

McDaniel Street Cemetery Vision Plan

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CEMETERY ASSOCIATION

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Estate of Lynna Kay Shuffield

The Summerlee Foundation

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MCDOLUX
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FROM THE BOARD PRESIDENT



December 2022

Dear Friends and Fellow Descendants,

In the fourteen months since our organization secured legal authority over the historic McDaniel Street Cemetery, we have accomplished a great deal. The improvements to the cemetery since October 2021 have been numerous and highly visible. And, importantly, those changes have had a positive impact on our neighbors in the surrounding Eastex-Jensen community.

As we complete 2022 with the publication of this Cemetery Vision Plan, we can confidently say that we have laid a solid foundation on which to move forward and continue this good work.

Our thanks go out to the Fondren Foundation, which funded this Plan, and to the Estate of Lynna Kay Shuffield and other donors who have supported our efforts at McDaniel Street Cemetery. We still have much work to do, but we now have a roadmap to guide us on this journey.

Thank you again for your interest in the historic McDaniel Street Cemetery and for supporting the Westcott Cemetery Association.

Sara W. Huynes



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INTRODUCTION

A Cemetery Vision Plan summarizes the current conditions in a historic cemetery and outlines activities to be undertaken in the future. It is intended to serve as a guiding document as the cemetery owner prioritizes and attends to needs and desired improvements.

This Vision Plan includes the following chapters:

ABOUT MCDANIEL STREET CEMETERY

- The history of the development of the community where the cemetery is located, including the city of Houston generally and the surrounding Eastex-Jensen neighborhood specifically
- The physical development of the cemetery, including the acquisition of land and sale of plots over time, construction of walls, and notable monuments
- Social history, including the history of the cemetery's management AND notable people who are buried there

BEST PRACTICES IN CEMETERY MANAGEMENT

- Best practices regarding markers, vegetation, wayfinding, parking, lighting and seating, grave decoration and privately placed benches, site maintenance issues, maintenance/conservation of structures, etc.

CURRENT CONDITIONS

- Overall site (includes drainage and turf), roadways and walkways, grave markers, small-scale structures (such as fences and walls), trees and other vegetation, etc.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- List of prioritized needs and recommendations for treatment
- Implementation guide, including funding needs

APPENDICES

This document was developed by McDoux Preservation LLC, a historic preservation consulting firm in the Houston area, in collaboration with White Oak Studio landscape architects (now part of Kimley Horn), Bartlett Tree Services, and Texas Cemetery Restoration Services.



**ABOUT MCDANIEL STREET
CEMETERY**

OUR NEIGHBORHOOD: EASTEX-JENSEN

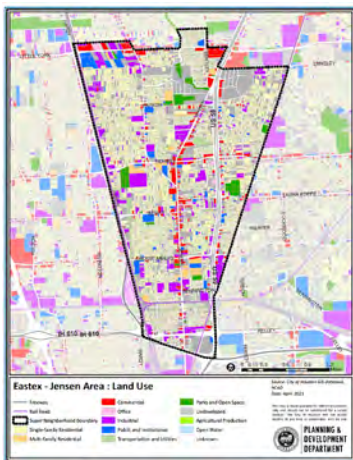


Figure 1. Map of Eastex-Jensen Neighborhood (City of Houston)

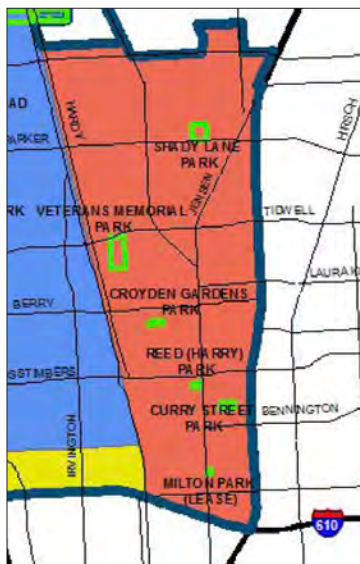


Figure 2. Parks in Eastex-Jensen, outlined in green (City of Houston Parks Master Plan, 2015)

The historic McDaniel Street Cemetery is located in the Eastex-Jensen neighborhood north of Houston, Texas. Eastex-Jensen is named for the two north-south roadways that flank it on either side. Jensen Drive (previously known as the County Road, Clark Street County Road, Houston-Humble Public Road, or Atascosita County Road) was originally the main roadway between Houston and East Texas before it was replaced by U.S. Highway 59 (aka the Eastex Freeway).

Jensen Drive stretches north from Houston's Fifth Ward, an area of the city that historically contained a concentration of railroad shops and foundries. Fifth Ward, which was nearly equally divided between Black and White residents in the late 1800s, was mostly populated by African Americans by the 1940s. Jensen Drive was the major commercial street within Fifth Ward.

Once a rural community in Harris County, the Eastex-Jensen area was annexed by the City of Houston in the 1940s. The construction of Interstate Highway 10 and U.S. Highway 59 in the 1950s and 1960s displaced families and businesses and drew commercial activity away from Jensen Drive.

During the same period, the 1965 Civil Rights Act and subsequent end of forced segregation made it possible for African Americans to live wherever they liked, and Black people moved north from Fifth Ward and east from Independence Heights into the Eastex-Jensen neighborhood. Over time, this neighborhood (like the rest of Houston) has become predominantly Hispanic.

Today, Eastex-Jensen is a neighborhood of about 30,000 residents. According to information provided by the Greater Northside Management District, most of our neighbors today (76%) are Hispanic, and many of them primarily speak Spanish. About 18% of our neighbors are African American. About half of our neighbors did not graduate from high school; the median household income is about \$38,000 and the median value of homes in the neighborhood is around \$77,000.

The Houston Parks and Recreation Department's 2015 Master Plan identified Park Sector 2 (which includes Eastex-Jensen) as one of the Park Sectors with the most concerning health metrics (levels of daily physical activity, obesity, and diabetes) and with the lowest educational attainment and median income in the city. That Plan reported that an additional 17.5 acres of parkland are needed in Park Sector 2 and recommended exploring partnerships that would promote activity and healthy living.

While not a park, McDaniel Street Cemetery can become a passive green space for surrounding neighbors to use and enjoy. This Vision Plan is intended to guide the activities that would achieve that goal.

WCA's community partners include the Greater Northside Management District, Super Neighborhood 46, Houston Northeast Community Development Corporation, Sunbeam Curry Civic Club, and Iglesia Vision Global. In 2022, they provided these testimonials about the impact that WCA's improvements to McDaniel Street Cemetery have had on the neighborhood.

Westcott Cemetery was the catalyst project that was needed to bring everyone together and start working on "Bringing Back Jensen". The first cleanup for this forgotten cemetery brought together the faith community, led by Pastor David Smith, the community, the local Civic Club, and Federal, State, and local offices. There was a certain reverence that everyone felt and the need to bring peace and respect to all the souls at Westcott. The first community event that was held started and ended at the Cemetery and has now grown to a yearly Jensen Jubilee."

— *Rebecca Reyna, Greater Northside Management District*

Revitalization efforts in Eastex-Jensen were catalyzed by the 2013 cemetery cleanup, led by civic-minded citizens and community groups. After a period of dormancy, Super Neighborhood 46 was re-established in 2018 – the same year Westcott Cemetery Association was formed...WCA's board president has been actively engaged in community efforts.

— *Lupita Talley, President, Eastex Jensen Super Neighborhood #46*

The surrounding community's relationship with the cemetery began in 2013... Having secured legal conservatorship for the cemetery in October 2021, Westcott Cemetery Association has engaged in a variety of improvements in the cemetery...Board president Sara Haynes...works collaboratively with our group in the interests of the neighborhood as a whole.

— *Pastor David Smith, Houston Northeast Community Development Corporation*

We appreciate the work the Association is doing to restore and preserve this sacred place, which had been neglected and abandoned for many years, and make it an asset for our neighborhood.

— *Pastor Santiago F. Medina, Iglesia Vision Global*

HISTORY OF MCDANIEL STREET CEMETERY



Figure 3. Richard D. Westcott
(Findagrave.com)



Figure 4. Almira Westcott and
unidentified child (courtesy of
Jan Tyra)

The area around McDaniel Street Cemetery developed as a residential enclave of White/Anglo families, many of whom intermarried and created strong community bonds. The boundaries of the cemetery as it exists today were never formally dedicated; instead, they were created by exclusion as land was sold around the burial ground.

The chain of title for the cemetery was established in 2019–2020, when WCA engaged McDoux Preservation LLC to help prepare an application to the Texas Historical Commission for a Historic Texas Cemetery designation. That effort yielded 72 deeds which, together, established the boundaries of the cemetery. The Historic Texas Cemetery designation exists to formalize the boundaries of cemeteries in county deed records. Previously, the cemetery was identified in the county tax records as a vacant lot.

Although the property was collectively known as the Westcott Cemetery, the actual Westcott Cemetery is only a portion of the larger property. To avoid confusion, WCA worked with the Texas Historical Commission's Cemetery Preservation staff to identify a different name for the site as a whole. The name "McDaniel Street Cemetery" was selected and codified in the Harris County deed records in 2020, when the Historic Texas Cemetery designation was filed.

The land which would eventually contain the Westcott Cemetery was part of an 1838 land grant (Abstract 329, also known as "the J. Harrell Survey") to Josiah T. Harrell containing a league and a labor of land. "A league and a labor" is a remnant of the Spanish/Mexican system of land measurement used when Texas was being colonized in the 1820s and 1830s. A *labor* consists of 177.14 acres, generally enough to build a house and have a farm, while a *sitio*, or league, of land is equivalent to 4,428.42 acres and was typically used for cattle ranching. A "league and a labor" totaled 4,605.56 acres.

Harrell sold that land in two transactions in 1841. One of those buyers, Andrew J. Yates, sold a 696-acre portion of the Harrell survey to Alexander Edgar, who conveyed it to James McRae, William McRae, and Richard D. Westcott on October 15, 1856. Richard D. Westcott bought the McRae's interest in the property in 1858, and this property became known as the Westcott homestead. Westcott reportedly operated a saw mill on the property through the 1870s.

To fulfill his wife Almira's wishes after her death, Richard Westcott divided the land between their children, with daughters Amie Rebecca Westcott Beauchamp, Josephine Westcott Scranton, and Julia Ann Westcott Tucker (with her son Hampton Jr.) receiving their own shares. Youngest daughter Jennie Gammell Westcott Kendall received "the old homestead" on January 1, 1889, "excepting Almira's one-quarter acre including the family cemetery."



Figure 5. John Farmer
(Findagrave.com)



Figure 6. Lucy McDonald
Farmer (Findagrave.com)

Over the next few years, the Kendalls sold tracts of land to buyers including Charles Lang, M. B. Irwin, Emma Vahl, W. E. Morin, W. L. Parrott, Sarah C. Markley, A. W. McDonald, Mrs. Lucy (McDonald) Farmer, Miss Margarette McDonald, Mrs. Hattie F. Madeley, Hampton Westcott (Julia Westcott Tucker's son; their nephew), James Berry and J. B. Charpiot.

As land purchases were beginning to close in around the Westcott family's burial ground, the Kendalls officially dedicated one-quarter-acre of land to that purpose on October 21, 1893. The deed of dedication named trustees including W. S. Waller, J. C. Reese, Joseph T. Gammon, William McGuire, J. D. Grady, S. C. Peters, Robert Ward, C. M. Jones, S. S. Hoge, (no first name given) McCracken, and Emanuel Young. The description of the property simply references the existing boundaries of the cemetery and establishes that the cemetery is to be used "for a neighborhood burying ground only ... And for white people only." The brick wall around the Westcott family plot area, which likely was added around 1930, surrounds that quarter acre.

Additional sales of land continued, including to John Farmer, Lucy's husband, in 1893. The Farmers continued to purchase property in the Kendall tract through 1894, when they purchased from John E. and Julia Tucker a 19.5-foot strip at the south side of the Tucker tract, probably for use as a neighborhood road to provide more direct access to the Farmer property from the County road (now Jensen Drive).

Schuller Road was established by a deed dated December 8, 1895, in which the Kendalls gave to the public, in exchange for \$1.00 paid by "John Farmer and others" a thoroughfare described as starting at the northwest corner of the "Margerate" (probably Margarette) McDonald tract and then running south along the west lines of the properties to the south of the cemetery. However, at that time, Schuller Road did not run north all the way to the cemetery, as it does today.

In May 1896, the Westcott Family cemetery's western boundary was established for the first time in the deed records when the Kendalls sold a parcel to four neighbors: A. W. McDonald, A. J. Madeley, James Berry, and John Farmer. Over time, John Farmer purchased the partial interest in the property from each of the other co-owners, with the final sale in 1921.

John Farmer sold a portion of that land (where the car wash and laundromat are now located) to John Schuller in 1922, creating the western boundary of the McDaniel Street Cemetery as it appears today. Farmer never formally dedicated the rest of the land to the cemetery, despite its use as a burial ground. Today it comprises the western third of McDaniel Street Cemetery.

Jennie Kendall sold a 13.14-acre tract to Julius Schuller, and Mrs. Augusta D. Schuller conveyed 3.0 acres out of that tract to J. H. Schuller in February 1915. The deed referenced a road, "running eastwardly from the Clark St. (County) Road to the Westcott Cemetery", now known as McDaniel Street. By then, Schuller Road extended all the way to the cemetery.

Harris County's "block books" show the original alignment of McDaniel Street, where it extended east of Schuller Road. According to Harris County records archivist Sarah Jackson, this sheet may have been drawn as early as 1930.

The southern boundary of the cemetery was established by reference in a deed dated January 12, 1898, in which Jennie Kendall sold another parcel to C. J. Schuller, north of and immediately adjacent to his January 10, 1896 purchase.

Within the cemetery, a "G. Cours" parcel was sold by Jennie Kendall to Gaston Cours on March 2, 1897, immediately outside and east of the Westcott Cemetery's brick wall. The total area was 0.11 acres and appears to have been a trapezoidal shape. Gaston Cours—almost exactly a year later, on March 9, 1898—conveyed an approximately 400-square-foot plot of land beginning at a stake on the east line of the Westcott Cemetery to his mother.

In addition to the Westcott, Cours, and Farmer family plots, a chain-link fence encloses the graves of Charles and Mary Newton.

The eastern boundary of the cemetery was established by reference in a deed dated October 11, 1898, but not recorded until November 17, 1941. Jennie Kendall sold to Mrs. Christiana (Christina) W. Schuller Westcott the parcel immediately east of and adjacent to the cemetery. Christiana was the daughter of C. Julius and Augusta (Moffett) Schuller and married Hampton Westcott, and the land sold to her by Kendall was west of Hampton Westcott's homestead. Christiana died on March 26, 1941, so presumably this deed was filed in order to facilitate the settling of her estate. This is the wooded parcel immediately east of the McDaniel Street Cemetery.

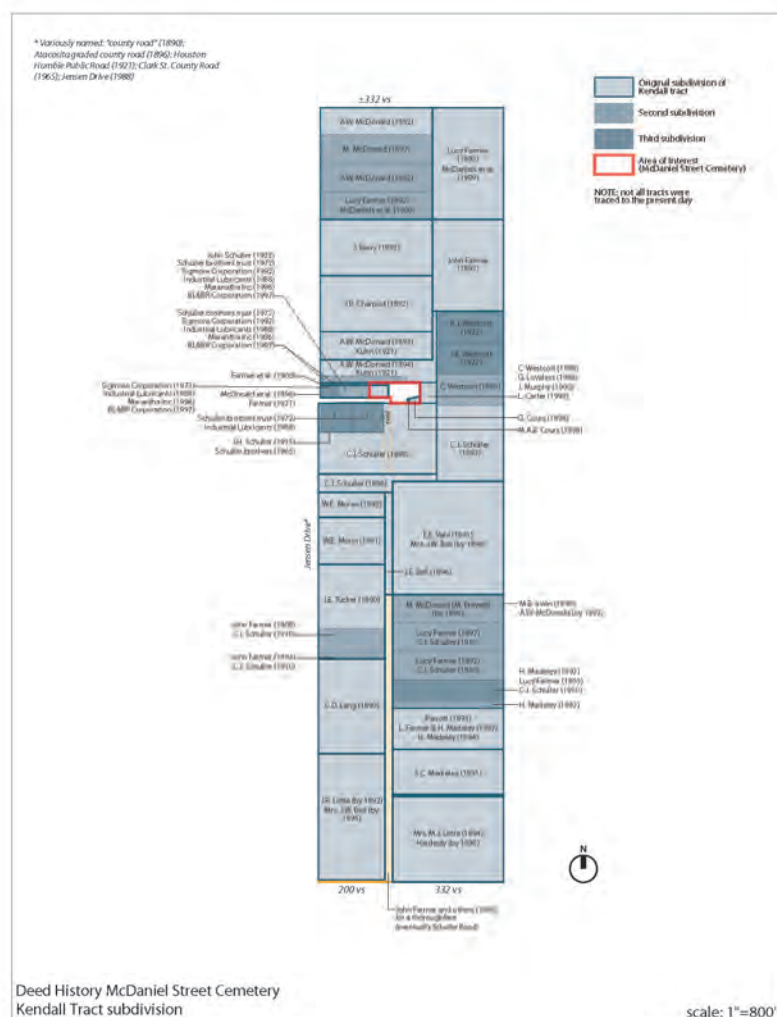


Figure 7. Map showing the distribution of Jennie Kendall's property over time (McDoux)

MAINTENANCE AND UPKEEP

When the cemetery was founded, it was common for family members to take responsibility for tending their ancestors' graves and maintaining burial grounds. The property owners around the McDaniel Street Cemetery may have employed a sexton, who would have been in charge of both burials and groundskeeping.

In 1897, a group including G. M. and Amie R. Beauchamp, C. and Mary (Westcott) Loudenschlager, Jennie Kendall, J. E. and Julia A. Tucker, J.D. Westcott, W. E. and Hattie A. Toler, W. C. and M. A. Giles, R. C. and Annie Blackwell, Emma A. and J. P. Westcott (all heirs or grandheirs of R. D. and Almira Westcott) sold 22.2 acres of land to Gideon G. Westcott, with the proceeds of the sale (\$638.30) to benefit the Westcott Cemetery. That amount of money would be worth about \$23,000 in 2022.

During the early 1900s, John Farmer sold other land that he owned to raise money for the cemetery's maintenance. People continued to be buried there until the early 1960s.

The cemetery was maintained by volunteers from the time it closed, in the late 1960s, until at least 2005. At some point thereafter, it fell into disrepair. Between 2013–2018, the neighborhood rallied to clean up the cemetery and keep it mowed. Their efforts resulted in a 2013 Keep Houston Beautiful Mayor's Proud Partners Award for the Greater Northside Management District and City of Houston Department of Neighborhoods.

In 2018, the Westcott Cemetery Association was formed by three Westcott descendant siblings. Each year, WCA made connections with more and more descendants and community members and organizations.

In 2021, working with Texas Historical Commission, the previously unnamed property containing the Westcott and other family cemeteries was collectively named McDaniel Street Cemetery and designated a Historic Texas Cemetery. Westcott Cemetery Association became the legal conservator of the cemetery in October 2021 and today is responsible for its care and maintenance.



Figure 8. WCA board president Sara Haynes next to the sign announcing WCA's securing conservatorship for the cemetery (October 2021)

NOTABLE INDIVIDUALS AND FAMILIES

About 110 individuals are buried in McDaniel Street Cemetery. Four families were especially well-represented: Westcott, Farmer, Schuller, Cours, and McDonald. Because these families intermarried extensively in the late 1800s and early 1900s, many of the burials represent more than one family.

Notable individuals are generally so designated because of their public service, business success, or other achievements. Historically, this approach disadvantages women, whose accomplishments historically were not documented to the same extent as those of men. We recognize that this Plan is, therefore, likely to be deficient in its recognition of notable persons who are buried at McDaniel Street Cemetery, and we encourage descendants to assist by sharing information about all of their ancestors, not just the men.

The people about whom we know the most at this time are:

Richard D. Westcott (1808–1897): Served in the Texian army during the Somervell Expedition of 1842, which drove the Mexican army out of Laredo, Texas. Elected Montgomery County Justice of the Peace in 1844 and 1846. After relocating to Harris County, was elected County Commissioner. Served as an officer in the Confederate Army during the Civil War and was a lifelong Democrat.

John Farmer (1842–1936): Native of Illinois. Served as a Captain in Terry's Texas Rangers, 8th Texas Calvary Regiment during the Civil War, 1861–1863; wounded in action and taken prisoner in Tennessee. Served as a Harris County Commissioner, Precinct 2, 1890–1893 and as the Harris County Treasurer, 1894, 1895, 1897, 1899, 1900, 1902, 1903, 1905.



BEST PRACTICES FOR CEMETERY MANAGEMENT

BEST PRACTICES IN CEMETERY MAINTENANCE AND MANAGEMENT

The care of a historic cemetery requires planning and sound decision-making. The following best practices in cemetery maintenance are based on guidance from cemetery managers and organizations throughout the United States. Because the McDaniel Street Cemetery is no longer active and contains no buildings or structures (except for fences and walls), this information is limited to the following sections:

- 1. General Cemetery Management**
- 2. Grounds Management** focuses on the care of vegetation and hardscapes, as well as protocols to avoid damaging grave markers, crypts, etc.
- 3. Grave Markers** includes information about installing, cleaning, conserving, repairing, and resetting grave markers.
- 4. Safety and Emergency Response** focuses on proactive planning activities to keep staff and the public safe and to minimize damage to historic and natural resources.
- 5. Potential Partners and Resources** identifies professional or citizen groups that could potentially assist cemetery caretakers, and includes a summary list of additional activities that would support the work of cemetery caretakers and volunteers.

Each section includes a discussion of relevant topics and a list of Action Items to be undertaken.

CEMETERY MANAGEMENT

Establishing a set of standard operating procedures for various ongoing activities at the cemetery will ensure that changes to WCA's Board of Directors or groundskeeping staff will not result in a lapse in caretaking for the cemetery. This does not have to be complicated or fancy. Standard operating procedures only need to be clearly written and include a way to document when activities are undertaken and any notes for future work or needs that are identified at that time.

Action Items:

Establish standard operating procedures for the following activities:

- Inspecting grave markers and documenting conditions
- Cleaning grave markers
- Resetting grave markers
- Locating and resetting subsided grave markers
- Repair of damaged markers, crypts, etc.
- Surface leveling in instances of grave subsidence
- Locating burial plots and installing new or replacement markers
- Removal of trees and shrubs (when necessary)
- Grave decoration rules
- Responding to vandalism
- Disaster/emergency response, including the discovery of unmarked human remains

Assign a position on the WCA Board of Directors to be responsible for maintaining records related to these activities. Determine how and where these records should be kept so that they are available at all times to both the recordkeeper and officers of the organization.

GROUNDS MANAGEMENT

Cemetery groundskeeping includes the management of turf areas, trees and shrubs, and decorative planting beds or areas. This section includes best practices for mowing, trimming, removal of grass clippings, weed control, maintaining trees and shrubs, subsidence control, hardscapes, and beautification projects.

Mowing

Best practice is to avoid mowing within 12 inches of a grave marker. Conditions typical to many historic cemeteries include damage to markers and crypts from lawn mower impacts and string trimmers, tilted and fallen markers, and displaced markers due to vehicle impacts. Mowers can displace markers from their bases fairly easily. This may or may not immediately damage the marker, beyond shifting its position, but can make the marker unstable and likely to topple.

The National Park Service *Preservation Brief 48: Preserving Grave Markers in Historic Cemeteries* recommends that pool noodles or other cushion bumpers may be placed on the hard edges of lawn mowers to provide protection in the event that they accidentally come in contact with grave markers.

Action Items:

- Install foam or cushion bumpers on mower decks to provide protection in case a mower accidentally contacts a marker. (This does not mean that a mower can be used close to a grave marker; it simply provides last-resort protection in the event of an accident.)
- Require mower height to be set to avoid cutting more than 1/3 of the height of the grass, and keep mower blades sharp to avoid damaging the plants.
- Require new cemetery groundskeeping staff to practice and demonstrate their ability to maintain the appropriate distance, before being allowed to operate mowers near grave markers.

Trimming

String trimmers are used to cut grass next to markers and should not make contact with markers.

Trimmer damage may not be obvious right away, unless someone is specifically looking for it. The presence of biological growth or rust staining can highlight trimmer scars. Mower damage, particularly deck or axle impacts that chip the corners of marble markers, is often easier to recognize.

Action Items:

- Ensure that caretakers always use round, lightweight trimmer line (0.090-inch or smaller) to minimize damage if trimmer accidentally comes in contact with a grave marker.
- Require new cemetery caretakers to practice trimming near items without touching them, and demonstrate this skill, before being allowed to operate string trimmers near markers.

Grass Clippings

Leaf blowers may be used to remove grass clippings from markers after mowing and trimming is complete. Grass clippings decompose quickly, as grass is primarily made up of water. As clippings break down into humus, they release moisture as well as nitrogen, potassium, and phosphorus; in other words, grass clippings turn into fertilizer. While leaving grass clippings behind, rather than bagging them, is a good way to fertilize a lawn, grass clippings can contribute to damage when left on grave markers.

When grass clippings are allowed to accumulate in carved inscriptions or on top of flat markers, they can decompose within a week, providing moisture and nutrients to microorganisms: algae, lichen, and fungi. These microorganisms can attach themselves to the marker, resulting in black, brown, green, or orange staining that does not wash off easily. Once established, this biological growth can burrow into the pores of the stone and cause deterioration over time.

String trimmers that come into contact with soil and deposit that on a marker, along with grass clippings, contribute to this problem.

Clippings should be removed with a leaf blower, followed (if necessary) with a broom with **soft** nylon bristles.

Action Items:

- Ensure that caretakers remove grass clippings from grave markers within a day or two after mowing or trimming. (They do not need to be removed immediately.)
- Ensure that caretakers use brooms with soft nylon bristles to brush dirt and clippings from marker surfaces.

Weed Control

Efforts to eradicate sticker burs and other nuisance weeds are often limited to the application of Roundup; however, Roundup and other chemical herbicides should not be used in McDaniel Street Cemetery, because:

- Sticker burs are not well-controlled with herbicides. While sand burs are technically annuals, in warm climates such as Houston, they behave more like perennials. Mature plants are very difficult to control with either pre-emergent or post-emergent herbicides, and the herbicides will kill common lawn grasses, as well as other desirable plants.
- Glyphosate, the active ingredient in Roundup, can damage grave markers due to its negative effects on masonry materials, including brick, natural stone, and concrete. Glyphosate can cause deterioration and failure due to salt crystallization (efflorescence) within the masonry material; changes in pH on the surface of the material; and an increase in water absorption after repeated treatments, possibly indicating pitting or an increase in the porosity of the material.

The best control for sticker burs is a healthy lawn of turf grass or ground cover. A horticultural solution — planting and maintaining low, drought-resistant, possibly flowering ground cover — would help to address the sticker bur problem over time and improve the appearance of the cemetery.

Trees and Shrubs

Tree roots can damage graves and markers and create other hazards; exercise caution before allowing any trees or shrubs to be planted in the cemetery.

For existing trees in the cemeteries, take care to avoid driving heavy vehicles over Critical Root Zones (essentially, all ground under the canopy) as this can compact and damage the roots.

Action Items:

- Add an item to the City Cemeteries webpage stating that trees may not be planted and shrubs may only be planted with City approval. Provide an email address and telephone number for the person who is authorized to review and approve shrubs before planting.
- Develop a handout that WCA can provide to people who ask about or are found planting a tree or shrub in the cemetery.
- Do not drive vehicles or heavy equipment over the critical root zone of cemetery trees (i.e., the diameter of the tree canopy).
- Establish a schedule to regularly inspect trees for broken or dead limbs that could fall and damage a grave marker or injure a visitor. Trim trees as needed.

Subsidence Control

Stone weighs approximately 200 lb. per cubic foot; concrete is slightly less heavy, at about 150 lb/cf. As a result, grave markers and other masonry features naturally subside (sink) into the ground over time, even when placed on appropriately compacted bases of sand and gravel. Tall markers with small bases are particularly susceptible.

This natural subsidence often causes markers to lean to one side and can make them more likely to topple if impacted by a mower or vehicle. In some cases, flat markers can sink completely into the earth and become “lost.” Markers should be regularly inspected for the effects of subsidence.

A grave shaft (the excavated and filled space around a burial) will naturally subside over time as loose dirt compacts; it also may subside if a casket collapses, particularly if a heavy vehicle is driven over the grave. This can create an uneven surface, which is not ideal for visitors or cemetery caretakers. Although it is unrealistic to expect that the cemetery would ever have a perfectly even surface, a 50/50 landscaping sand/compost fill can be added to depressions where these are observed.

Action Items:

- Establish a schedule for regularly inspecting burial plots for subsidence beyond the acceptable limits and, if necessary, add appropriate fill to create a more even surface.
- Do not drive vehicles near grave markers.
- Avoid driving backhoes, excavators, or other heavy equipment near grave markers or across graves.

Hardscapes

Hardscapes in the cemetery include masonry or cut stone borders or curbs around planting beds, individual burial plots, or family plots. Borders or curbs around burial plots should be treated with the same care as grave markers.

Action Items:

Apply the mowing and trimming standards for grave markers to borders and curbing.

GRAVE MARKERS

For the purposes of this plan, the term “marker” will be used to describe any of the following or similar grave markers: headstones, footstones, handmade items used to mark a grave, slabs, crypts, etc.

Grave Marker Cleaning

Over time, grave markers naturally become discolored due to biological growth and staining. Grass clippings, left in marker inscriptions, can exacerbate this condition. Visitors who apply shaving cream, chalk, or other substances to make inscriptions more readable leave residues that attract dirt and microorganisms. While this practice was common in the past, and many people may not be aware that it is damaging, people are discouraged from doing this today, and many cemeteries prohibit this approach. WCA should minimize the need for cleaning by discouraging the use of any product to make inscriptions more readable and by ensuring that grass clippings are removed from grave markers promptly.

Grave markers can be cleaned by appropriately trained people (staff or volunteers) using products designed for that purpose. (Household chemicals and abrasive tools should never be used to clean grave markers.) The gentlest cleaning method should be used.

D/2 Biological Cleaning Solution can be sprayed on markers and left to work for several months; results may be achieved more quickly when the application of D/2 is accompanied by scrubbing with a soft brush, but in many cases this will be unnecessary. (Note: Several applications of D/2 may be required, and biological growth that initially appears black may turn orange as it dies. That is normal.)

Action Items:

- Establish a system for tracking areas in the cemetery that have had D/2 applied, and the date of application, for planning future cleaning projects.
- Establish a process for capturing before-and-after photographs, including where those will be stored for WCA access.

Grave Marker Conservation and Repair

Regular inspection of grave markers will document damage, shifting, and tilted or fallen markers. This is best accomplished as a standalone activity – not something that caretakers are expected to do while also mowing or trimming.

Action Items:

- Identify common condition issues and appropriate response activities.
- Establish a process for the regular inspection of grave markers for damage. This should include capturing photographs.
- Identify areas with concentrations of marker damage to determine potential causes and ways to alleviate this; for example, if changes to mowing/trimming procedures are needed.
- Regularly review inspection data and prioritize individual markers for action.

Marker Resetting

Markers shift due to normal soil movement, and occasionally need to be leveled. Not all markers need to be re-set, unless the center of mass projects beyond the base or the marker is leaning forward or backward, as that orientation makes it likely that a tablet stone will break or that a marker of any type will topple if impacted by a mower or vehicle.

Flat markers and marker bases naturally subside into the ground over time, due to their weight. This is exacerbated if they are covered with grass clippings that are allowed to decompose and turn into soil.

Professional cemetery conservation companies or experienced monument setters should be contracted to provide resetting services or training in appropriate marker resetting methods and materials. No one should attempt to reset a tilted marker without the proper training and equipment, including lifting straps and tripods/frames.

Grave markers should not be routinely reset unless they are at risk of toppling.

- A marker is at risk when its center of mass is forward of its base.
- Markers that are sinking side-to-side do not typically require resetting.
- Very tall markers, multiple-part markers, or markers that are leaning front-to-back are at higher risk and should be assessed on a regular basis.

Any markers deemed to be unstable or at risk of toppling should be taped off with stakes set away from the marker at a distance at least 1.5 times the height of the marker, until the marker can be reset.

- Establish a procedure for regularly inspecting markers and reporting on instances of subsidence, tilting, and toppling.
- Establish a method for prioritizing marker conservation and resetting needs.

Copying Marker Inscriptions

WCA should take steps to educate visitors about the damage that can be caused by popular methods for copying marker inscriptions, including rubbings or placing substances on the face of the marker. Information about permitted copying techniques could be made available at the cemetery.

Rubbings involve placing a piece of paper over an inscription and rubbing a charcoal crayon, wax crayon, or chalk over the paper to reveal the carved areas. This process places pressure on the face of the stone and can result in damage. Any tape used to hold the paper on the stone also leaves behind adhesive residue, which attracts dirt and can promote biological growth.

The public should be discouraged from placing any substances, such as chalk or shaving cream, on markers to make them more readable. These substances, even when rinsed away, leave behind residue that can attract dirt and biological growth.

Inscriptions should, instead, be photographed; the ubiquity of smartphone cameras makes this easy and inexpensive today. Hard-to-read inscriptions can be illuminated with a flashlight or by reflecting sunlight onto the marker with a mirror. Directing light at the marker from different angles can help make inscriptions visible.



Figure 9. An example of illuminating an inscription with a mirror (NCPTT)

Action Items:

- Develop a one-page information sheet, explaining WCA's policy on techniques for inscription reading, which can be posted for visitors to read.

SAFETY AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Although cemeteries are generally safe places with low risk for emergency situations, WCA should proactively plan to keep its members, groundskeepers, and the public safe, and to minimize damage to historic and natural resources, in the unlikely event of an emergency or disaster.

For a step-by-step approach to disaster planning, please contact the State Historic Preservation office and consult FEMA's publication number 386-6, State and Local Mitigation Planning How-to-Guide: Integrating Historic Property and Cultural Resources into Hazard Mitigation Planning, online at https://www.fema.gov/pdf/fima/386-6_Book.pdf.

Risk Assessment and Safety

Safety and risk management are primarily related to the typical conditions of a cemetery that may be encountered by visitors or employees.

Action Items:

- Ensure that caretakers have appropriate Personal Protective Equipment, including safety glasses, hearing protection, reflective vests, steel-toed footwear, etc.
- Require all vendors who set markers or otherwise have business on cemetery property to carry a minimum amount of liability insurance.
- Establish a semi-annual inspection and reporting process to identify potential safety hazards, including unstable markers, subsided ground, seating, fencing and gates, trees, semi-paved surfaces, etc. Prioritize potentially hazardous conditions, and address as needed.
- Require that trees in the cemetery should be inspected and trimmed as needed to remove dead limbs.

Windstorms

Windstorms can push over trees, causing their roots to become separated from the ground. These uprooted trees can damage grave markers and expose or even pull up caskets that have become entwined in tree roots.

Windstorms can also damage above-ground resources by scouring them with sand, gravel, and debris.

Action Item:

Before dispatching crews to cut the tree and remove it, someone needs to inspect the area to determine if any graves have been exposed or are in danger of being exposed, and if any markers may be additionally damaged by the removal of the tree.

Floods

Flooding of any kind can displace caskets and cause them to be carried away by floodwaters. This is a regular occurrence during hurricanes along the Gulf Coast.

Action Item:

- Anyone who discovers a displaced coffin should contact law enforcement.

Vandalism

WCA has observed prior instances of criminal mischief and vandalism in McDaniel Street Cemetery.

Action Items:

- Establish a procedure for addressing vandalism, including damage to, removal of, or repositioning of monuments; graffiti; theft; or other damage.

POTENTIAL PARTNERS

Both professional organizations, citizen volunteers, or other groups could potentially assist cemetery caretakers. Having people in the cemeteries on a regular basis benefits the cemetery and decreases vandalism and other inappropriate activities. For example, nonprofit organizations, such as local historical societies, genealogy groups, and “sons/daughters of” groups; middle or high school classes and student organizations; Girl Scout/Boy Scout troops; religious organizations; and others may be interested in volunteering to:

- Clean grave markers (after receiving appropriate training).
- Complete cemetery survey forms for each grave marker and conduct biographical research to learn more about the persons buried there.
- Undertake beautification projects, under the supervision of the WCA.
- Participate in a “grave gardening” program, in which individuals “adopt” an older grave in a hard-to-mow part of the cemetery, for which descendants cannot be located or for which owners have given permission, and maintain flowers and other plants there (as approved by the City).
- Assist with measuring the topple risk for markers, using string and a plumb line to find center of mass and its position over the base (after receiving safety training).

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

For more information, please refer to National Park Service *Preservation Brief 48: Preserving Grave Markers in Historic Cemeteries* (<https://www.nps.gov/tps/how-to-preserve/preservedocs/preservation-briefs/48Preserve-Brief-GraveMarkers.pdf>).

Useful information is also provided by the National Center for Preservation Technology and Training “Cemetery Conservation” pages: <https://www.ncptt.nps.gov/blog/category/training/cemetery-monument-conservation-materials-research/>

Professional cemetery conservation/restoration companies also can be contracted to provide training in appropriate cleaning methods and materials.

MARGER
MARGER
BORN SEP
15-1880
DEPARTED
THIS LIFE
SEPT 6TH
1958

CURRENT CONDITIONS

CURRENT CONDITIONS

The condition of McDaniel Street Cemetery has improved considerably since October 2021, when WCA secured legal authority over the site and was able to make improvements beyond mowing and trimming. For the past year, WCA has been working with professional partners to evaluate the conditions within the cemetery and begin making improvements.

OVERALL SITE CONDITIONS

In 2022, WCA engaged White Oak Studio (WOS) landscape architects (now Kimley Horn) to evaluate the site as part of the development of a conceptual landscape plan for the cemetery.

WOS determined that the site is generally draining from west to east, although some obstacles make this difficult. For example, they identified a very wide existing swale running across the north side of the cemetery, which is interrupted midway by a high area that blocks the drainage of water and may cause the middle of the cemetery to remain wet after rain events.

WOS also identified individual low spots along McDaniel Street and north of the areas containing graves. These low spots are not in the same locations as potential unmarked graves, however, so they do not indicate collapsing grave shafts or other causes for grave depressions.

The drainage swale (too shallow to be a ditch) along McDaniel Street is uneven height and does not drain completely.

Properties to the north and west of the cemetery are also unsightly.



Figure 10. Site assessment plan by White Oak Studio/Kimley Horn (November 2022)



Figure 11. An uneven swale along street (left) and disconnected drainage swales at the north side of the property (right) result in short-term standing water (White Oak Studio/Kimley Horn)



Figure 12. Unsightly neighboring properties include the car wash to the west of the cemetery (left) and an illegal dumping site to the northwest (right) (White Oak Studio/Kimley Horn)

GRAVE MARKERS

McDaniel Street Cemetery contains a narrow variety of grave markers, including:

- Tablet markers (flat slabs installed vertically, with the lower third of the marker buried into the ground)
- Small obelisks (slender square columns, taller than they are wide)
- Monument-style markers on matching bases
- Handmade concrete markers
- Ledger markers (flat slabs of stone or concrete that cover the entire grave)
- Cradle or bedstead
- Surface marker (flat slab installed horizontally, usually above grade rather than even with the surface of the ground)
- Woodmen of the World (carved to look like a tree)

These grave markers are made of marble, granite, or concrete. One modern Veterans Administration marker is present in the cemetery.

Many grave markers had been toppled by vandals; some had been broken; others had been moved out of position or removed altogether.

Over the past year, WCA has engaged Texas Cemetery Restoration Services (TCRS) to evaluate the condition of grave markers, prioritize them, and then repair and reset some of the grave markers in the cemetery. WCA plans to bring TCRS back in 2023 to complete that job.

Fifteen (15) grave markers are missing, leaving only the bases behind.

Thirty-two (32) graves are completely unmarked but have been located by TCRS using ground-penetrating radar (GPR). See map in Figure 15. TCRS' full report is included in Appendix A.

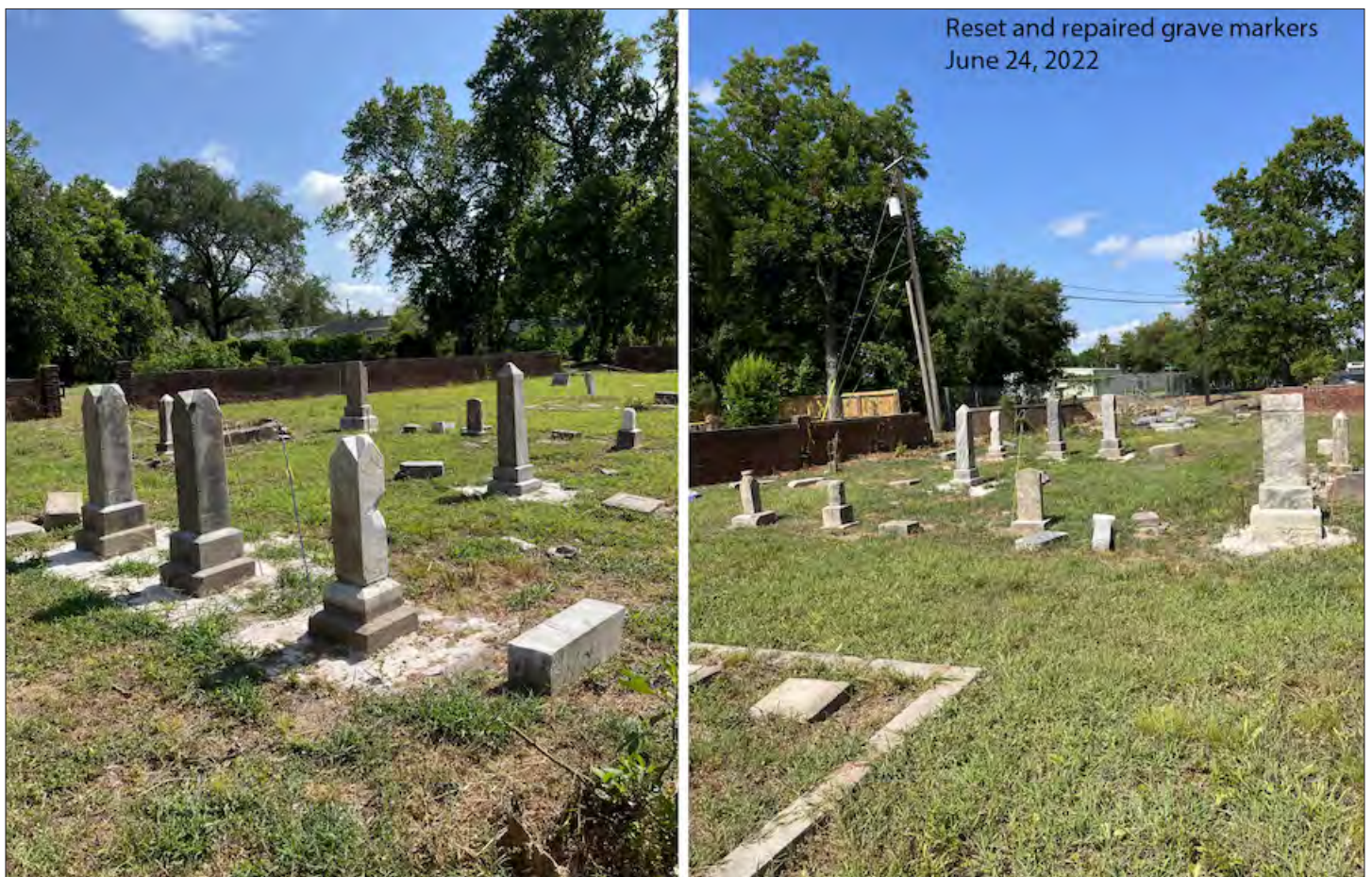
WCA also held a Cemetery Clean-up Day in March 2022, during which volunteers sprayed all of the grave markers in the cemetery with D/2 Biological Solution to remove biological growth and staining.



Figure 13. Example of before and after cleaning with D/2 in March 2022 (McDoux)



Figure 14. Examples of grave markers before and after resetting and repairs in 2022 (WCA, McDoux)



Unfortunately, during the marker resetting process in June 2022, a car missed the curve from eastbound McDaniel Street to southbound Schuller Road and drove through the security fence at a high speed, knocking several markers off their bases and damaging them (including breaking one in half).

The driver fled the scene but was later identified by the license plate and bumper remaining in the cemetery. WCA filed an insurance claim to pay for the replacement of those markers.



Figure 16. Westcott markers after resetting and prior to the car crash in June 2022 that dislodged and damaged them

TREES

Photographs from the 1990s and 2005 show that the cemetery was much more wooded at that time. It is likely that many trees died in the severe drought experienced in Texas in 2010–2011, which killed millions of trees across the state. Some, but not all of the dead trees were removed, probably by volunteers.



Figure 17. Westcott Cemetery as it appeared in the 1990s, surrounded by trees



Figure 18. View of the cemetery as it appeared in 2005 (Texas Historical Commission)



Figure 19. This photo in 2020 shows the changes in tree cover since 2005 (McDoux)

In 2020, WCA engaged Bartlett Tree Experts to complete a survey of cemetery trees and their conditions. Bartlett identified 50 trees, including:

- 19 hackberry trees
- 7 American elms
- 7 water oaks
- 4 dead snags
- 3 pecans
- 2 ash trees
- 1 cottonwood
- 1 Chinese tallow
- 1 Eastern red cedar
- 2 fallen trees

Bartlett provided a Tree and Shrub Care Plan (see Appendix B) that includes a discussion of individual trees' condition and a plan for next steps. Figure X, below, is excerpted from that document.

Twelve trees were identified as needing to be removed, and seven of the most critical trees (which posed safety hazards or were impacting the brick wall around the Westcott cemetery) have been removed by Bartlett Tree Experts. The remaining five trees are planned to be removed in 2023.

The rest of the existing trees will be monitored and pruned on an as-needed basis.

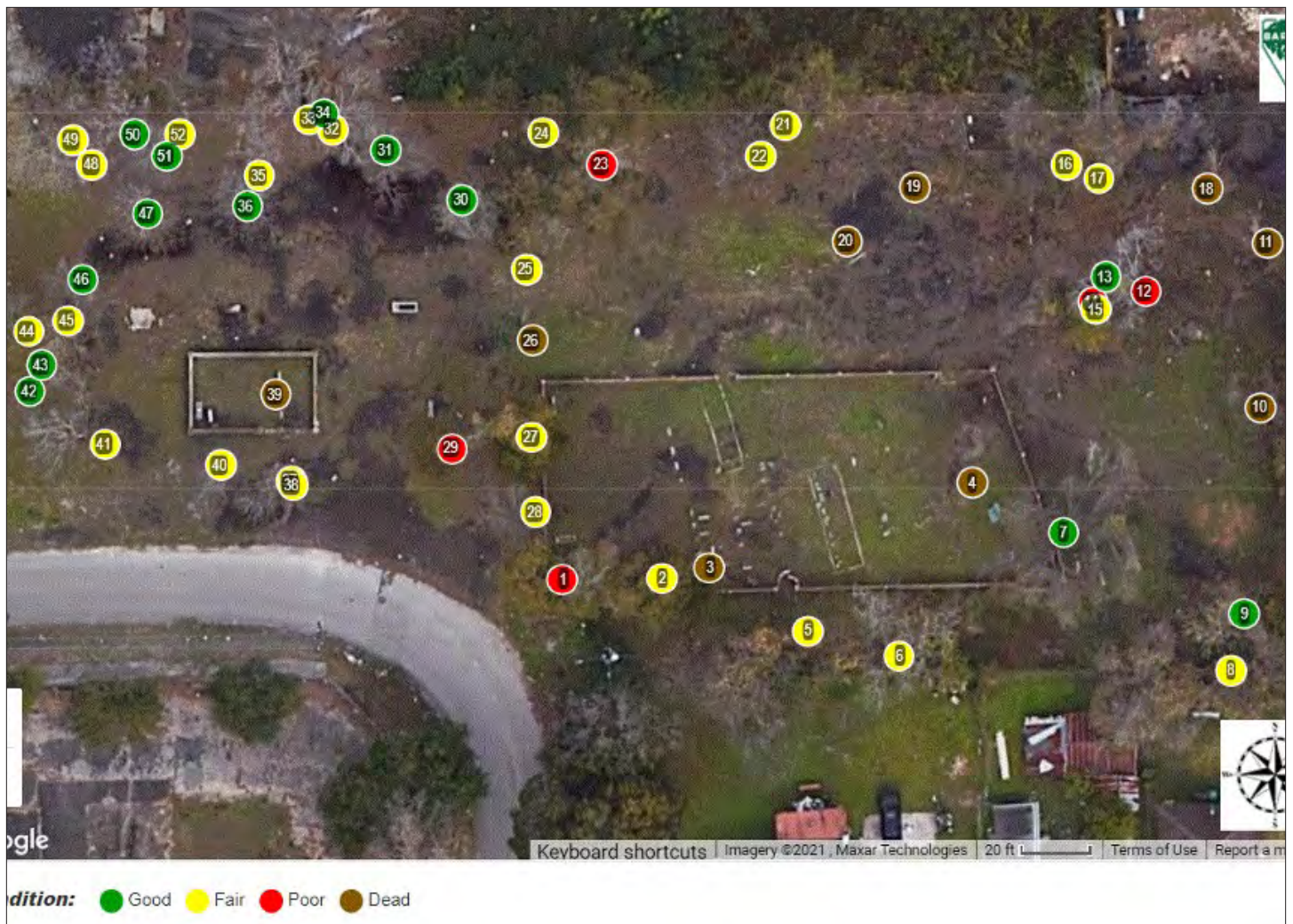


Figure 20. Map of trees in McDaniel Street Cemetery, indicating condition in 2020 (Bartlett Tree Experts)



Figure 21. (Left) The Westcott Cemetery area after tree removal in 2021; (right) logs waiting to be removed from the cemetery (McDoux)

OTHER VEGETATION

The cemetery property is covered with a mixture of grasses, wild strawberries, a type of sedge that grows in wet areas, and sandburs, which produce a spiny seed known in Texas as a “sticker bur”. Sandburs are difficult to eradicate but can be eliminated by either planting something else that shades and crowds it out or by pulling each plant, a time-consuming but effective solution.

Cultural plantings in the cemetery are generally limited to blade-leaved perennial bulb flowers like lilies and jonquils, which bloom briefly in the spring and may mark graves.



Figure 22. This photo from the 1990s shows the plants in the Westcott Cemetery at that time.



Figure 23. Trumpet lilies bloom annually in the Newton family plot and the Cours family plot (McDoux).

WALLS AND FENCES

McDaniel Street Cemetery is currently bounded by perimeter fencing erected by neighboring property owners on the west, north, and part of the south side. The east side of the property is entirely unfenced and is adjacent to a wooded area where paths mark the travels of dogs and other animals.

Westcott Cemetery

The Westcott cemetery is surrounded by a single-wythe brick wall, approximately 40 inches tall, constructed of a dark red brick with a raked surface. Columns every ten feet or so are capped with cast stone. Two openings on the north and south sides of the wall provide pedestrian access and originally included modest gates made of round iron rods. A brick arch over the south opening, featuring white tiles with "19 WESTCOTT 30" in blue lettering has toppled due to movement in the wall and a structurally unstable design. The wall was built over a very narrow, shallow concrete footing.

The wall has been deteriorating over the past 20 years and is now broken and falling down in many locations. The presence of large trees right next to the wall caused some displacement, but impacts from vehicles traveling east on McDaniel Street and missing the sharp curve undoubtedly caused additional damage. In fact, a car drove through an existing car-sized gap in the wall in 2022.

In discussions with the Architecture division of the Texas Historical Commission, former director Sharon Fleming agreed that the wall was poorly designed and that attempting to restore or repair it was unnecessary. Although the Texas Historical Commission has no oversight for McDaniel Street Cemetery, it was helpful to have their opinion on this matter.



Figure 24. The brick wall surrounding the Westcott Cemetery, as it appeared in 2005 (Texas Historical Commission)



Figure 25. Damage to the Westcott brick wall, including the toppled arch (McDoux)

Farmer Cemetery

The Farmer Cemetery contains a small number of graves and is surrounded by a rusticated concrete block wall with blocks set in a screen fashion with gaps between them. The wall is approximately 30 inches tall and is topped with a sill that is now spalling in some places, revealing the internal rebar. Columns at the corners were topped with more elaborate concrete caps and finials in the same rusticated gray concrete, most of which have been knocked down by vandals. An opening in the south side of the wall provides pedestrian access. Some of the blocks have been removed on the south side of the wall, east of that opening. This wall has suffered relatively minimal damage and can be repaired.



Figure 26. Farmer Cemetery, September 2020 (McDoux)



Figure 27. Entrance to Farmer Cemetery, April 2021 (McDoux)

Cours and Newton Family Plots

Both the Cours family plot and the Newton family plot were surrounded at some point in the past with chain-link fencing and a single entry gate; the Cours fence was torn down or damaged in some way and has now been removed, after its dimensions were recorded. That fence may be replaced with a different material and/or design at some point in the future.



Figure 28. The Cours family plot, with fencing as it appeared in 2005 (above left); 2019 (above right), and 2022 following the removal of the rest of the fencing and poles (below)



Wire Structures

A fence in a Victorian style, using the same round iron rods found in the Westcott gates, previously surrounded a large dead tree on the cemetery's eastern property line. Due to damage to the tree, which has been set on fire in the past and now poses a safety hazard, and past damage from the tree and heavy vines growing up through and distorting the fence and gate, the entire structure had to be removed.

Similar heavy wire material was used to build a mortsafe-type structure over an unknown grave just outside the Farmer Cemetery wall. Mortsafes were typically used to prevent graverobbing and the theft of bodies for medical research and training. They were common in Scotland before 1830. Although the mortsafe's "roof" in McDaniel Street Cemetery has been bent (possibly by someone climbing on it) the original shape is still discernible.



Figure 29. "Mortsafe"-type structure next to the Farmer Cemetery, as it appeared in 2005 (Texas Historical Commission)



Figure 30. A traditional mortsafe in Pennsylvania



RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATIONS

This section presents the information provided by Texas Cemetery Restoration Services (grave markers), Bartlett Tree Experts (trees), and a conceptual plan by White Oak Studio landscape architects (overall site design). It also discusses walls and fences, signage and wayfinding (including interpretative panels), and options for providing visitor information in a central location.

Please note that a conceptual plan does not provide all the information needed for construction; for individual projects, design drawings may also be required. For example, WCA has engaged WOS to provide design drawings for the front fence/wall, parking, and crash barriers. Some projects will not require design drawings; for example, if WCA selects a prefabricated gazebo or engages a wall/fence company to replace the brick wall around the Westcott Cemetery.

GRAVE MARKERS

At some point in 2023, Texas Cemetery Restoration Services will complete resetting and repairing grave markers, and WCA will replace the three markers damaged by the car crash in June 2022.

Tasks remaining include:

- Continue cleaning grave markers, on an as-needed basis.
- Replace missing markers when the decedent is known and the location of their grave can be documented through photographs or the Westcott family marker map.
- Purchase and place small granite markers on all 32 unmarked graves. Markers might be inscribed with “Unknown” (as shown below) or “At Rest”.



Figure 31. Example of a surface marker for a previously unmarked grave

TREES

At some point in the future, Bartlett Tree Experts will remove the remaining trees that are dead or in poor condition. After that, healthy trees should be pruned, monitored, and treated on an as-needed basis.

Tasks remaining include:

- Engage Bartlett Tree Experts to remove five more trees that they have identified as dead or in poor condition.
- Engage Bartlett Tree Experts to prune the remaining trees in the cemetery as needed.
- Work with Bartlett to determine if additional trees should be planted, and if so, what species would be appropriate for desired locations. For example, WCA may wish to plant a row of Eastern red cedar (actually a juniper). This traditional cemetery tree is drought and heat tolerant and can thrive in a variety of soils but not full shade or standing water. Planted as a hedge around the sides of the property, such trees would create a visual screening element to hide adjacent properties.

Different cultivars of Eastern red cedar vary in height, width, and shape, so WCA would benefit from expert assistance in sourcing, selecting, planning for appropriate spacing, planting, establishing, fertilizing, and maintaining such trees.

The cemetery perimeter is about 950 feet. If a tree such as an Eastern red cedar is selected that will mature to be eight feet wide in 15 years, they should be planted 12 feet apart, and WCA would need about 80 trees to line the entire perimeter. At around \$30 for a 1-2 foot tall tree, the nursery stock alone would cost about \$2,600. Volunteers would be needed to plant the trees and water them deeply until they became established (every other day after planting for two weeks, then once a week for several months).

- Work with Bartlett to develop a tree care plan for cemetery caretakers.



Figure 32. Eastern red cedar (*Juniper virginiana*) is a traditional cemetery tree.

LANDSCAPE

White Oak Studio/Kimley Horn was engaged by WCA in summer 2022 to develop a conceptual plan for the cemetery that would include a perimeter fence/wall, walking paths, seating, and plantings that could help to reduce the amount of mowing needed.

Following the incident where a car crashed through the fence and destroyed several grave markers, WCA asked WOS to additionally created design drawings for the front fence/wall that would include some kind of vehicle barrier or deterrent to protect the cemetery from future incursions.

The resulting Conceptual Plan is included here. Like the front fence/wall design, future activities may require design drawings.



Figure 33. Conceptual landscape plan for McDaniel Street Cemetery

WOS has identified the following future work to be undertaken by WCA as funding becomes available:

Demolition

1. Remove existing stumps.
2. Clean up existing weeds and vines on trees.

Earthworks

1. Regrade drainage swale along north side of property.
2. Fill low areas to create a smooth, level surface.
3. Regrade drainage swale along McDaniel Street to provide consistent drainage toward Schuller Road. (Verify location of City right-of-way and obtain permission as needed.)

Hardscape

1. Install flagstone as shown on conceptual plan, after front fence/wall is installed.
2. Install limestone quarry blocks at locations show on conceptual plan, to provide informal seating and serve as vehicle barriers along McDaniel Street and the curve.
3. Install 28 small boulders to indicate the edge of the naturalized area.
4. Install a decomposed granite path as shown on conceptual plan.

Lighting and Electrical

1. Install six solar lights on poles with concrete footing.



Figure 34. Example of solar light



Figure 35. Flagstone pavers installed at ground level



Figure 36. Rendering of the proposed new fence and entry gate with arch at McDaniel Street Cemetery



Figure 37. Another view of the proposed entry gate and fence

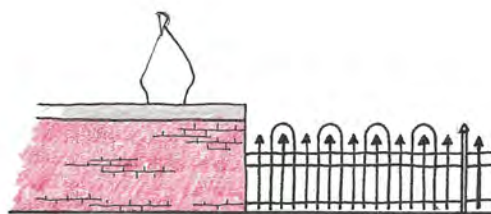


Figure 38. Option for a replacement wall/fence around the Westcott Cemetery, using similar materials in a lower fence. This would include a diagonal "corner cut" at the curve, made of ornamental metal fencing to provide visual access to the Westcott Cemetery.

Planting

1. Install 17 ornamental trees.
2. Prepare ground and sow seeds for a wildflower meadow.
3. Obtain permit from City of Houston for naturalized area.

Furnishings

1. Install three benches and two picnic tables.

Signage

Design and install signs/plaques at entry, including:

1. Historic Texas Cemetery plaque
2. Cemetery hours and contact information

Fences

1. Install an ornamental metal picket fence and vehicle gate across McDaniel Street on south side of property. A fixed pedestrian entry gate will be flanked by brick columns and walls and topped with an ornamental metal arch.
2. Install six-foot black chain link fence around remaining perimeter of cemetery to secure property. Include a pedestrian gate (to remain unlocked) at the southeast corner to provide access to the wooded lot, per City of Houston requirements. Include a vehicle gate at the McDaniel Street "alley".
3. Install hoop wire ornamental fence across the southwest corner of the Westcott Cemetery.



Figure 42. The Historic Texas Cemetery medallion may be used instead of a large historic marker.



Figure 39. Ornamental metal picket fence



Figure 40. Black chain-link fence



Figure 41. Hoop wire ornamental fence

Gazebo

1. Install a metal gazebo as a point of interest to draw the visitor into the cemetery.



Figure 43. Example of a gazebo that would be appropriate for this cemetery

INDIVIDUAL CEMETERY WALLS AND FENCES

Westcott Cemetery

The brick wall around the Westcott Cemetery has deteriorated significantly and needs to be replaced with something that is properly constructed. However, WCA may consider a different design. WCA has received an estimate for rebuilding the fence in a double-wythe (two bricks wide) configuration, which would provide the stability that the original wall lacks. WCA should seek design and cost proposals from companies that construct walls for homeowners associations.

Farmer Cemetery

This wall can and should be repaired, rather than replaced.

Cours, Newton, and Single Plot Fences

We recommend selecting one type of ornamental metal picket fence with gate to replace the chain-link or iron rod/wire fences around these family or individual plots.



Figure 44. Example of fencing around small plot

IMPLEMENTATION GUIDE



IMPLEMENTATION GUIDE

The implementation of projects and activities described in this plan will be relatively straightforward, since very few of them are dependent on each other and most of them can be pursued independently, as funds become available.

PHASE 1

Before any of the more exciting landscaping activities can take place, WCA must prepare the property by completing the following tasks:

- Remove remaining dead trees. (Bartlett quote: \$5,327)
- Remove all stumps. If stumps are not located near a marked or unmarked grave, they can be ground. Otherwise, drill holes and cover them with compost to encourage natural decomposition. (Volunteers, \$0)
- Regrade drainage swale along north side of property to remove the high spot in the middle. (Estimated at \$3,750)
- Conduct boundary survey to establish City right-of-way along McDaniel Street. (Cost TBD)
- Regrade drainage swale along McDaniel Street. (Estimated at \$3,720)
- Fill and grade low spots. (Estimated at \$1,860)

Total investment: \$14,657, not including the boundary survey.

PHASE 2

Once the Priority 1 activities are completed, any of the additional landscaping work may proceed. However, we recommend waiting to install the decomposed granite path until the Westcott wall has been rebuilt. Tasks that could be pursued during this phase, as funds become available, include:

- Install limestone quarry blocks. (Estimate: \$1,860)
- Install 28 small boulders to define naturalized area. (Estimate: \$465 for material; could be installed by volunteers or in-kind donation)
- Install six solar lights on poles with concrete footings. (Estimate: \$3,500 each or \$26,040 total, including installation; could be installed one at a time as funds become available)
- Install 17 ornamental trees. (Estimate: \$3,162 for relatively mature trees; could be installed by volunteers or in-kind donation)
- Prepare ground and broadcast wildflower seeds in naturalized area. (Estimate: \$1,860 for seeds only; prep and seeding could be done by volunteers)

PHASE 2, continued

- Purchase and permanently install two picnic tables. (Estimate: \$500 each or \$1,240 for both, installed)
- Install 6-foot black chain-link fence around perimeter (except McDaniel Street frontage. (Estimate: \$25,098)
- If desired, plant conifers along perimeter fence to screen adjacent properties. (Estimate: \$2,600; could be installed by volunteers)
- Install small granite surface markers inscribed with "At Rest" on each of 32 unmarked graves. (Estimate: \$400 each or \$12,800 total for material and installation; could be done singly or in small batches, based on funding)
- Construct brick wall and columns with ornamental arch at cemetery entrance (Estimate: \$12,400 for brick masonry, \$3,720 for arch, installed; total \$16,120)
- Construct front picket fence and vehicle gate (concurrently or after brick walls/arch are constructed). (Estimate: \$14,880)
- Repair/restore Farmer Cemetery wall. (Estimate: \$30,000)
- Remove existing Westcott Cemetery wall and replace with new wall. (Cost TBD based on selected design; may be as much as \$170,000)
- Purchase and install "feature of interest" (if desired) on east side of cemetery near walking path. (Cost TBD)

Total investment not calculated for this Phase since many costs are yet to be determined.

PHASE 3

Final tasks to be undertaken include:

- Install flagstone at cemetery entrance and around/inside gazebo. (Estimate: \$2,418 for material; could be installed by volunteers or in-kind donation)
- Construction of decomposed granite walking path. (Estimate: \$8,407)
- Purchase and permanently install three benches. (Estimate \$300 each or \$1,116 for all three, installed)
- Add interpretive signs along walking path, if desired (Cost TBD)
- Add signage at front entrance with visitor information. (Cost TBD)

Total investment not calculated for this Phase since many costs are yet to be determined.

**APPENDICES:
REPORTS AND
COST ESTIMATES**

APPENDIX A

TEXAS CEMETERY RESTORATION SERVICES

APPENDIX B

BARTLETT TREE EXPERTS

APPENDIX C
BRICK RESTORATION INC.

APPENDIX D

WHITE OAK STUDIO/KIMLEY HORN

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