

Rick Schroder

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From: Bob Corrigan
Sent: Thursday, May 16, 2024 10:23 AM
To: Rick Schroder
Subject: Polk Cemetery

Good morning Mr. Schroder,

If time and scheduling allow, may I please have a few minutes of the Council time at the next City Council meeting? I'd like to pass on to them what I've learned re: the Constellation of Living Memorials program.

Personally, I am not as excited about the proposal as I was at first. I'll attach a document to another mail for your reference.

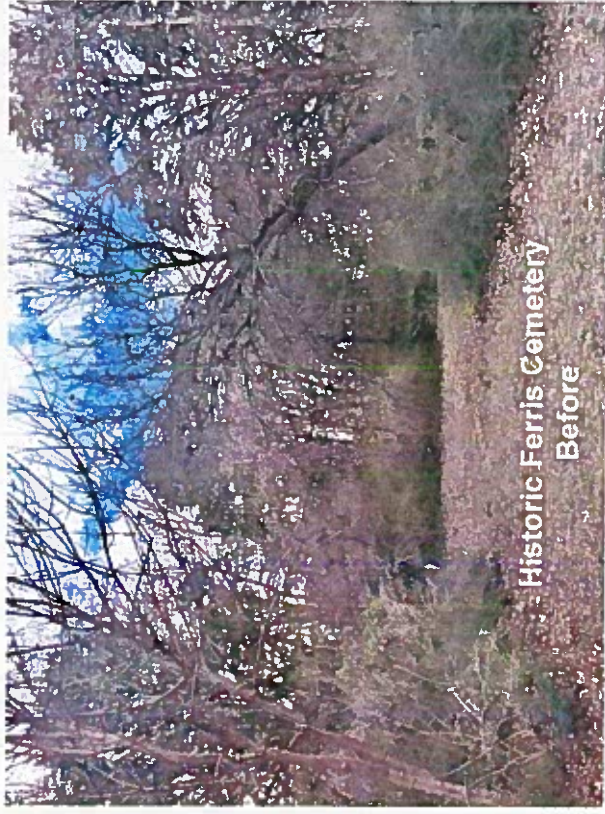
Thank you for your consideration,

Bob Corrigan



A Friends of the Warren Ferris Cemetery Project

"What is the good of your stars and your trees, your sunrise and the wind, if they do not enter into our daily lives?" - E.M. Forster



Historic Ferris Cemetery
Before


Seven-foot privet thicket and mow & blow lawn to dust bowl status



Historic Ferris Cemetery
After

Englemann's daisies delight and invite all into a restored native wildlife habitat

With vision and determination, the historic Warren Ferris cemetery in Dallas was restored and transformed into a native ecosystem to support local and migratory wildlife while **educating local community about the wealth of its authentic natural and cultural history.**



To make the dream bigger, CLM seeks alignment with volunteers, NGOs, corporations and benefactors known and well respected for supporting non-profits that achieve significant improvements to the heritage, natural resources, environment, and cultural diversity of Dallas.

The Friends of the Warren Ferris Cemetery invite you to participate in the Constellation of Living Memorials two-year pilot program.

- Using the Warren Ferris Cemetery success as a model, this program aims to demonstrate how saving historic cemeteries fortifies Dallas's authenticity from invasive, overgrown lands into self-sustaining cultural native habitats bringing these sacred grounds back to life while honoring rich Dallas culture and natural history.
- The goal of the *Constellation of Living Memorials Pilot Program* is to provide further proof of concept, showing that this model can expand greenspaces, enhance climate resiliency, lower the heat island index, repair pollinator populations, address food insecurity, build awareness, and **grow communities through accessibility to their authentic local culture, past and present.**

“As we build bigger cities, we're not aware how much and how fast we're undermining our connection to nature, and more wild nature — the wellspring of our existence.” - Peter Kahn



Oakland Cemetery, Dallas, Tx (photo- Lee West 2024)

PARTNERSHIPS

Cemeteries, typically dominated by non-native grasses, have huge potential to be transformed to act as biodiversity hubs within cities through ecological restoration and the cultivation of native plant species.

The Friends of the Warren Ferris Cemetery did just that and are expanding their concept by creating partnerships with many influential, knowledgeable groups including Preservation Dallas, the Native Plant Society of Texas, Texas Master Naturalists, and modeling Laura Bush's Texan by Nature, to discuss how to implement successful land conservation with a network of historical cemeteries. [Click here for an inspirational video Segment 6](#)

Constellation of Living Memorials

Pilot Program Partners

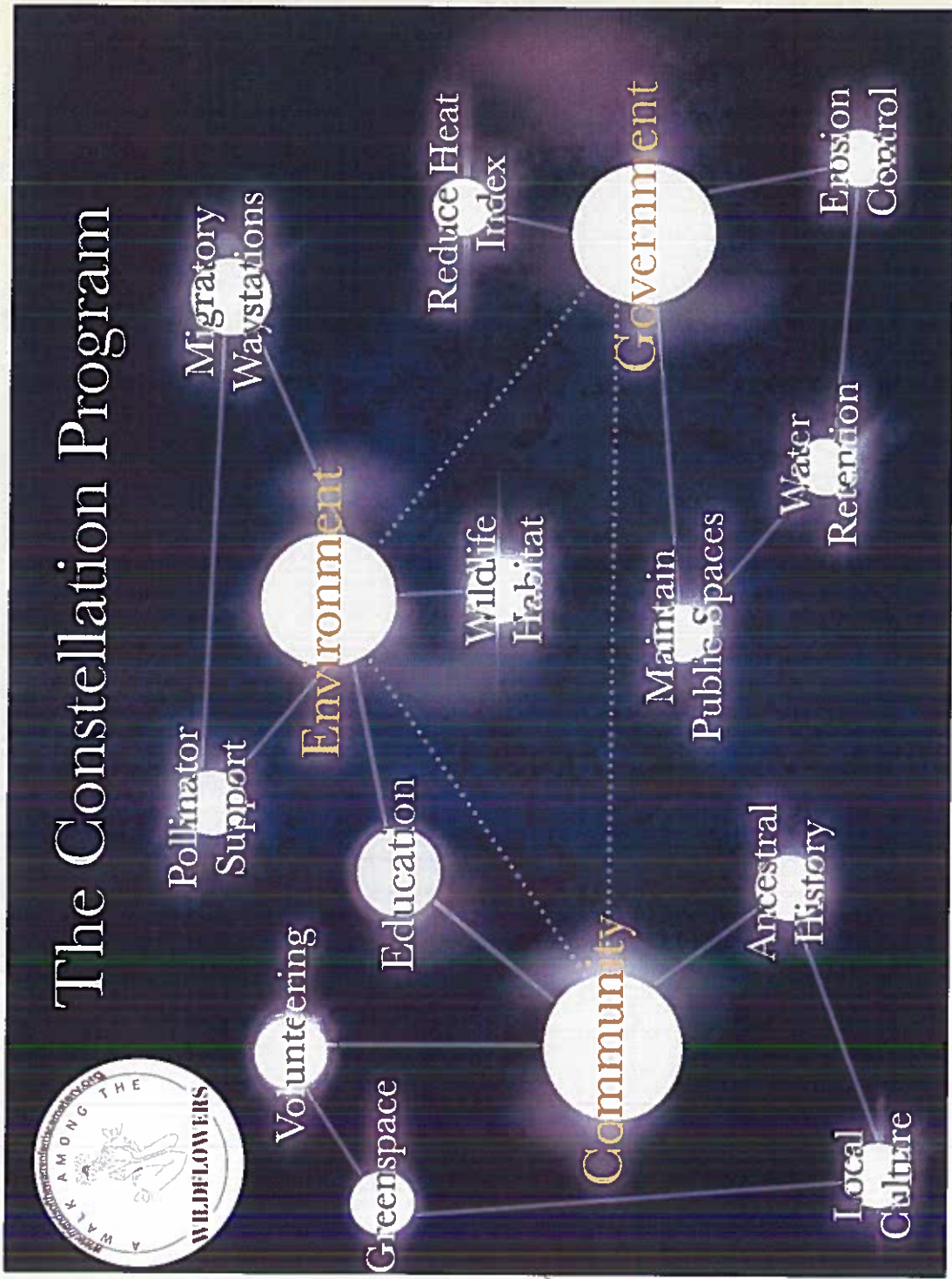
An integrated vision based on access to statewide partners and local resources:

- ◇ [Historic Preservation Dept- City of Dallas](#)
- ◇ [Ordinance Dept – City of Dallas](#)
- ◇ [TX Master Naturalist Program & TX Master Gardeners -Texas A&M AgriLife Extension -- 49 & 89 chapters.storng](#)
- ◇ [Native Plant Society of Texas - 32 chapters.strong](#)
- ◇ [Preservation Dallas](#)
- ◇ [Paul Quinn College Urban Research Initiative](#)
- ◇ [Texan by Nature](#)
- ◇ [EarthX/EarthXCapital](#)
- ◇ [Summerlee Foundation](#)
- ◇ [Texas Society of Professional Surveyors, Dallas Chapter 5](#)
- ◇ [Texas Historical Foundation](#)
- ◇ [Remembering Black Dallas](#)



The Constellation Program

Three Pillars
of the
Constellation
of Living
Memorials



Graphic by Olivia Shaffer

Scientific Support - North Texas Master Naturalists, Dallas Master Gardeners and Texas A&M Agrilife

Texas A&M Agrilife is graciously supporting CLM in the organization and publication of data generated by the CLM citizen scientist volunteers via the North Texas Master Naturalist Project 2024 and Dallas Master Gardeners.



Speaking to the value of Prairies

“You must get the prairie under your skin and under your fingernails, and in the soles of your shoes and between the toes of your feet, before you will begin to understand its power.”

- Matt White, Prairie Time

Constellation of Living Memorials is working on a publication to educate and advocate for policy changes in the management of public landscapes as well as shifting the expectations for residential landscapes, promoting acceptance for these new concepts. This resource could be adopted by Preservation Dallas, the Landmark Commission, and The City of Dallas for educational purposes.

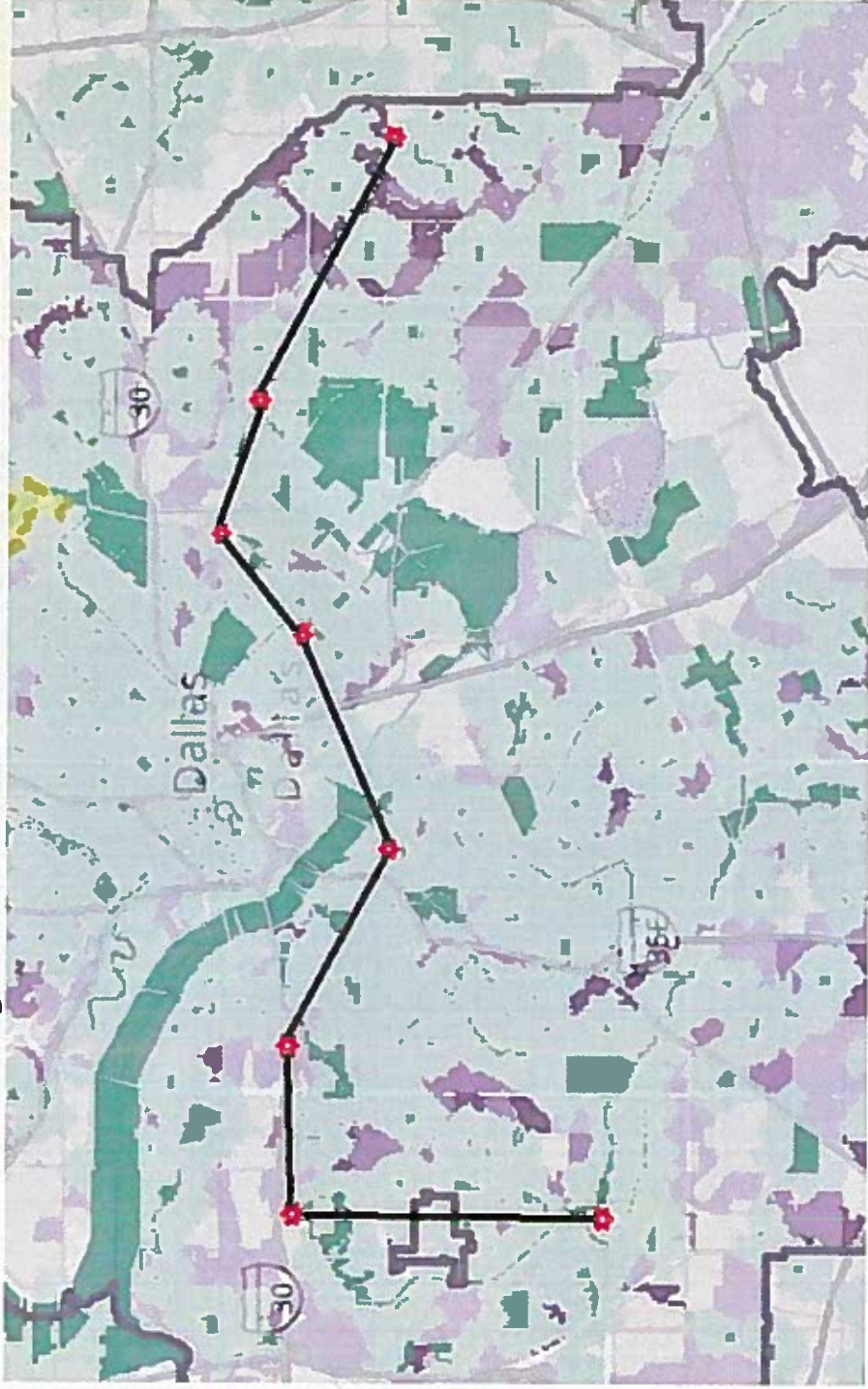


Galveston Cemetery, Tx

[Click here to watch](#)
A Week in the Life of the Constellation of Living Memorials



The historic cemeteries selected for the CLM pilot are within the neighborhoods included on [the master map of Dallas](#) which includes all of the Linear Trails, Nature Trails, Loop Trails, Neighborhood Trails, Preserves and Parks in Dallas.



Purple Areas - Future park development



For your consideration:

The Friends of the Warren Ferris Cemetery invite you to consider facilitating support toward the CLM Two – Year Pilot Project as a first step toward an expanded vision to replicate city then statewide.

Cemetery wildlife sanctuaries will strengthen local economies, create jobs, reverse nature-deficit disorder, and attract visitors from across the state and country.

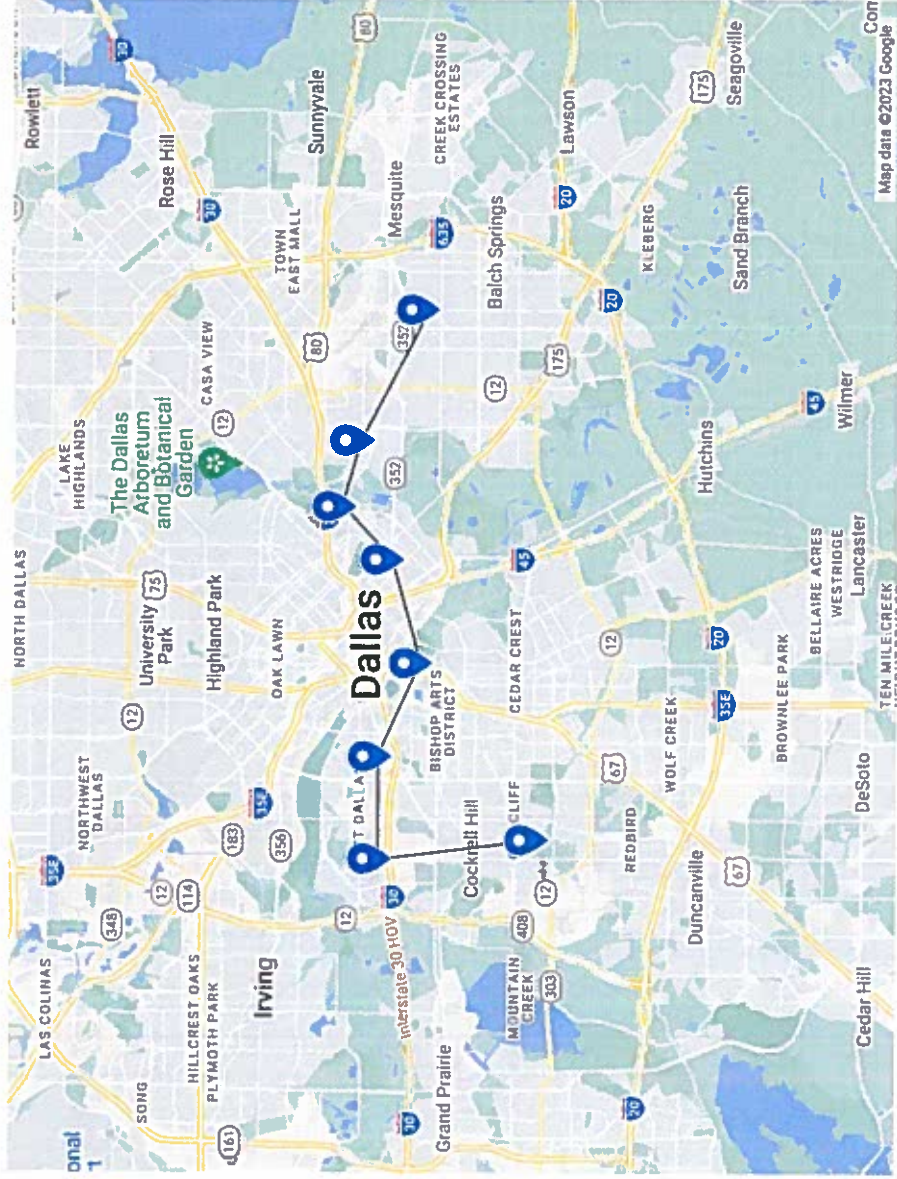
As counties and cities preserve their natural and cultural history, the Constellation of Living Memorials Pilot Program advocates for conservation-based educational opportunities.

On behalf of the Friends of the Warren Ferris Cemetery Board, Thank You.

8 Historic Cemeteries - Constellation of Living Memorials

Final Cemeteries CLM Pijot.xlsx

- 📍 **WW. Glover**
6508 Military Pkwy, Dallas, TX 75227
- 📍 **Santo de Cemento**
4331 Communications Dr
Dallas, TX 75211
- 📍 **Persimmon Rd**
3125 Persimmon Road Dallas, TX 75241
- 📍 **Albert Carver**
10200 Bruton Road Dallas, Texas, 75217
- 📍 **Oakland**
3900 Oakland Cir Dallas, TX 75215
- 📍 **Oak Cliff**
1300 E 8th St, Dallas, TX 75203
- 📍 **Beeman**
4640 Pepper St Dallas, TX 75223
- 📍 **Western Heights**
1617 Fort Worth Ave, Dallas, TX 75208



[Click here](#) to activate the starred pins on this Dallas map for each cemetery's name & address

CONTACT INFORMATION

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www.ConstellationofLivingMemorials.org



**CONSTELLATION OF LIVING MEMORIALS
PROGRAM AGREEMENT**

Cemetery Name: _____
(Hereinafter, the "Cemetery" or Sponsoring Organization)

Cemetery Address: _____

Cemetery Lead Person: _____

I. Parties:

This Agreement, dated _____ is between the Cemetery, or Sponsoring Organization, and the Friends of the Warren Ferris Cemetery ("FWFC").

FWFC is sponsoring the Constellation of Living Memorials Pilot Program ("CLM Program"). Details of the Project to be funded by the Grant are described on **Schedule A**.

II. Commitment by FWFC:

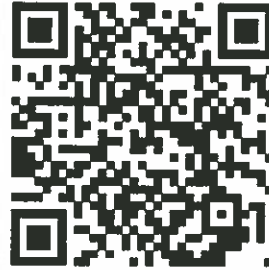
FWFC to provide instruction to each Cemetery on how to engage and empower their community to become a star in the Constellation of Living Memorials, by transforming their Cemetery into a wildlife sanctuary where native plants, butterflies, bees, and other wildlife will thrive, where families and children can learn about our natural environment, and where community can come together to honor their ancestors and Dallas's rich cultural and natural history.

III. Property Restoration & Reporting Responsibilities per Cemetery:

Cemetery shall:

1. Obtain written approval from the property owner. Provide this written approval to the Friends of the Warren Ferris Cemetery Board before any land restoration commences. If ownership of the property is unknown, Cemetery will share title research with FWFC.
2. Commit to faithfully executing the environmental survey protocols, following the instructions set forth in **Schedule B. (not mandatory)**

- a. **Time requirement:** It is estimated that a small team of citizen scientist volunteers should be able to execute the field work portion of the environmental survey protocol requirements in 3 partial days per year. Some additional time to organize the photos and notes may be required but should not be burdensome.
3. Consult the Texas Society of Professional Surveyors for local, pro bono survey assistance defining the cemetery's topography and trees for the selected areas for land restoration.
4. Identify the Cemetery's ecoregion zone as outlined by Texas Parks & Wildlife: <https://tpwd.texas.gov/education/hunter-education/online-course/wildlife-conservation/texas-ecoregions>
5. Create a local constellation community around the Cemetery to bring together neighbors who will volunteer in the landscape restoration process and the execution of the environmental protocols.
6. Create educational materials and plan outreach events to communicate the shared goals of the Cemetery and FWFC's CLM Program. All educational materials produced on-line, or in-print must include: "This Cemetery is a participant in the Constellation of Living



Memorials program." To include CLM's QR code:

7. Cemetery will be added as a new star on the CLM website and will keep a Facebook page to be linked for others to follow and learn from your progress.
8. Develop landscape restoration plans in concert with Cemetery's environmental restoration objectives, documenting the reintroduction plant list, and creating a schedule to estimate timings for new plantings throughout the 2-year period.
9. Landscape restoration plans may include the use of all types of tools and technologies that are deemed to be appropriate for the individual circumstances of the cemeteries. Plant removal methods may include hand pulling or hand tools, large excavation, or cultivation equipment, burning under the direction of the Fire Department, or chemical products such as herbicides used only by a certified professional. During removal of invasive plants, circumstances will vary, and methods should be assessed, considering sensitive areas such as open waterways, depth of water tables, local regulations, proximity to homes or proximity to EPA defined endangered species.
10. Within one month of signing this agreement, define each area of the Cemetery to be restored, both on a map as well as with fixed markers on the ground. Photograph at least three images of each area to be restored. Add these photos to your cemetery's Facebook page. Repeat this photo shoot again during spring, summer and fall of 2024 and 2025.

11. Following Schedule B – Citizen Science Survey Protocols - create plans, collect data and imagery, and provide reports back to FWFC, adhering to the timelines required. These timelines are important to follow in order for all of us to see the beautiful transformation that we will have achieved together. **(not mandatory)**
12. Minimum of 80% of fundraiser monies raised will go towards the purchase of plants or seeds. At least 75% of plant/seed purchases must be native flora. The balance may be used for non-native flora so long as the purchase is for non-invasive, beneficial pollinator flora.
13. A maximum of up to 20% of monies spent may be used for educational signage, materials for educational events, non-motorized gardening tools and garden hoses.
14. No hardscaping but topsoil (if needed), and mulch for pathways may be used. FWFC has advised Cemetery that wood chips can often be delivered free from local tree service companies.
15. All volunteers/Employees /Contractors must refrain from mowing for two years in the areas of restoration, except for pathways to access headstones.

IV. Signage & Fundraising:

1. Constellation of Living Memorials educational signage will be available for your cemetery to download for printing on a metal sign. One sign will include a designation that the Cemetery is a participant of the “Constellation of Living Memorials” to be posted at the entrance of the Cemetery.
2. Cemetery is responsible for its own fundraising and signage and educational materials.
3. For all working and educational events, Cemetery shall require all volunteers and event goers to sign a Liability Release and Model Release Form, including minor forms signed by parent and/or guardian. All first-time volunteers sign a release. Forms will be found in the shared on-line Google CLM group folder or can be obtained by requesting them from FWFC.

V. Cemetery’s Internal Education, Planning and Reporting Commitment:

1. Cemetery shall plan to educate its board and volunteers regarding:
 - a. The difference between pollinator gardens and native ecological restoration for Blackland Prairie and Woodland understory, including the following key take-aways:
 - i. Pollinator gardens are created for adult pollinators.
 - ii. Ecological restoration sites should include habits for overwintering for nesting/hibernation and food source/habitats for larval/pupating phases.

2. Cemetery shall consider employing a combination of both pollinator and ecological restoration sites on at least:
 - 20% planted if over 10 acres
 - 25% planted if 8 to 9.9 acres
 - 30% planted if 6 to 7.9 acres
 - 35% planted if 4 to 5.9 acres
 - 40% planted if 2 to 3.9 acres
 - 45% planted if 1.1 to 1.9 acre
 - 50% planted if 1 acre or less

3. Cemetery shall ensure that an initial comprehensive plant survey to be maintained throughout time on the cemetery's iNaturalist page.

4. Cemetery shall train its volunteers/employees/contractors to never mow in the areas selected for restoration.

- 5.

6. Cemetery shall create a landscape design that promotes plant succession by:
 - a. Selecting flowering plants that bloom in different seasons to create diversity and sustain sustenance for pollinators throughout the year, and
 - b. Selecting plants that address the needs of larval feeding and overwintering habitat.

SIGNED:

By Representative of Cemetery or Sponsoring Organization:

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

By Board Representative of the Friends of the Warren Ferris Cemetery:

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____

Title: _____

Schedule A

Constellation of Living Memorials Project Details

The Constellation of Living Memorials Pilot Program is a program being undertaken by the Friends of the Warren Ferris Cemetery. The Project is designed to preserve and restore historic cemeteries in communities, in part, by restoring overgrown land or cemeteries in-need into self-sustaining native habitats. The goals of the Project are to thereby bring these sacred grounds back to life and honor a city's rich cultural and natural history.

Each participating cemetery, pursuant to the guidelines provided in this Agreement, upon signing, will qualify to be a part of the Project.

Schedule B

Constellation of Living Memorials Citizen Science Survey Protocol (not mandatory)

Preparation

1. Assure that the mapping with markers of each area of the Cemetery to be restored, established Date: _____, are still visible and appropriate.
2. Develop pollinator ID educational tools so that volunteers can broadly identify which insects are pollinators (Orders: Lepidoptera, Hymenoptera, Diptera, some Coleoptera)
3. Cemetery to create its own i-Naturalist page to engage its community in gathering data on flora and fauna to also be found in their section of the CLM website.
4. Hold training events for survey volunteers. Cover materials on use of iNaturalist, broad pollinator ID, and protocol for both floral and pollinator surveys.
5. Create datasheets (observer, date, cemetery site, weather, temperature, relevant data entries for pollinator/plant survey).
6. Photos and notes must be taken to document the scope of the plant populations prior to removal of any exotic plants. Take at least 3 images within each marked restoration area and make detailed notes of plant species, populations, and any other observations.
7. It is important to retain vegetation of cultural significance to burial practices of the past. As a new star in the constellation, your cemetery is to provide educational initiatives to support that these plantings are to be retained.

Photography Documentation Requirements

Photographs will be taken at three time points per year at each restoration area in each Cemetery. An attempt will be made to approximate the aspect, perspective, and time of day as closely as possible for all capture points. (The goal for this will be to create imagery showing the transformation in a smooth flow of pictures. Imagine the 2 years of images being linked together almost in a time-lapse manner.)

Take at least 3 images of each marked restoration area at the following dates:

- Start Date: _____ per main body of this Agreement
- Then quarterly over a two year period
 - First or Second week of October 2024, timed to correspond with the peak of the Monarch butterfly migration - (at same timing as the pollinator and flora survey)

Pollinator (Fauna) Survey

Takes place three times per year: Spring, Summer, Fall at Cemetery for the pre and post-restoration years. Specifically:

- Last week of April
- Second week of July
- First or second week of October

Time of day is important for the pollinator surveys. Try to time the sampling activity for peak insect activity. This may vary with the weather, but is usually mid- morning when it is warm enough for insect activity, but not too hot as insects will seek shelter during hot afternoons. Do not survey on high wind days.

1. Divide the cemetery into manageable patches. Each volunteer oversees one patch per survey to prevent re-sampling.
2. Timed sampling. Volunteers sample within each designated patch to identify pollinators for 1hr.
3. Volunteers record all pollinators they see by photographing and uploading to the Cemetery's iNaturalist project.

4. Volunteers record data for each observation, including:
 1. Pollinator group
 2. Life stage (larvae/pupa/adult)
 3. iNaturalist entry number
 4. iNaturalist ID suggestion
 5. Interaction with plants (y/n)
 1. If (Y) interaction with plants, take picture of stem, flower, and leaves and create iNaturalist entry in project
 2. Plant iNaturalist entry number
 3. Plant iNaturalist ID suggestion
 6. Observation notes

Flora Survey

Takes place three times per year: Spring, Summer, Fall at Cemetery for the pre and post-restoration years. Specifically:

- Last week of April
 - Second week of July
 - First or second week of October
1. Divide the cemetery into manageable patches. Each volunteer oversees one patch per survey to prevent re-sampling.
 2. Timed sampling. Volunteers sample within designated patch to identify all flowering plants for 1hr or until all plants are identified.
 3. Volunteers record all unique plants they see in their patch by photographing and uploading to the Cemetery's iNaturalist project.
 4. Volunteers record data for each observation, including:
 1. iNaturalist entry number
 2. iNaturalist ID suggestion
 3. Number of this plant within patch
 4. Observation notes

Reporting Requirements

Within one month after each of the 3 annual survey events, provide a report back to FWFC. These reports shall include:

- Surveys using i-Naturalist and other similar tools to determine the presence and population density of identified plants and types of insects (primarily pollinators)
- Photographs taken at pre-determined fixed locations
- Successes, failures, and other observations that could improve the pilot's success.

Communicate regularly on the Constellation of Living Memorial Community Facebook page to share tips, data forms, and tricks that your group may have learned!

Friends of the Warren Ferris Cemetery, The Native Plant Society of Texas and The Dallas Pioneer Association partnership introduces

The Constellation of Living Memorials

bringing sacred ground to life

1/3 of 15,000+ Texas Cemeteries are neglected.

Imagine transforming those into native landscapes to expand local habitats and migratory pathways...

...to honor our pioneers and loved ones ... and reconnect to the circle of life.

Know of a neglected historic cemetery in need?

Learn more:
www.friendsofthewarrenferriscemetery.org/projects

TEXAS

Cemetery Locations in Texas

CLM Contact: Julie@juliannfineman.com 213 700-7481