

FIVE

FIVE HISTORIC CEMETERIES.
FIVE TEAM PARTNERS.
FIVE COMMUNITY MEETINGS.
HUNDREDS OF STAKEHOLDERS.
ONE MASTER PLAN.

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE CITY OF AUSTIN CEMETERY MASTER PLAN

Issue 8, December 2014



Next Meeting

Saturday, January 24, 2015
10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.
Austin Public Library, Carver Branch
1161 Angelina St, Austin, TX 78702



There's Still Time ...

... to share your feedback on the Master Plan team's preliminary recommendations. Visit austincemeteryplan.com to view brief descriptions of activities that could be undertaken at each cemetery.

Comments on the preliminary recommendations can be submitted through December 23, 2014.

The draft Master Plan, to be presented in January, will provide a detailed explanation of these recommendations, and you will have plenty of additional opportunities to comment on the draft Master Plan.

Please visit the Cemetery Master Plan website, review the information for each cemetery in which you have an interest, and let us know what you think! Kim McKnight welcomes your telephone calls and emails.

Kim.McKnight@austintexas.gov • 512-974-9478





Our Final Meeting

What you can expect on Saturday, January 24

During 2014, the Cemetery Master Plan project has included four community meetings — one every two months — during which Master Plan team members have met with members of the public to present findings and recommendations and gather your feedback.

In January 2015, we will meet one final time before the draft Master Plan is taken forward to various boards, committees, commissions, and City Council for final approval.

The draft will be available online prior to the meeting for your review. Kim McKnight will send an email blast to the Cemeteries mailing list to let you know that the draft plan has been published.

The meeting is scheduled to last two hours, which is not enough time to go over everything in the draft Master Plan. Instead, the team will present the highlights of the plan during the first hour and then spend much of the meeting gathering your feedback.

In order to have as much time as possible for feedback, we will take only a few questions during the presentation portion of the meeting. Please save your comments for the feedback portion of the meeting.

We will have a station for each cemetery during the feedback portion of the meeting. Team members will be on hand to answer questions and collect your comments and questions!

How to Share Your Feedback

If you have comments, concerns, questions, suggestions, input, or feedback on the draft Cemetery Master Plan, you will have plenty of opportunities to make your voice heard!

☼ Attend the January meeting, if you can. Share your comments verbally or in writing while you're there. Feel free to bring

notes that you've prepared ahead of time, or use the feedback forms provided at the meeting. Team members will write down any comments that you share verbally.

☼ Send email to Kim McKnight at kim.mcknight@austintexas.gov. While the draft plan will be online for a couple of months, we would appreciate getting your comments as soon as possible!



☼ You may also call Kim at 512-974-9478.

☼ Forgot something or thought of it later? That's okay! Continue to stay in touch. Your participation in this process is valuable and will contribute to the Plan's success.

Reviewing the Draft Master Plan

Whether you're interested in one cemetery or all of them, whether you have a lot of time to read and comment or just a little — here are a few ideas for how you might participate in the review process.



Once the draft Cemetery Master Plan is published online for your review, you will have plenty of time to read it and comment. The draft plan will remain online during January and February, as well as while it is being presented to city officials in March-April for their review and adoption.

However, it would be most helpful to the Master Plan team if you could review the draft and submit any comments and questions as quickly as possible, so that we can make revisions before taking the plan forward to boards, commissions, and Council. Having your comments by the end of February would be much appreciated.

We encourage you to read the entire draft Master Plan, but we understand that some of the information may not be pertinent to you. We will divide the draft plan document into chapters, available online as downloadable PDF documents so that you can focus on the parts that interest you most. You will need the free Adobe Reader to view the PDFs, and we'll provide a link to that.

The draft of the City of Austin Historic Cemeteries Master Plan is going to be a pretty large document. While your feedback on the entire plan is welcomed and encouraged, we recognize that you might have a limited amount of time to review. If that is the case, the Master Plan team suggests the following strategy:

1. Start with the **Preservation Treatment Approach** and **General Management Guidelines**. These sections will provide a basis of reference for the rest of the report.
2. Each cemetery will have its own chapter, devoted to existing conditions, treatment recommendations, etc. Read the chapter for **each cemetery** that interests you.
3. Review the **Funding and Partnerships** section, which includes information about programming in the cemeteries.
4. If you have time, review anything else that interests you.
5. Share your questions and comments with us!

Here are some suggestions for providing feedback that would be especially helpful.

- ✿ Let us know if your comments are about the plan overall or about a specific part of the plan.
- ✿ Tell us where to find the information that you're talking about. Refer to chapter names, section titles, page numbers, etc.
- ✿ If you are or are not in favor of something, please explain why.
- ✿ Be as specific as possible.

Many of you have been part of the community engagement effort for this project from the beginning, but that is not a requirement to provide feedback! Even if you are brand-new to the Cemetery Master Plan project, we want to hear from you.

Thank you to everyone who has been part of this project so far, and thanks in advance for continuing to see this through to the end. Your participation is so important, and so appreciated! We look forward to all of your questions and comments.

What's Next?

After the project team receives comments and makes revisions to the draft Cemetery Master Plan, Kim McKnight will begin bringing the plan forward for review by a number of boards, committees, and commissions before it is presented to City Council for final review and adoption.

At most, if not all, of these presentations, you will have the opportunity to participate in the public hearing portion of that meeting. We encourage everyone who is interested to attend these meetings and will publish a schedule of meetings as soon as that is established.

So far, we are planning to present to the following groups:

- ✿ Land, Facilities, and Programs Committee of Parks and Recreation Department (PAR) Board
- ✿ Historic Landmarks Commission
- ✿ PAR Board
- ✿ Planning Commission

After presenting to the Planning Commission, we will make all final revisions, based on comments received from these groups, and then present to City Council.



Don't forget that you can also contact the city officials shown in the box below to (we hope) express your support for the Cemetery Master Plan.

As you probably know, many topics involving the cemeteries have generated passionate responses and a large number of strongly held opinions, which often are diametrically opposed to one another. The project team recognizes — as we hope you do — that this Master Plan will be necessarily full of compromises. However, we hope that everyone has had the opportunity to make their voice heard, and that we have incorporated as much of your feedback thus far as possible.

Again, thank you for taking this journey with us!
 ✿ The Cemetery Master Plan team

Contact Information for City Officials

Mayor and City Council

Austin City Hall
 301 W. Second St. Second Floor
 Austin, TX 78701

Mayor Lee Leffingwell

City Council Members:

Sheryl Cole, mayor pro tem

Mike Martinez

Laura Morrison

Chris Riley

Bill Spelman

Kathie Tovo

Office of the City Manager

P. O. Box 1088, Austin, TX 78767
 512-974-2200

City Manager Marc Ott

Deputy City Manager
 Michael McDonald

Assistant City Managers:

Rey Arellano

Robert Goode

Sue Edwards

Bert Lumberras

Anthony Snipes

Parks and Recreation Department

P. O. Box 1088, Austin, TX 78767
 512-974-9467

Director Sara Hensley

Assistant Directors:
 Kimberly McNeeley
 Cora Wright

Project Coordinator
 Kim McKnight

Cemetery Manager
 Gilbert Hernandez



Our Mission

The purpose of the Parks and Recreation Department is to provide, protect, and preserve a park system that promotes quality recreational, cultural, and outdoor experiences for the Austin community.



The City of Austin is proud to comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act.

If you require assistance for participation in our programs or use of our facilities, please call (512) 974-9478.



We Want You! to Participate in the Master Plan Process

In order for this project to be successful, it needs to be inclusive and representative of the Austin community. You can help and make your voice heard. Here's how:

✿ Attend one or more community meetings. The meetings are being held in various locations around the city and on different days and times, so that as many people as possible can attend. The next one will take place on **Saturday, January 24, 2014** from **10:30 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.** at the **Austin Public Library, Carver Branch at 1161 Angelina Street.**

✿ Sign up to receive this newsletter via email, or look for it at your local library, community center, or senior center. Share it with your friends and neighbors.

✿ Sign up for the Austin Cemetery Master Plan email list to get up-to-the-minute information right in your inbox. To subscribe, send an email to Kim.McKnight@AustinTexas.gov.

✿ Visit the Austin Cemetery Master Plan website at <http://www.austintexas.gov/department/cemetery-master-plan>

✿ Share your input and feedback with Kim McKnight (PARD Project Coordinator):

- Email kim.mcknight@austintexas.gov
- Call 512-974-9478
- Send a letter to PARD, Attn: Kim McKnight, P.O. Box 1088, Austin, Texas 78767-1088

✿ Call the Austin 3-1-1 line and share your opinions.

austin 3-1-1SM
Your All Day, Any Day, Info CenterSM

austin 3-1-1SM
Su Centro de Información,
Todo el Día, Todos los DíasSM

The City of Austin Cemetery Master Plan

Next community meeting:

January 24, 2014

10:30 a.m.–12:30 p.m.

Austin Public Library, Carver Branch
1161 Angelina Street.

Learn more at www.cityofaustin.org/parks



City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department

P.O. Box 1088, Austin, Texas 78767-1088