



MEMORANDUM

TO: Environmental Board

FROM: Kim McKnight, Project Coordinator, Parks and Recreation Dept. *KMK*

DATE: June 9, 2015

SUBJECT: Historic Cemeteries Master Plan

The Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) will present a briefing on the Historic Cemeteries Master Plan to the Environmental Board on June 17, 2015. The master plan and associated appendices can be accessed by visiting the following website: <https://www.austintexas.gov/cmp>. Of special interest to Environmental Board Members will be the following chapters and appendices that include tree-related topics and recommendations:

Chapter 3: General Management Guidelines provides recommendations applicable for all cemeteries including the following:

- Importance of Vegetation
- Historic Cemetery Trees—Preserving, Removing, Replacing
- Planting New Trees
- Trees of Special Concern—Post Oaks, Crape Myrtles, Eastern Red Cedar
- Preserving Historic Shrubs and Perennials
- Invasive Plants
- Cemetery Lawn Care
- Irrigation

Each cemetery has an individual chapter with recommendations specific to its site:

- Chapter 4: Oakwood Cemetery
- Chapter 5: Oakwood Cemetery Annex
- Chapter 6: Plummers Cemetery
- Chapter 7: Evergreen Cemetery
- Chapter 8: Austin Memorial Park Cemetery

PARD was pleased to partner with PARD Forestry and the Urban Forest Replenishment Grant Fund for a comprehensive GIS-based tree inventory and conditions assessment, which included the identification and assessment of the condition of all trees, large shrubs, snags (standing dead trees), and stumps within all open portions (157.1 acres) of each of the cemeteries as well as approximately half of the densely wooded areas that are found along the properties' peripheries (9 acres; 166.1 acres survey area total). A comprehensive report is included in the following appendix:

- Appendix E: Tree Survey

The master plan and associated appendices can be accessed by visiting the following website: <https://www.austintexas.gov/cmp>. Please do not hesitate to contact me at 512.974.9478 should you have questions.



City of Austin Historic Cemeteries Master Plan

Kim McKnight, MSHP
Environmental Board
June 17, 2015



Process to Date

- 2012: Parks Board Working Group to identify issues and concerns
- Summer, 2013: 6 meetings to develop Scope of Work
- Fall, 2013: RFP issued
- March, 2014: Contract with AmaTerra Env. Executed; includes tree assessment and survey
- Community Meetings
 - April 30, 2014: Carver Branch Library
 - June 26, 2014: NW Recreation Center
 - August 23, 2014: Ruiz Branch Library
 - November 2, 2014: Zilker Botanical Garden
 - January 24, 2015: Carver Branch
- January 23-March 9, 2015: Draft Master Plan Posted to Website for Community Review
- April 9, 2015: Post revised draft for Boards, Commissions & Council



Community Engagement

- 6 Scope of Work development meetings
- 5 public meetings
- Board and Commission process
- Media releases
- Monthly newsletters throughout entire process placed in libraries and recreation centers
- Email notices
- City website and project website
- Signage in Cemeteries
- Speak Up Austin Surveys for Programming and Burial Options
- Extensive outreach through more than 70 social media outlets
- Interviews with 25 Stakeholders
- Outreach targeted to Community Registry, Austin Neighborhoods Council, Save Austin's Cemeteries, Preservation Austin, African-American Cultural Heritage District



The draft Master Plan

Part I: Introduction

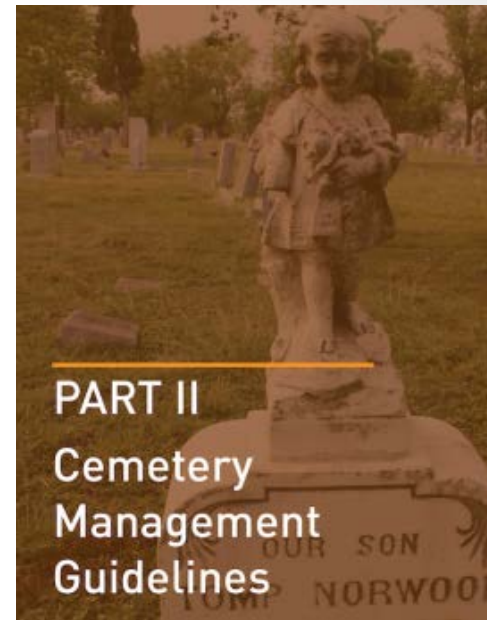
1. Introduction
2. Natural, Historical, and Cultural Contexts

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

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



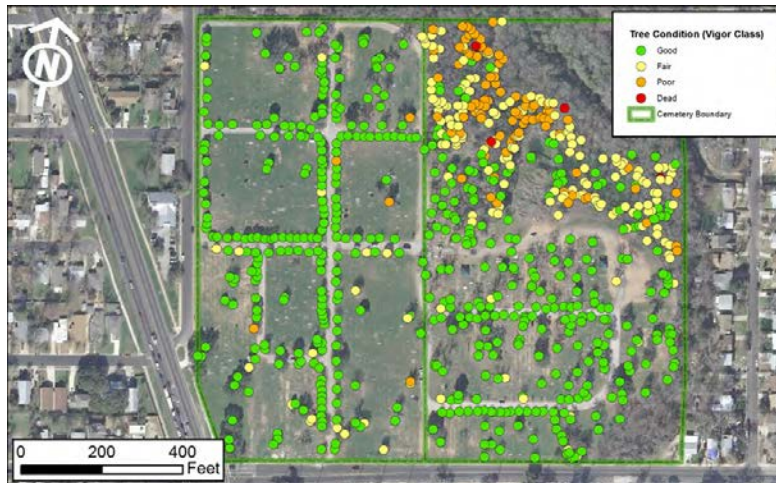
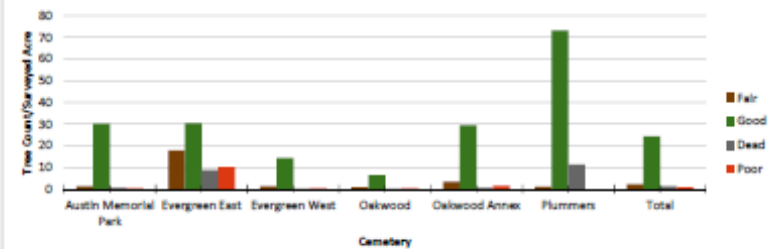
Tree Survey

Table 1. Tabular summary of acreages evaluated within each of the five historic cemeteries.

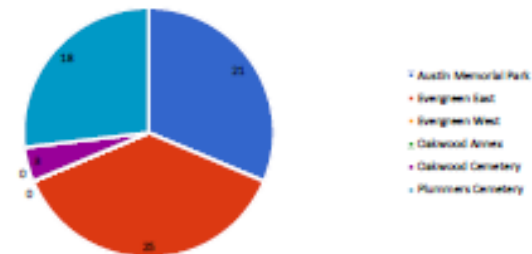
| Cemetery | Open Acreage | Dense Acreage | Dense Survey Acreage | Total Tree Survey Area | Total Cemetery Acreage |
|-----------------|--------------|---------------|----------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Austin Memorial | 74.4 | 5.6 | 3 | 77.4 | 80 |
| Evergreen | 21.4 | 8.4 | 4 | 25.4 | 29.8 |
| Oakwood | 39.3 | 0 | 0 | 39.3 | 39.3 |
| Oakwood Annex | 18.6 | 0 | 0 | 18.6 | 18.6 |
| Plummers | 3.4 | 3.8 | 2 | 5.4 | 7.2 |
| Total | 157.1 | 17.8 | 9 | 166.1 | 174.9 |



Summary of Tree Conditions at the City of Austin's Five Historic Cemeteries (count/acre)

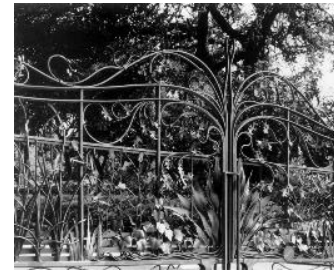
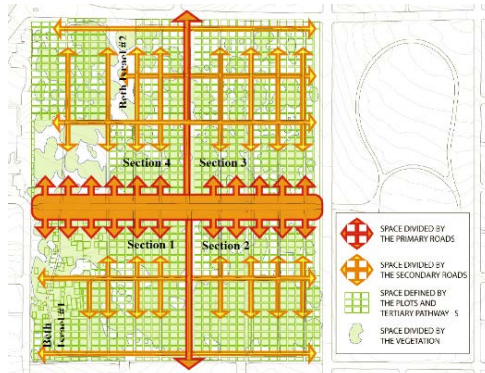


Dead Standing Trees Recorded at Each Cemetery

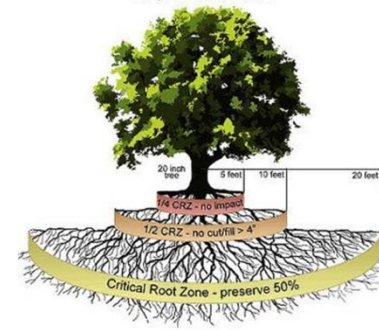


General Management Guidelines

- *Rehabilitation*
- *Spatial Organization and Circulation*
- *Vegetation, including trees*
- *Grave Markers, Plot Curbs, Plot Fencing*
- *Fences*
- *Site Furnishings*
 - *Benches, Signs and Kiosks*

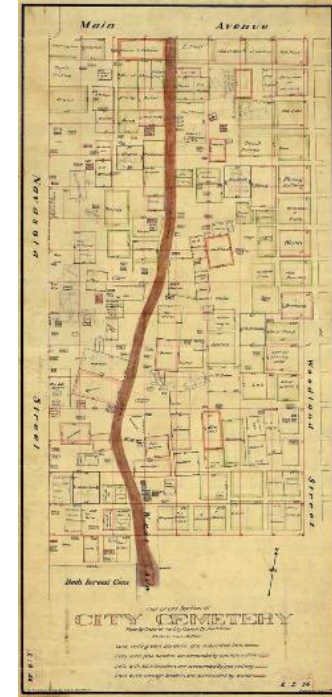
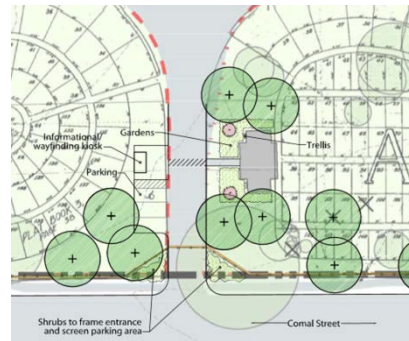


The Critical Root Zone - Development Impact Zones
Example: 20 inch diameter tree



Cemetery Treatment Guidelines for Individual Cemeteries

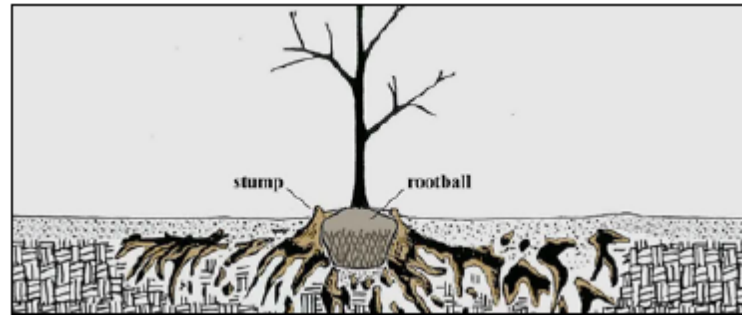
- Vegetation Conditions
- Marker Conditions
- Drainage
- Buildings and Facilities
- Appearance
- Boundary fencing and screening
- Wayfinding and interpretation
- Preservation and protection
- Visitor amenities
- Entrance and Access
- Vulnerability
- Expansion



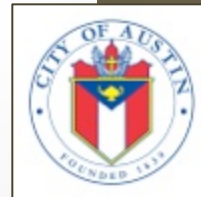
Cemetery Treatment Guidelines

related to trees

- Importance of Vegetation
- Historic Cemetery Trees
 - Preserving
 - Removing
 - Replacing
- Planting New Trees
- Trees of Special Concern
 - Post Oaks
 - Crape Myrtles
 - Eastern Red Cedar
- Preserving Historic Shrubs and Perennials



- Invasive Plants
- Cemetery Lawn Care
 - Analyze
 - Prepare
 - Plant
 - Maintain
- Irrigation



Urban Forestry Board Recommendations

- Place the irrigation proposal for all the cemeteries in Priority 1.
- Include in the General Maintenance Guidelines and each individual cemetery plan: Application of compost and mulch as well as supplemental watering of trees during periods of insufficient rainfall.
- No tree planting should be lower than a Priority 2 in the plan.
- Change Page 402 of the Cemetery Master Plan, which speaks to care of “private trees” to care of “commemorative trees.”



Process Going Forward

Please note that this timeframe and is subject to change:

| | |
|-------------|---|
| April: | Briefings to Urban Forestry Board (UFB) & Historic Landmark Commission (HLC) |
| May 11 : | RECOMMENDED by Land, Facilities & Program Committee |
| May 18: | RECOMMENDED by Historic Landmark Commission* |
| May 20: | RECOMMENDED by Urban Forestry Board* |
| May 26: | RECOMMENDED by Parks and Recreation Board |
| June 9: | Presentation to Environmental Board |
| June 23: | Presentation to Planning Commission |
| June 24: | Open Space, Environment & Sustainability Committee of the Austin City Council |
| Fall, 2015: | Austin City Council |

* Motion included supplemental recommendations that will be considered in final revision and implementation.

