

Chapter 5

Oakwood Cemetery Annex

Oakwood Cemetery Annex is adjacent to, and expanded, Austin’s original city cemetery. This chapter contains a historical narrative of the Oakwood Cemetery Annex’s development, an examination of its historic integrity and significance, a discussion of existing conditions observed in the cemetery during the master plan team’s site evaluations, specific treatment recommendations, and a list of potential projects with cost estimates.

This chapter should be used in conjunction with the General Management Guidelines presented in Chapter Three. The General Management Guidelines include treatment recommendations that apply to all five historic city cemeteries; this chapter provides additional detail specific to Oakwood Cemetery Annex.

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HISTORICAL OVERVIEW

Oakwood Cemetery Annex was established as a city cemetery in 1915. Unlike its predecessor, which grew incrementally over time, the Annex was conceived in its entirety. The Oakwood Cemetery Annex reflects the both the rural cemetery movement and the lawn-park cemetery model, which influenced the design of both parks and cemeteries during the early twentieth century.

The Oakwood Cemetery Annex is located at 1601 Comal Street, near downtown Austin and east side neighborhoods including Upper Boggy Creek, Chestnut, and Swede Hill. Nearby neighborhood associations include the Blackland Neighborhood Association, East Austin Conservancy, Swede Hill Neighborhood Association, Oakwood Neighborhood Association, United East Austin Coalition, and the Davis-Thompson Neighborhood Association.

By the early 1900s, the City had begun to run out of lots for sale at Oakwood Cemetery. In response, citizens—including the ladies' Oakwood Cemetery Association—called on the City to enlarge the cemetery by purchasing additional land nearby. Mrs. Mary H. Mitchell, the Oakwood Cemetery Association president, wrote to Mayor J. T. Wooldridge and recommended that the City purchase land east of Oakwood Cemetery, expressing a concern that the older cemetery would be abandoned if a new one opened in a different location. In May 1912, the City issued bonds worth \$50,000 to fund the purchase of land for cemetery purposes.¹¹⁹

While the City was still in the process of purchasing land for the new cemetery, additional room was needed—especially for pauper burials—and the mayor proposed a plan in December 1913 to bury the indigent in tiers, two to a grave. The proposal was met with great public outcry; the cemetery association offered a counter-proposal to include in the new cemetery sufficient space so that the poor could be buried individually. The area eventually set aside for “God’s Acre” (a name suggested instead of “potter’s field”) is located on the eastern side of the cemetery, with a few additional scattered plots also reserved for the poor.

By 1915, the City had assembled an 18.8-acre tract, on the opposite side of Comal Street from Oakwood Cemetery, through multiple purchases. A gate house, designed by architect Hugo Kuehne, was built on the new tract around that time (Figure 222–Figure 224).

118. *Park and Cemetery and Landscape Gardening*, Vol. XXXI, No. 8 (Madison, Wisconsin: Allied Arts Publishing Company, October 1921), 223.

119. W. M. Walton, transcript of letter in reference to Oakwood expansion, Oakwood Cemetery files, Austin History Center.



Figure 222. Oakwood Cemetery Annex gate house (Undated photograph, Austin History Center)

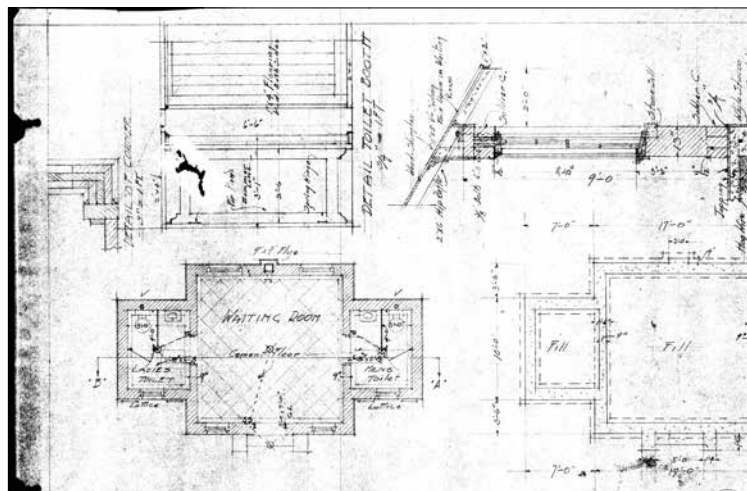


Figure 223. Oakwood Cemetery Annex gate house construction drawings, plan view (City of Austin)

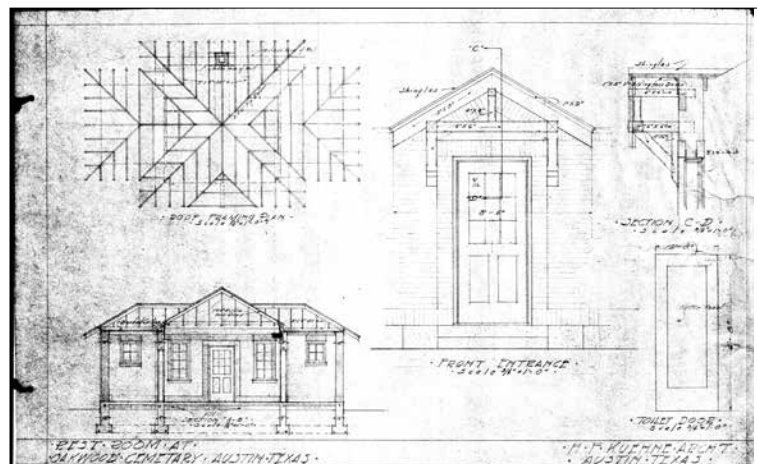


Figure 224. Oakwood Cemetery Annex gate house construction drawings, detail (City of Austin)

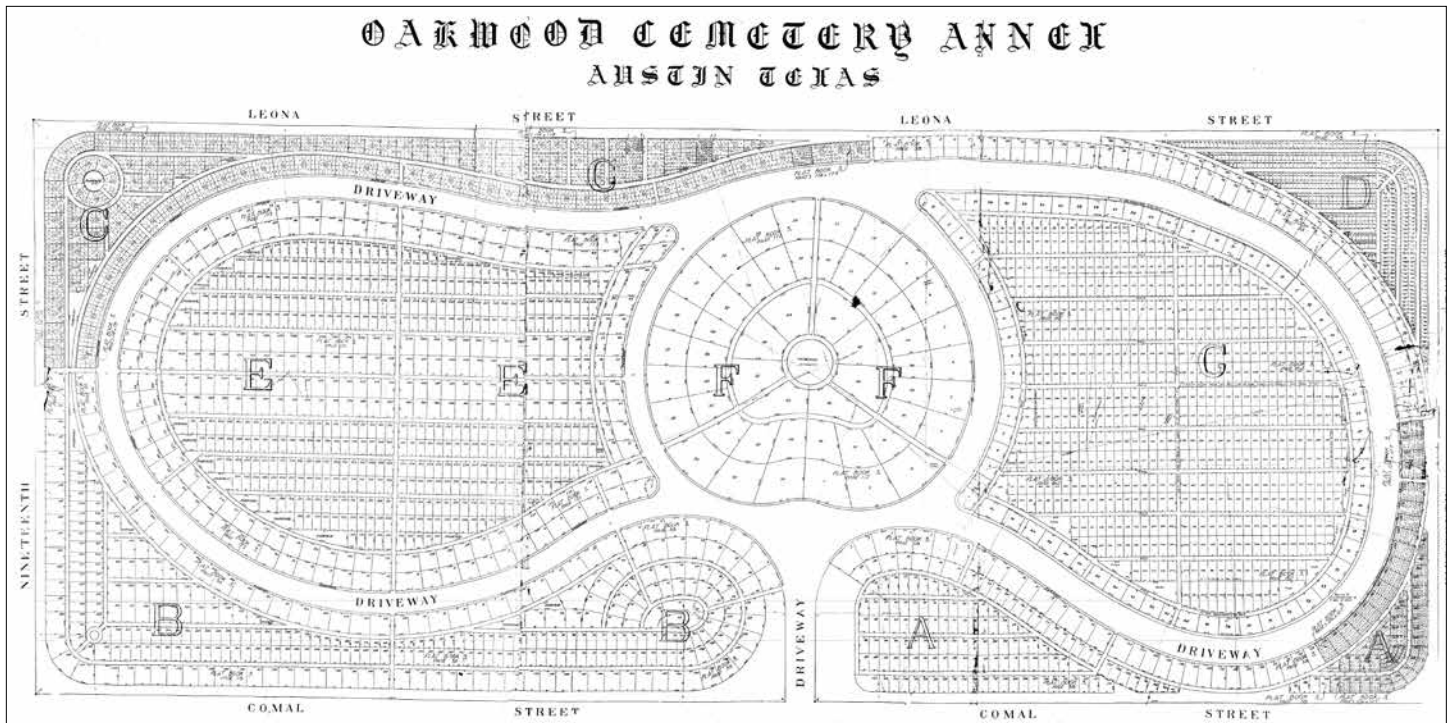


Figure 225. Map of Oakwood Cemetery Annex (Austin History Center)

The new cemetery, called Oakwood Cemetery Annex, was laid out by city engineer George S. Iredell and surveyed by Orin E. Metcalfe (Figure 225). It features picturesque curving drives in a bowtie shape, combining the traditional family-lot and east-oriented conventions of the Upper South folk cemetery, the curvilinear design of the rural cemetery movement, and the newer “landscape lawn” ideals espoused by Adolph Strauch in his design for Spring Grove Cemetery in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Strauch (1822–1883), a native of Germany, had trained as a horticulturist in the imperial gardens of Austria, and apprenticed at the Royal Gardens in Regent’s Park, London. While in London, Strauch met Robert Bowler, a wealthy industrialist from Cincinnati, Ohio.¹²⁰ When Strauch found himself delayed between trains in Cincinnati in 1852, he reconnected with Bowler, who hired Strauch to design his personal estate in the tony Clifton neighborhood. The landscape designer was soon hired by several other wealthy Clifton residents as well. Following the picturesque English model, Strauch removed fences and hedges to create expansive grassy lawns, punctuated by selective plantings and curved driveways. His employers then asked him to take on Spring Grove Cemetery.¹²¹

Strauch objected to the diversity of design in rural cemeteries, with their individualized markers and monuments and graveside plantings, which he considered cluttered and intrusive. His vision included an emphasis on large, customized monuments placed so that they would become part of the overall design, rather than scattered individual

120. George Tobey, “Adolph Strauch, Father of the Lawn Plan,” *Landscape Planning*, Vol. 2, 1976, 283–294.

121. Sloane, 99–100.

monuments. He instituted rules to prevent individual lot holders from conducting their own gardening activities, instead establishing a program of cemetery-managed planting and maintenance in order to achieve a unified appearance. To pay for this, Strauch offered an annual-care subscription for existing lot holders, with the option of purchasing perpetual care at a higher price. Strauch's changes were not readily accepted by lot holders, who accused him of being anti-American and a "heathen." Nevertheless, the cemetery board of directors hired Strauch in a permanent position, and his ideas would influence both the design and management of cemeteries throughout the twentieth century.¹²²

Strauch's work came at a time, after the Civil War, when the rapid growth of urban areas resulted in squalid living conditions for the poor and many immigrants. Reformers believed that well-designed urban planning could lead to social order and civic virtue, inspiring the lower classes to morality and social harmony. Architects and city planners responded by redeveloping commercial areas, creating systems of urban parks, and re-imagining city streets as tree-lined boulevards. The "City Beautiful" movement, as exemplified in the 1893 World Columbian Exposition in Chicago, merged classical architecture and nature in well-planned green spaces.¹²³

The death industry also was becoming professionalized at the end of the nineteenth century. Undertakers and embalmers gradually took over the role of funeral providers; cemetery superintendents arranged for burial and organized funeral processions. Gradually, the relationship between the living and the dead became more formal and distanced.¹²⁴

The combination of Strauch's landscape-lawn ideals with the City Beautiful's formalism and the remnants of the rural cemetery movement led to the development of "lawn-park" cemeteries like the Oakwood Cemetery Annex. The design of the Annex incorporated some of the "landscape-lawn" principles, including curving drives, more standardized marker designs, and fewer individual plantings at gravesites. The presence of family lots and series of similarly designed individual markers, however, continued the rural cemetery tradition—the "cluttered" appearance to which Strauch objected. However, fewer family lots or individual graves were surrounded by curbing or fences than in the earlier cemetery across the street.

It appears, though, that owners of plots at Oakwood Cemetery Annex ignored Strauch's admonitions regarding plantings. The photo below of graves at the Annex illustrates the continuing practice of mounding bare dirt over graves, as well as the exuberance of plantings throughout the cemetery, including what appears to be a pattern of planting arborvitae and glossy abelia at each grave site. Italian cypress specimens scattered about punctuate the scene. It is not known if this was an individual or city-sponsored practice, but most of these shrubs have since been removed.

122. Ibid, 104–105.

123. Ibid, 122.

124. Ibid, 120.

As shown in Figure 225, family lots along the roadways were platted in 1916–1917, laid out facing inward toward the driveways, rather than “feet to the east.” The rest of the lots were arranged in the traditional, eastward-facing orientation. Large family lots tend to be located in Sections B, E, and F, and along the roadways. Individual burials can be tracked by burial date, beginning in the northern part of Section C and moving generally south, in a clockwise direction, through Section D. Sections E, F and G were platted by the early 1930s. In 1926, the City re-subdivided Lots 159–176 and Lots 189–222 of Section A to create additional space for infant burials. Each original lot was subdivided to create between 11 and 35 new infant lots.¹²⁵ Most of those graves date from the 1920s to the 1950s, with the earliest of these on the east side of the space.



Figure 226. Undated photo of graves at Oakwood Cemetery Annex (Austin History Center, PICA 24968b)

Like Oakwood Cemetery, the Annex filled in with burials over much of the twentieth century. Some of the family lots include a large marker with the family surname in the less ornamented styles favored after 1900, while other family lots have no unifying monument. Individual grave markers within a family lot may be stylistically similar to one another and/or to the surname marker, if one is present. Overall, however, funerary sculpture is much less common in the Annex than in the older cemetery (Figure 226). The presence of markers for Mexican Americans is much more prominent, however, with these graves mostly found in Sections C and D and the southeastern part of Section G. Markers in the Mexican tradition are often handmade works of art and craft, many in the shape of a cross and/or embellished with tile and other decorations.

The gate house in Oakwood Cemetery Annex had fallen into disuse and disrepair by the early 2000s, but a recent restoration project has replaced the windows, door, and roof (Figure 228–Figure 229).

125. Minutes, regular meeting of Austin City Council, October 14, 1926.



Figure 227. Gate house, Oakwood Cemetery Annex, before restoration (Dale Flatt)



Figure 228. Gate house, Oakwood Cemetery Annex, during restoration (City of Austin)



Figure 229. Gate house, Oakwood Cemetery Annex, after restoration in 2013 (City of Austin)

HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT PERSONS

This list of historically significant persons is intended to be as inclusive as possible, given the availability of existing information. This project's scope and budget did not include extensive primary research. As a result, it is limited to those people for whom biographical information had been developed in the past. The master plan team recognizes that the historical record is not equitable and often has excluded non-white/Anglo people and women. This makes it impossible, within the constraints of this project, to adequately recognize people who may have been important community leaders or noteworthy for any number of reasons. This list of historically significant persons, therefore, is likely incomplete. Should additional information be developed in the future, consider making it available in the same location where this plan is published.

All information provided below is from the Handbook of Texas Online, published by the Texas State Historical Association at <http://www.tshaonline.org/handbook>, unless otherwise noted.

Architects and Engineers

Arthur Kilian Fehr (1904–1969), architect, in practice with Charles Granger Jr. as Fehr and Granger, which received state and national recognition and awards for their modern designs¹²⁶

Kilian Walter Fehr (1942–1995), architect, in practice with his father Arthur Fehr's partner Don Emerson (after Arthur's death) as Emerson Fehr

Edwin Clinton Kreisle (1888–1971), prominent local architect; designed the 1920 John W. Scarbrough House (Registered Texas Historic Landmark) and other residences in Austin; designed Austin Central Fire Station #1 (with Max Brooks); helped remodel the E. M. Scarbrough & Sons building in downtown Austin, where his architecture office was located

George Grover Wickline (1882–1943), state bridge engineer for the Texas Highway Department; credited with improving highway safety by reducing the number of at-grade railroad crossings across the state¹²⁷

Scientists and Inventors

Johan August Udden (1859–1932), geologist; professor of geology and natural history; director, University of Texas Bureau of Economic Geology, 1915–1932; received Swedish Order of the North Star, 1911, for distinguished service to science

126. "Biographical Note," Arthur Fehr Papers and Drawings Collection, Austin History Center, <http://www.lib.utexas.edu/taro/aushc/00353/ahc-00353.html>

127. Melinda Luna, "George G. Wickline, Texas' First State Bridge Engineer," *Texas Civil Engineer*, Fall 2013, Vol. 83, No. 4, 28.

Political and Civic Leaders

Rudolph Kleberg (1847–1924), attorney; newspaperman, co-founder and editor of the *Cuero Star*; as state legislator, helped to procure funds to establish the University of Texas and purchase the Alamo; U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Texas; U.S. Congressman

Walter Ewing Long (1886–1973), attorney and author; manager, Austin Chamber of Commerce; helped to organize the Colorado River Improvement Association, which later became the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA); founder and manager, Texas Legislative Service, 1925–1965; considered “the father of city planning in Austin”

Jane Legette Yelvington McCallum (1877–1957), suffragist, political leader and lobbyist; author; president, Texas Women’s Suffrage Association; Texas secretary of state, 1927–1933; member, first Austin city planning commission; first female grand jury commissioner in Travis County

Robert Thomas “Tom” Miller (1893–1962), prominent businessman and mayor of Austin (1933–1949 and 1955–1961), during whose tenure the City established many parks and playgrounds, Bergstrom Air Force Base, and a new Lake Austin dam; proponent of both New Deal and interstate highway construction projects that shaped the city and its development for many decades

Lala Fay Watts (1881–1971), suffragist; first Texas child welfare inspector, a position which she worked to establish; first chief, Woman’s Division, Bureau of Labor Statistics; lobbied to enact legislation to protect children and women workers; president, Texas Women’s Christian Temperance Union, 1922–1962

Writers and Artists

George Waverley Briggs (1883–1957), journalist, author, and managing editor of major newspapers throughout Texas; state commissioner of insurance and banking, 1918–1920; vice president, City National Bank/First National Bank, Dallas; wrote Digest of Texas Insurance and Banking Laws; responsible for the Texas trust act, the common trust fund act, and the Texas probate code

Business Leaders

Dr. Robert John Brackenridge (1839–1918), physician; businessman; president, Frontier Telephone and Telegraph Company; in 1914, helped to raise funds for new city hospital, which was renamed Brackenridge Hospital in his honor in 1930

Charles Taylor Rather (1855–1931), prominent businessman, plantation owner, and civic leader from Gonzales, Texas, who moved to Austin in 1911

Educators

Dr. Harry Yandell Benedict (1869–1937), professor of mathematics and astronomy; dean, College of Arts and Sciences, 1911–1927; dean of men, 1913–1920; president, University of Texas, 1927–1937

Carl William Besserer (1851–1931); musician, music teacher; owner, Buass & Besserer music store; son-in-law of August Scholz and manager of Scholz Garden; founder of bands and orchestras; co-founder, Austin Saengerrunde singing society; director, State Military Band

Edgar Elliott Bramlette (1860–1929), teacher; U.S. Consul in Germany, 1886–1889; Fort Worth superintendent of schools; president, John Tarleton College (now Tarleton State University); superintendent, Texas School for the Blind, Austin

Lilia Casis (1869–1947), professor, language scholar, University of Texas Dean of women; Casis Elementary School is named for her

Dr. Harry Winston Harper (1859–1943), great-great-grandson of Patrick Henry; first graduate dean of UT

Dr. Mary Sophie Young (1872–1919), botanist; instructor, University of Texas; led and greatly expanded the collection of the UT herbarium through travels throughout Texas

Law Enforcement

Roy Wilkinson Aldrich (1869–1955), Texas Ranger, 1915–1947; served as captain and quartermaster

EXISTING CONDITIONS

Ecological Setting

Being located directly adjacent to Oakwood Cemetery, Oakwood Cemetery Annex’s setting, watersheds, floral and faunal communities, underlying geology and karstic features are essentially identical. Accordingly, the reader should refer to the previous chapter for relevant description.

No City-defined Critical Environmental Features (CEFs) were observed in Oakwood Cemetery Annex during recent surveys.

Topography

Oakwood Cemetery Annex is relatively flat, with a high point of 591 feet above mean sea level (AMSL) in the northeast corner and sloping very gently in a southwesterly direction. There is a small knoll near the center of the southern portion of the cemetery, which falls gently east and west to an elevation of 556 feet AMSL. (Figure 230).

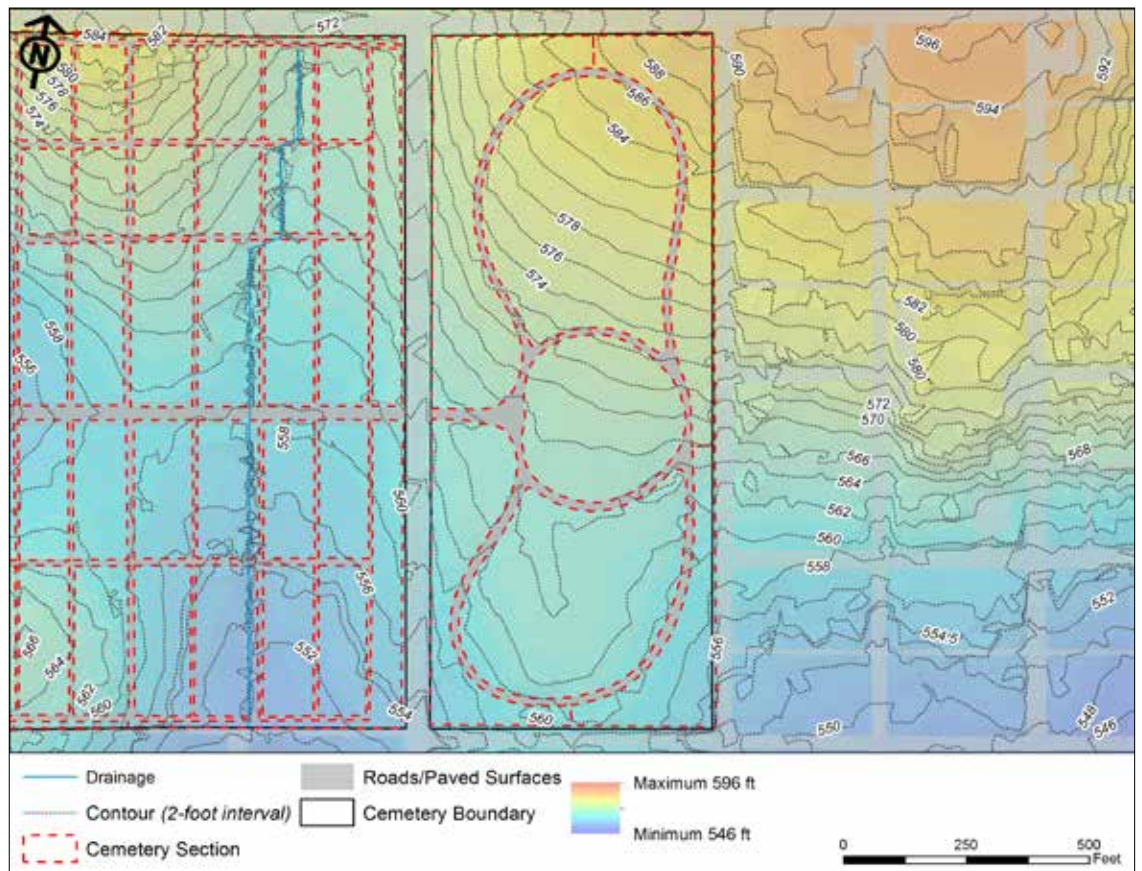


Figure 230. Topography of Oakwood Cemetery and Oakwood Cemetery Annex (Oakwood and Annex Topo; Project Team)

Soils

Oakwood Cemetery Annex contains two soils types: a combination of urban land and Austin and Brackett soils (UtD) makes up about 95 percent of the cemetery area, while a combination of urban land and Travis soils (TuD) makes up a small sliver of land at the southern edge of the cemetery (Figure 231).

Of the first type, urban land makes up about 40 percent, Austin soils about 30 percent, Brackett soils about 25 percent, and other soils about five percent. Urban soils are made up of a mixture of native and imported soils and other material and cannot be described unless specifically tested. Austin soils have a surface layer of very dark grayish-brown silty clay about 15 inches thick, and a second layer of brown silty clay, extending to about 36 inches, underlain with partly weathered chalk. Brackett soils have a surface layer of light brownish-gray clay loam about five inches thick, and a second layer of light yellowish-brown clay loam about eight inches thick, underlain by soft limestone.

The second type of soil present at Oakwood Annex consists of 45 percent Travis soils, about 35 percent urban land, and about 20 percent other soils. Travis soils have a surface layer of gravelly fine sandy loam about 18 inches thick with a second layer of red gravelly sandy clay to a depth of 50 inches. The urban land is of an unknown composition. Travis soils, being composed of sand and loam, are much more erodible than the Austin and Brackett soils, which are mostly clay.



Figure 231. Soils map, Oakwood Cemetery and Oakwood Cemetery Annex (Oakwood and Annex Soils; Project Team)

Cultural Setting: Previously Conducted Archeological and Historical Investigations

The Texas Historical Commission's Archeological Sites Atlas indicates that Oakwood Cemetery Annex, along with Oakwood Cemetery, was designated as site number 41TV1706. (Number conventions for Texas archaeological sites are as follows: "41" is Texas' place in an alphabetical list of the states; "TV" is an abbreviation for Travis County; and "1706" indicates that the site was the 1,706th recorded within Travis County at the time of its recording.)

Oakwood Cemetery Annex was listed in the National Register in 2003 as significant at the local level, meeting Criterion C in the areas of Art and Landscape Architecture as a cemetery that, in its grave markers and monuments, exhibits stylistic and design elements representing artistic trends of the early to mid 20th century, and meeting Criterion Consideration D at the local level as a cemetery with distinct design features and as the final resting place for a significant group of distinguished citizens. Those buried in the cemetery include persons of individual and collective importance that shaped the city's urban development.

Spatial Organization

Oakwood Cemetery Annex is located just to the east of Oakwood Cemetery and is surrounded by residential neighborhoods on its south and east sides. Its rectangular shape reflects its formation out of a number of platted residential lots purchased by the City of Austin. It is bounded on its north side by a major thoroughfare, which fronts an adjacent neighborhood and the University of Texas Disch-Falk Field baseball complex, visible northwest of the cemetery.

The cemetery boundaries are formed by roadways on all four sides: Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard (formerly 19th Street) to the north, Leona Street to the east, East 14th Street to the south, and Comal Street to the west. It is enclosed by a chain link fence topped by barbed wire. Since the Annex was established as an extension of Oakwood Cemetery, the site is accessed from Comal Street, directly across from Oakwood's eastern entrance.

The cemetery is generally symmetrical in design, featuring a radial hub design with curvilinear roadways to the north and south in a pseudo-bowtie pattern. The looping roads divide the cemetery into seven sections, labeled A–G, comprising three sections bounded by the drives, and four additional sections between the roadways and the cemetery boundaries. Grass pathways between burial plots further subdivide the cemetery sections.

Most of the graves within the cemetery face a generally eastern direction, per the Protestant Christian tradition (Figure 232). However, graves near the roadways and in the north and south sections do not follow that orientation. Graves along the roadside tend to face the curving roadways (Figure 233), while graves in the north and south sections tend to face south, probably due to site constraints. A few sections feature round nodes where burials are oriented toward a central point, creating a common “parkway” in the center. The cemetery is platted so that different plot sizes are available in different sections; the central hub and areas along the cemetery drives are mostly composed of family plots, while individual plots are available along the edges of the cemetery, and the southern portion is mostly composed of very small plots for infant burials.

In addition to the designed areas within the cemetery, clusters of mature shade trees tend to create distinct, though informal, spatial areas.



Figure 232. Most graves in Oakwood Annex are oriented to face east in the Protestant Christian tradition. (John Milner Associates)



Figure 233. Graves along the curved drives are oriented toward the roadway. (John Milner Associates)

Circulation and Access

Oakwood Cemetery Annex is accessed from Comal Street to the west, through a formal entrance mirroring that of Oakwood Cemetery just across the road (Figure 234). The straight entrance drive is lined with a deteriorating concrete gutter on both sides, with the cemetery gatehouse/restroom structure standing on the south side of the drive (Figure 235). The drive and, especially, the asphalt apron joining with Comal Street, show signs of having been widened in the past. Stripes of asphalt along the sides of the roadway are a significantly different color than the center, and a circular feature to one side of the drive just outside the entrance gate may be evidence of an additional access control feature (Figure 236).

Within the cemetery, the asphalt drives are curvilinear; the entrance drive joins a central circular roadway which has approximately symmetrical looping drives extending to the north and south, forming a rounded bow-tie shape. The looping roads are an organizing feature, both for cemetery burial sections and for roadside burials, which face the roadways rather than east. The cemetery includes no formal parking area; rather, cars park along the roadways, a practice that has eroded the edge of the roadway over time (Figure 237). The roadways are otherwise in fair to poor condition, with much cracking, settling, loss of surface material, and biological growth observed (Figure 238).



Figure 234. The entrance to Oakwood Cemetery Annex lies directly across Comal Street from the entrance to Oakwood Cemetery. (John Milner Associates)



Figure 235. The straight entrance drive is lined with a concrete gutter on both sides. (John Milner Associates)



Figure 236. The access drive to Oakwood Annex shows signs of having been expanded. (John Milner Associates)



Figure 237. The curving cemetery drives are deteriorated at the edges. (John Milner Associates)



Figure 238. With no formal parking available, cars park along the edges of the cemetery drives. (John Milner Associates)

Pedestrian circulation within the burial areas is provided by grass pathways planned between grave plots, sometimes labeled as “parkways” on the cemetery plat. However, as space within the cemetery became scarce, the paths became obscured in some areas where headstones were placed in the pathway, outside a family plot.

A concrete sidewalk leads from the entrance road to the small restroom/gatehouse. Although the building is not open to the public, it should be noted that the pathway is not universally accessible, due to a single step at the start of the sidewalk (Figure 239).

In addition to the circulation within the cemetery, city sidewalks line the north and west sides of the site outside the boundary fence, along Comal Street and Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard. Truncated domes on concrete curb cuts flank either side of the cemetery entrance drive for universal access (Figure 240).



Figure 239. A concrete sidewalk and short set of steps lead to the restroom/gatehouse. (John Milner Associates)



Figure 240. City sidewalks line the cemetery along Comal Street (pictured) and Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard. (John Milner Associates)

Vegetation

Trees

A variety of mature trees are scattered throughout Oakwood Cemetery Annex (Figure 241). The most abundant are pecan (*Carya illinoensis*) and crape myrtle (*Lagerstroemia indica*); also present are arborvitae (*Thuja* sp.), Italian cypress (*Cupressus sempervirens*), Chinese tallow (*Sapium sebiferum*), Texas mountain laurel (*Sophora secundiflora*), post oak (*Quercus stellata*), live oak (*Q. fusiformis*), and Ashe juniper (*Juniperus ashei*). Many of the trees are in poor condition, with significant instances of dead wood. Some smaller trees, typically Italian cypress, ashe juniper, or crape myrtle, mark the corners of family plots or flanking headstones, mausoleums, or other markers (Figure 242, Figure 243).

A row of crape myrtles outside the boundary fence along Leona Street screens the cemetery from the adjacent residences.

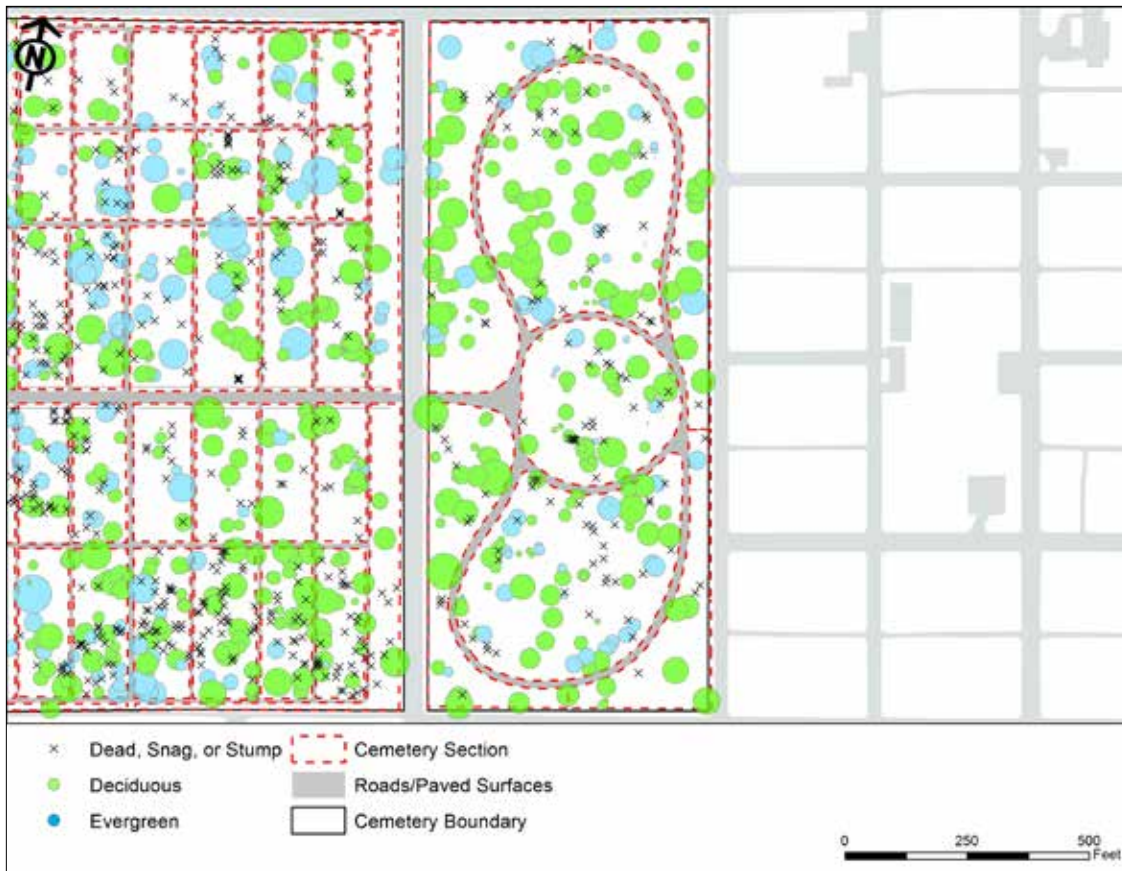


Figure 241. Trees in Oakwood Cemetery and Oakwood Cemetery Annex (Oakwood and Annex Trees; Project Team)



Figure 242. A pair of eastern red cypress flanking a headstone (John Milner Associates)



Figure 243. Crape myrtles mark the corners of a family plot. (John Milner Associates)

Shrubs, Vines, and Bulbs

Oakwood Cemetery Annex does not have an abundance of ornamental species associated with burial sites. Species present within the cemetery include ornamental grasses, boxwood (*Buxus sempervirens*), nandina (*Nandina domestica*), Dutch iris (*Iris germanica*), crinum lily (*Crinum asiaticum*), daffodil (*Narcissus* sp.), red yucca (*Hesperaloe parviflora*), Spanish dagger (*Yucca gloriosa*), rosemary (*Rosmarinus officinalis*), and Texas bluebonnet (*Lupinus texensis*). (Figure 244–Figure 247)



Figure 244. Boxwoods flank a family plot marker and delineate the top edge of the family plot. (John Milner Associates)



Figure 245. A group of Dutch iris planted in association with an individual burial (John Milner Associates)



Figure 246. Red yucca planted along the roadway (John Milner Associates)



Figure 247. This rosemary shrub has obscured the associated headstone. (John Milner Associates)

Grave Markers

Oakwood Cemetery Annex was established across the street from Oakwood Cemetery proper. It consists of seven sections, identified as A, B, C, D, E, F, and G.

Marker Types

Markers in this cemetery predominantly are made from granite and marble. Bronze Veterans Administration (VA) markers are often mounted on granite bases. Family plots often include primary surname markers accompanied by individual headstones, footstones, cornerstones, and in some cases, additional stones and/or planters at the sides of plots (Figure 248–Figure 252).

Individual grave markers include headstones, slant-faced markers, obelisks, above-ground tombs, and surface markers. Some feature elaborate three-dimensional carvings (Figure 253).

An especially popular marker design found in the Annex is the “draped top” style. In the photo on page 204, early (left) and late (right) versions appear side-by-side (Figure 254).

In Sections C and D, many Latino graves are marked with concrete crosses, handmade markers, or hornitos. Tile was a popular embellishment for these markers (Figure 255–Figure 259).



Figure 248. Family plot with a primary marker and headstones (John Milner Associates)



Figure 249. Family plot with primary marker and footstones (John Milner Associates)



Figure 250. Family plot without a primary marker (McDoux Preservation)



Figure 251. Family plot with primary marker, headstones, and individual curbing (McDoux Preservation)



Figure 252. Family plot with matching slabs (McDoux Preservation)



Figure 253. Headstone with detailed carving (McDoux Preservation)



Figure 254. "Draped top" markers from 1915 and 1961 (McDoux Preservation)



Figure 255. Tiled cross (McDoux Preservation)



Figure 256. Tiled cross, close-up of inset photograph (McDoux Preservation)



Figure 257. Tiled cross (McDoux Preservation)



Figure 258. Hornito (McDoux Preservation)



Figure 259. Handmade marker (McDoux Preservation)

Adverse Conditions

Most of Oakwood Annex is in fairly good shape. Sections A, B, E, F, and G all contain relatively minor shifting of markers, biological growth, and encroaching vegetation (Figure 260, Figure 261).

Worn inscriptions, and some mower/trimmer damage in the infant area of Section A, along with dripping faucets and subsidence in Section E, were the only additional issues observed in the majority of the cemetery (Figure 262).

Sections C and D are in generally much worse condition. Severe tilting, exposed foundations, disassembly and cracking are present (Figure 263–Figure 267). Mower damage to marble markers was observed, along with massive damage to a limestone piece (Figure 268).

Footstones have been displaced and moved near headstones. Grass clippings, biological growth, staining, and soiling are prevalent. Marble markers are severely sugaring and cracked. In Section D, many taller monuments have come apart and are in pieces, except for Woodmen of the World tree-shaped markers. Some markers are in fragments or missing entirely.



Figure 260. Marker displaced by a nearby tree trunk (McDoux Preservation)



Figure 261. Marker displaced by adjacent tree roots (McDoux Preservation)



Figure 262. Dripping faucet with ponding (McDoux Preservation)



Figure 263. Sunken marker (McDoux Preservation)



Figure 264. Sunken monument (McDoux Preservation)



Figure 265. Sunken markers and curbing (McDoux Preservation)



Figure 266. Tilted markers (McDoux Preservation)



Figure 267. Severely tilted marker (McDoux Preservation)



Figure 268. Severely damaged marker (McDoux Preservation)

Mower/trimmer damage was also observed, and one marker (which is not otherwise tilted or sunken) may have been displaced by contact with a mower or vehicle (Figure 269, Figure 270).

Two markers appear to have been painted with black paint (Figure 271).

Sections C and D are located at the west side of the cemetery, away from Comal Street. The markers in these sections are more modest than those in the sections closer to the cemetery entrance, and many of them are homemade. More Spanish surnames are present in this section. Concrete crosses are especially likely to be broken (Figure 272).



Figure 269. Trimmer damage to a crape myrtle (McDoux Preservation)



Figure 270. Displaced marker, possibly by contact with a mower (McDoux Preservation)



Figure 271. Marker with black paint (McDoux Preservation)



Figure 272. Broken cross (McDoux Preservation)

A large amount of grass clippings covered many monuments during site visits in April 2014. As shown, the clippings are piled on and stuck to markers of all types, and pieces of grass can be found in carved areas (Figure 273–Figure 274). This condition does not reflect PARD maintenance standards, but it is a common occurrence and creates an environment that can promote biological growth on markers. On the other hand, some grave markers are almost completely overgrown (Figure 276).



Figure 273. Grass clippings stuck to a marker (McDoux Preservation)



Figure 274. Grass clippings piled at the base of a marker and stuck to the surface (McDoux Preservation)



Figure 275. Grass clippings covering a tile-set bodystone (McDoux Preservation)



Figure 276. Overgrown marker (McDoux Preservation)

Plot Coverings

Plot coverings in Oakwood Cemetery Annex are highly variable and individualistic. Graves may be covered with ledger stones, slabs, or bodystones (Figure 277, Figure 278, see also Figure 252 on page 205). Other materials observed covering burial plots include gravel and plants (Figure 279).



Figure 277. Rough cut ledger stone (John Milner Associates)



Figure 278. A concrete plot covering set with decorative tiles (John Milner Associates)



Figure 279. Ornamental plants used as a plot covering (John Milner Associates)

Plot Enclosures

None of the family plots at Oakwood Annex feature the formal curbing common in Oakwood Cemetery. Instead, most family plots are marked with a central family monument. Several family plots feature either stone corner markers (Figure 280) or small trees marking the extents of the plot (see Figure 243, page 223).

Though there is no formal curbing of family plots, a number of individual graves are outlined with a variety of materials. Granite is the most commonly used material (Figure 281), but several more recent burials feature informal concrete masonry units outlining the burial site (Figure 282).



Figure 280. Flush stone monuments mark family plot corners. (John Milner Associates)



Figure 281. Granite curbs outline individual burials. (John Milner Associates)



Figure 282. A grave outlined with concrete masonry unit blocks (John Milner Associates)

Water Features

An underground iron pipe irrigation system was installed at Oakwood Cemetery and the Annex around 1971, as part of a city-wide initiative to improve city cemetery maintenance. Iron pipe risers, most terminating with a hose bib or a quick coupler for attaching an impulse sprinkler head, are located in a grid pattern throughout the cemetery. Most risers, which average a height of 30 inches, are encased in eight-inch-diameter corrugated concrete drain pipes, hub end buried in the ground, and grouted solid. Numerous risers and their protective casings have been bent or damaged. During the development of this master plan, the City replaced 58 vacuum breakers and 59 quick couplers in the irrigation system at Oakwood Cemetery Annex. The 110 transportable, removable impact heads purchased during the recent improvement effort will be shared amongst the City cemeteries, including this one.

Additional water features in the cemetery include concrete gutters lining both sides of the cemetery entrance drive, and several drop inlets along the side of the curving drives that tie into the underground municipal storm sewer system (Figure 283, Figure 284). Several of the drop inlets include an attached curb; it is possible that they were installed with the intention to tie into a future (but never realized) plan to install curbs lining the cemetery drives. The concrete gutters are in poor condition, exhibiting significant cracking and deterioration, while the drop inlets are in fair condition, with minimal cracking.



Figure 283. Concrete gutter along the cemetery entrance drive (John Milner Associates)



Figure 284. Drop inlet with curb; an irrigation riser embedded in concrete stands adjacent. (John Milner Associates)

Structures

Buildings

A brick Craftsman-style restroom building, designed by Austin architect Hugo Kuehne in the 1920s, stands on the south side of the cemetery entrance drive (Figure 285). The symmetrical building is constructed of light brown brick on a concrete foundation. A small brick chimney stands at the rear. The roof of this building was restored in 2012, through a joint effort by the Austin Historic Preservation Office, the Parks and Recreation Department, and Save Austin's Cemeteries. The project was funded in part by a Certified Local Government grant from the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, as administered by the Texas Historical Commission. The building has been recently renovated; see page 189.



Figure 285. An undated photograph of the restroom; note the trellises and adjacent arborvitae plantings. (PICA 25455, Austin History Center, Austin Public Library)

Two mausoleums also stand on the site. The Rather Family mausoleum, located in Section E, is a gabled Roman-style temple constructed of rusticated gray granite in an ashlar pattern (Figure 286). Remaining specimens of a row of cedars indicated that these trees would have formed a solid hedge behind the building, furthering its visual dominance. The Wooten Family mausoleum (Figure 287) is located in Section G and is also of gray granite, but in smooth ashlar blocks. The mausoleum has a small terrace in front on the north side. The imposing Moderne-influenced building features cut corners with fluting and a stepped roof line. Both appear to be in good condition.

Prior to the development of the property as a cemetery in 1915, several houses were located on the land. These houses were demolished for the development of the cemetery; there is no trace of them left on the site.



Figure 286. The Rather mausoleum (McDoux Preservation)



Figure 287. The Wooten Mausoleum (McDoux Preservation)

Fence System

The cemetery is bounded on all sides by a six-foot chain link fence topped with barbed wire (Figure 288). The fence is in fair condition, with portions exhibiting significant rusting.

The entrance to Oakwood Annex mirrors that of Oakwood Cemetery just across Comal Street. It is composed of two matching yellow brick columns supporting a double vehicular gate of bent steel. Both the columns and the black-painted gates are in good condition (Figure 289, Figure 290).



Figure 288. A chain link fence topped with barbed wire surrounds the cemetery. (John Milner Associates)



Figure 289. The entrance to Oakwood Cemetery Annex (John Milner Associates)



Figure 290. Brick column supporting a black painted metal gate (John Milner Associates)

Small-Scale Features

Site Furnishings

There are very few site furnishings at Oakwood Annex, apart from several signs clustered at the cemetery entrance. These include a PARD cemetery identification signs, and the regulatory and informational signs located at each of the historic cemeteries (see Figure 289, previous page).

Grave Furnishings

There are relatively few grave decorations at Oakwood Annex. A few burial sites feature decorative benches, while a few others feature silk flowers, urns, flower pots, or other garden ornaments (see Figure 282, page 236).

SIGNIFICANCE

Oakwood Cemetery Annex was listed in the National Register in 2003 as significant at the local level, meeting Criterion C in the areas of Art and Landscape Architecture as a cemetery that, in its grave markers and monuments, exhibits stylistic and design elements representing artistic trends of the early to mid-twentieth century, and Criterion Consideration D at the local level as a cemetery with distinct design features, and as the final resting place for a significant group of distinguished citizens. Those buried in the cemetery include persons of individual and collective importance who shaped the city's urban development.

Period of Significance

The period of significance for Oakwood Cemetery Annex was defined as 1915–1952, with significant dates of 1915 (the establishment of the cemetery), 1922 (construction of the Rather mausoleum) and 1941 (construction of the Wooten mausoleum).

Integrity and Threats

Oakwood Annex retains its integrity to the period of significance, ending in 1952. Threats to its historical integrity include the loss of trees, the burial of individuals in designated pathways, and its general appearance, due to the poor condition of its boundary fence and the loss of viewshed to the north due to the construction of the baseball stadium.

TREATMENT RECOMMENDATIONS

Overall treatment objectives for Oakwood Cemetery Annex are focused on:

- improving the exterior appearance of the cemetery;
- caring for and replacing historic trees;
- preserving unique works of art and craft;
- rehabilitating and adaptively reusing the entrance building;
- providing historical and wayfinding information; and
- repairing cemetery drives.

Treatment plans illustrating these objectives are presented at the end of this chapter.

Appearance

Stakeholder concerns regarding Oakwood Cemetery Annex include the poor appearance of the rusting chain link fence that surrounds the cemetery.

- Replace the existing chain link fence with a black metal picket fence.

Vegetation Management

Historic Trees

The primary goal of vegetation treatment at Oakwood Cemetery Annex is to preserve and enhance the historic character of the cemetery through the protection of existing historic trees and the replacement of lost trees. In the past ten years, drought conditions have stressed the historic trees of Oakwood Cemetery Annex, leading to dramatic losses. The cemetery team surveyed Oakwood Cemetery Annex in 2014 and identified 302 live trees and 101 stumps; these stumps represent the loss of 33 percent of the total number of trees known to have grown within the cemetery. This does not take into account windthrown trees or other trees for which no stump remains. Pecans and crape myrtles each comprise one-third of the total tree species remaining.

Preservation, care, and maintenance of remaining historic trees, as well as the replacement of lost trees, is paramount to maintaining the integrity of the entire cemetery. The following actions are recommended for the vegetation within Oakwood Cemetery Annex:

- Develop a phased construction planting plan to replace trees that have been lost from the cemetery, based on the conceptual plan, early aerials, and any ground-level evidence, such as stumps. Be aware that volunteer shrubs or perennials may mark the previous location of a tree or may obscure a stump.

- Develop a maintenance regimen specifically tailored for the care of historic trees.
- Compost, mulch, and water trees (as necessary and as appropriate for each species) during periods of insufficient rainfall.
- Ensure that, over time, specimen trees remain as historic features within the landscape with a program of in-kind replacement.
- Remove volunteer trees (usually mulberry, hackberry, tree ligustrum, or gum bumelia) that threaten markers and plot enclosures. Retain other volunteer trees as needed for tree cover or to represent a lost historic tree.

Shrubs, Perennials, and Groundcovers

Oakwood Cemetery Annex is only sparsely planted in ornamental shrubs, perennials, and groundcovers. Those plants that survive in the cemetery are proven to be tough, drought-resistant species and varieties. If private plantings are desired in family or individual plots, provide guidance using the species listed in the existing conditions section or other drought-tolerant plants would be reliable.

Traditionally, arborvitae, abelia, and Italian cypress were planted in the cemetery. The first two species would continue to be a good choice, but Italian cypress does not thrive in Austin's relatively humid climate, becoming susceptible to spider mite infestations.

Turf

Ground-level turf at Oakwood Cemetery Annex is a mix of lawn grasses and a wide variety of native and exotic herbaceous annuals and perennials, all of which are kept mowed to form an even surface.

- Discourage the growth of troublesome weeds by improving soils by adding compost topdressing annually.
- Upgrade the irrigation system, replacing risers with ground-level hose bibs and/or quick couplers that can be accessed by the public to water newly installed plants in individual or family plots, and by city staff to irrigate plant material and turf during times of drought.
- See "Cemetery Lawn Care" in Chapter 3 for more information.

Grave Markers and Decorative Objects

Grave markers in Oakwood Annex Cemetery are primarily of granite; however, numerous hand-crafted markers can be found within the cemetery, many of which appear to be made by the same artist. The following actions are recommended:

- Protect, preserve, repair, and conserve cemetery markers, including unique works of art and craft.
- Document, as a high priority, the many delicate and hand-made markers within the cemetery that are threatened by weathering, vandalism, and maintenance damage.
- Conduct further research through oral history to identify the craftspersons who created these markers; consider including this information in the history of the cemetery.
- Avoid using riding mowers and metal core trimmers in the vicinity of all markers and plot enclosures.
- Encourage plot owners to establish groundcovers within curbed or edged plots to reduce the amount of mowing and trimming required.
- Reset tilted markers to their original position, adding a compacted gravel base when resetting to minimize settling.
- Repair damaged markers, using techniques as directed by a materials conservator specializing in historic marker material.
- Clean markers as recommended in Chapter 3, General Management Guidelines.

Visitor Accommodation

The original cemetery building that stands at the entrance to Oakwood Annex Cemetery has been recently restored. Parks and Recreation is currently using the building to store orphaned cemetery markers. Other visitor accommodations are needed, including seating nodes located throughout the cemetery. The following actions are recommended:

- Provide an accessible parking space across the entrance drive from the cemetery building.
- Consider adding benches within the public areas of the cemetery identified on the plat as “parkways.” These public seating areas could be provided with small shade trees.

Historical Information and Wayfinding

Stakeholders have asked that information be made available to cemetery visitors to tell the story of the cemetery and the community it serves, including a map to help visitors locate individual graves. Wayfinding currently is difficult because the cemetery drives and sections are not identified. To address these issues, the following actions are recommended:

- Design a new visitor kiosk, which should be placed next to the proposed parking area across from the cemetery building and designed to complement that building.
- Install historical and wayfinding maps at the visitor kiosk. Consider incorporating QR codes that can be scanned using smart phones (see Figure 26, page 80).
- Identify cemetery sections and drives with markers located at intersections (see Figure 23, page 80). The markers should be durable and made of stone, concrete, painted or weathered steel, or other material compatible with the historic character of the cemetery. Galvanized steel and unpainted aluminum are not recommended. The markers should be placed low to the ground or be thin and vertical in orientation.
- Consider installing informational signs at the graves of important community leaders. These signs should be simple and contemporary in design, so as not to distract from the historic character of the cemetery (see Figure 25, page 80).
- Consider installing informational signs that interpret works of craft within the cemetery. These signs also should be simple and contemporary in design.

PRIORITIZED PROJECT LIST AND ESTIMATE OF PROBABLE COSTS

Priority One

(to be completed within 1-2 years)

These probable costs are estimates based on comparable projects and previous estimates. All costs are subject to fluctuation and/or increase.

<i>Item</i>	<i>Estimated Cost</i>
Replace boundary fence with metal picket fence (2914 lf x \$40/lf), to include a pedestrian gate on the east (Leona Street) side, potentially at same time as Oakwood Cemetery fence.	\$116,560
Evaluate marker conditions (continuing volunteer project?).	\$0 (to be completed by volunteers)
Replace dead/poor shade trees (assume 119-4" caliper x \$800)	\$95,200
Upgrade irrigation system, replacing rotors with ground-level quick couplers and hose bibs	\$50,000

Priority Two

(to be completed within 3-5 years)

These probable costs are estimates based on comparable projects and previous estimates. All costs are subject to fluctuation and/or increase.

<i>Item</i>	<i>Estimated Cost</i>
Document, stabilize, and preserve unique works of art and craft	allow \$10,000

Priority Three

(to be completed within 5-7 years)

These probable costs are estimates based on comparable projects and previous estimates. All costs are subject to fluctuation and/or increase.

<i>Item</i>	<i>Estimated Cost</i>
Place cemetery drive markers at intersections (assume 6 post-type hewn stone)	\$900
Install informational signs at graves of community leaders (assume 10 small metal, short post)	\$2,500
Install interpretive waysides for notable cemetery areas (assume 5 medium interpretive signs)	\$1,250
Remove entrance gate piers and rebuild original in original location	\$ TBD
Adaptively reuse cemetery building	\$ TBD

PLANTING PLAN

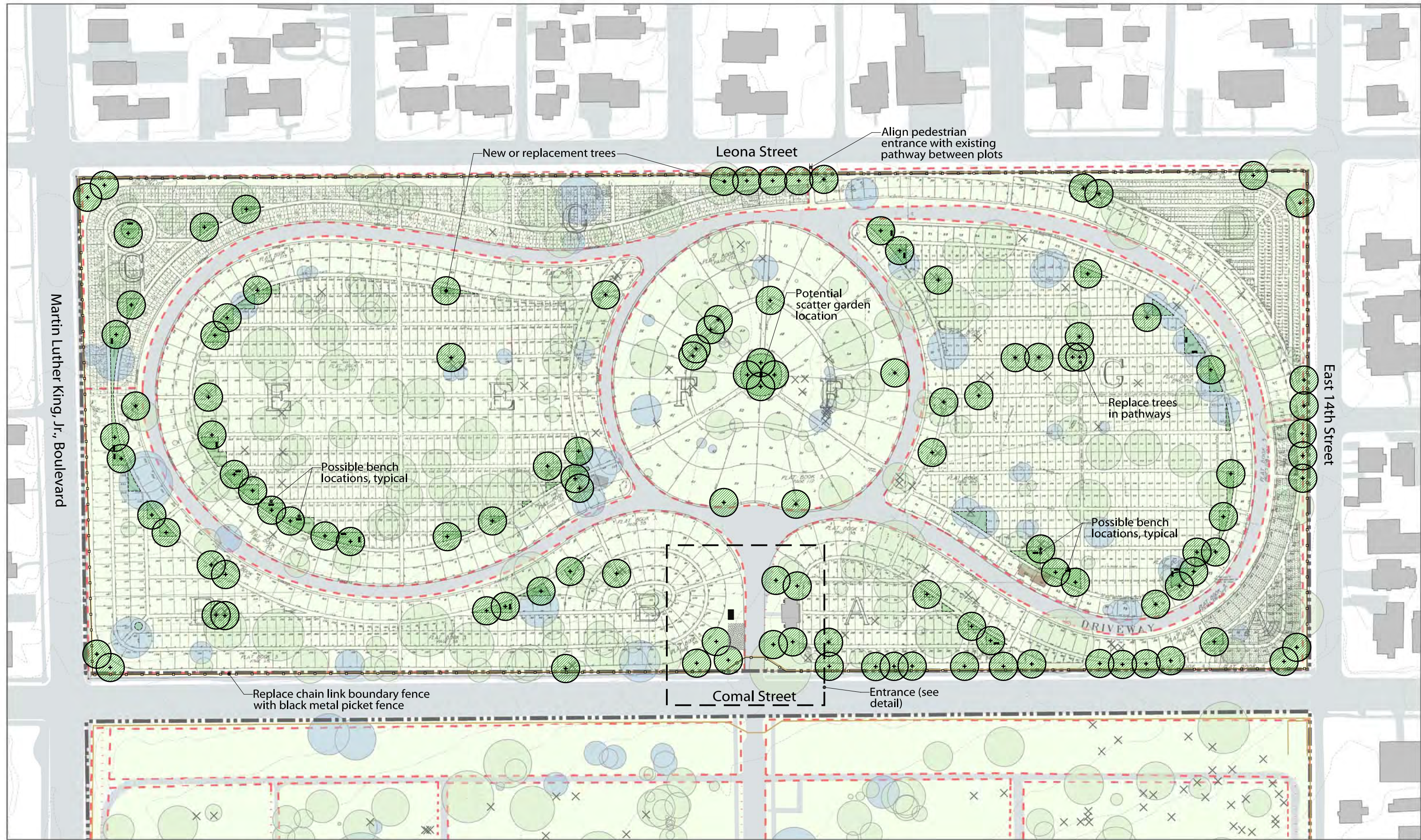
Please refer to the Site Plan and Detail Plan on the following pages for locations of the plantings described below.

Oakwood Annex Entrance Area

Preferred Plant Characteristics and Considerations:	Evergreen and deciduous trees in a variety of sizes and mature heights
Soils:	Silty clay from 8 to 36" deep
Sunlight:	Full sun
Planting Cycle:	Install all plants in fall and winter
Installation and Maintenance:	Refer to the City of Austin's <i>Native and Adapted Landscape Plants</i> guide (Appendix A) for information on installing and maintaining specific individual species
Recommended Species by Common Name:	Pecan, crape myrtle, Italian cypress, live oak, Eastern red cedar, arborvitae, cedar elm, yaupon, possumhaw, wax myrtle

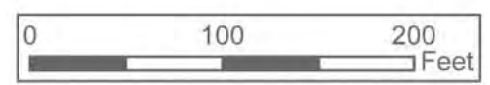
Supplemental Tree Plantings (throughout cemetery)

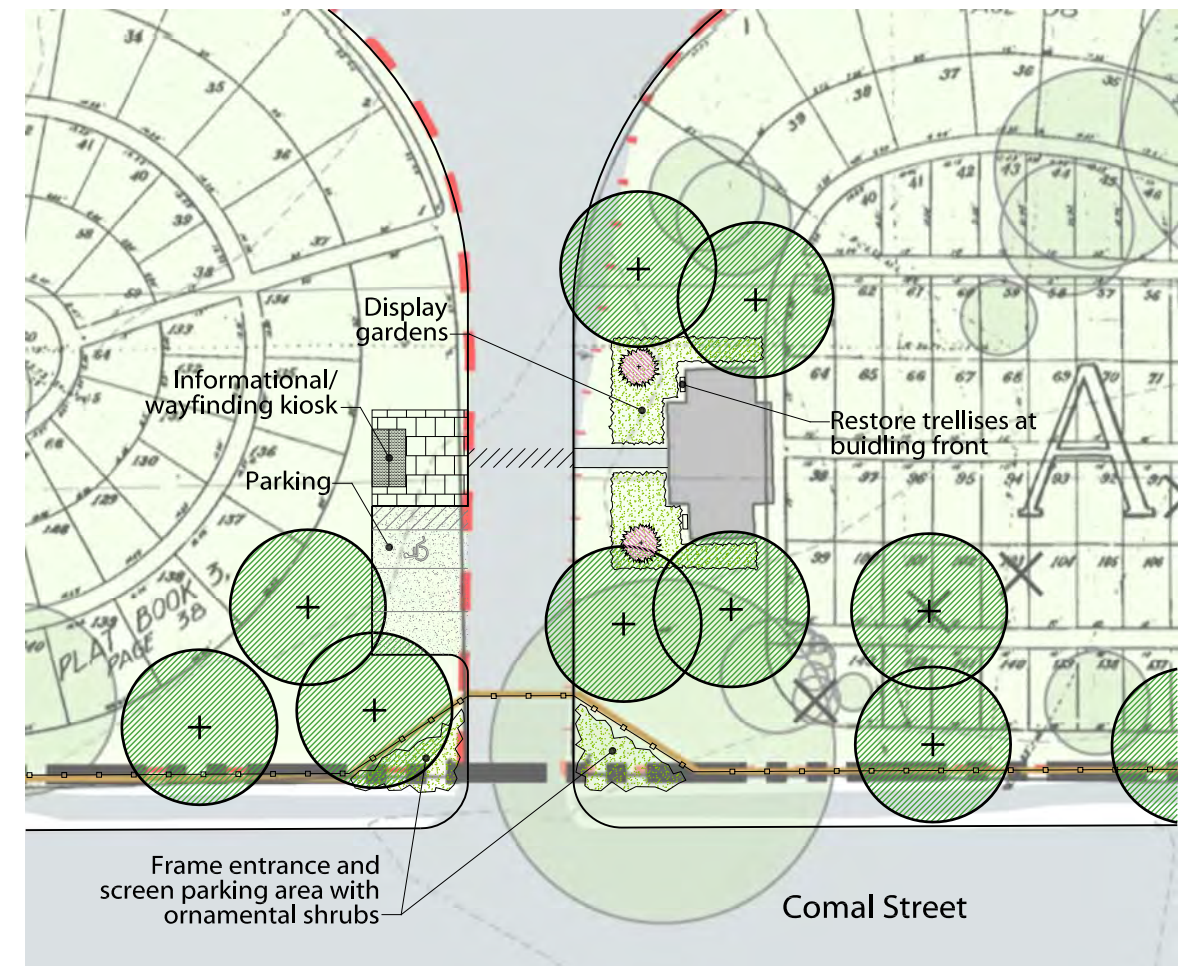
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Sunlight:	Full sun
Planting Cycle:	Install all plants in fall and winter
Installation and Maintenance:	Refer to the City of Austin's <i>Native and Adapted Landscape Plants</i> guide (Appendix A) for information on installing and maintaining specific individual species
Recommended Species by Common Name:	Pecan, crape myrtle, Italian cypress, live oak, Eastern red cedar, arborvitae, cedar elm, yaupon, possumhaw, wax myrtle



Oakwood Cemetery Annex Site Plan

- Cemetery Boundary
- Contour (2-foot interval)
- Dead, Snag, or Stump
- Structure
- Cemetery Section
- Streams & Drainage
- Deciduous Trees
- Mausoleum
- Roads & Sidewalks
- Fence
- Evergreen Trees





Oakwood Cemetery Annex, Entrance Detail

Scale: 1" = 40'-0"