

Cemetery Preservation

Goals and Objectives

1. Continue Identification and documentation of historic cemeteries.

- 1.1 Work with the Texas Historical Commission to establish systematic inventory procedures.
- 1.2 Engage local and regional historical, archaeological and genealogical groups in cemetery surveys, grave marker identification, records catalogs, and cemetery history.
- 1.3 Encourage local repositories including the public library, vital statistics office, and the Webb County Clerk's office to collect, preserve, and index documents pertaining to life histories and burial information.

2. Ensure preservation of historic cemeteries and grave sites.

- 2.1 Establish community outreach programs to encourage awareness of historic cemeteries through tours (school and general), brochures, and other programs.
- 2.2 Encourage state and national designation of cemetery and grave sites.
- 2.3 Involve local government to ensure the protection of cemeteries through crime prevention, maintenance of perimeter fencing, security lighting, and other landscaping techniques.
- 2.4 Ensure appropriate maintenance and code enforcement through an established grounds maintenance program that is non-damaging to the grave markers.
- 2.5 Recommend stabilization and preventive conservation measures for grave sites and cemetery features.
- 2.6 Work with the Texas Historical Commission to disseminate technical information to the public regarding the care and preservation of historic grave sites.

3. Seek financial support through public and private investment.

- 3.1 Engage community stakeholders to initiate a Friends organization to secure private sector investment to assist with special projects.
- 3.2 Seek additional investment by local government to undertake improvements to the physical condition of cemeteries.
- 3.3 Seek grants for special projects from public and private sources.

4. Acknowledge City Cemetery as a major open space amenity in a neighborhood context as well as a heritage tourism attraction.

- 4.1 Improve the physical condition of City Cemetery as it fronts U. S. 59.
- 4.2 Implement a site development plan for City Cemetery that addresses improved site access, landscaping and irrigation, and additional lighting to ensure a well maintained physical image.
- 4.3 Develop a maintenance plan defining when regular inspections of the monuments, walls, and fences will occur and guidelines for care of vegetation including mowing, trimming around stones, and pruning.
- 4.4 Set priorities to undertake cleaning and repair of historic gravestones and repair of all masonry and iron fences, curbing and gates.
- 4.5 Collect, identify, record, and safely store all fragments and cross reference them with the original marker. Handle all fragments and stones with extreme care. Stones should be restored to

an upright and level position.

4.6 Increase staffing to undertake the necessary projects to improve the physical condition of the cemetery.

4.7 Obtain the services of a Cemetery Preservation Consultant to supervise the conservation and restoration projects involving grave markers, curbing, fences, and walls.

4.8 Ensure regular police patrols after hours to prevent vandalism and other inappropriate behavior.