



MEMORANDUM

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TO: Austin Parks and Recreation Board

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

DATE: June 15, 2015

SUBJECT: Historic Cemeteries Master Plan

The Parks and Recreation Department will present the Historic Cemeteries Master Plan to the Planning Commission on June 23, 2015.

The master plan and associated appendices can be accessed by visiting the following website:
<https://www.austintexas.gov/cmp>.

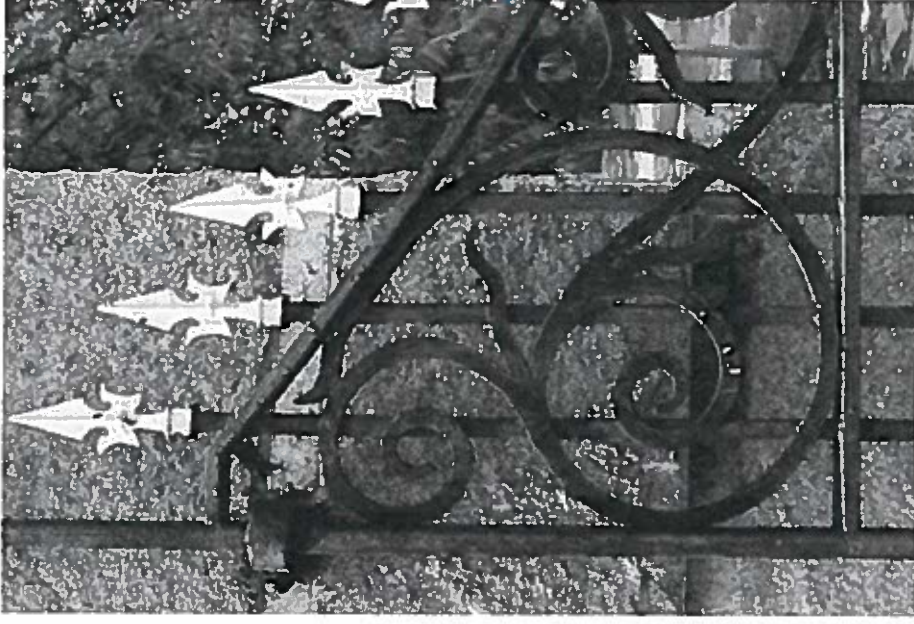
This is the first master planning effort for the City's five historic municipal cemeteries, which include Austin Memorial Park Cemetery, Evergreen Cemetery, Oakwood Cemetery, Oakwood Cemetery Annex, and Plummers Cemetery.

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
Presentation to the Planning Commission
June 23, 2015



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Process to Date

- Spring, 2012: Parks Board Working Group to identify issues and concerns
- Summer, 2013: 6 meetings to develop Scope of Work
- Fall, 2013: Request for Proposals issued
- March, 2014: Contract with AmaTerra Environmental executed
- 5 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 Library
- January 23-March 9, 2015: Draft Master Plan Posted to Website for Community Review
- Early April, 2015: Revised draft posted for Boards, Commissions &

Council



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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



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Historic Cemeteries Master Plan

Part I: Introduction

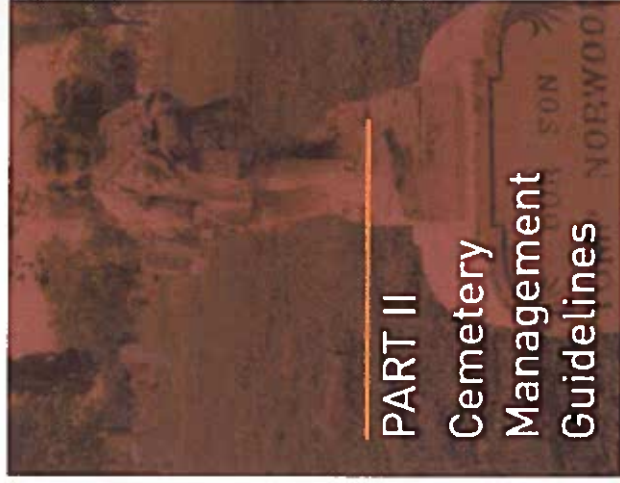
1. Introduction
2. Natural, Historical, and Cultural Contexts

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

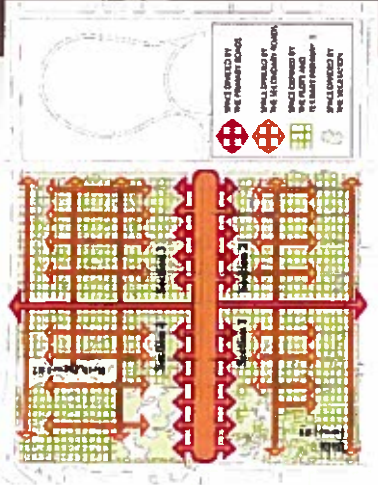
9. Regulations and Laws
10. Cemetery Oversight
11. Emergency Preparedness
12. Historic Designations
13. Grave Ornamentation
14. Funding and Revenue
15. Partnerships and Programs



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General & Individual 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



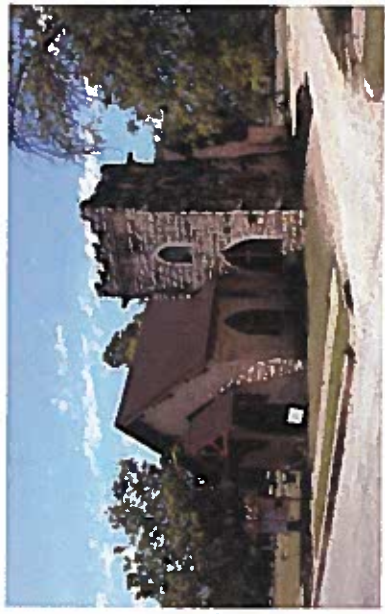
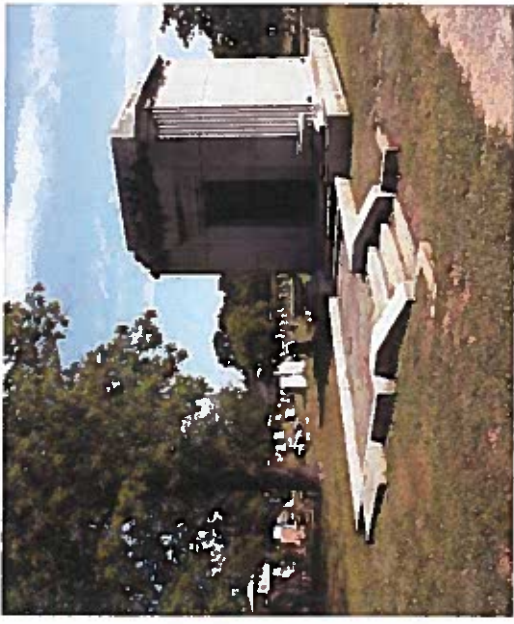
The Central Road Zone - Development Impact Zones
 Volume 20 and 21 October 2010



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Cemetery Treatment Guidelines

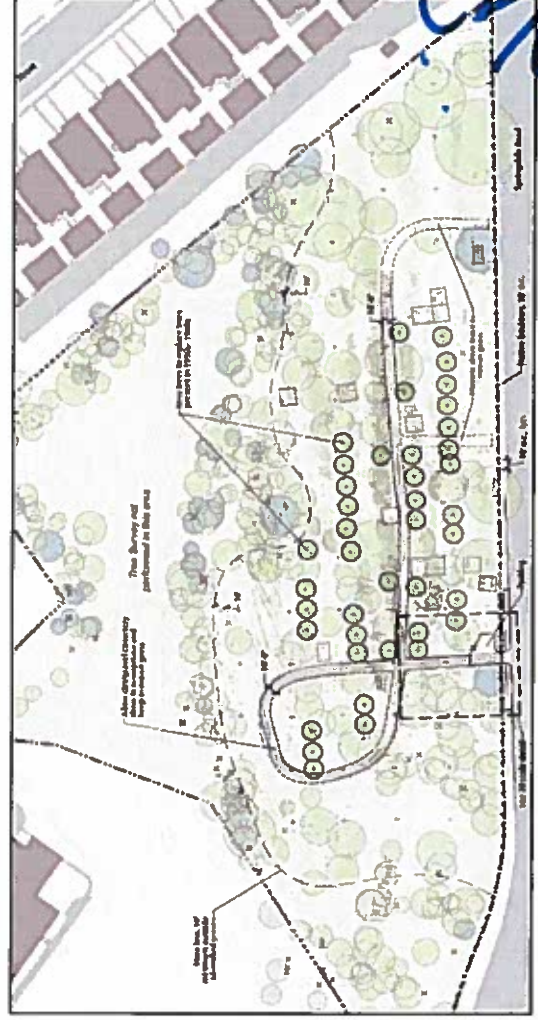
Oakwood Cemetery (1839) and Oakwood Cemetery Annex (1914)



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Cemetery Treatment Guidelines

Plummers Cemetery (c. 1898)

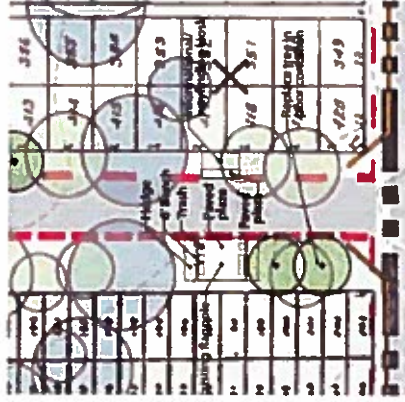
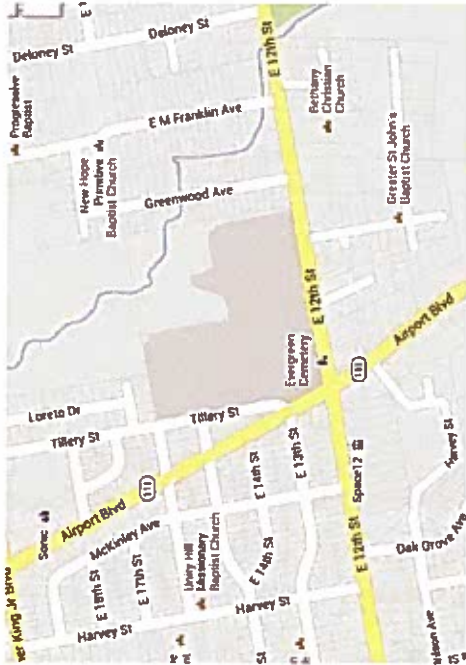
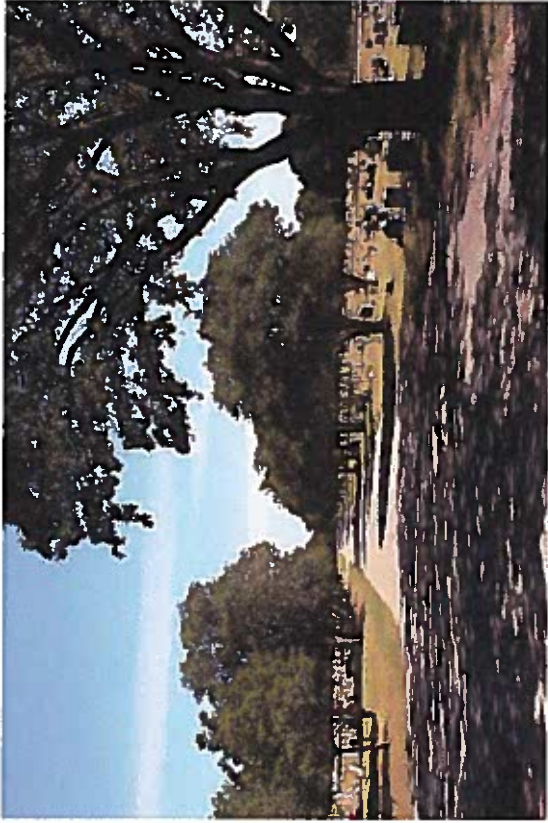


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Cemetery Treatment Guidelines

Evergreen Cemetery (1926)

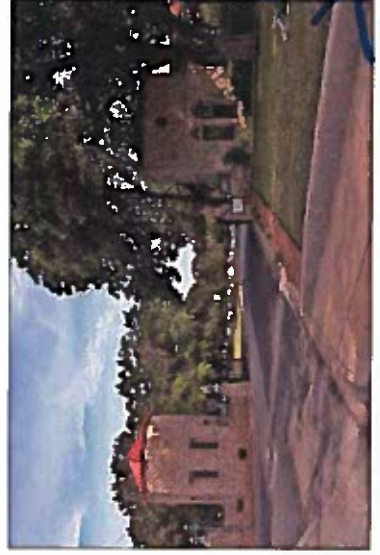
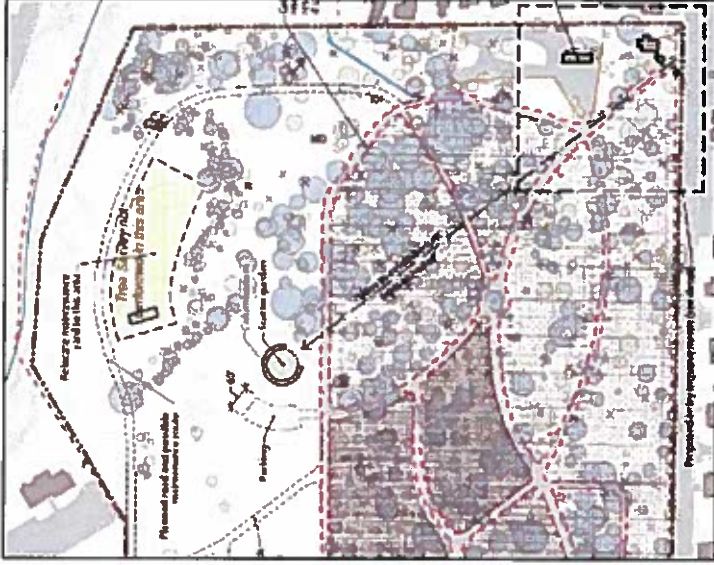
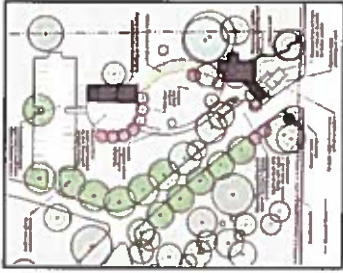


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Cemetery Treatment Guidelines

Austin Memorial Park Cemetery (1927)



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Historic Cemeteries Master Plan

Part III: Policy and Funding Recommendations

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Urban Forestry Board

Supplemental Recommendations

- Place the irrigation proposal for all cemeteries in Priority 1.
- Include in the General Maintenance Guidelines & each individual cemetery plan: Application of compost, mulch & supplemental watering of trees during periods of insufficient rainfall.
- No tree planting should be lower than 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.”
- PARD concurs with the recommendations and changes will appear in the final draft of the plan.



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Historic Landmark Commission Supplemental Recommendations

- Endorse the proposed Master Plan in accordance with the staff recommendation, which is to request that consideration be given towards the designation of Evergreen Cemetery, Plummers Cemetery, and Austin Memorial Park Cemetery as potential historic landmarks, and additionally, to consider a map referenced in Citizen Communication.
- PARD concurs with the staff recommendation and will include the proposed map in final draft of Appendix S: Board, Commission and City Council Actions.



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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 17: 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.

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