



City of Austin Historic Cemeteries Master Plan



Kim McKnight, MSHP, Project Coordinator, Preservation Planner
Briefing at City Council Work Session
September 15, 2015



City of Austin Cemeteries

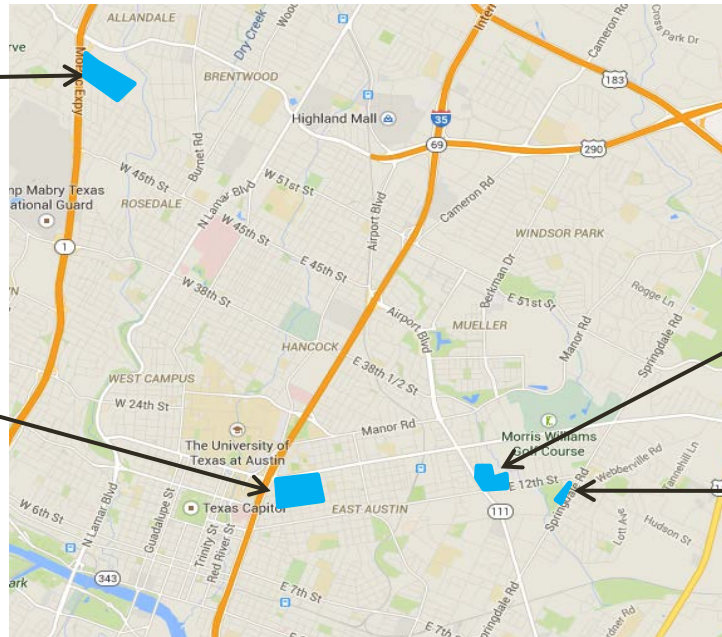
- Oakwood Cemetery (1839), 1601 Navasota Street
- Oakwood Cemetery Annex (1914), 1601 Comal Street
- Plummers Cemetery (c. 1898), 1150 Springdale Road
- Evergreen Cemetery (1926), 3304 East 12th Street
- Austin Memorial Park Cemetery (1927), 2800 Hancock Drive

Austin Memorial Park Cemetery

Oakwood Cemetery
Oakwood Cemetery Annex

Evergreen Cemetery

Plummers Cemetery



Planning Process

- Spring, 2012: PARB Working Group meetings to identify issues & concerns
- Summer, 2013: 6 meetings to develop Scope of Work
- Fall, 2013: Request for Proposals issued
- March, 2014: Contract with AmaTerra Environmental executed
- 2014-2015: 5 Community Meetings
 - April 30, 2014: Carver Branch Library
 - June 26, 2014: NW Recreation Center
 - August 23, 2014: Ruiz Branch Library
 - November 3, 2014: Zilker Botanical Garden
 - January 24, 2015: Carver Branch Library
- Jan. 23-Mar. 9, 2015: Draft Master Plan Posted for Community Review
- Early April, 2015: Revised draft posted 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
- Extensive outreach through more than 70 social media outlets
- Interviews with 25 Stakeholders
- Speak-up Austin Surveys: Programming and Burial Options
- Outreach targeted to Community Registry, Austin Neighborhoods Council, Save Austin's Cemeteries, Preservation Austin, African-American Cultural Heritage District



Historic Cemeteries

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

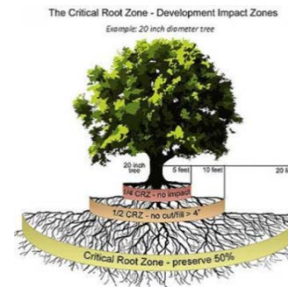
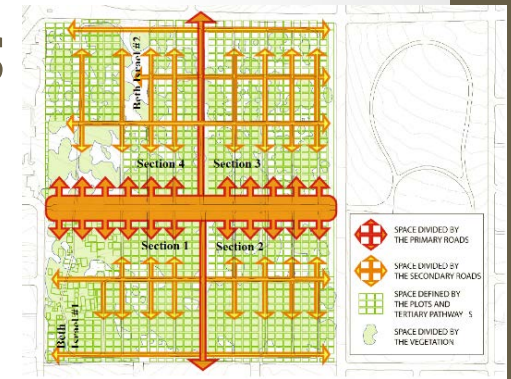
Part III: Policy and Funding Recommendations

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



General Management Guidelines

- *Rehabilitation—Preservation and protection*
- *Spatial Organization and Circulation*
- *Entrance and Access*
- *Vegetation, including trees*
- *Grave Markers, Plot Curbs, Plot Fencing*
- *Boundary fencing and screening*
- *Site Furnishings—Benches, Signs & Kiosks*
- *Drainage*
- *Buildings and Facilities*
- *Wayfinding and interpretation*
- *Visitor amenities*
- *Vulnerability*
- *Expansion*



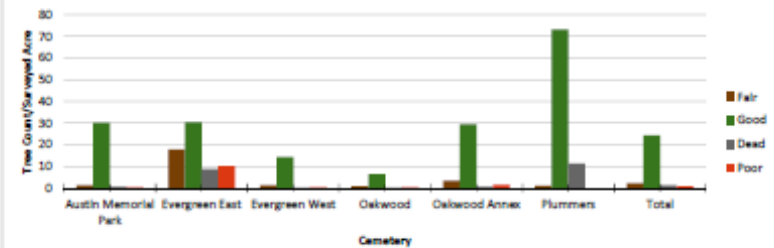
Tree Survey

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)

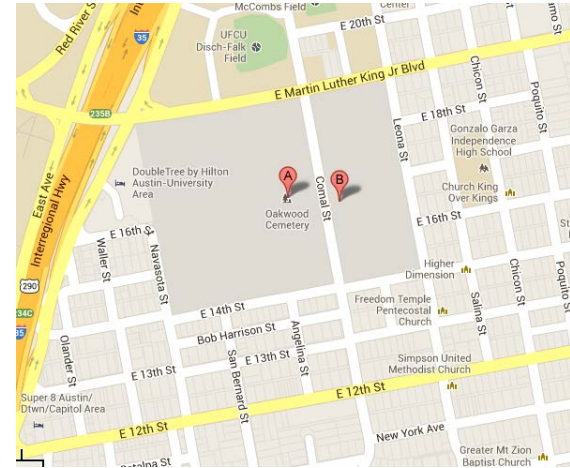


Dead Standing Trees Recorded at Each Cemetery



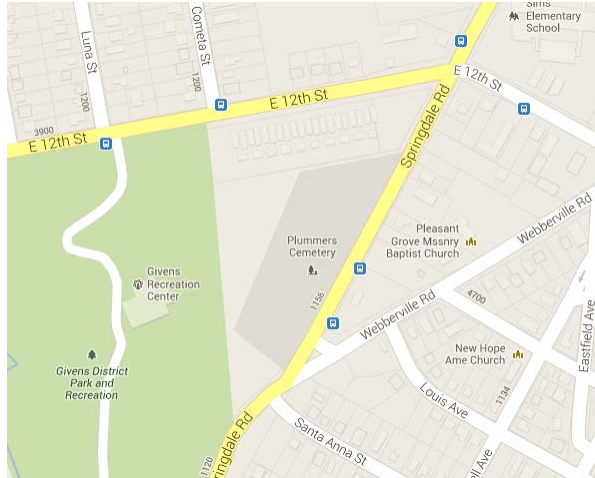
Cemetery Treatment Guidelines

Oakwood Cemetery (1839) and Oakwood Cemetery Annex (1914)

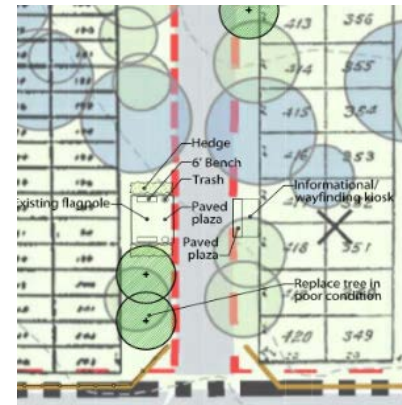
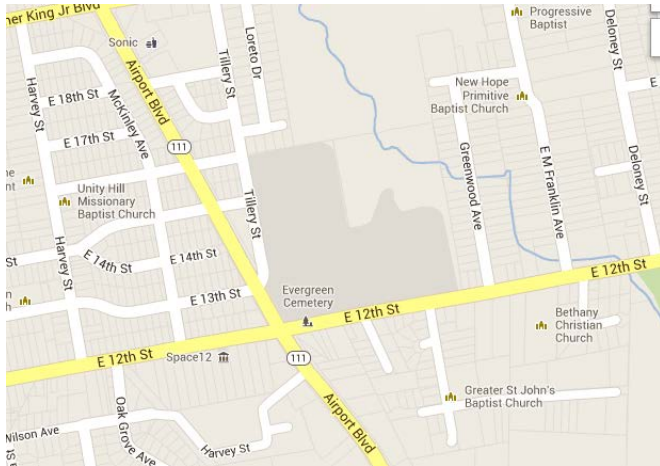


Cemetery Treatment Guidelines

Plummers Cemetery (c. 1898)



Evergreen Cemetery (1926)



Historic Cemeteries 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



Board, Commission and Council Process

- April, 2015: Briefings to Urban Forestry Board (UFB) & Historic Landmark Commission (HLC)
- May 11, 2015 : RECOMMENDED by Land Facilities & Program Committee
- May 18, 2015: RECOMMENDED by Historic Landmark Commission*
- May 20, 2015: RECOMMENDED by Urban Forestry Board*
- May 26, 2015: RECOMMENDED by Parks and Recreation Board
- June 17, 2015: RECOMMENDED by Environmental Board*
- June 23, 2015: RECOMMENDED by Planning Commission*
- June 24, 2015: RECOMMENDED by Open Space, Environment & Sustainability Committee of the Austin City Council
- Sept. 17, 2015: Austin City Council

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



Next Steps

- Transition master plan team to implementation team to track cemetery master plan recommendations.
- Implement governance recommendations to provide additional guidance regarding municipal cemetery operations.
- Move forward with seeking historic designations for the cemeteries.
- Continue to explore opportunities for partnerships, with a focus on educational and historical programming.
- Determine funding strategies, ie capital bond or grant opportunities, to implement plan recommendations.
 - Remainder of 2012 Bond will be allocated to plan priorities.
 - Development of future cemetery bond package based on plan priorities.

