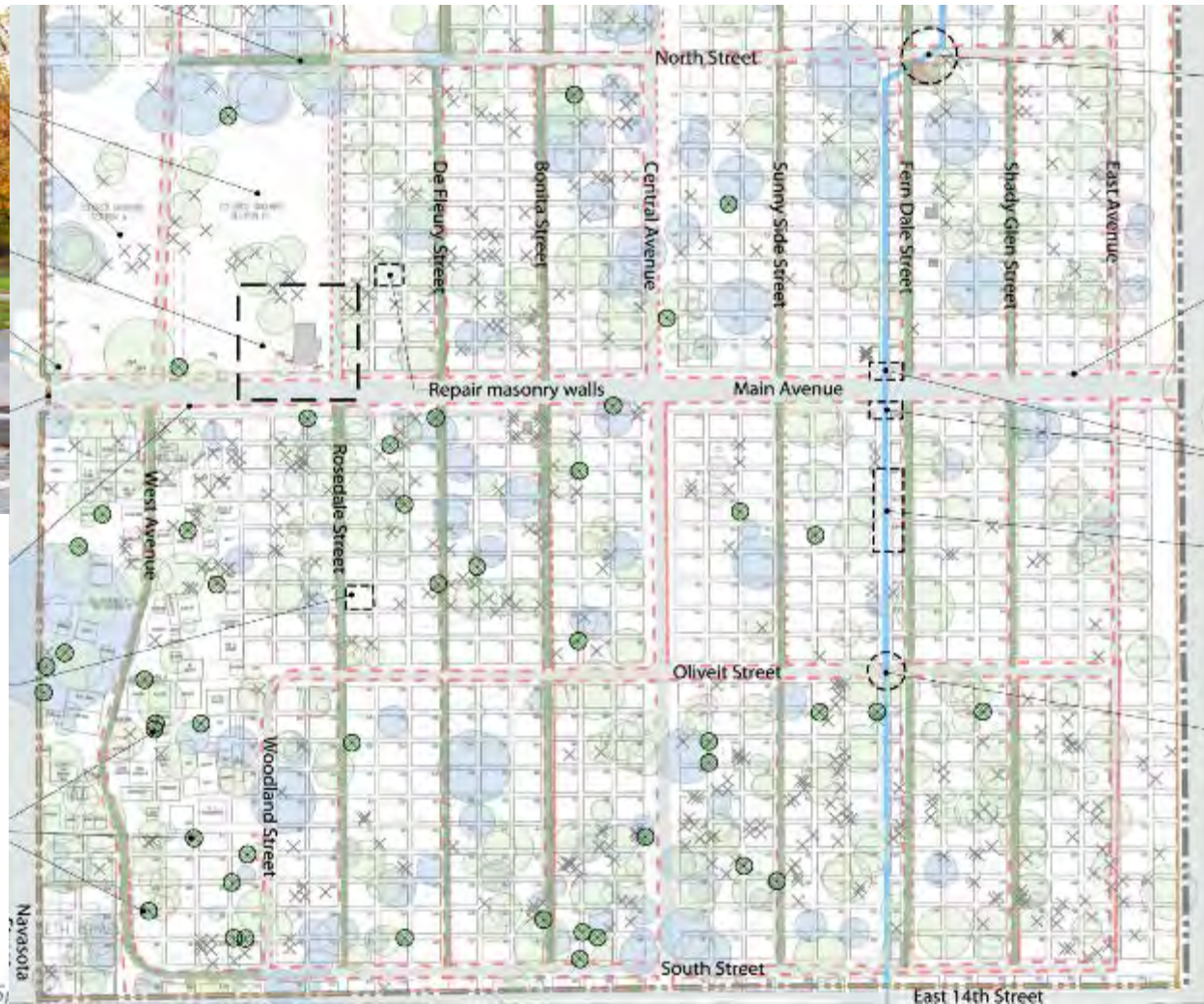
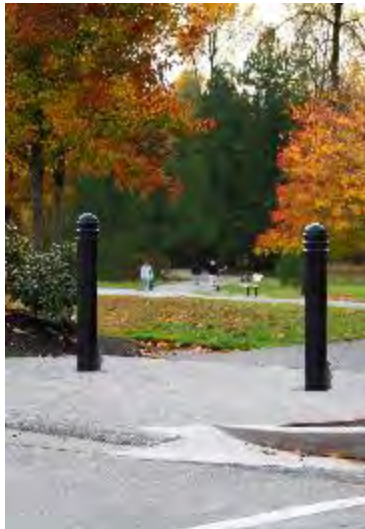
Cemetery Treatment Guidelines

Oakwood Cemetery Overall: Marker Conditions



Cemetery Treatment Guidelines

Oakwood Cemetery Overall: Marker Conditions



Cemetery Treatment Guidelines

Oakwood Cemetery

- Appearance



Cemetery Treatment Guidelines

Oakwood Cemetery: Ditch



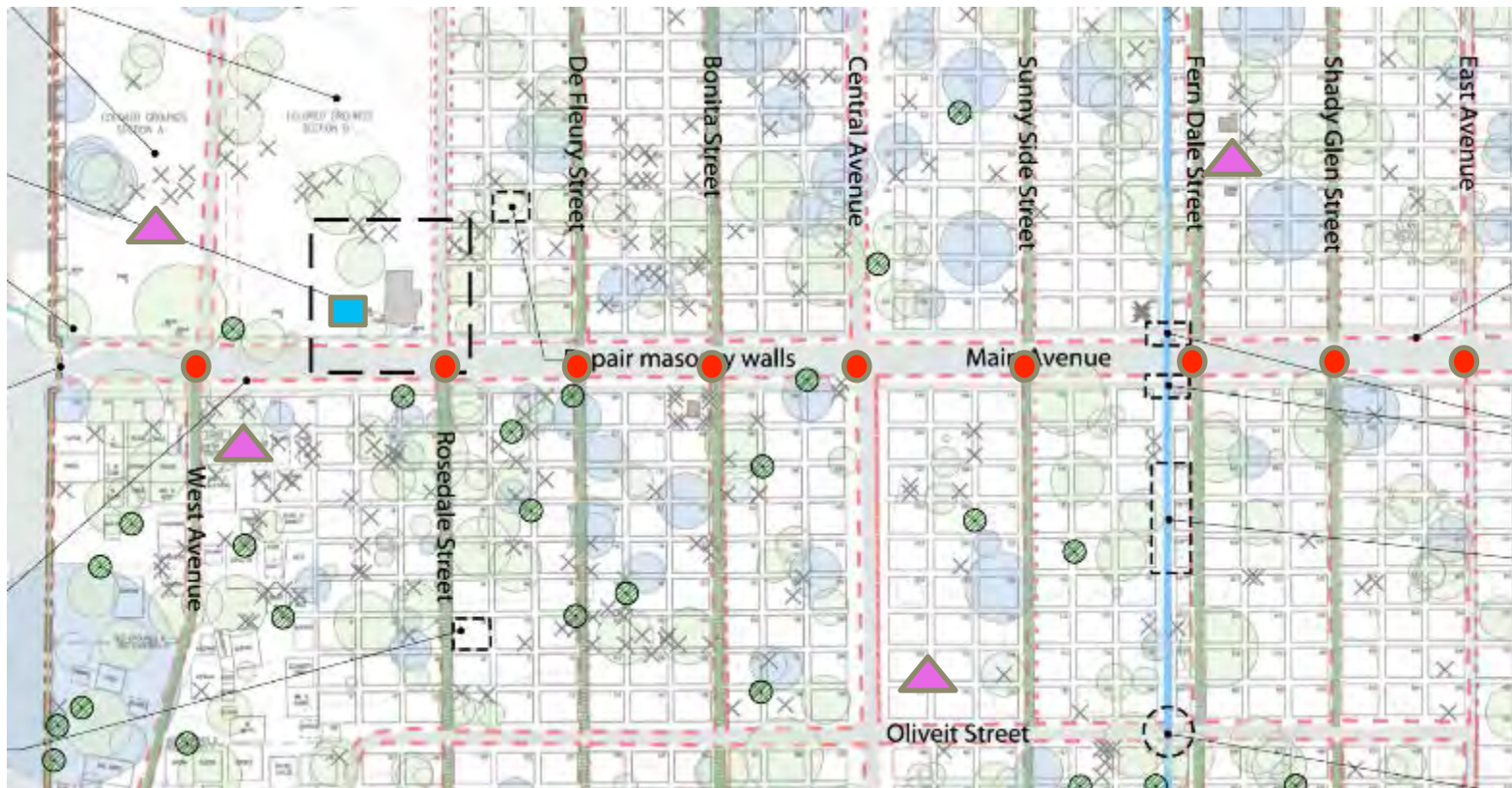
Cemetery Treatment Guidelines

Oakwood Cemetery: Chapel



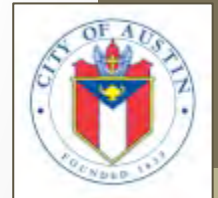
Cemetery Treatment Guidelines

Oakwood Cemetery: Wayfinding and Interpretation



Cemetery Treatment Guidelines

Oakwood Annex Cemetery



Cemetery Treatment Guidelines

Oakwood Annex Cemetery: Appearance



Cemetery Treatment Guidelines

Oakwood Annex Cemetery: Preservation and protection



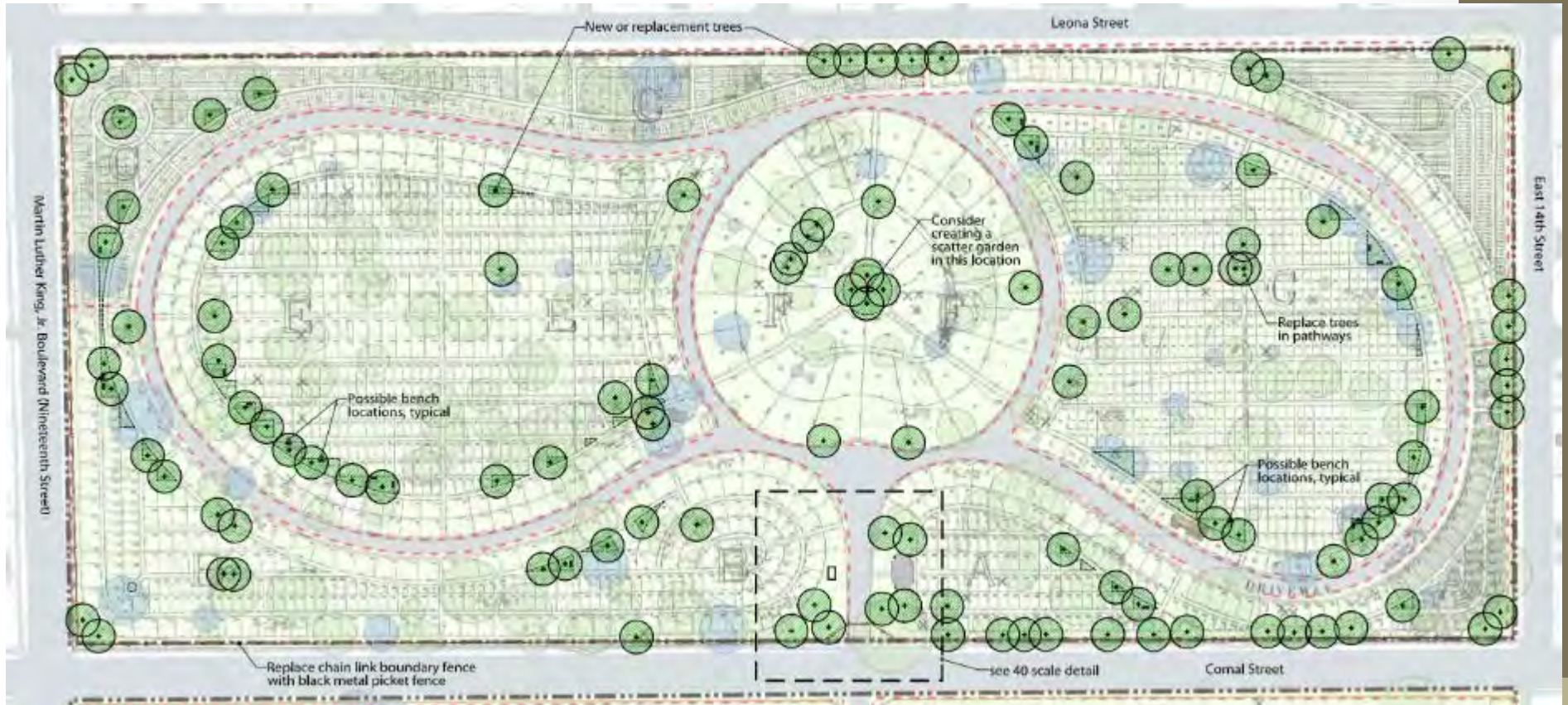
Cemetery Treatment Guidelines

Oakwood Annex Cemetery: Preservation and protection



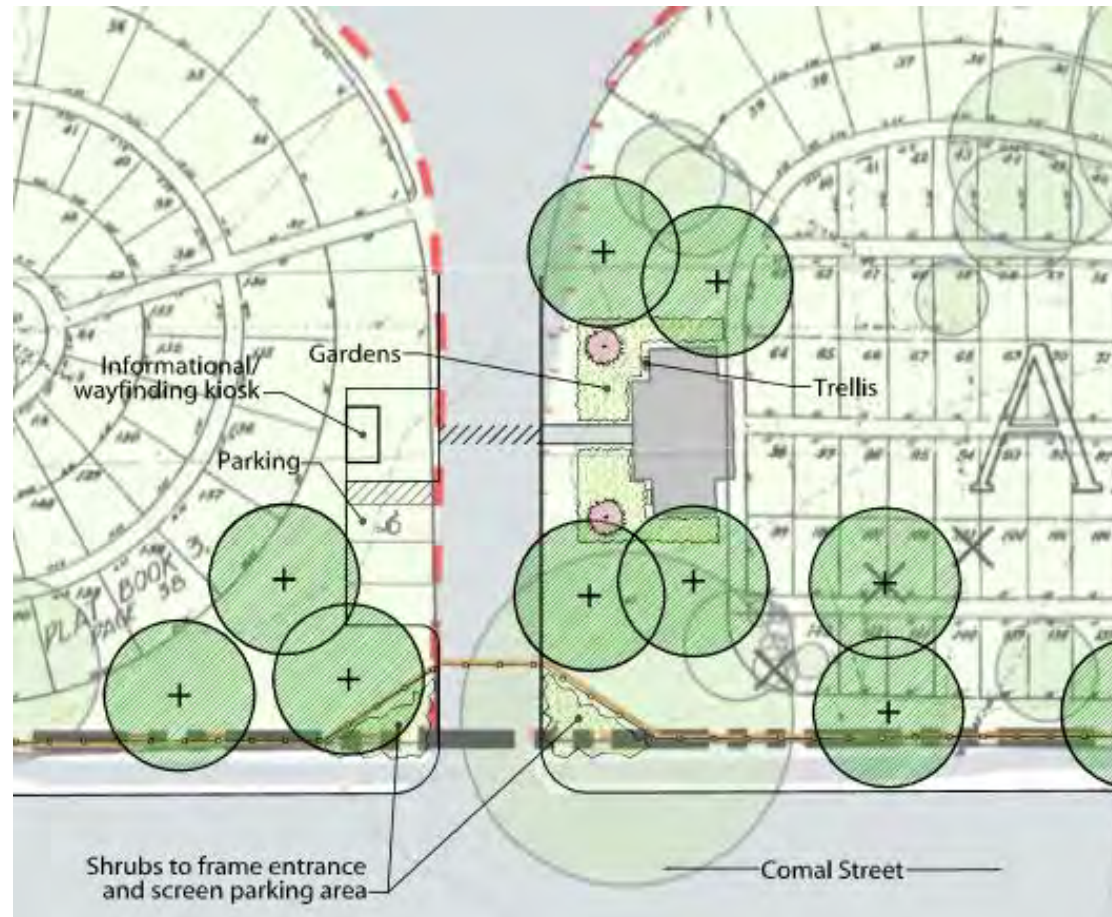
Cemetery Treatment Guidelines

Oakwood Annex Cemetery: Visitor seating



Cemetery Treatment Guidelines

Oakwood Annex Cemetery: Appearance



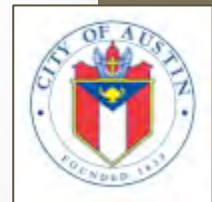
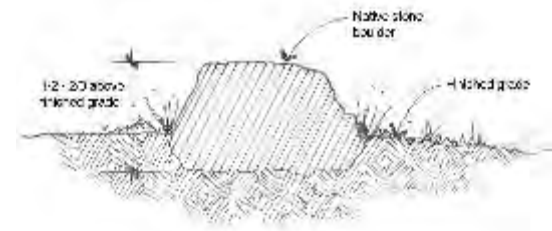
Cemetery Treatment Guidelines

Plummers Cemetery



Cemetery Treatment Guidelines

Plummers Cemetery: Vulnerability



Cemetery Treatment Guidelines

Plummers Cemetery: Access and interpretation



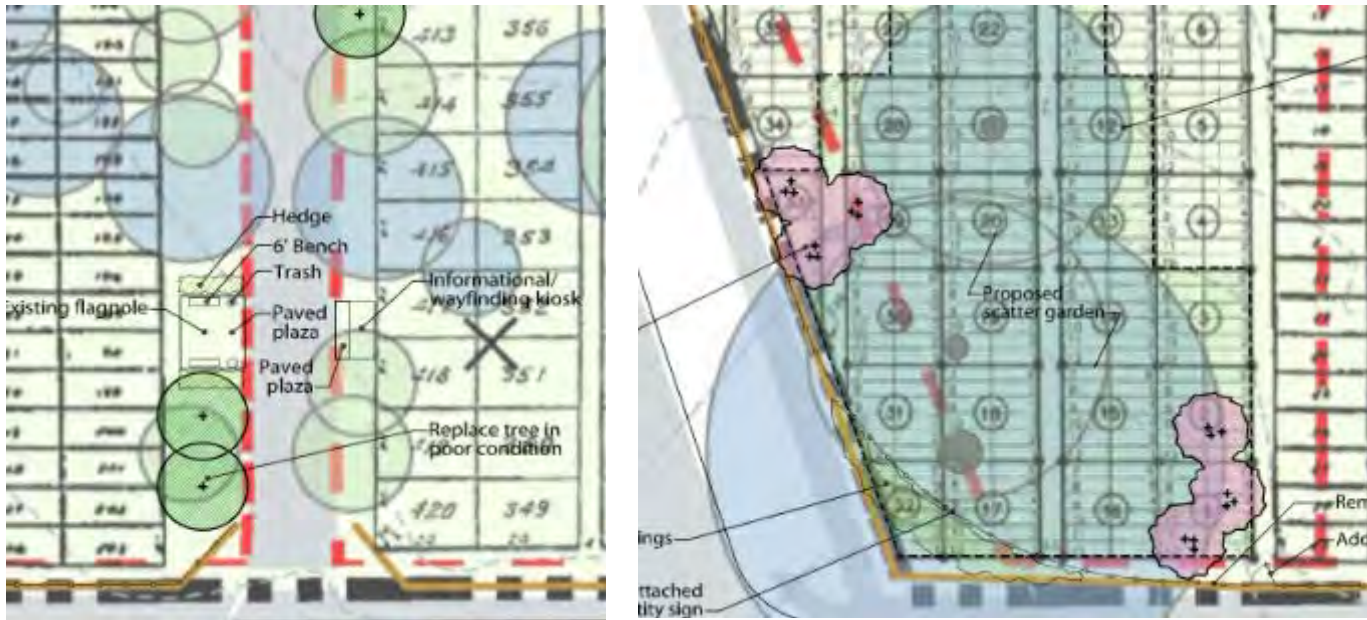
Cemetery Treatment Guidelines

Evergreen Cemetery



Cemetery Treatment Guidelines

Evergreen Cemetery: Appearance and Entrance



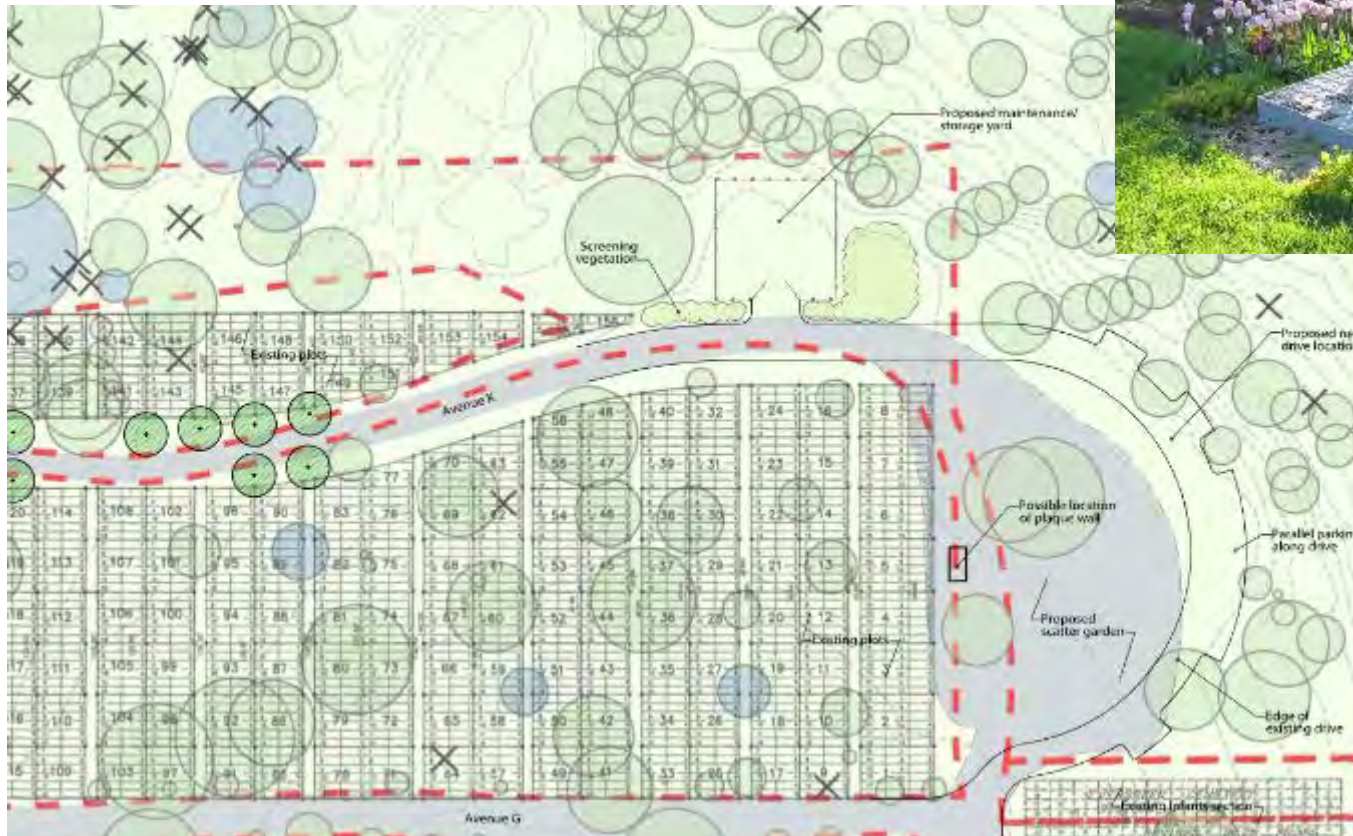
Cemetery Treatment Guidelines

Evergreen Cemetery: Appearance and Entrance



Cemetery Treatment Guidelines

Evergreen Cemetery: Expansion



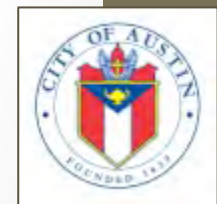
Cemetery Treatment Guidelines

Austin Memorial Park Cemetery



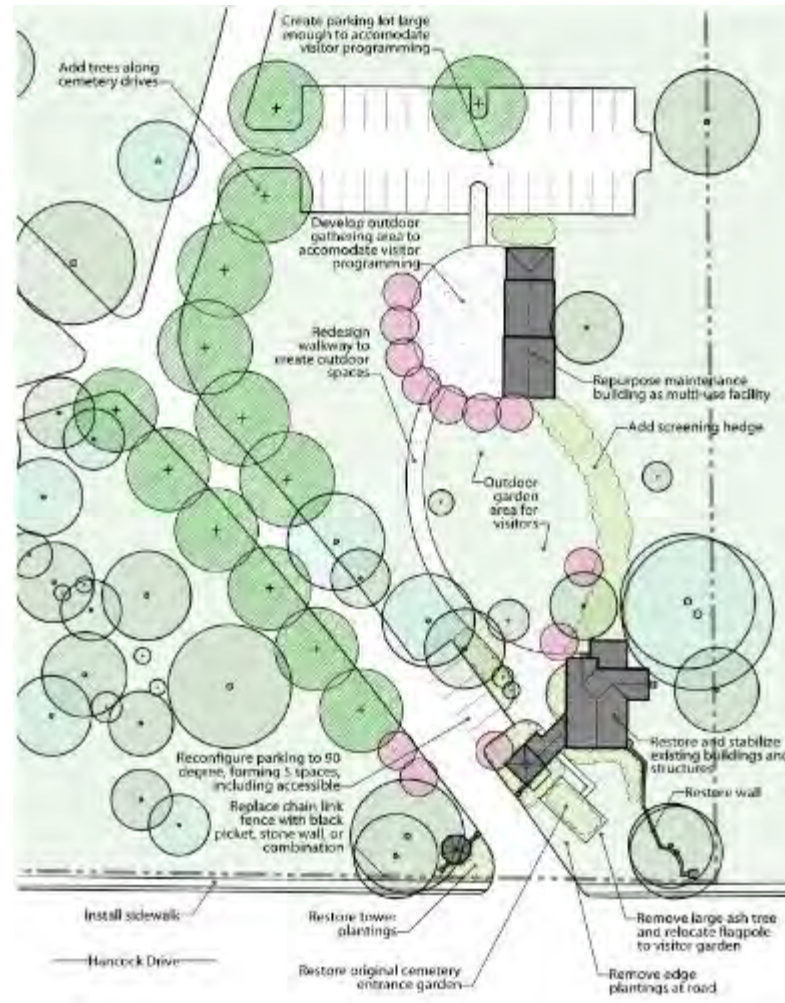
Cemetery Treatment Guidelines

Austin Memorial Park Cemetery: Facilities



Cemetery Treatment Guidelines

Austin Memorial Park Cemetery: Facilities



Cemetery Treatment Guidelines

Austin Memorial Park Cemetery: Facilities



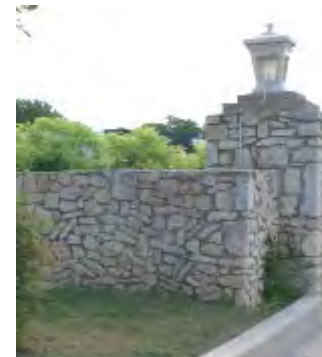
Cemetery Treatment Guidelines

Austin Memorial Park Cemetery: Entrance



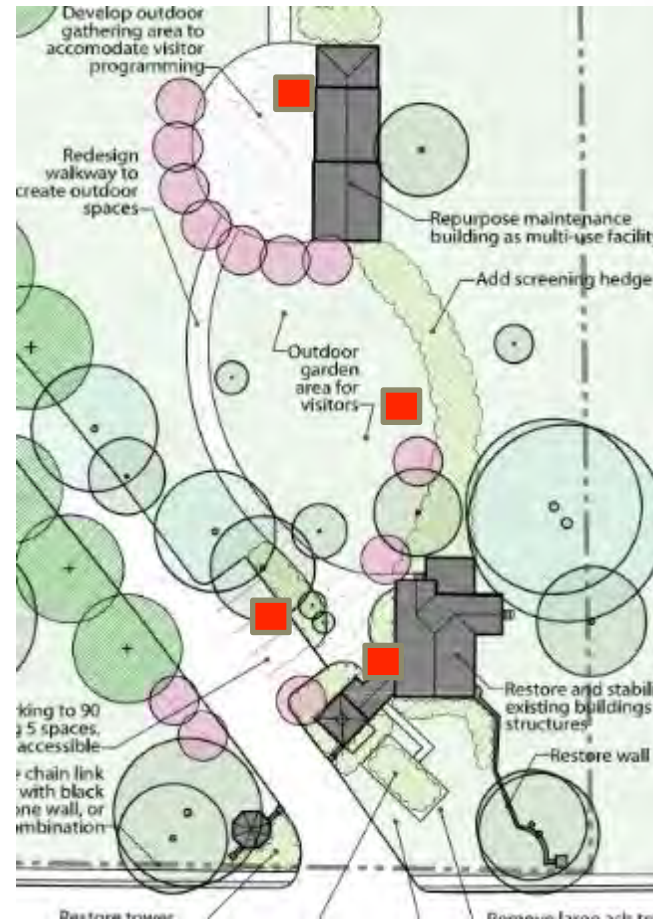
Cemetery Treatment Guidelines

Austin Memorial Park Cemetery: Boundary Fence



Cemetery Treatment Guidelines

Austin Memorial Park Cemetery: Wayfinding and Interpretation



Cemetery Treatment Guidelines

Austin Memorial Park Cemetery: Screening



Breakout Sessions

