



# Austin Cemetery Master Plan

Community Meeting #1

April 30, 2014



# Agenda

- Introduction to the project
- Meet the project team
- Project outline and schedule
- Ways to get involved
- Break-out session
- Mini-Memory Workshop #1



# City of Austin Cemeteries

- Oakwood Cemetery (1839)
  - National Register of Historic Places
  - City of Austin Historic Landmark
  - Two Jewish sections (Temple Beth Israel)
- Oakwood Cemetery Annex (1914)
  - National Register of Historic Places
  - City of Austin Historic Landmark
- Evergreen Cemetery/Highland Park Cemetery (1891, 1926)
- Plummers Cemetery (1898)
- Austin Memorial Park Cemetery (1927)
  - Designated Historic Texas Cemetery
  - Two Jewish sections (Agudas Achim, Temple Beth Shalom)

# What is a Master Plan?

- A master plan is a roadmap or blueprint for the future. The Austin Cemetery Master Plan will:
  - Provide a historic context for the cemeteries
    - How did they develop?
    - What persons buried there played an important role in local, state, or national history?
  - Examine the issues that face the cemeteries, such as:
    - Condition of grave markers, trees and vegetation, infrastructure, buildings, walls and fences, etc.
    - Security and preventing vandalism
    - Legal issues around plot ownership
  - Establish goals for the future
    - Maintenance, restoration, preservation
    - Interpretive programs, signage, partnerships, volunteer corps
  - Outline a plan for achieving those goals

# About the Project

- 1985 — PARD takes over cemetery management from Public Works and Transportation Department
- 1990 — Contract to manage city cemeteries awarded to outside contractor
- 2010 – Audit of city cemeteries conducted
- 2011 – Parks and Recreation Board convenes Cemetery Working Group
- 2013 – PARD assumes active management of all cemeteries
- 2013 – Stakeholder meetings, draft Scope of Work, RFP process
- 2014 – Master Plan Process begins

# Meet the Project Team





# AmaTerra<sup>®</sup>

ENVIRONMENTAL, INC.





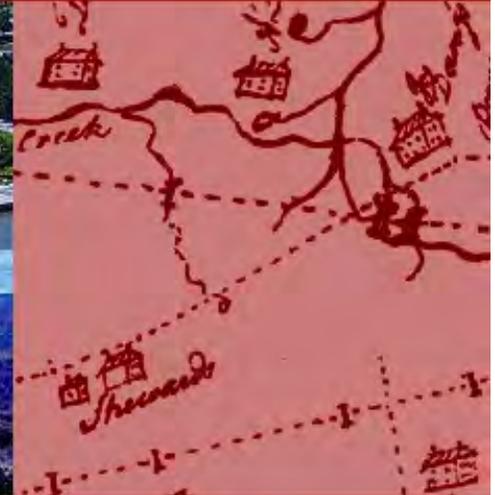
## FIRM OVERVIEW & EXPERIENCE

# JMA

JOHN MILNER ASSOCIATES, INC.

Historic Preservation and Cultural Resource Services

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RESPECTING THE PAST



PRESERVING THE PRESENT



PROTECTING THE FUTURE

*These tenets lie at the heart of historic preservation and have guided JMA for more than three decades. As our national and global consciences have grown to recognize the many benefits to be gained from sound preservation practices, so too have grown the services provided by JMA. We invite you to learn more about our comprehensive historic preservation services and our professional staff.*

*[Read More.](#)*

# Oakwood Cemetery

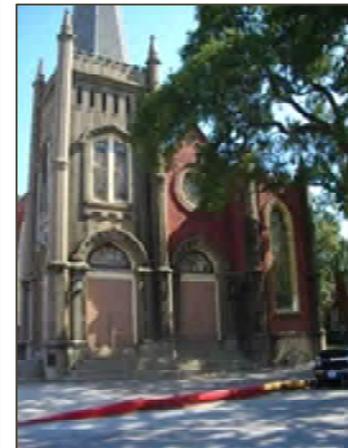
## *Cultural Landscape Report*



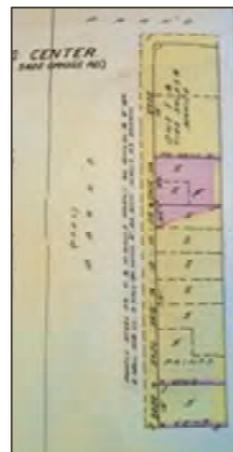
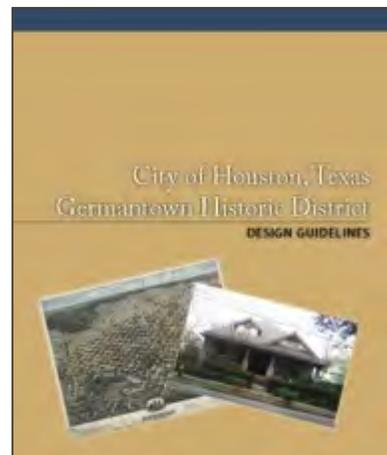
# Historic Municipal Cemeteries Master Plan

New Braunfels, Texas





**Research • Documentation • Education • Engagement**



# Activities and Schedule

- Fieldwork and Research — Spring/Summer 2014

- Geospatial mapping
- Tree survey
- Conditions assessments
- Stakeholder interviews and public survey
- Archival and historical research
- Three public meetings: April, June, August



- Data Analysis and Plan Development — Fall 2014

- Fourth public meeting: October

- Final Report and Presentation — Winter 2014/2015

- Final public meeting: January
- Final report revisions and deliverables

# How Can You Get Involved?

- Stay up to date via website, meetings, newsletters, email mailing list
- Attend and participate in community meetings (April, June, August, October, January)
- Stakeholder interviews; also community survey through Speak Up Austin (June)
- 311 Line (coming soon)
- Send your feedback via email, website, letters

# What's Next?

- Website at <https://www.austintexas.gov/department/cemetery-master-plan>
- Monthly newsletters – to subscribe, send an email to [kim.mcknight@austintexas.gov](mailto:kim.mcknight@austintexas.gov)
- Fieldwork and Research
  - Geospatial mapping
  - Tree survey
  - Conditions assessments
  - Stakeholder interviews
  - Community survey on Speak Up Austin
  - Archival and historical research
- Next Community Meeting:  
June 26, 2014  
6:00–8:00 p.m.  
Northwest Recreation Center, 2913 Northland Drive, Austin, Texas

# Breakout Session



**Table 1.** Preservation of Historic Features and Buildings



**Table 3.** Funding Concerns, Safety, and Security



**Table 2.** Natural Resources: Trees and Turf



**Table 4.** Your Vision for the Cemeteries' Future

# Memory Workshop

- What is a memory workshop?
- Three-part mini-workshop
  - Tonight: Your personal connections to Austin cemeteries
  - June: Memories of family traditions
  - August: Connecting young people to cemeteries and heritage
- Time for writing
- Time for sharing



# Memory Workshop

- How do you interact with, connect with, or experience one or more of these cemeteries?
- Choose an event or activity that is/was important to you. (More than one is okay!)
- Write your memories of that event or activity.

