

# City of Waco Cemeteries

## August 4, 2020

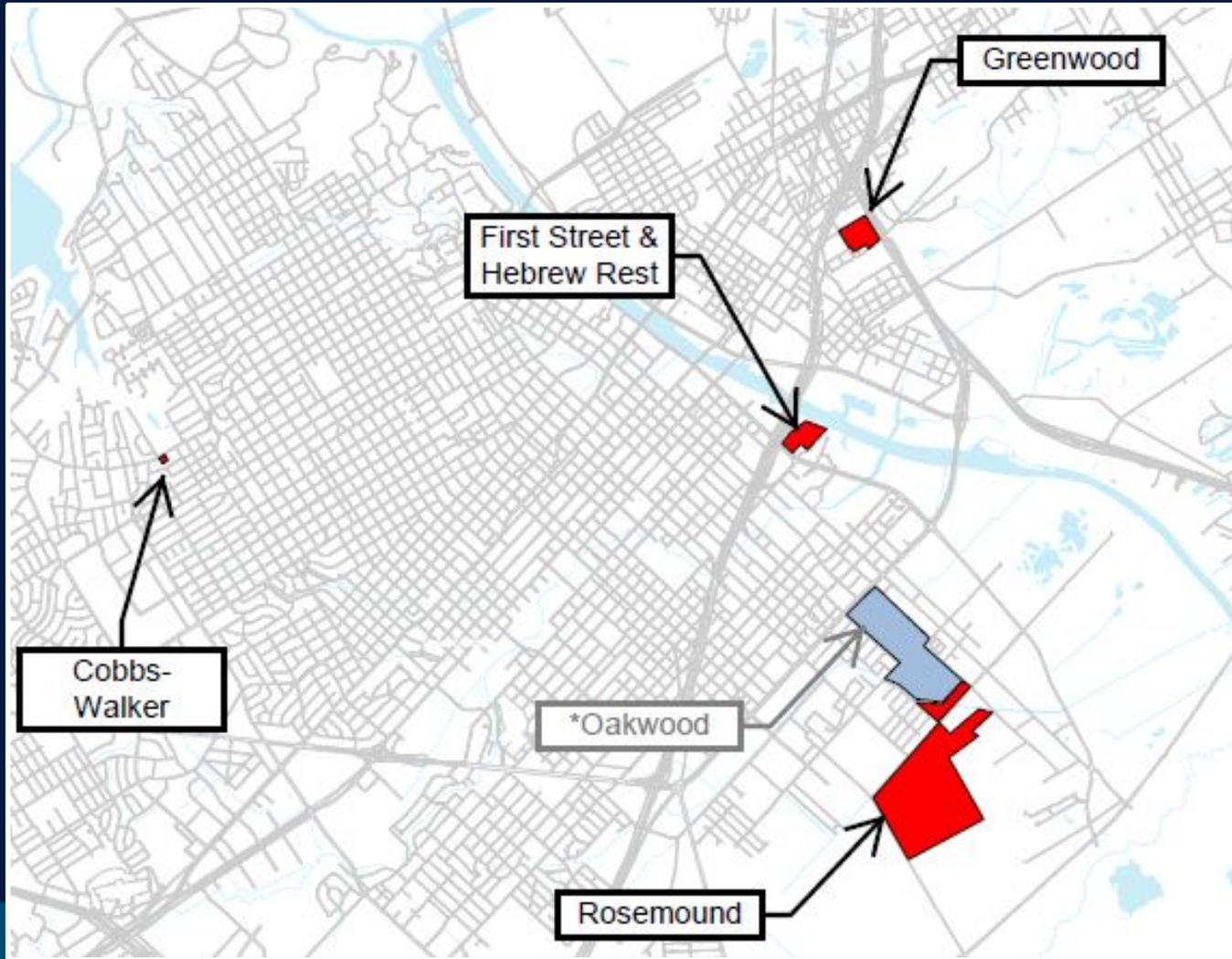


# Presentation Overview

- Relationship of Parks and Cemeteries
- Management of Cemeteries
  - Cobbs-Walker Cemetery
  - First Street Cemetery
  - Hebrew Rest Cemetery
  - Rosemound Cemetery
  - Garden of Memories
  - Greenwood Cemetery



# City of Waco Cemeteries



# The Cemetery and Park Connection

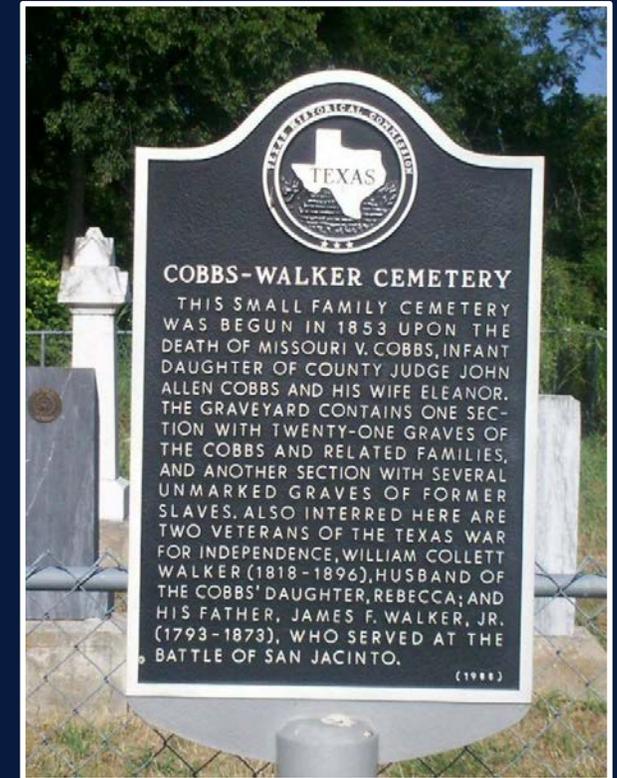
*A place where life meets death, nature meets city, present meets past.*

- Cemeteries were some of the first public parks in America
- Garden Cemeteries were known for elaborate monuments and memorials in a landscaped park-like setting
- Before the widespread development of public parks, these areas offered outdoor recreation amidst art and sculpture
- As green space becomes limited, cemeteries are now being revived as communal spaces where visitors can enjoy recreation and history



# Cobbs-Walker Cemetery

- Small family cemetery created in 1853
- Located along residential area of Hillcrest Drive
- Unique historical significance as it includes section of unmarked graves of former slaves, along with graves of two veterans of the Texas War for Independence and one veteran from the Battle of San Jacinto



# First Street and Hebrew Rest Cemetery



## First Street Cemetery

- Established in 1852, First Street Cemetery is the oldest public cemetery in Waco
- Included on the National Register of Historic Places by the Department of the Interior and by the Texas Historical Commission. Also designated as a Historic Texas Cemetery and as a State Antiquities Landmark by the Texas Historical Commission

## Hebrew Rest Cemetery

- Established in 1869, Hebrew Rest exemplifies Waco's Jewish heritage. Property additions were made in 1893 and 1922, and cemetery includes more than 3,500 burials



# Rosemound Cemetery

- Approximately 200 acres were purchased in 1917 and Rosemound was plotted out in 1923
- This active cemetery is the resting place for more than 18,000 individuals
- Rosemound includes: War Veterans Section, Babyland and Cremation Garden
- Rosemound also features the historic Garden of Memories, which was established in 1929.



# Rosemound Cemetery Partnership



- In 2012, agreement established with the Oakwood Cemetery Association to improve the efficiency and viability of the cemetery
- Current agreement states that association will provide management, operation and maintenance services until July 2022
- City contributes \$166,500 annually and oversees the Rosemound Endowment Fund
- Needed improvement projects: fencing, roadways, and restrooms



# Greenwood Cemetery

*For 120 years, Greenwood Cemetery has stood as a final resting place for many Wacoans and is an historic landmark for Waco history.*



# Greenwood Cemetery

- Burials at Greenwood date back as far as 1875 and include some of Waco's most notable African American citizens such as the great Broadway singer Jules Bledsoe, accomplished professor Dr. Vivienne Lucille Malone-Mayes, and baseball Hall of Famer Andrew Lewis Cooper
- City assumed full control of cemetery in 2014 in an effort to preserve and protect
- Current improvement project features new perimeter fencing, ornate entranceways and signage



*Every cemetery  
has a story to tell,  
and it is our  
mission to protect  
and preserve the  
beauty and  
tranquility of  
these parks*

