


TEXAS
HISTORICAL
COMMISSION
REAL PLACES TELLING REAL STORIES

CHCs and Historic Cemeteries: A Framework for Preservation


Introduction to the Framework

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Introduction


www.thc.texas.gov/chc-cemeteries


- What is the framework?
- Who is the framework for?
- How should you use the framework training modules?
- Where do we find it?



Collin CHC at Smith Cemetery, HTC 2022

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CHC Annual Reports – Cemetery Activities

Maintain an inventory of cemeteries	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Assess the condition of cemeteries	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Provide an inventory of cemeteries for public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Clean or repair objects in cemeteries	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Maintain an inventory of cemetery orgs.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
Partner with cemetery organizations	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	

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Key Findings: Common Challenges

- Lack of maintenance (or best practices)
- Not enough people (who care or to do work)
- Not enough money
- No cemetery trustee (no one's in charge)
- Difficult to access cemeteries on private property

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Key Findings: Cemetery Activities

<p><u>What = Successful Preservation:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain a list of cemeteries in county • Locate and document abandoned cemeteries • Monitor conditions and threats • Maintain accurate burial records • Obtain accurate GPS coordinates 	<p><u>CHCs Report Doing This:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Maintain a list of cemeteries in county • Locate and document abandoned cemeteries • Monitor conditions and threats • HTC Markers & Designations • Work w/ city, county, law officials to enforce laws
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Key Findings: Inventory

Keep it safe and accessible!

Make good use of it!

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A Suggested Framework for County-Wide Cemetery Preservation

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    graph TD
      A[Identify all cemeteries in county.] --> B[Determine who is working with each cemetery.]
      A --> C[Determine what each cemetery needs.]
      B --> D[Determine how the CHC can help preserve the cemetery itself or help others preserve the cemetery. Take action accordingly.]
      C --> D
  
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A Suggested Framework for County-Wide Cemetery Preservation

IDENTIFICATION & ASSESSMENT

- Foundation for any type of preservation plan
- Boosts efficiency, effectiveness
- Promotes responsible use of resources
- Emphasizes county-wide approach
- Aligns with CHC's statutory assignments (Local Gov't Code Chapter 318)




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A Suggested Framework for County-Wide Cemetery Preservation

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- Module 1: Identify
- Module 2: Connect
- Module 3: Assess
- Module 4: Cultivate



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