Zoom Webinar Housekeeping

- Trouble with computer audio? Try using your phone instead.
  - 1-346-248-7799  Webinar ID 896 6474 2131
- All attendees are in listen-only mode
- This session is being recorded for later viewing

- Use the **chat box** to
  - Ask for help
  - Make comments during the presentation
  - Share links or tips

- Use the **Q & A box** to
  - Ask the presenters a question
  - We’ll answer them live at the end of the presentation
Disaster Planning & Response in Historic Cemeteries
• The National Park Service (NPS) awarded THC $12.3 million from the Emergency Supplemental Historic Preservation Fund (ESHPF) to address the consequences of Hurricane Harvey on historic properties.

• THC has awarded over $8.3 million in sub-grants to date.
Online Training Series: Disaster Preparedness & Response for Historic Cemeteries

- **Goal:** Provide cemetery caretakers with the knowledge and skills necessary to build greater resiliency to withstand and recover from future disasters
- **Timeline:** Summer 2021 – Summer 2022
- **Project Team:** Lead by Terracon Consultants, Inc.
- **Program:** Six webinars + six stakeholder meetings

Rockport Cemetery, Aransas County
Instructional Webinars

1. Lay of the Land: Cemetery Orientation
2. Cemetery Survey and Data Collection
3. Risk Assessment & Pre-Disaster Planning
4. Immediate Response to Natural Disasters, plus Preservation Funding
5. Post-Disaster Recovery & Restoration
6. People’s Choice!

Stakeholder Meetings

• Highly interactive
• Group discussions
• Feedback opportunities
Webinar Series Introduction and Overview

Stay Up to Date!

www.thc.texas.gov/Harvey-cemeteries
The Lay of the Land: Cemetery Orientation
Disaster Planning and Response in Historic Texas Cemeteries

This material was funded by the Emergency Supplemental Historic Preservation Fund, National Park Service, Department of the Interior. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material do not constitute endorsement or necessarily reflect the views of the Department of the Interior or U.S. Government.
• Broad overview of the characteristics of a historic Texas cemetery
  • Recognize physical components of a cemetery.
  • Understand and convey the historic significance of cemeteries.
  • Recognize common funerary practices and cultural traditions.
  • Understand the importance of community engagement
  • Understand safety concerns and legal framework surrounding cemetery ownership, care, and access.

Kirby Cemetery (aka Peaceful Rest), Hardin County
Grave vs. Memorial

• Grave – where the interred is laid to rest

• Memorial – the physical marker of the grave
Cemetery Components

- Grave
- Crypt
- Vault

*Crypts in a mausoleum and above grade vaults at Broadway Cemetery, Galveston County*
Cemetery Components

- Grave
- Crypt
- Vault
- Mausoleum

Mausolea in Broadway Cemetery
Cemetery Components

- Grave
- Crypt
- Vault
- Mausoleum
- Columbarium

*Columbarium niche (top left), Prosperine Lawn Cemetery (top right), Arlington National Cemetery (bottom)*
Common Features

• Fence
• Road
• Curb
• Wall
• Path
• Gate
• Bench
• Lighting
• Landscaping

Wallisville Cemetery gates; Broadway Cemetery caretaker’s building; Lamar Cemetery gates and bell tower
Active or Inactive?

Active vs. Inactive

- **Active**: current burials and internments
- **Inactive**: no longer have burials and internments
  - Many historic cemeteries fall in this category
- Cemeteries can have both active and inactive sections

Wallisville Cemetery, stakes and flagging tape are marking areas for new plots/burials
"Abandoned cemetery’ means a cemetery, regardless of whether it appears on a map or in deed records, that is not owned or operated by a cemetery organization, does not have another person legally responsible for its care, and is not maintained by a person.”

Abandoned or Unknown?

Abel Ranch Cemetery, Hays County
Organically Developed vs. Planned

Organically Developed

- Impromptu cemeteries
  - Enslaved burials
  - Battlefield
  - Early settlers

Crawford-Smith Rock Cairns, Presidio County
Organically Developed vs. Planned

Planned Cemeteries

- Religious cemeteries
- Plotted cemeteries
  - Laid out chronologically
  - Laid out by family plot

Broadway Cemetery, Galveston County
Organically Developed vs. Planned

Rural Cemetery Movement

- Late nineteenth century
- Caused by overcrowding of urban and church cemeteries and public health concerns
- Romanticized cemetery based on English landscape gardening
- Commonly used as parks

Glenwood Terrace Cemetery, Harris County
Organically Developed vs. Planned

• Remember: Historic cemeteries change over time and may have been poorly marked originally. This can make determining the original layout difficult.

• Lost or deteriorated markers make determining patterns difficult.

Broadway Cemetery, Episcopal Section, Galveston
Ground level raised in late 19th century resulting in a partially covered doorway.
Grave Marker Types

• Unmarked
Grave Marker Types

• Unmarked
• Temporary

Temporary marker at Stick Cemetery, Brazos County
Temporary markers at Orchard Cemetery, Fort Bend County
Grave Marker Types

- Unmarked
- Temporary
- Permanent

Broadway Cemetery, Galveston
Grave Marker Types

- Unmarked
- Temporary
- Permanent
  - Single element
  - Multiple element
  - Structure

Broadway Cemetery, Galveston
Marker Materials

- Marble
Marker Materials

- Marble
- Limestone

*Limestone marker, Tivydale Cemetery, Gillespie County*
Marker Materials

- Marble
- Limestone
- Sandstone

*Brownstone (sandstone) Broadway Cemetery, detail*
Marker Materials

- Marble
- Limestone
- Sandstone
- Granite

Granite resources at Broadway Cemetery
Marker Materials

- Marble
- Limestone
- Sandstone
- Granite
- Metal

Cast iron at St. Dominic Cemetery, Medina County
Zinc at Broadway Cemetery, Galveston
Marker Materials

- Marble
- Limestone
- Sandstone
- Granite
- Metal
- Brick
Marker Materials

- Marble
- Limestone
- Sandstone
- Granite
- Metal
- Brick
- Concrete

*Brick and concrete mausoleum, Broadway Cemetery, Galveston*
Marker Materials

- Marble
- Limestone
- Sandstone
- Granite
- Metals
- Brick
- Concrete
- Wood

Wooden cross at Wallisville Cemetery (top right); Petrified wood marker at Oddfellows Cemetery – Grimes County (right); Painted wood cradles at Trinity Lutheran Church Cemetery – Colorado County (bottom right)
Cemeteries are Diverse

Merry Cemetery, Sapanta, Maramures, Romania

Old Jewish Cemetery in Josefov, Prague
Texas Cemeteries are Diverse

Comfort Cemetery

Concordia Cemetery, Chinese Section

San Antonio de Padua Cemetery, Aransas County
Why are cemeteries significant?

- Historical Significance
- Cultural Significance
- Cemeteries are significant for the data they contain: physical remains, cultural practices, and historical and genealogical information

*Sisterdale Oak, Kendall County*
**Grave offering**: any item sacrificed or donated at a grave

- **Durable** and visible (e.g. shells, jewelry, coins)
- **Ephemeral** (e.g. wine or beer poured into the ground)
- Anywhere in between (e.g. flowers)
African American traditions

- Bowls
- Plates
- Shells
- Bottles
- Vases/pitchers

Abel Ranch Cemetery, Hays County
Hispanic traditions

- Nichos
- Relicaritos
- Decansos
- Candles
- Food
- Personal items
- Fresh and paper flowers
- Coronas (silk flower wreaths)
- Cascarones (confetti eggs)

Nicho at Guadalupe Cemetery, Caldwell County
Cultural Practices in Cemeteries

Jewish traditions
- Stones on burial markers
- Hebrew text
- Kohanim/Cohanim Hands

Broadway Cemetery, Galveston
Vegetation

- Planned landscape
- Planned commemoration
- Natural (volunteer or invasive)

Broadway Cemetery, Galveston

St. Mary Cemetery, Frio County
Other Cultural Practices

- Use of iconography
- Associations

Broadway Cemetery, Galveston
Common Disaster Planning Threads

- Community engagement
- Safety considerations
- Funding

Kennard Cemetery, Grimes County
Community Engagement

- Remember: every community is unique, and every cemetery is unique; therefore, funding varies dramatically.
- Funding can be difficult to obtain, but funding events help build community support and interest.
- Understand the cemetery and its significance to identify potential stakeholders and investors.
Examples of Community Engagement

- Themed tours
- Movies in the cemetery
- Book club
- Exercise events
- Car and hearse shows
- Paranormal investigations
- Open air markets
Safety Considerations

• Know your surroundings.

• Know the potential hazards.

• Know the legal framework.

Lamar Cemetery, Lamar
The Lay of the Land:
Cemetery Orientation

Site safety considerations

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SAFETY BAG CHECKLIST

• Permission to Enter
• Hard hat
• Work boots
• High visibility clothing/safety vest
• First aid kit
• Sunblock
• Bug spray
• Safety goggles
• Work gloves
• Mobile phone
ARRIVAL CONSIDERATIONS

- Consider road conditions
- Park on roadway or designated parking area
- Consider impact of natural disaster and identify potential hazards
  - Standing water
  - Debris
  - Damaged trees
  - Utility infrastructure
ASSESSING POTENTIAL HAZARDS WITHIN CEMETERY

- Human interaction
- Animal presence
- Vegetative concerns
- Trip hazards
- Tree hazards
- Other environmental factors
  - Sun
  - Rain
  - Heat
  - Cold
Legal Framework

• Be respectful of listed visitation hours and/or rules of the cemetery

• Obtain permission to enter/work in cemetery

• Be respectful of ongoing funeral services

Hallettsville Memorial Park
Legal Framework

• Know the appropriate legislation.
  • Archaeological Resource Protection Act of 1979 (ARPA)
  • Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 (NAGPRA)
• Know the city, county, and state regulatory rules.
• Know who is responsible and who to contact.
Build a network of contacts

- Texas Historical Commission
- County Historical Commissions
- County coroner/funerary professionals
- Local archeologists
- Conservators
- Landscape architects
- Other interested parties (professional organizations, consultants, hazmat contractors, etc)
Conclusions

• Know your legal framework and what role you serve in the cemetery.

Hallettsville Memorial Park
Conclusions

• Know your legal framework and what role you serve in the cemetery.

• Create a network of contacts who have interest in the cemetery.
Conclusions

- Know your legal framework and what role you serve in the cemetery.

- Create a network of contacts who have interest in the cemetery.

- Each cemetery is unique and has its own history, forms, resources, and features which make it significant.
Conclusions

• Understanding the cemetery, its components, significance, cultures/history of those interred, and hazards will help you identify stakeholders, plan for future action, and identify/acquire funding.

Lee St Joseph, Image courtesy of THC
Conclusions

• Understand the cemetery prior to a disaster event to better care for the cemetery in the wake of the event(s).
Handouts provided

We would like to thank the following individuals for meeting with our project team and allowing us to film and photograph cemeteries under their care.

• Barbara Sanderson, Director of Parks and Recreation, Galveston
• Brenda Holub, Orchard Cemetery
• Doug Kubicek, Chair of the Lavaca County Historical Commission
• Nancy Smith, Restland Memory Park
• Sandra Bridges, Lamar Cemetery
• Sheryl Shaw, Chair of the Chambers County Historical Commission
Thank you!

Questions?

Next time… Cemetery Survey and Data Collection
Disaster Planning and Response in Historic Texas Cemeteries