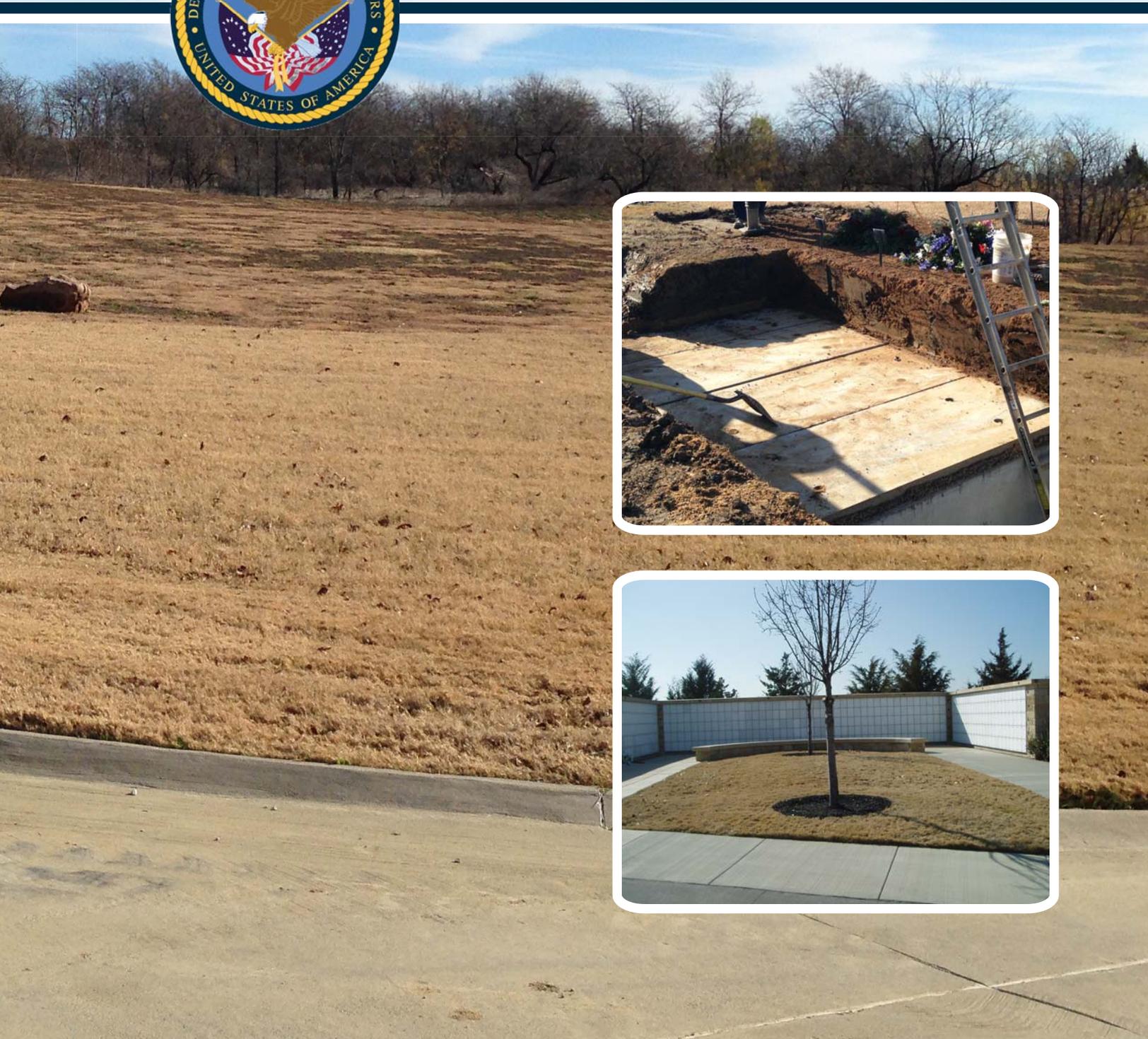


FINAL

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE
PROPOSED GRAVESITE EXPANSION AND IMPROVEMENTS
AT THE
DALLAS-FORT WORTH NATIONAL CEMETERY
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**

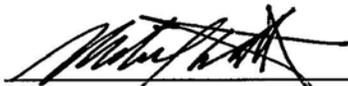
MAY 2015



**FINAL
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
(FONSI)**

**Department of Veterans Affairs
Proposed Gravesite Expansion and Improvements
at the
Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery**

May 2015



Michael Roth, Director
Design and Construction Services
National Cemetery Administration

6/4/15
Date

BACKGROUND

Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) National Cemetery was established in 2000 under the Veterans' Benefits Improvement and Health Care Authorization Act of 1986 (Public Law [PL] 99-576) and is managed by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The cemetery is situated on a 638.5-acre parcel of land that overlooks picturesque Mountain Creek Lake. The gently rolling hills provide a pastoral setting for visitors as they proceed along the central boulevard to the small lake adjacent to the assembly area and committal shelters. The cemetery is being developed in phases; these phases are in approximately 10-year increments, depending upon the burial rate and subsequent quantities of interments. The first phase was opened with the development of approximately 110 acres providing capacity of approximately 10 years worth of traditional gravesites and columbaria niches. As of the end of Fiscal Year 2014, there have been a total of 43,871 interments, leaving 8,660 crypts, 2,090 traditional gravesites, and 2,408 columbaria niches as the remaining burial capacity. Because of the high number of veterans and their eligible spouses and dependents living in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex, as well as nearly 3,900 services per year, the cemetery will reach its current columbaria niche capacity within 3 years and crypt capacity in 5 years. Consequently, the VA is planning the third gravesite expansion phase for DFW National Cemetery.

The VA proposes to expand its capacity of crypts and columbaria to meet the growing demand at DFW National Cemetery and ensure that no break in service to the veteran community occurs. New sites would be developed for the crypts and columbaria, and four burial sections that were originally shown on DFW National Cemetery master plan to be developed as traditional casket sections are now being proposed to be converted into preplaced crypt casket sections. Other improvements and repairs include drainage and pavement repairs, expansion of the parking area near the Administration Building, and construction of an ossuary and memorial wall.

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to comply with the VA mission to provide interment services to U.S. veterans and their families. The need is to ensure a sufficient capacity of various types of interment sites beyond 2017 and to properly repair and maintain the existing infrastructure of DFW National Cemetery.

An Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared and advertised for purposes of soliciting public input. The EA is provided here as part of this combined EA/FONSI.

SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSED ACTION

The Proposed Action would implement the proposed improvements, repairs, and burial sections and columbarium expansion at DFW National Cemetery. Specifically, the expansion items include the conversion of existing burial Sections 1 through 4 along Texas Boulevard, which were initially designated by DFW National Cemetery master plan to be traditional burial sites, to pre-placed crypts; development of Section 84 (between Sections 23 and 86) near the intersection of Texas Boulevard and Trinity Way for pre-placed crypts; construction of a columbaria site, an ossuary and memorial wall, and an access road behind Sections 99 and 101; and a new parking area at the Administration Building. These improvements would provide an additional 7,000 pre-placed burial crypts and 5,000 columbaria niches. The project also includes the relocation of existing irrigation lines, utilities, hydrants, and the "Avenue of Flags" special event flagpole locations; the addition of pull-off lanes along Texas Boulevard adjacent to Sections 1 through 4; new turf and landscaping; and the establishment of a permanent soil stockpile area. A temporary construction road would be established south of Sections 1 through

4 to prevent construction vehicles from blocking the main cemetery entrance, and an existing construction staging area would be utilized for staging.

The repair and maintenance actions would all be to or within the existing infrastructure and would include the following:

1. Repair of 3,000 feet of drainage behind retaining wall at Committal Shelter A
2. Repair of 1,000 feet of drainage behind retaining wall at Committal Shelter B
3. Replacement of pavers with concrete (due to mortar failure at joints throughout) with exposed aggregate concrete at Committal Shelters A and B
4. Tuck point and caulking, as necessary, along sidewalks, bridges, shelters, and retaining wall
5. Walkway settlement repairs on the stone bridge at the existing pond
6. Stormwater drainage corrections around the Administration Building
7. Replacement of the emergency eye wash station water supply
8. Stormwater drainage corrections in the maintenance yard area

The improvements would all be within lands currently managed by the VA; no additional land acquisition is required.

ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

No Action Alternative: Under the No Action Alternative, the improvements or new construction would not be implemented. DFW National Cemetery currently has approximately 500 acres in undeveloped land and 140 acres that are developed. The current gravesite usage (for casketed, in-ground remains and columbaria niches) is approximately 3,900 annually. DFW National Cemetery has 8,660 remaining pre-placed crypts and 2,408 remaining columbaria niches. Once these sites are utilized, the Dallas-Fort Worth veteran population would no longer have reasonable access to burial options within a VA cemetery. In addition, the existing infrastructure is in various states of needed repair or improvements. Without such repairs, the infrastructure could fail or incur significant damage, and there could be increased safety risks.

Implement Repairs Only: Under this alternative, the gravesite expansion and other improvements (e.g., ossuary and memorial wall) would not be constructed. However, the eight repair and maintenance items identified above would be implemented. These actions would typically be authorized under the VA's Categorical Exclusions (38 Code of Federal Regulations 26) and would not have a measurable effect on the natural or human environments. This alternative does not entirely meet the purpose and need.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

Implementation of the Proposed Action would have no or negligible impacts on the natural and human environments such as wildlife habitat or water quality. No impacts on cultural resources, wetlands, or threatened or endangered species would occur. All applicable state and Federal permits would be obtained prior to site preparation activities. Best Management Practices would be utilized during construction to prevent fugitive dust and erosion. All clearing of vegetation would be done outside of the nesting season, or nesting bird surveys would be carried out prior to site preparation and any active nests would be protected until the young have fledged. Minor, temporary socioeconomic benefits could occur as a result of construction activities.

FINAL

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE
PROPOSED GRAVESITE EXPANSION AND IMPROVEMENTS
AT THE
DALLAS-FORT WORTH NATIONAL CEMETERY
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS**



May 2015

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Introduction

Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) National Cemetery was established in 2000 under the Veterans' Benefits Improvement and Health Care Authorization Act of 1986 (Public Law [PL] 99-576) and is managed by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The cemetery is situated on a 638.5-acre parcel of land that overlooks picturesque Mountain Creek Lake. The gently rolling hills provide a pastoral setting for visitors as they proceed along the central boulevard to the small lake adjacent to the assembly area and committal shelters. The cemetery is to be developed in phases; these phases are anticipated to be in 10-year increments, depending upon the burial rate and subsequent quantities of interments. The first phase was opened with the development of approximately 110 acres providing capacity of approximately 10 years' worth of traditional gravesites and columbaria niches. By the end of Fiscal Year 2014, there have been a total of 43,871 interments, leaving 8,660 crypts, 2,090 traditional gravesites, and 2,408 columbaria niches as the remaining burial capacity. Because of the high number of veterans and their eligible spouses and dependents living in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex, as well as nearly 3,900 services per year, the cemetery will reach its current columbaria niche capacity within 3 years and crypt capacity in 5 years. Consequently, the VA is currently planning the third gravesite expansion phase for DFW National Cemetery.

The VA proposes to expand its capacity of crypts and columbaria to meet the growing demand at DFW National Cemetery and ensure that no break in service to the veteran community occurs. New sites would be developed for the crypts and columbaria, and four burial sections that were originally shown on DFW National Cemetery master plan to be developed as traditional casket sections are now being proposed to be converted into preplaced crypt casket sections. Other improvements and repairs include drainage and pavement repairs, expansion of the parking area near the Administration Building, and construction of an ossuary and memorial wall.

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to comply with the VA mission to provide interment services to U.S. veterans and their families. The need is to ensure a sufficient capacity of various types of interment sites beyond 2017, and to properly repair and maintain the existing infrastructure of DFW National Cemetery.

Proposed Action

The Proposed Action is to implement the proposed improvements, repairs, and burial sections and columbarium expansion at DFW National Cemetery. Specifically, the expansion items would include conversion of existing burial Sections 1 through 4 along Texas Boulevard which were initially designated by DFW National Cemetery master plan to be traditional burial sites to pre-placed crypts; development of Section 84 (between Sections 23 and 86) near the intersection of Texas Boulevard and Trinity Way for pre-placed crypts; construction of a columbaria site, an ossuary and memorial wall, and an access road behind Sections 99 and 101; and a new parking area at the Administration Building. These improvements will provide an additional 7,000 pre-placed burial crypts and 5,000 columbaria niches. As mentioned above, Sections 1 through 4 were developed in the previous gravesite expansion as traditional burial sites, as shown on DFW National Cemetery master plan. The proposed location for the new columbaria, Section 84, the ossuary and memorial wall, and the proposed parking lot were not previously shown to be developed on DFW master plan, but are presently maintained as part of the routine turf maintenance. The proposed soil stockpile area would be located within a non-

disturbed, native plant community. The project would include the relocation of existing irrigation lines, utilities and hydrants, and the "Avenue of Flags" special event flagpole locations; the addition of pull-off lanes along Texas Boulevard adjacent to Sections 1 through 4; new turf and landscaping; and the establishment of a permanent soil stockpile area. A temporary construction road would be established south of Sections 1 through 4 to prevent construction vehicles from blocking the main cemetery entrance, and an existing construction staging area would be utilized for staging.

The repair and maintenance actions would all be to or within the existing infrastructure and would include the following:

1. Repair of 3,000 feet drainage behind retaining wall at Committal Shelter A
2. Repair of 1,000 feet of drainage behind retaining wall at Committal Shelter B
3. Replacement of pavers with concrete (due to mortar failure at joints throughout) with exposed aggregate concrete at Committal Shelters A and B
4. Tuck point and caulking, as necessary, along sidewalks, bridges, shelters, and retaining wall
5. Walkway settlement repairs on the stone bridge at the existing pond
6. Stormwater drainage corrections around Administrative Building
7. Replacement of Emergency Eye Wash Station water supply
8. Stormwater drainage corrections in maintenance yard area

Construction is currently planned to be initiated in late 2015 and is estimated to require 610 days to complete (around March 2017). These activities are planned to provide 5 years of burial expansion. The improvements will all be within lands currently managed by the VA; no additional land acquisition is required.

Alternatives Considered

No Action Alternative: Under the No Action Alternative, the improvements or new construction would not be implemented. DFW National Cemetery currently has nearly 500 acres in undeveloped land and 140 acres that are developed. The current gravesite usage (for casketed, in-ground remains and columbaria niches) is approximately 3,900 annually. DFW National Cemetery has 8,660 remaining pre-placed crypts and 2,408 remaining columbaria niches. Once these sites are utilized, the Dallas-Fort Worth veteran population would no longer have reasonable access to burial options within a VA cemetery.

In addition, the existing infrastructure is in various states of needed repair or improvements. Without such repairs, the infrastructure could fail or incur significant damage, and there could be increased safety risks.

Implement Repairs Only: Under this alternative, the gravesite expansion and other improvements (e.g., ossuary and memorial wall) would not be constructed. However, the eight repair and maintenance items identified above would be implemented. These actions would typically be authorized under the VA's Categorical Exclusions (38 Code of Federal Regulations 26) and would not have a measurable effect on the natural or human environments. This alternative does not entirely meet the purpose and need.

Environmental Consequences

Implementation of the Proposed Action would have negligible impacts on the natural and human environments. All applicable state and Federal permits would be obtained prior to site preparation activities. Best Management Practices would be utilized during construction to prevent fugitive dust and erosion. All clearing of vegetation would be done outside of the nesting season, or nesting bird surveys would be carried out prior to site preparation and any active nests would be protected until the young have fledged.

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SECTION 1.0
INTRODUCTION



1.0 INTRODUCTION

Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) National Cemetery was established in 2000 under the Veterans' Benefits Improvement and Health Care Authorization Act of 1986 (Public Law [PL] 99-576) and is managed by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Fort Worth District, acting on behalf of the VA, has prepared this Environmental Assessment (EA) for proposed gravesite expansion and improvements at DFW National Cemetery, Dallas County, Texas (Figure 1-1). This EA has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (PL 91-190), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations, and the VA's NEPA implementation regulations, as promulgated at 38 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 26. NEPA is a Federal environmental law establishing procedural requirements for all Federal agency actions and directs the VA to disclose the environmental effects of its proposed activities to the public and to the officials who must make decisions regarding the Proposed Action.

1.1 Background

The VA (formerly known as the Veterans Administration) has the responsibility to provide programs for veterans' health and medical needs, disability compensation, insurance for service persons and veterans, vocational rehabilitation for disabled veterans, and burial benefits. In 1973, the operation/maintenance of the National Cemetery Administration (NCA) (formerly known as National Cemetery System) was transferred to the VA from the Department of the Army (except for Arlington National Cemetery and Soldier's Home National Cemetery). The NCA maintains approximately 3.3 million gravesites at 131 national cemeteries, one national veterans' burial ground and 33 soldiers' lots and monument sites in 40 states and Puerto Rico. The VA is also charged with marking of graves of all persons in national and state cemeteries (and the graves of veterans in private cemeteries, upon request), as well as administering the State Cemetery Grants Program.

The VA completed an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision in April 1992 that identified the Mountain Creek Site in southwest Dallas, Texas, as the preferred site for the development of a new national cemetery (VA 1992). DFW National Cemetery was dedicated and opened for burials on May 12, 2000. The cemetery is situated on a 638.5-acre parcel of land that overlooks picturesque Mountain Creek Lake. The gently rolling hills provide a pastoral setting for visitors as they proceed along the central boulevard to the small lake adjacent to the assembly area and committal shelters. The EIS acknowledged that the cemetery would be developed in phases; these phases were anticipated to be in 10-year increments, depending upon the frequency and quantity of interments. The first phase was opened with the development of approximately 110 acres providing capacity of approximately 10 years' worth of traditional gravesites and columbaria niches (Figure 1-2). As of the end of Fiscal Year (FY) 2014, there have been a total of 43,871 interments, leaving 8,660 crypts, 2,090 traditional gravesites, and 2,408 columbaria niches as the remaining burial capacity. Because of the high number of veterans and their eligible spouses and dependents living in the Dallas-Fort Worth metroplex, and with nearly 3,900 services per year, DFW National Cemetery will reach its current columbaria niche capacity within 3 years and replaced crypt capacity in 5 years. Consequently, the VA is currently planning a third gravesite expansion phase at DFW National Cemetery.

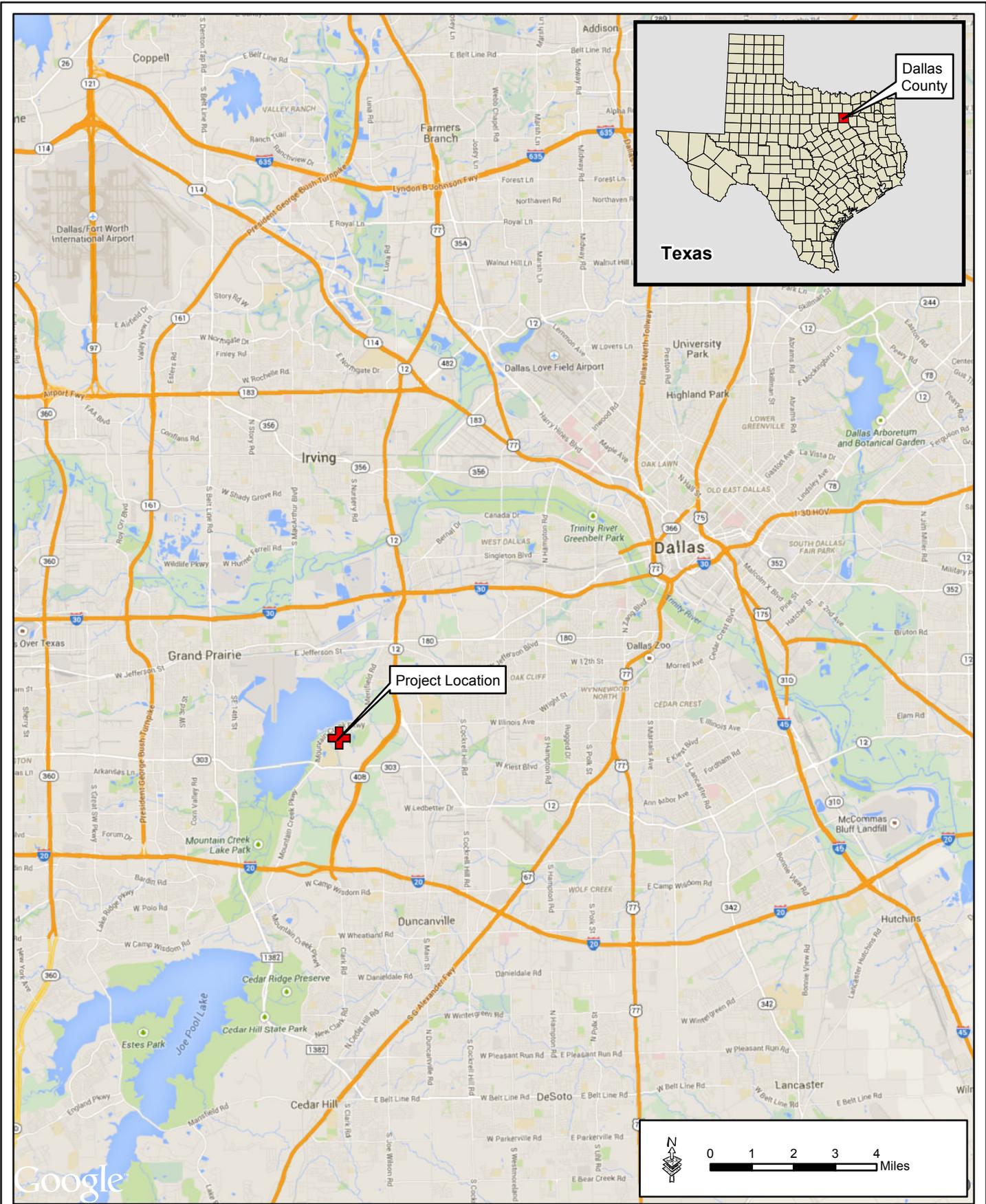


Figure 1-1: Vicinity Map



Figure 1-2: Existing Sections Location Map

1.2 Proposed Action

The VA proposes to expand its capacity of crypts and columbaria to meet the growing demand at DFW National Cemetery and ensure that no break in service to the veteran community occurs. New sites would be developed for the crypts and columbaria, and four areas that were originally developed for traditional burials would be converted to crypt areas. Other improvements and repairs would include drainage and pavement repairs, expansion of the parking area near the Administration Building, and construction of an ossuary and memorial wall.

1.3 Purpose and Need

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to comply with the VA mission to provide interment services to U.S. veterans and their families. The need is to ensure a sufficient capacity of various types of interment sites beyond 2017 and to properly repair and maintain existing infrastructure. Without implementation of the Proposed Action, DFW National Cemetery is expected to reach capacity in developed acres within 3 years for columbaria niches and 5 years for crypt capacity.

**SECTION 2.0
ALTERNATIVES**



2.0 ALTERNATIVES

This section describes the alternatives that are analyzed in the EA. The alternatives were selected based on their potential to satisfy the purpose and need, specifically to provide expanded capacity for interment services at DFW National Cemetery. As viewed by the CEQ, an alternative is considered reasonable if it is deemed to be “practical or feasible” from a “technical and economic” standpoint.

The EA includes the alternative of No Action, which allows the VA to compare the potential impacts of the Proposed Action and alternatives to the known impacts of maintaining the status quo. Establishing a baseline assists in conducting an informed and meaningful consideration of potential alternatives.

2.1 No Action Alternative

As mentioned above, the No Action Alternative typically describes the baseline of current operations that will be used to compare against the Proposed Action. Under the No Action Alternative, none of the improvements or new construction would be implemented. DFW National Cemetery currently has nearly 500 acres in undeveloped land and 140 acres developed. The current gravesite usage (for casketed, in-ground remains and columbaria niches) is approximately 3,900 annually. DFW National Cemetery has 8,660 remaining pre-placed crypts and 2,408 remaining columbaria niches. Once these sites are utilized, DFW veteran population would no longer have reasonable access to burial options within a VA cemetery.

In addition, the existing infrastructure is in various states of needed repair and improvements. Without such repairs, the infrastructure could fail or incur significant damage and there could be increased safety risks.

2.2 Alternative 1. Implement Expansion and Repairs/Improvements (Preferred Alternative)

The Proposed Action is to implement the proposed improvements, repairs, and expansion at DFW National Cemetery. Specifically, the expansion items would include conversion of Sections 1 through 4 (see Photograph 2-1) along Texas Boulevard that were developed (but not used) for traditional burial sites to pre-placed, double-depth crypts (see Photograph 2-2); development of Section 84 (between Sections 23 and 86) near the intersection of Texas Boulevard and Trinity Way for pre-placed, double-depth crypts; construction of an ossuary and memorial wall, a columbaria site (see Photograph 2-3), and access road behind Sections 99 and 101; and a new parking area at the Administration Building (Figure 2-1). These improvements would provide an additional 7,000 pre-placed burial crypts and 5,000 columbaria niches. As mentioned above, Sections 1 through 4 have been developed previously in planning for the traditional burial sites. The proposed location for the new columbaria, Section 84, the ossuary and memorial wall, and the proposed parking lot have not been developed, but are presently maintained as part of the routine turf maintenance. The proposed soil stockpile area would be located within a non-disturbed, native plant community. The project would include the relocation of existing irrigation lines, utilities and hydrants, and flagpole locations; the addition of pull-off lanes along Texas Boulevard by Sections 1 through 4; new turf and landscaping; and the establishment of a permanent soil stockpile area. A temporary construction road would be established south of Sections 1 through 4 to prevent construction vehicles from blocking the

main cemetery entrance. An existing contractor storage yard would be utilized as a temporary construction staging area.



Photograph 2-1. Sections 1-4



Photograph 2-2. Preset Double-Depth Crypt



Photograph 2-3. Columbaria

The repair and maintenance actions would all be to or within existing infrastructure and would include the following:

1. Repair of 3,000 feet drainage behind retaining wall at Committal Shelter A
2. Repair of 1,000 feet of drainage behind retaining wall at Committal Shelter B
3. Replacement of pavers with concrete (due to mortar failure at joints throughout) with exposed aggregate concrete at Committal Shelters A and B (see Photograph 2-4)
4. Tuck point and caulking as necessary along sidewalks, bridges, shelters, and retaining wall (see Photograph 2-5)
5. Walkway settlement repairs on stone bridge at the existing pond
6. Stormwater drainage corrections around Administration Building
7. Replacement of Emergency Eye Wash Station water supply
8. Stormwater drainage corrections in maintenance yard area

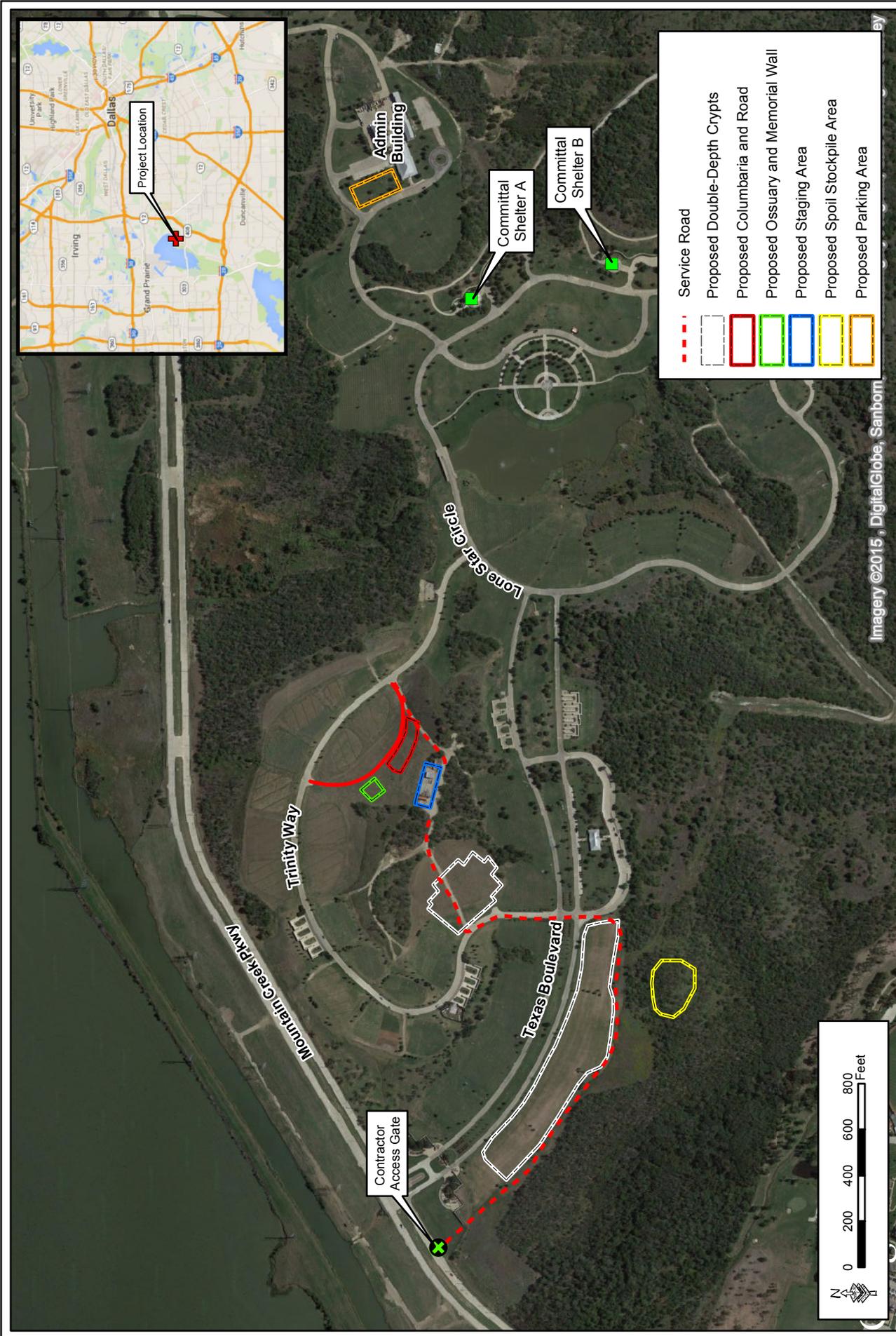
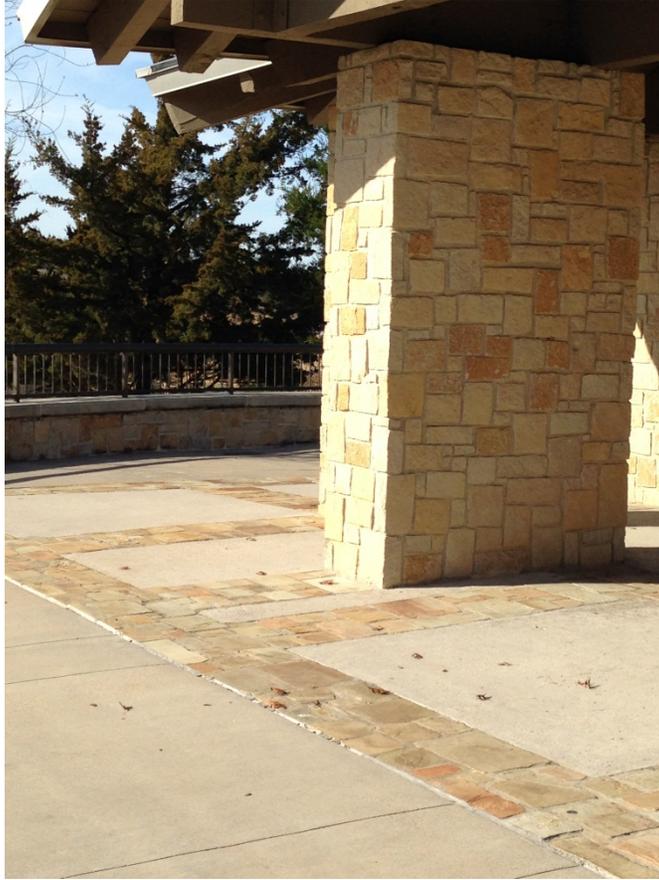


Figure 2-1: Proposed Project Location Map



Photograph 2-4. Pavers at Committal Shelter



Photograph 2-5. Retaining Wall Drainage Channel Separation

Construction is currently planned to be initiated in late 2015 and is estimated to require 610 days to complete (around March 2017). These activities are planned to provide 5 years of burial expansion. The improvements will all be within lands currently managed by the VA; no additional land acquisition is required.

2.3 Alternative 2. Implement Repairs Only

Under Alternative 2, the gravesite expansion and other improvements (e.g., ossuary and memorial wall) would not be constructed. However, the eight repair and maintenance items identified above would be implemented. These actions would typically be authorized under the VA's Categorical Exclusions (38 CFR 26) and would not have a measurable effect on the natural or human environments. This alternative does not entirely meet the purpose and need.

SECTION 3.0
AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL
CONSEQUENCES OF THE ALTERNATIVES

3.0 AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES OF THE ALTERNATIVES

This section of the EA describes the natural and human environments that exist within the project area and the potential impacts of the Proposed Action. The effects of the Proposed Action include impacts from the construction and maintenance of the proposed facilities. Per CEQ guidance (40 CFR, Part 1502.7[3]), only those resources that have the potential to be impacted by the Proposed Action or any of the alternatives considered are analyzed in this EA.

Impacts (consequence or effect) can be either beneficial or adverse, and can be either directly related to the action or indirectly caused by the action. Direct impacts are those effects that are caused by the action and occur at the same time and place (40 CFR, Part 1508.8[a]). Indirect impacts are those effects that are caused by the action and are later in time or further removed in distance, but that are still reasonably foreseeable (40 CFR, Part 1508.8[b]). The Proposed Action and alternatives may create temporary (lasting the duration of construction), short-term (up to 3 years), long-term (greater than 3 years), or permanent impacts or effects.

Impacts on each resource can vary in degree or magnitude from a slightly noticeable change to a total change in the environment. For the purpose of this analysis, the intensity of impacts will be classified as negligible, minor, moderate, or major. The intensity thresholds are defined as follows:

- **Negligible:** A resource would not be affected or the effects would be at or below the level of detection, and changes would not result in any measurable or perceptible consequences.
- **Minor:** Effects on a resource would be detectable, although the effects would be localized, small, and of little consequence to the sustainability of the resource. Mitigation measures, if needed to offset adverse effects, would be simple and achievable.
- **Moderate:** Effects on a resource would be readily detectable, long-term, localized, and measurable. Mitigation measures, if needed to offset adverse effects, would be extensive and likely achievable.
- **Major:** Effects on a resource would be obvious, long-term, and would have substantial consequences on a regional scale. Extensive mitigation measures to offset the adverse effects would be required and success of the mitigation measures would not be guaranteed.

The affected environment and anticipated environmental consequences of the construction of DFW National Cemetery were assessed in the *Environmental Impact Statement for a National Cemetery to Serve the Dallas-Fort Worth Area*, April 1992; where appropriate, that information is hereby incorporated by reference.

The following resources would not be affected by the Proposed Action and are not addressed in this EA:

- **Aesthetics:** The Proposed Action would not change the aesthetics of DFW National Cemetery. DFW National Cemetery is situated on a 638.5-acre parcel of land that overlooks picturesque Mountain Creek Lake. The gently rolling hills provide a pastoral

setting for visitors as they proceed along the central boulevard to the small lake adjacent to the assembly area and committal shelters. The proposed expansion is within the established cemetery boundary, and the facilities would be designed similar to the existing structures within the cemetery.

- **Air Quality:** There would be a temporary, negligible impact on air quality. Dallas County is designated as in nonattainment for ozone by the Environmental Protection Agency (TCEQ 2015). A temporary increase in fugitive dust from soil disturbance and a temporary increase in emissions from construction equipment and private vehicles used during the construction of the Proposed Action would occur; however, the emissions would be expected to be below *de minimis* thresholds and would negligibly impact the ozone level in the county.
- **Floodplains, Wetlands, and Coastal Zone Management:** There are no wetlands or designated coastal zones within the proposed construction areas. A portion of DFW National Cemetery is within the 100-year floodplain as per the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Flood Insurance Rate Map (FEMA 2014), but no proposed activities would be constructed in the floodplain.
- **Land Use:** No change in land use would occur. The proposed expansion and maintenance activities would occur within the existing boundaries of DFW National Cemetery. No new land would be acquired for the Proposed Action.
- **Noise:** There would be a minor increase in the ambient noise levels resulting from the heavy machinery, vehicles, and tools used during the construction of the Proposed Action. This noise would be intermittent, temporary, and limited to daylight hours. This construction noise is not expected to carry beyond the boundaries of DFW National Cemetery.
- **Community Services:** There would be no impact from the Proposed Action on existing police, fire, and other agencies serving DFW National Cemetery.
- **Solid and Hazardous Materials:** There would be no impact on solid and hazardous materials. No hazardous materials would be generated by the Proposed Action. All waste associated with construction would be disposed of in accordance with policies of the cemetery.
- **Transportation and Parking:** There would be no impact on the transportation infrastructure providing access to DFW National Cemetery. The Proposed Action would not necessarily increase the daily use of DFW National Cemetery, but would extend its life span to better service the veterans and their families in the Dallas-Fort Worth area. Construction of pull-off lanes along Texas Boulevard by Sections 1 through 4 would have a beneficial impact by preventing bottlenecks along the road by visitors to these sections of the cemetery.
- **Utilities:** There would be no impact from the Proposed Action on existing natural gas, electric, sewer, or communications infrastructure serving DFW National Cemetery. Potable water is obtained from the city, and it is expected that the Proposed Action would not increase the cemetery's use of potable water for irrigation, as these areas are currently irrigated.

- **Environmental Justice:** The expansion and maintenance activities would take place within the boundaries of DFW National Cemetery. There are no minorities or low-income population groups living adjacent to the cemetery, so the Proposed Action would have no impacts on environmental justice.

3.1 Cultural Resources

3.1.1 Affected Environment

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470(f)) requires a Federal agency to take into account the effects of the agency's undertakings on properties included on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) and prior to approval of an undertaking, to afford the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation a reasonable opportunity to comment on the undertaking. Archaeological investigations undertaken in 1994 and 2002 in support of the development of the cemetery identified three archaeological sites within a 1-mile radius of the proposed cemetery. Consultations with the Texas Historical Commission in support of this EA concluded that additional surveys should be conducted due to the time span between the previous surveys. As such, additional pedestrian surveys, supplemented with shovel test pits, were undertaken in 2015. The previously identified sites could not be relocated and have likely been destroyed since their recordation (Lindemuth 2015). However, none of these sites were located within the area of potential effect for the proposed expansion and improvements activities addressed in this EA.

3.1.2 Environmental Consequences

3.1.2.1 *No Action Alternative*

There would be no impact on cultural resources.

3.1.2.2 *Alternative 1: Implement Expansion and Repairs/Improvements (Preferred Action)*

There would be no adverse impact on cultural resources. A January 2015 archaeological survey of DFW National Cemetery and surrounding area by Gulf South Research Corporation (GSRC) determined that there are no standing structures or sub-surface archaeological deposits eligible for inclusion on the NRHP within the cemetery (Lindemuth 2015). A concurrence of this finding was sought from the Texas Historical Commission and obtained on 23 March 2015. A copy of the agency concurrence can be found in Appendix A.

If archaeological features or human remains are inadvertently discovered during construction activities, all work would be halted in that area and the State Historic Preservation Officer would be contacted, and appropriate measures would be implemented to mitigate an adverse impact.

3.1.2.3 *Alternative 2: Implement Repairs Only*

There would be no impact on cultural resources.

3.2 Soils

3.2.1 Affected Environment

The Proposed Action would occur on Ferris-Heiden complex, 5 to 12 percent slopes; Heiden clay, 2 to 5 percent slopes, eroded; and Houston black clay, 1 to 3 percent slopes soils, which comprise approximately 90 percent of DFW National Cemetery. These soils are moderate to deep, well-drained, gently rolling to rolling soils found on hillsides and uplands. Their availability water storage capacity is moderate, permeability is very slow, and their runoff is rapid. The

erosion hazard of these soils is severe. The Heiden clay and Houston Black clay are designated as prime farmland soils (NRCS 2015).

3.2.2 Environmental Consequences

3.2.2.1 No Action Alternative

There would be no impact on soils from construction activities under the No Action Alternative, as the cemetery expansion would not be undertaken. However, soil could be lost through erosion, as the maintenance and repairs described in the Proposed Action would not be undertaken.

3.2.2.2 Alternative 1: Implement Expansion and Repairs/Improvements (Preferred Alternative)

Approximately 10 acres of soil would be permanently disturbed by the construction of the Proposed Action. Temporary, negligible impacts on soils would consist of possible erosion during construction activities and the stockpiling of soil. Soil from construction would be stockpiled and Best Management Practices (BMPs) would be utilized to control soil movement. The BMPs would include, but are not limited to, watering, silt fences, waddles, and covering soil stockpiles. Additionally, the stockpiled soil would be seeded with native grasses to develop a permanent ground cover. These BMPs would also control fugitive dust. All appropriate permits, including a Texas Pollution Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) General Construction Permit (GCP), would be obtained prior to construction.

The Proposed Action would not adversely affect prime or unique farmland. The Farmland Protection Policy Act (FPPA) of 1981 (7 U.S.C. § 9601) attempts to limit Federal actions that diminish, reduce, or convert farmland from agricultural use to non-agricultural use. The entire property has been designated for cemetery development and use. Projects on land already in or committed to urban development or water storage are not subject to the FPPA [Section 1540(c)(1)(A), 7 U.S.C. 4201(c)(1)(A)]. Section 658.2(a), provides that prime farmland is “committed to urban development or water storage” if a local zoning code or ordinance or current local comprehensive land use plan designated this land for commercial or industrial use or for residential use that is not intended at the same time to protect farmland.

3.2.2.3 Alternative 2: Implement Repairs Only

The proposed maintenance activities would have a beneficial impact on soils by preventing existing infrastructure from failing and causing erosion issues.

3.3 Hydrology and Water Quality

3.3.1 Affected Environment

The shallowest potable groundwater aquifer in the area of the Proposed Action is the Woodbine Formation, located at a depth of approximately 400 feet below ground surface. The Woodbine aquifer is used as a primary source of water for domestic use, but it is separated from the ground surface by an impervious clay formation that would preclude any contamination from surface sources. Some near-surface perched water table aquifers may be present, depending on the amount of rainfall, but these shallow aquifers are high in mineral content with low production potential and are used only for agricultural irrigation (VA 1992).

3.3.2 Environmental Consequences

3.3.2.1 No Action Alternative

There could be negligible to minor adverse impacts on water quality under the No Action Alternative from possible failure of stormwater drainage infrastructure resulting in erosion.

3.3.2.2 Alternative 1: Implement Expansion and Repairs/Improvements (Preferred Alternative)

There would be negligible adverse impacts on hydrology and water quality from the Proposed Action. The burials in the cemetery occur in unsaturated soils, which would minimize the potential for water interaction with buried cadavers and embalming fluids, and any chemicals released would not migrate to the potable aquifer. It is possible that perched subsurface groundwater within several feet of the surface could have an increase in nitrates, which would tend to invigorate the growth of grass in the cemetery (VA 1992).

All appropriate permits, including a TPDES, GCP, would be obtained prior to construction. Appropriate BMPs would be utilized to prevent surface water runoff during construction activities. These include, but are not limited to, watering, silt fences, wattles, and covering soil stockpiles. Additionally, the stockpiled soil would be seeded with native grasses to develop a permanent ground cover.

3.3.2.3 Alternative 2: Implement Repairs Only

There would be negligible adverse impacts on hydrology and water quality under this Alternative. Appropriate BMPs would be utilized to prevent surface water runoff during repairs on stormwater drainages.

3.4 Wildlife and Habitat

3.4.1 Affected Environment

3.4.1.1 Vegetation

Sections 1 through 4 have been developed previously in planning for the traditional burial sites and consist of Bermuda grass (*Cynodon dactylon*), oak (*Quercus* sp.), and juniper (*Juniperus* sp.), which have been planted for aesthetics. The proposed sites for the new columbaria, the pre-placed crypts in Section 84, the proposed ossuary and memorial wall, and the proposed parking lot have not been developed, but they are presently vegetated with maintained Bermuda grass. The proposed soil stock pile area would be located within a non-disturbed, native plant community consisting of native grasses, rough cocklebur (*Xanthium strumarium*), blackeyed Susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*), western ragweed (*Ambrosia psilostachya*), blazing star (*Liatris* sp.), and goldenrod (*Solidago altissima*). Common trees and shrubs include privet (*Ligustrum* sp.), osage orange (*Maclura pomifera*), honey locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*), honey mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*), sugarberry (*Celtis laevigata*), cedar elm (*Ulmus crassifolia*), and juniper.

3.4.1.2 Wildlife

Typical wildlife found within DFW National Cemetery includes coyote (*Canis latrans*), bobcat (*Lynx rufus*), squirrel (*Sciurus* sp.), and eastern cottontail rabbit (*Sylvilagus floridanus*). The Proposed Action would be located in habitat that could also be utilized by bird species, such as raptors, songbirds, and waterfowl, protected from harm or harassment under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA) of 1918 (16 U.S.C. § 703).

3.4.1.3 Threatened and Endangered Species

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973 (16 U.S.C. §1531 et seq.) requires that a discretionary Federal action not put into jeopardy the continued existence of a listed species, and not destroy or adversely modify their critical habitat. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) maintains a list of state and Federal species considered to be threatened with extinction or in danger of becoming extinct, as well as species' critical habitat designations. Table 3-1 shows the Federally and state listed species in Dallas County, Texas, and their potential to inhabit DFW National Cemetery property.

Table 3-1. Federal and State Listed Threatened and Endangered Species Known to Occur in Dallas County, Texas

Species	Federal Status	State Status	Potential to Inhabit the Project Area
American peregrine falcon (<i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i>)	Delisted	Threatened	Yes, but unlikely. Year-round resident in west Texas. Migrates across the state from northern breeding areas. Occupies wide range of habitats during migration, including urban. Stopovers at landscape edges such as lake shores.
Bald eagle (<i>Haliaeetus leucocephalus</i>)	Delisted ¹	Threatened	Yes, but unlikely. Found primarily near rivers and large lakes; nests in tall trees or cliffs near water.
Black-capped vireo (<i>Vireo atricapilla</i>)	Endangered	Endangered	No. Habitat not present. Prefers rangelands with scattered clumps of shrubs separated by open grassland. Found in Texas only during breeding season.
Golden-cheeked warbler (<i>Setophaga chrysoparia</i>)	Endangered	Endangered	No. Habitat not present. Prefers juniper-oak woodlands. Dependent on mature ashe juniper (<i>Juniperus ashei</i>) for nests.
Interior least tern (<i>Sterna antillarum athalassos</i>)	Endangered	Endangered	No. Habitat not present. Nests along sand and gravel bars within braided streams and rivers. Also known to nest on man-made structures.
Piping plover (<i>Charadrius melodus</i>)	Threatened	Threatened	No. Habitat not present. Wintering migrant along the Texas Gulf Coast. Prefers beaches and bayside mud or salt flats.
Sprague's pipit (<i>Anthus spragueii</i>)	Candidate ²	—	No. Habitat not present. Occurs in Texas during migration and winter. Prefers native upland prairie or coastal grasslands.
White-faced Ibis (<i>Plegadis chihi</i>)	—	Threatened	No. Habitat not present. Prefers freshwater marshes, sloughs, and irrigated rice fields. Nests in marshes, in low trees, on the ground in bulrushes, reeds, or on floating mats.
Whooping crane (<i>Grus Americana</i>)	Endangered	Endangered	Yes, but unlikely. Potential migrant throughout most of the state. Winters in coastal marshes.
Wood stork (<i>Mycteria americana</i>)	—	Threatened	No. Habitat not present. Forages in prairie ponds, flooded pastures or fields, ditches, and shallow standing water. Roosts in tall snags.
Texas heelsplitter (<i>Potamilus amphichaenus</i>)	—	Threatened	No. Habitat not present. Found in quiet waters in mud or sand. Also in reservoirs and the Sabine, Neches, and Trinity River basins.
Texas pigtoe (<i>Fusconaia askewi</i>)	—	Threatened	No. Habitat not present. Found in rivers with mixed mud, sand, and fine gravel in protected areas associated with fallen trees or other structures; East Texas, Sabine, Trinity, and the San Jacinto River basins.
Alligator snapping turtle (<i>Macrochelys temminckii</i>)	—	Threatened	No. Habitat not present. Found in perennial water bodies; deep waters of rivers, canals, lakes, and oxbows. Also found in swamps, bayous near deep running water.

Table 3-1, continued

Species	Federal Status	State Status	Potential to Inhabit the Project Area
Texas horned lizard (<i>Phrynosoma cornutum</i>)	—	Threatened	No. Habitat not present. Found in open, arid, and semi-arid regions with sparse vegetation, including grass, cactus, scattered brush, or scrubby trees. Soils vary from sandy to rocky.
Timber rattlesnake (<i>Crotalus horridus</i>)	—	Threatened	No. Habitat not present. Found in swamps, floodplains, upland pine and deciduous woodlands, riparian zones, abandoned farmland. Prefers dense ground cover.

Source: TPWD 2014.

¹ Nesting bald eagles and their nest trees are protected by law under the Bald and Golden Eagle Act of 1940 (16 U.S.C. § 668-668c).

² Candidate species receive no statutory protection under the ESA.

3.4.2 Environmental Consequences

3.4.2.1 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no impacts on vegetation, wildlife, migratory birds, or threatened and endangered species, as the cemetery would not be expanded. There would be no loss of vegetation or wildlife habitat.

3.4.2.2 Alternative 1: Implement Expansion and Repairs/Improvements (Preferred Alternative)

The loss of approximately 4 acres of native vegetation for the soil stockpile area would be considered negligible due to the abundance of nearby similar vegetated areas. Additionally, the stockpiled soil would be seeded with native grasses, and it would be expected that the existing native vegetation would re-establish itself if the area is not maintained (mowed) regularly.

There could be some loss of common individual wildlife specimens during the removal of the trees and shrubs. However, the small number of individuals expected to be lost would not appreciably reduce the overall population of species found within DFW National Cemetery, and it would be expected that species utilizing this habitat would move to adjacent similar habitat. The displacement would minimally reduce the population size within the cemetery, but would have a negligible effect on the overall population viability.

Implementation of the Proposed Action or other alternatives would have no effect on Federally and state listed threatened and endangered species. The bald eagle, the American peregrine falcon, and the whooping crane could potentially be found on DFW National Cemetery property during migration. These are migratory species and unlikely visitors to the cemetery. There are no known bald eagle nests within the cemetery.

To avoid adverse effects on migratory birds from the Proposed Action, site preparation activities within the native vegetated areas would occur outside of the nesting season (typically mid-February through September) or the area would be surveyed for nesting birds prior to site preparation activities. If active nests are encountered, the nests would be protected until the young have fledged.

3.4.2.3 Alternative 2: Implement Repairs Only

Under this Alternative, there would be no impacts on vegetation, wildlife, migratory birds, or threatened and endangered species, as the cemetery would not be expanded. There would be no loss of vegetation or wildlife habitat.

3.5 Socioeconomics

3.5.1 Affected Environment

This section provides a brief overview of the socioeconomic environment in the area around DFW National Cemetery that is relevant to the proposed activities. DFW National Cemetery would be expected to draw veterans from at least the Dallas-Fort Worth Metropolitan Statistical Area (MSA), which includes 12 counties (Collin, Dallas, Delta, Denton, Ellis, Hunt, Johnson, Kaufman, Parker, Rockwall, Tarrant, and Wise). The U.S. Census estimates show that in 2013, there are 343,106 veterans living in the Dallas-Fort Worth MSA. In addition to these veterans, eligible dependents would be buried at the cemetery.

3.5.2 Environmental Consequences

3.5.2.1 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, after the remaining burial sites are utilized, there would be no additional burial sites available in the Dallas-Fort Worth MSA for veterans and their eligible dependents. With the nearest national cemetery approximately 150 miles away, veterans and their families would be required to travel substantial distances, resulting in minor to moderate adverse impacts on veterans and their families.

3.5.2.2 Alternative 1: Implement Expansion and Repairs/Improvements (Preferred Alternative)

Under the Preferred Alternative, there would be temporary, minor, beneficial impacts associated with the planned construction and repairs. Temporary, minor, beneficial impacts in the form of jobs and income for area residents, revenues to local businesses, and sales taxes to the State of Texas and local municipalities could be realized if construction materials are purchased locally or local construction workers are hired for land preparation and construction. No additional permanent employees would be hired, so no permanent socioeconomic impacts would be expected.

3.5.2.3 Alternative 2: Implement Repairs Only

Under Alternative 2, there would be negligible beneficial impacts associated with repairs if materials for repairs are purchased locally and/or construction workers are hired locally. After the remaining burial sites are utilized, there would be no additional burial sites available in the Dallas-Fort Worth MSA for veterans and their spouses. With the nearest national cemetery approximately 150 miles away, veterans and their families would be required to travel substantial distances, resulting in minor to moderate adverse impacts on veterans and their families.

3.6 Cumulative Impacts

Cumulative impacts are defined as the impacts on the environment that result from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions. The primary cumulative effects include those associated with increased urbanization of the landscape and associated degradation of the human and biological environment.

The DFW National Cemetery EIS acknowledged that the cemetery would be developed in various phases; these phases were anticipated to be in 10-year increments, depending upon the frequency of interments (VA 1992). The cumulative impacts on the natural and human environments from the expansion of the cemetery were analyzed in the EIS. This third expansion would not significantly change that analysis.

The continued expansion of the cemetery would eventually result in the development of all developable property within the boundaries of the cemetery and the utilization of all burial sites. This would result in the need for an additional national cemetery in the Dallas-Fort Worth region.

3.7 Potential for Generating Substantial Controversy

Controversy from implementation of the Proposed Action is not expected. The proposed gravesite expansion and improvement activities would be carried out within the existing boundaries of DFW National Cemetery where there is ample room for the expansion. Additional property would not be acquired. The Dallas-Fort Worth veteran community would continue to be served for the next 10 years.

There could be controversy if the Proposed Action is not undertaken. The VA anticipates that there is only enough room to provide interment services for the next 3 to 5 years. Once the cemetery is filled, veterans and their families would be required to travel substantial distances to other VA cemeteries if they wish to utilize a VA national cemetery.

In addition, the existing infrastructure is in various states of needed repair/improvements. Without such repairs, the infrastructure could fail or incur significant damage, and there could be increased safety risks, creating complaints from the Dallas-Fort Worth veteran community and their families.

**SECTION 4.0
PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT**



4.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

The VA invites public participation in the NEPA process. Consideration of the views and information of all interested persons promotes open communication and enables better decision making. All agencies, organizations, and members of the public having a potential interest in the Proposed Action, including minority, low-income, disadvantaged, and Native American groups, are urged to participate in the decision-making process.

Public participation opportunities with respect to the EA, as well as decision making on the Proposed Action, are guided by 38 CFR Part 26. Coordination letters were sent to various stakeholders including, but not limited to, the following:

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
- U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
- Texas Department of Transportation
- Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
- Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
- Texas Historical Commission
- Oncor Electric Utility Company
- Dallas Baptist University
- Potters House
- Native American Tribes

The draft EA was released to the public for review beginning 8 April 2015, which is the date the Notice of Availability (NOA) was published in the *Dallas Morning News* and *Fort Worth Star Telegram*. A copy of the EA and draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) were available on the USACE Fort Worth District's website at the following address:
<https://ecso.swf.usace.army.mil/pages/Publicreview.cfm>.

The public comment period was open for 30 calendar days starting on the date the NOA was published. At the end of the 30-day public review period (8 May 2015), the VA had received six comments on the draft EA. None of the comments required revisions to the EA and no significant concerns were identified by any of the agencies or the public.

See Appendix A for a distribution list, copies of the coordination letters, agency correspondence, a list of agencies and groups from which comments were received, proof of publication for the NOA, and copies of the correspondence received during the public review period.

**SECTION 5.0
MITIGATION**



5.0 MITIGATION

The following mitigation measures would be implemented with the Proposed Action:

- To avoid adverse effects on migratory birds, clearing of trees and shrubs for the soil stockpile area would occur outside of the nesting season (typically mid-February through September) or the areas would be surveyed for nesting birds prior to site preparation activities. If active nests are encountered, the nests would be protected (i.e., a 200-foot buffer would be established around the nest) until the young have fledged.
- In the unlikely event a bald eagle, American peregrine falcon, or whooping crane are observed in the project site during the gravesite expansion construction activities, all work would cease until the individual(s) leave the area on their own volition. The VA would also contact the USFWS Ecological Services Office to inform them of the sighting.
- If archaeological features or human remains are inadvertently discovered, all work would be halted in that area, the State Historic Preservation Officer would be contacted, and appropriate measures would be implemented to mitigate an adverse impact.
- Appropriate TPDES permitting would be obtained by the contractor, prior to construction activities, and BMPs, including but not limited to watering, silt fences, waddles, and re-vegetation of disturbed areas with native grasses, would be carried out to reduce fugitive dust and erosion from disturbed sites and soil stockpile areas.
- To reduce effects on aesthetics, a buffer strip of native vegetation would be retained between Sections 3 and 4 and the proposed soil stockpile area.

SECTION 6.0
CONCLUSIONS



6.0 CONCLUSIONS

There would be negligible impacts on the natural and human environments from the implementation of the Proposed Action. The Proposed Action would result in beneficial impacts on the human environment by allowing DFW National Cemetery to continue to serve the Dallas-Fort Worth veteran community for many more years.

Potential environmental impacts of the Preferred Alternative and the No Action Alternative would be those primarily associated with the ground disturbance required to construct the pre-placed crypts, ossuary, columbaria, memorial wall, and parking lot, since there is no proposed expansion of DFW National Cemetery outside its present boundaries and no permanent increase in staff as a result of the proposed construction. Table 6-1 presents a summary of the impacts expected to occur under each alternative.

Table 6-1. Summary of Impacts Analyzed

Resource	No Action Alternative	Preferred Alternative	Alternative 2: Implement Repairs Only
Cultural Resources	No adverse effects on cultural resources would occur.	No adverse effects on cultural resources would occur. Archaeological surveys found no archaeological deposits eligible for inclusion on the NRHP.	No adverse effects on cultural resources would occur.
Soils	There could be negligible to minor adverse effects on soils as existing infrastructure could fail, resulting in erosion.	Negligible effects on soils would occur. Approximately 10 acres of soil would be disturbed. BMPs would be utilized to control erosion. Stockpiled soil would be seeded with native grasses. A TPDES GCP would be obtained prior to implementation.	Beneficial effect on soils would be expected as maintenance activities would prevent the existing infrastructure from failing and causing erosion.
Hydrology and Water Quality	There could be negligible to minor adverse effects on water quality from possible failure of stormwater drainage infrastructure resulting in erosion.	Negligible adverse effects would occur. BMPs would be utilized to prevent surface water runoff during construction activities. Stockpiled soil would be seeded with native grasses. A TPDES GCP would be obtained.	Negligible adverse effect on hydrology and water quality would occur. Appropriate BMPs would be utilized to prevent surface water runoff during repairs on stormwater drainages.
Wildlife and Habitat	No adverse effects on wildlife, vegetation, or threatened and endangered species would occur.	Negligible adverse impacts on vegetation and wildlife and no effect on threatened and endangered species would occur. Appropriate mitigation to avoid adverse effects on migratory birds would be undertaken.	No adverse effects on wildlife, vegetation, or threatened and endangered species would occur.
Socioeconomics	There would be minor to moderate adverse effects as interment services to veterans and their families would be eliminated within 3 to 5 years as the cemetery would reach its available capacity. This would result in veterans and their families having to travel long distances if they wish to be serviced by a VA cemetery.	No adverse effects would occur. Services to veterans and their families would continue. Slight beneficial effects would occur during construction and maintenance activities as local expenditures on fuel, equipment rental, and food would likely occur.	There would be negligible beneficial effects from maintenance activities as local expenditures on fuel, equipment rental, and food would likely occur. There would be minor to moderate adverse effects as services to veterans and their families would be eliminated within 3 to 5 years as the cemetery would reach its available capacity.
Potential for Generating Substantial Controversy	There would be a potential for controversy. The VA anticipates that there is only enough room to provide interment services for the next 3 to 5 years. Once filled, veterans and their families would be required to travel substantial distances to other VA cemeteries. If maintenance is not done, the infrastructure could fail or incur significant damage and there could be increased safety risks.	No potential for controversy is expected. The proposed expansion and maintenance activities would be carried out within the existing boundaries of DFW National Cemetery where there is ample room for the expansion. Additional property would not be acquired. The Dallas-Fort Worth veteran community would continue to be served for the next 10 years.	The potential for controversy is the same as the No Action Alternative.

SECTION 7.0
LIST OF PREPARERS



7.0 LIST OF PREPARERS

The following people were primarily responsible for the preparation of this EA.

Name	Agency / Organization	Discipline / Expertise	Experience	Role in Preparing EA
Charles McGregor	USACE, Fort Worth District	Environmental Planning	24 years of NEPA and Environmental Studies	USACE Environmental Project Manager
Chris Ingram	Gulf South Research Corporation	Biology/Ecology	36 years of EA/EIS studies	Project Manager and EA preparation
Mark Walker	Gulf South Research Corporation	NEPA/Natural Resource Management	30 years of Natural Resources and NEPA studies	EA preparation and analysis
Chris Cothron	Gulf South Research Corporation	GIS/Graphics	7 years of GIS/graphics experience	GIS analysis and graphics
John Lindemuth	Gulf South Research Corporation	Archaeology	20 years of Archaeology Surveys and Management	PI for cultural resources surveys
Steven Fullen	Gulf South Research Corporation	Archaeology	17 years of Archaeology and Historic Preservation	Cultural Resources
Ann Guissinger	Gulf South Research Corporation	Socioeconomics/ Planning	34 years of Socioeconomics analysis	Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice
Stephen Oivanki, P.G.	Gulf South Research Corporation	Geology/NEPA	25 years of Natural Resources and NEPA studies	Hydrology and Water Quality

**SECTION 8.0
REFERENCES CITED**



8.0 REFERENCES CITED

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SECTION 9.0
LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS



9.0 LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

BMPs	Best Management Practices
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
DFW	Dallas-Fort Worth
EA	Environmental Assessment
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
ESA	Endangered Species Act
FEMA	Federal Emergency Management Agency
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
FPPA	Farmland Protection Policy Act
FY	Fiscal Year
GCP	General Construction Permit
GSRC	Gulf South Research Corporation
MBTA	Migratory Bird Treaty Act
MSA	Metropolitan Statistical Area
NCA	National Cemetery Administration
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NOA	Notice of Availability
NRCS	Natural Resources Conservation Service
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
PL	Public Law
TCEQ	Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
TPDES	Texas Pollution Discharge Elimination System
TPWD	Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
USACE	United States Army Corps of Engineers
U.S.C.	United States Code
VA	United States Department of Veterans Affairs

**APPENDIX A
CORRESPONDENCE**





DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
FORT WORTH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 17300
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-0300

February 20, 2015

Regional Planning and Environmental Center

Ms. Debra Bills
Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Arlington Ecological Services Field Office
2005 Northeast Green Oaks Boulevard, Suite 140
Arlington, Texas 76006

Dear Ms. Bills:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Fort Worth District, is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) on behalf of the U.S. Veterans Administration (VA) for the proposed expansion of the Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) National Cemetery in Dallas County, Texas (Figure 1). The DFW National Cemetery was dedicated and opened for burials on May 12, 2000. The cemetery is situated on a 638.5-acre parcel of land that overlooks picturesque Mountain Creek Lake. The first phase was opened with the development of approximately 110 acres providing capacity for approximately 10 years' worth of traditional gravesites and columbaria niches. At the end of Fiscal Year (FY) 2014, it was estimated that the DFW National Cemetery would reach its current columbaria niche capacity within 3 years and preplaced crypt capacity in 5 years. Consequently, the VA proposes to expand its capacity of crypts and columbaria niches to meet the growing demand at the DFW National Cemetery and ensure no break in service to the veteran community. All proposed activities would be contained within the DFW National Cemetery boundary. New sites would be developed for the crypts and columbaria niches; however, four sections that were originally developed for traditional burials would be converted to crypt areas. Other improvements and repairs would include drainage and pavement repairs, expansion of the parking area near the Administration Building, and construction of an ossuary and memorial wall.

Specifically, the expansion items would include conversion of Sections 1 through 4 along Texas Boulevard that were developed (but not used) for traditional burial sites to pre-placed crypts; development of Section 84 for pre-placed crypts near the intersection of Texas Boulevard and Trinity Way; construction of a columbarium site and access road near Sections 99 and 101; construction of an ossuary and memorial wall along Lone Star Circle; and a new parking area at the Administration Building (Figure 2). These improvements would provide an additional 7,000 pre-placed burial crypts and 5,000 columbaria niches. As mentioned above, Sections 1 through 4 have been developed previously in planning for the traditional burial sites. The proposed location for the new columbarium, as well as Section 84 and the proposed parking lot, has not been developed, but are presently maintained as part of the routine turf maintenance. The ossuary and memorial wall would be located within a non-disturbed, native plant

community. Two areas located south of Sections 1 through 4 would be used to stockpile extra soil after completion of the construction activities.

These two stockpile areas are composed of native and non-native woodland species, including honey locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*), honey mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*), sugarberry (*Celtis* sp.), osage orange (*Maclura pomifera*), cedar elm (*Ulmus crassifolia*), and Chinese privet (*Ligustrum sinense*). Surveys for flora and fauna will be conducted to facilitate preparation of the EA. The USACE respectfully requests that your agency provide input regarding any unique or environmentally sensitive areas or species that may be affected by the Proposed Action. In addition, the USACE welcomes any information that your agency believes would be helpful in ensuring the overall success of this effort.

We intend to provide your agency with a copy of the Draft EA once the document is completed. Please inform us if additional copies are needed or if someone else within your agency other than you should receive the Draft EA.

If you require additional information or have any questions, please contact Mr. Charles McGregor, Unit Chief, NEPA/Cultural Resources Section, 817-866-1585 or charles.mcgregor@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric W. Verwers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "E" and a long, sweeping underline.

Eric W. Verwers
Director, Regional Planning and
Environmental Center



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

National Cemetery Administration
Office of Design and Construction (43B)
425 I Street, NW, 5E.425QQ
Washington DC, 20001

Mr. Mark Wolfe
Texas Historical Commission (SHPO)
P.O. Box 12276
Austin, TX 78711

Dear Mr. Wolfe:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Fort Worth District, is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) on behalf of the U.S. Veterans Administration (VA) for the proposed expansion of the Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) National Cemetery in Dallas County, Texas (Figure 1). The DFW National Cemetery was dedicated and opened for burials on May 12, 2000. The cemetery is situated on a 638.5-acre parcel of land that overlooks picturesque Mountain Creek Lake. The first phase was opened with the development of approximately 110 acres providing capacity for approximately 10 years' worth of traditional gravesites and columbaria niches. At the end of Fiscal Year (FY) 2014, it was estimated that the DFW National Cemetery would reach its current columbaria niche capacity within 3 years and preplaced crypt capacity in 5 years. Consequently, the VA proposes to expand its capacity of crypts and columbaria niches to meet the growing demand at the DFW National Cemetery and ensure no break in service to the veteran community. All proposed activities would be contained within the DFW National Cemetery boundary. New sites would be developed for the crypts and columbaria niches; however, four sections that were originally developed for traditional burials would be converted to crypt areas. Other improvements and repairs would include drainage and pavement repairs, expansion of the parking area near the Administration Building, and construction of an ossuary and memorial wall.

Specifically, the expansion items would include conversion of Sections 1 through 4 along Texas Boulevard that were developed (but not used) for traditional burial sites to pre-placed crypts; development of Section 84 for pre-placed crypts near the intersection of Texas Boulevard and Trinity Way; construction of a columbarium site and access road near Sections 99 and 101; construction of an ossuary and memorial wall along Lone Star Circle; and a new parking area at the Administration Building (Figure 2). These improvements would provide an additional 7,000 pre-placed burial crypts and 5,000 columbaria niches. As mentioned above, Sections 1 through 4 have been developed previously in planning for the traditional burial sites. The proposed location for the new columbarium, as well as Section 84 and the proposed parking lot, has not been developed, but are presently maintained as part of the routine turf maintenance. The ossuary and memorial wall would be located within a non-disturbed, native plant community.

Two areas located south of Sections 1 through 4 would be used to stockpile extra soil after completion of the construction activities. These two stockpile areas are composed of native and non-native woodland species. Surveys for cultural resources will be conducted to facilitate preparation of the EA.

The USACE respectfully requests that your agency provide input regarding any unique or culturally sensitive areas or species that may be affected by the Proposed Action. In addition, the USACE welcomes any information that your agency believes would be helpful in ensuring the overall success of this effort. Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.2(c) (4), the VA is delegating and authorizing the USACE to initiate consultation under Section 106. VA remains legally responsible for all findings and determinations.

We intend to provide your agency with a copy of the Draft EA once the document is completed. Please inform us if additional copies are needed or if someone else within your agency other than you should receive the Draft EA.

If you require additional information or have any questions, please contact Mr. Charles McGregor, Unit Chief, NEPA/Cultural Resources Section, 817-866-1585 or charles.mcgregor@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Stephen E. Davis".

Stephen E. Davis, RLA
Project Manager

Copies of previous letters sent to the following distribution list:

Federal

Debra Bills
Field Supervisor
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Arlington Ecological Services Field Office
2005 NE Green Oaks Blvd.
Suite 140
Arlington, TX 76006-6247

Rhonda Smith
Chief, Planning and Coordination Section
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 6
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
Mail Code: 6RA
Dallas, TX 75202

Texas

Kelly Selman, P.E.
District Engineer
Texas Department of Transportation
4777 E. Highway 80
Mesquite, TX, 75150-6643

Tony Walker
Regional Director
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
2309 Gravel Dr.
Fort Worth, TX 76118-6951

Clayton Wolf
Director of Wildlife
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
4200 Smith School Road
Austin, TX 78744

Mark Wolfe
Executive Director
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276
Austin, TX 78711

Dallas County

Alberta Blair, P.E.
Director, Dallas County Public Works
Administration Building
411 Elm Street, 4th Floor
Dallas, TX 75202

Native American Tribes

Chairman Wallace Coffey
Comanche Nation
HC-22, Box 1720
Lawton, OK 73507

The Honorable Danny H. Breuninger, Sr.
President
Mescalero Apache Tribe of the Mescalero Reservation
P.O. Box 227
Mescalaero, NM 88340

Lady Chairman Amber C. Toppah
Kiowa Tribe of Oklahoma
100 Kiowa Way
Carnegie, OK 73015

The Honorable Donald Patterson
President
Tonkawa Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma
1 Rush Buffalo Road
Tonkawa, OK 74653-4449

Chairman Ronnie Thomas
Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas
571 State Park Road 56
Livingston, TX 77351

Chief Tarpie Yargee
Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town
101 East Broadway
Wetumka, OK 74883

Chairman Lyman Guy
Apache Tribe of Oklahoma
511 E. Colorado Drive
Andarko, OK 73005

Chairperson Brenda Edwards
Caddo Nation of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 487
Binger, OK 73009

Principal Chief Bill John Baker
Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma
17675 South Muskogee Ave
Tahlequah, OK 74464

Chairman Lovelin Poncho
Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana
1940 C.C. Bel Road
Elton, LA 70532

President Cleanan Watkins
The Delaware Nation
P.O. Box 825
Anadarko, OK 73005

Honorable Jeremiah Hobia
Town King
Kialegee Tribal Town
623 East Highway 9
Wetumka, OK 74851

Chairman Ron Garza, Jr.
Kickapoo Traditional Tribe of Texas
162 Chick Kazen Drive
Eagle Pass, TX 78852

Chairman Gilbert Salazar
Kickapoo Tribe of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 70
McLoud, OK 74851

Chairman Buford L. Rolin
Poarch Band of Creeks
5811 Jack Springs Road
Atmore, AL 36502

Chairman John Berrey
The Quapaw Tribe of Indians
6581 South 630 Road
Quapaw, OK 74364

Chief Leonard M. Harjo
Principal Chief
The Seminole Nation of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 1498
Wewoka, OK 74884

Honorable George Scott
Town King
Thlopthlocco Tribal Town
P.O. Box 188
Okemah, OK 74859

Chairman Joey P. Barbry
Tunica-Biloxi Tribe
151 Melacon Drive
Marksville, LA 71351

Chief George Wickliffe
United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma
2450 Muskogee Avenue
Tahlequah, OK 74464

President Terri Parton
Wichita and Affiliated Tribes
P.O. Box 729
Anadarko, OK 73005

Other

Oncor Electric Utility Company

Dr. Gary Cook
President
Dallas Baptist University
3000 Mountain Creek Parkway
Dallas, TX 75211

Potter's House
6777 West Kiest Boulevard
Dallas, TX 75236

Bryan W. Shaw, Ph.D., P.E., *Chairman*
Toby Baker, *Commissioner*
Zak Covar, *Commissioner*
Richard A. Hyde, P.E., *Executive Director*



TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution

March 23, 2015

Charles McGregor
Department of the Army
Fort Worth District, Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 17300
Fort Worth, Texas 76102
Via: charles.mcgregor@usace.army.mil

Re: NEPA Request #2015-080, Cemetery Improvements: Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery, City of Dallas, Dallas County.

Dear Mr. McGregor:

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has reviewed the above-referenced project and offers the following comments:

We recommend the environmental assessment address actions that will be taken to prevent surface and groundwater contamination.

Any debris or waste disposal should be at an appropriately authorized disposal facility.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this project. If you have any questions, please contact Elizabeth McKeefe, CAPM, NEPA Coordinator, at (512) 239-2779 or NEPA@tceq.texas.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Hagle".

Steve Hagle, P.E., Deputy Director
Office of Air

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

real places telling real stories

March 23, 2015

Stephen E. Davis, RLA
Project Manager
Department of Veterans Affairs
National Cemetery Administration
Office of Design and Construction (43B)
425 I Street, NW, 5E.425QQ
Washington, DC 20001

Re: Project review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, *Notification of proposed EA for Dallas Fort Worth National Cemetery, Dallas County* (Department of Veterans Affairs/NCA)

Dear Mr. Davis:

Thank you for your correspondence concerning the above notification letter regarding the Environmental Assessment. This letter serves as comment on the proposed undertaking from the State Historic Preservation Officer, the Executive Director of the Texas Historical Commission.

We have reviewed your letter and supporting documentation. According to our maps, it appears that the proposed expansion areas are within areas previously surveyed for cultural resources in 1994 by AR Consultants. Two archeological sites were recorded during the survey, and were determined to be ineligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Therefore, the proposed project will not adversely affect properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places or those eligible for inclusion on the National Register. This project may proceed as proposed without further consultation with this office.

If buried archeological deposits are discovered during the development phases of this project, work should be stopped in the immediate area and this office should be notified immediately.

Thank you for your cooperation in this federal review process, and for your efforts to preserve the irreplaceable heritage of Texas. **If you have any questions please contact Rebecca Shelton of our staff, at (512) 463-6043 or Rebecca.Shelton@thc.state.tx.us.**

Sincerely,



for
Mark Wolfe
State Historic Preservation Officer

MW/rls

cc: Charles McGregor, USACE – Fort Worth District



Ticia Bullion

From: McGregor, Charles SWF <Charles.McGregor@usace.army.mil>
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2015 1:52 PM
To: Chris Ingram
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] Proposed Expansion of DFW National Cemetery in Dallas County, TX-POC change (UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

-----Original Message-----

From: Harris Somier [<mailto:somierharriscaddonation@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2015 12:52 PM
To: McGregor, Charles SWF
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed Expansion of DFW National Cemetery in Dallas County, TX-POC change

Dear Mr. Davis,

We received your letter on March 02, 2015. We are reviewing our records and will get back in touch with you if need be.

Also, we would like to change our point of contact. Our Tribal Chair is Tamara Francis-Fourkiller, as well as the Acting THPO.

If you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact our office.

Respectfully,

Somier Harris,
Assistant
Caddo Nation
PO Box 487
117 Memorial Lane
Binger, OK 73009
Ph: (405)656-2344
Fax: (405)656-2892

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Caveats: NONE

Bryan W. Shaw, Ph.D., P.E., *Chairman*
Toby Baker, *Commissioner*
Zak Covar, *Commissioner*
Richard A. Hyde, P.E., *Executive Director*



TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution

March 16, 2015

Mr. Eric Verwers, Director
Regional Planning and Environmental Center
Department of the Army

RE: Notification of the Environmental Assessment for the proposed expansion of the DFW National Cemetery

Dear Mr. Verwers:

We are in receipt of your letter informing our office of the Environmental Assessment (EA), on behalf of the US. Veterans Administration, for the proposed expansion of the Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery in Dallas County.

A copy of your letter has been forwarded to the NEPA Liaison for the agency, Ms. Elizabeth McKeefer, TCEQ Office of Air. Upon completion of the EA please send it to her attention at TCEQ Office of Air, Building C Mail Code 122, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, TX 78711-3087.

If you have any questions or concerns you may contact Ms. McKeefer at 512/239-1786 or via email at Elizabeth.McKeefer@tceq.texas.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tony L. Walker".

Tony L. Walker, REM
DFW Regional Director
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality

c.c. Ms. Elizabeth McKeefer, TCEQ Office of Air
Mr. Charles McGregor, Unit Chief, NEPA/Cultural Resources Section



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
FORT WORTH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 17300
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-0300

February 20, 2015

Regional Planning and Environmental Center

Mr. Tony Walker
Regional Director
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
Region 4
2309 Gravel Drive
Fort Worth, TX 76118-6951

Dear Mr. Walker:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Fort Worth District, is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) on behalf of the U.S. Veterans Administration (VA) for the proposed expansion of the Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) National Cemetery in Dallas County, Texas (Figure 1). The DFW National Cemetery was dedicated and opened for burials on May 12, 2000. The cemetery is situated on a 638.5-acre parcel of land that overlooks picturesque Mountain Creek Lake. The first phase was opened with the development of approximately 110 acres providing capacity for approximately 10 years' worth of traditional gravesites and columbaria niches. At the end of Fiscal Year (FY) 2014, it was estimated that the DFW National Cemetery would reach its current columbaria niche capacity within 3 years and preplaced crypt capacity in 5 years. Consequently, the VA proposes to expand its capacity of crypts and columbaria niches to meet the growing demand at the DFW National Cemetery and ensure no break in service to the veteran community. All proposed activities would be contained within the DFW National Cemetery boundary. New sites would be developed for the crypts and columbaria niches; however, four sections that were originally developed for traditional burials would be converted to crypt areas. Other improvements and repairs would include drainage and pavement repairs, expansion of the parking area near the Administration Building, and construction of an ossuary and memorial wall.

Specifically, the expansion items would include conversion of Sections 1 through 4 along Texas Boulevard that were developed (but not used) for traditional burial sites to pre-placed crypts; development of Section 84 for pre-placed crypts near the intersection of Texas Boulevard and Trinity Way; construction of a columbarium site and access road near Sections 99 and 101; construction of an ossuary and memorial wall along Lone Star Circle; and a new parking area at the Administration Building (Figure 2). These improvements would provide an additional 7,000 pre-placed burial crypts and 5,000 columbaria niches. As mentioned above, Sections 1 through 4 have been developed previously in planning for the traditional burial sites. The proposed location for the new columbarium, as well as Section 84 and the proposed parking lot, has not been developed, but are presently maintained as part of the routine turf maintenance. The ossuary and memorial wall would be located within a non-disturbed, native plant

RECEIVED
MAR 03 2015
DFW REGION-4

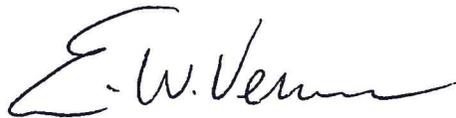
community. Two areas located south of Sections 1 through 4 would be used to stockpile extra soil after completion of the construction activities.

These two stockpile areas are composed of native and non-native woodland species, including honey locust (*Gleditsia triacanthos*), honey mesquite (*Prosopis glandulosa*), sugarberry (*Celtis* sp.), osage orange (*Maclura pomifera*), cedar elm (*Ulmus crassifolia*), and Chinese privet (*Ligustrum sinense*). Surveys for flora and fauna will be conducted to facilitate preparation of the EA. The USACE respectfully requests that your agency provide input regarding any unique or environmentally sensitive areas or species that may be affected by the Proposed Action. In addition, the USACE welcomes any information that your agency believes would be helpful in ensuring the overall success of this effort.

We intend to provide your agency with a copy of the Draft EA once the document is completed. Please inform us if additional copies are needed or if someone else within your agency other than you should receive the Draft EA.

If you require additional information or have any questions, please contact Mr. Charles McGregor, Unit Chief, NEPA/Cultural Resources Section, 817-866-1585 or charles.mcgregor@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "E. W. Verwers". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "E" and "W".

Eric W. Verwers
Director, Regional Planning and
Environmental Center

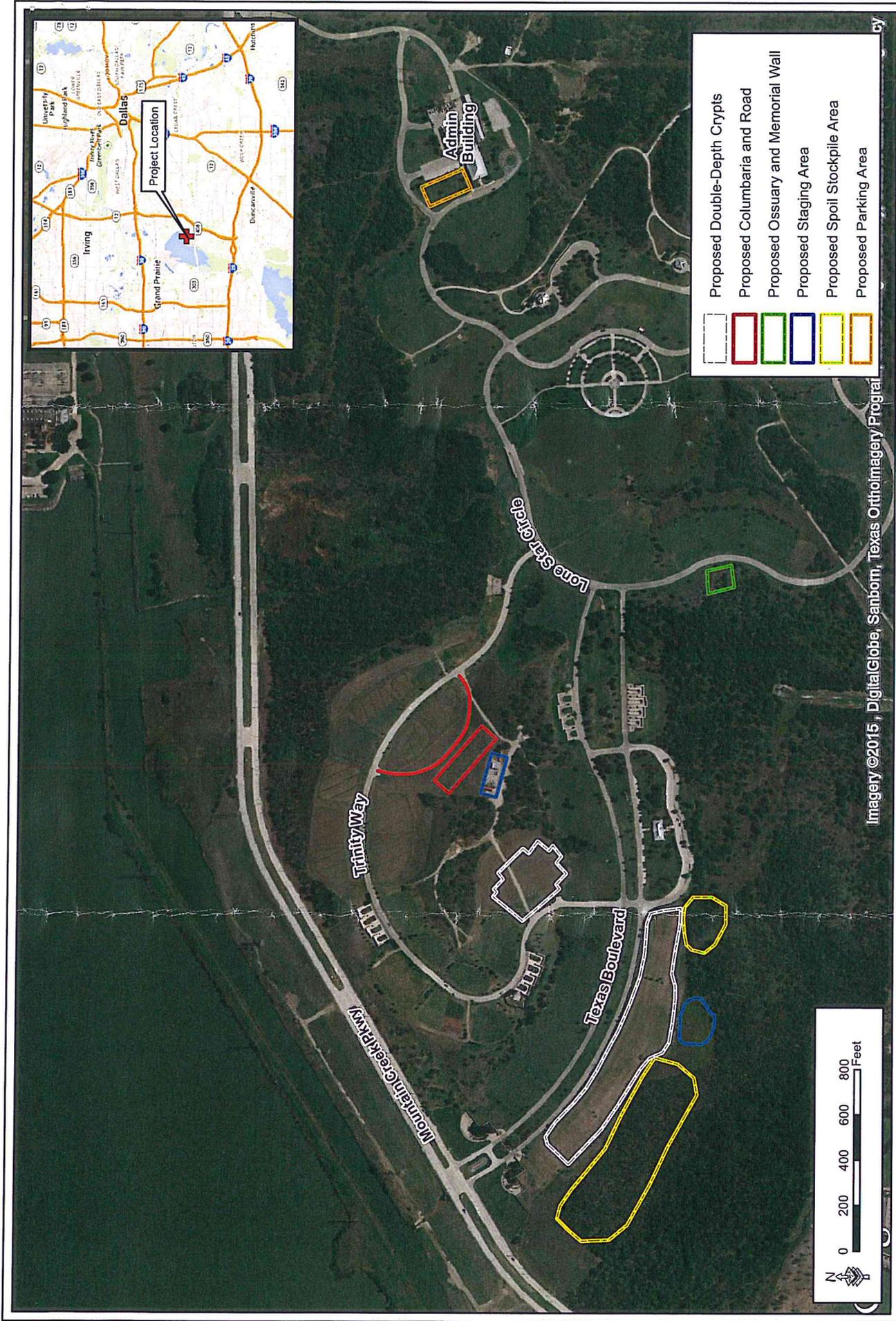


Figure 2: Proposed Project Location Map

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF TEXAS

COUNTY OF DALLAS

Before me, a Notary Public in and for Dallas County, this day personally appeared Monetta Harrison, Advertising Representative for The Dallas Morning News, being duly sworn by oath, states the attached advertisement of:

GULF SOUTH RESEARCH CORPORATION

Was published in the Dallas Morning News on:

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JEFF HAMLIN
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Friday-Saturday
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 jeffhamlinestatesales.com

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 Drive April 9-11
 10am-5pm full house and
 garage

WAXAHACHIE TX 75165
 301 NORTH GRAND
 THUR-FRI 9-6 SAT 9-2
HOUSE FULL OF ELEGANT GLASSWARE ANTIQUE FURNITURE, STERLING TO MUCH TO LIST. 60 YEAR COLLECTION. PICS ON ESTATE FEES NET AND CRAIGSLIST TAYLOR/BRADYESTATE SALES

Garage Sales

Bosque County-Wide Garage Sale April 10-11. 150 sales in the county. Listings at bosque.agrilife.org/ or local newspapers

Community Garage Sale-Beacon Hill at 507 Medina, Allen 75013. April 10 & April 11, 2015 8AM-2PM

Hunters Bend HOA 5507 Hunters Bend Friday 4-10 Saturday 4-11 8-5 pm Community-wide sale.

Antiques, Art, Collectibles

COIN SHOW
 Forest Hill Convention Center
 6901 Wichita Street
 Forest Hill TX (76140)
Fri Apr 10 thru Sun Apr 12
**** Fri 2-6; Sat 9-5; Sun 9-3**
(817) 444-4813

WANTED:
Old Electronics: tubes, tube testers, microphones, amps, speakers, Thorens, Altec, AR, McIntosh, JBL, Klipsch, Marantz, Jensen, RCA, EV, Western Electric, Linn, Dyno. 713-728-4343

Building Materials

Legal Notices

Legal Notices

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR PROPOSED GRAVESITE EXPANSION AND IMPROVEMENTS AT THE DALLAS-FORT WORTH NATIONAL CEMETERY DALLAS, TEXAS

The public is hereby notified of the availability of the draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) prepared by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Fort Worth District for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The proposed action includes expansion of gravesites, construction of columbaria, ossuary, memorial wall and parking lot, and several repair and maintenance activities within the Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery, Dallas County, Texas. The DEA has been prepared in accordance with the regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), (Public Law 91?190, 42 USC 4321?4347 January 1, 1970), amendments, and VA's Implementing Regulations (38 CFR Part 26). VA intends to issue a "Finding of No Significant Impact" following a thirty (30) day comment period in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for implementing NEPA, Section 1508.13 providing there are no substantive comments which warrant further evaluation.

The DEA will be available for review at the Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery, 2000 Mountain Creek Parkway, Dallas, TX 75211 and the Department of Veterans Affairs, National Cemetery Administration, Design and Construction Services, 425 I Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001, as well as the following local and regional libraries: Arlington Public Library - East Branch, 1624 New York Ave, Arlington, TX 76010; Grand Prairie Public Library System, 901 Canover Drive, Grand Prairie, TX 75051; Betty Warmack Library, 760 Bardin Road, Grand Prairie, TX 75052; Dallas Public Library, 2951 S Hampton Road, Dallas, TX 75224; and the Fort Worth Central Library, 500 W. Third St., Fort Worth, TX 76102-7305. It is also available for download from the USACE's website (<https://ecso.swf.usace.army.mil/pages/PublicReview.cfm>). The public comment period for the DEA ends on May 8, 2015. Comments may be sent to: Mr. Charles McGregor at USACE, Fort Worth District, 819 Taylor Street, Room 3A12C, Fort Worth, Texas, 76102 or via e-mail at charles.mcgregor@usace.army.mil.

Tickets - Sports/ Entertainment

50th ANNUAL ACM AWARDS Package.
 (4) Tickets each to the following: (FRI and SAT Party for a Cause Blue Section Row 24, seats 1-4). SUN VIP SRO Row GAB, seats 15-18). (1) Silver Parking, Lot 12.
 All for \$3,800.00 214-693-6975 hoopermark@aol.com

Bids & Proposals

Independent School District that at least 30% of the work performed under each contract will be provided by minority or woman-owned business enterprises.

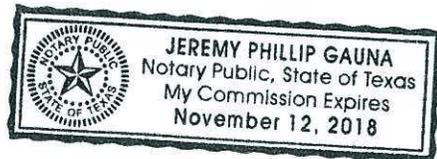
PO #1265-6501/DO 526621

CITY OF DALLAS
 ADVERTISEMENT
 FOR CONSTRUCTION
 COMPETITIVE SEALED

Monetta Harrison
 (Monetta Harrison)

April 8, 2015

Jeremy Phillip Gauna
 (Notary Public)



Jewelry, Watches

COINS
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 Silver, Flatware,
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 Russian Icons,
 All Mark!
-1229

MERCHANDISE

Estate Sales
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 Building Materials
 China, Silver,
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 Cooling, Heating Equip
 Crafts, Hobbies,
 Seasonal
 Electronics
 Farm Equipment
 Flooring, Carpet
 Furniture-Home
 Game Room Equip
 Infant/Children Items
 Jewelry, Watches
 Lawn & Garden
 Machinery & Tools
 Medical Handicapped

STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF TARRANT

Before me, a Notary Public in and for said County and State, this

personally appeared Christine Lopez, Ad for the Star-Telegram, published by the Star-Telegram, Inc. at Fort Worth, in Tarrant distributed in other surrounding Counties; and who, after being duly sworn, did disp following clipping of an advertisement was published in the above named paper on t

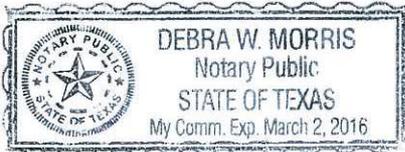
April 8th 2015

Signed

Subscribed and sworn to before me, this the 27 day of April 2015

Notary Public

Debra W. Morris
Tarrant County, Texas



shua 6058 174 HWY Johnson County

Legal Notices

and several repair and maintenance activities within the Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery, Dallas County, Texas. The DEA has been prepared in accordance with the regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), (Public Law 91-190, 42 USC 4321-4347 January 1, 1970), amendments, and VA's implementing Regulations (38 CFR Part 26). VA intends to issue a "Finding of No Significant Impact" following a thirty (30) day comment period in accordance with the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing NEPA, Section 1508.13 providing there are no substantive comments which warrant further evaluation. The DEA will be available for review at the Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery, 2000 Mountain Creek Parkway, Dallas, TX 75211 and the Department of Veterans Affairs, National Cemetery Administration, Design and Construction Services, 425 I Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001, as well as the following local and regional libraries: Arlington Public Library - East Branch, 1624 New York Ave, Arlington, TX 76010; Grand Prairie Public Library System, 901 Conover Drive, Grand Prairie, TX 75051; Betty Warmack Library, 760 Bardin Road, Grand Prairie, TX 75052; Dallas Public Library, 2951 S Hampton Road, Dallas, TX 75224; and the Fort Worth Central Library, 500 W. Third St., Fort Worth, TX 76102-7305. It is also available for download from the USACE's website (<https://ecso.swf.usace.army.mil/pages/Publicreview.cfm>). The public comment period for the DEA ends on May 8, 2015. Comments may be sent to: Mr. Charles McGregor at USACE, Fort Worth District, 819 Taylor Street, Room 3A12C, Fort Worth, Texas, 76102 or via e-mail at charles.mcgregor@usace.army.mil.

NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND INTENT TO OBTAIN HAZARDOUS WASTE PERMIT RENEWAL WITH MAJOR AMENDMENTS. Same as listed above)

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR PROPOSED GRAVESITE EXPANSION AND IMPROVEMENTS AT THE DALLAS-FORT WORTH NATIONAL CEMETERY, DALLAS, TEXAS. The public is hereby notified of the availability of the draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) prepared by U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Fort Worth District for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). The proposed action includes expansion of gravesites, construction of columbaria, ossuary, memorial wall and parking lot,

Leg

of public inte or if requeste A public mee case hearing. OPPORTUNIT TESTED CA the deadline comments, t will consider and prepare relevant and public comm Unless the a referred fo hearing, the ments, and rector's dec cation, will eryone who comments a who are on this applica are receive also provid requesting the Execut ion and fo tested case case hearing similar to a ci court. TO REQUES CASE HEAR INCLUDE ITEMS IN YO name, addre applicant's number; th tance of you relative to th description be adverse facility in a the general statement contested ca request fo hearing is f group or a quest mus group's rep ceiving futu identify an of the gro adversely a cility or ac information regarding t ber's locati the facility how and why be affected; interests th otect are pup's purp owing the c nment and cutive Dire igation an nsideration hearing eners fo schedule 7- nmissic ed case of fact y to t n the R nmissi on iss filed quere LIST a e of n, his fu te

Cats

CALICO 8 mo old, sweet & loving. Free to good home. Serious inquiries (972) 639-0270 or (972) 748-7438

Dogs

AKC GOLDEN RETRIEVER PUPPIES 3 males \$1,100.00 and 1 female \$1,150.00 facebook.com/haleshappytails jhale05@yahoo.com 817-781-6357

AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERD Pups ASCA, all colors, (817) 253-1956

BICHON REG Pups Adorable family raised, non shed 817-980-4132

DACHSHUND REG Mini Pups 9 wks, long coat \$200-\$300 817-999-4130

Comments on the Draft EA were received from the following:

Steve Hagle, P.E.
Deputy Director, Office of Air
Texas Commission on Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 13087
Austin, TX 78711-3087

Corey Smith
Assistant Director
Delaware Nation Cultural Preservation
P.O. Box 825
Anadarko, OK 73005
Phone: (405) 247-2448 Ext. 1405
Fax: (405) 247-8905

Lisa C. Baker
Acting THPO
United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma
P.O. Box 746
Tahlequah, OK 74465

Mark Wolfe
Executive Director
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276
Austin, TX 78711

Karen Hardin
Wildlife Habitat Assessment Program, Wildlife Division
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department
4200 Smith School Road
Austin, TX 78744

H. Stan Hall, P.E.
Dallas District Advance Project Development Engineer
Texas Department of Transportation
4777 E. Highway 80
Mesquite, TX, 75150-6642

Bryan W. Shaw, Ph.D., P.E., *Chairman*
Toby Baker, *Commissioner*
Zak Covar, *Commissioner*
Richard A. Hyde, P.E., *Executive Director*



TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Protecting Texas by Reducing and Preventing Pollution

April 23, 2015

Charles McGregor
Department of the Army
Fort Worth District, Corps of Engineers
P.O. Box 17300
Fort Worth, Texas 76102
Via: charles.mcgregor@usace.army.mil

Re: NEPA Request #2015-080, Draft Environmental Assessment - Cemetery Improvements:
Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery, City of Dallas, Dallas County.

Dear Mr. McGregor:

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has reviewed the above-referenced project and offers the following comments:

We are in support of the project. The environmental assessment addresses issues related to surface and groundwater quality.

Any debris or waste disposal should be at an appropriately authorized disposal facility.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this project. If you have any questions, please contact Elizabeth McKeefe, CAPM, NEPA Coordinator, at (512) 239-2779 or NEPA@tceq.texas.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steve Hagle".

Steve Hagle, P.E., Deputy Director
Office of Air

Ann Guissinger

To: McGregor, Charles SWF
Subject: RE: Proposed Expansion of the Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery in Dallas County, TX (UNCLASSIFIED)

-----Original Message-----

From: McGregor, Charles SWF [<mailto:Charles.McGregor@usace.army.mil>]
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2015 12:31 PM
To: Chris Ingram
Cc: Davis, Steve; Howeth, Chris SWF
Subject: FW: Proposed Expansion of the Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery in Dallas County, TX (UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Caveats: NONE

-----Original Message-----

From: Corey Smith [<mailto:CSmith@delawarenation.com>]
Sent: Thursday, April 16, 2015 11:21 AM
To: McGregor, Charles SWF
Cc: Nekole Alligood
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Proposed Expansion of the Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery in Dallas County, TX

Description: Description: Large Embossed Turtle with TM.jpg

Delaware Nation

Mr. McGregor,

Thank you for consulting with the Delaware Nation. We appreciate your willingness to conduct proper consultation with our nation. We received your letter regarding the Proposed Expansion of the Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery in Dallas County, TX. However, this project does not lie within the Delaware Nation area of interest. Therefore, we will not be a consulting party.

Thank You,

Corey Smith
Assistant Director
Delaware Nation Cultural Preservation
P.O. Box 825
Anadarko, OK 73005
Phone: (405) 247-2448 Ext. 1405
Fax: (405) 247-8905

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Caveats: NONE

Ann Guissing

To: McGregor, Charles SWF
Subject: RE: [EXTERNAL] DFW National Cemetery (UNCLASSIFIED)

-----Original Message-----

From: McGregor, Charles SWF [<mailto:Charles.McGregor@usace.army.mil>]
Sent: Thursday, April 23, 2015 8:29 AM
To: Chris Ingram
Cc: Davis, Steve; Schattel, Jill
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL] DFW National Cemetery (UNCLASSIFIED)

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Caveats: NONE

-----Original Message-----

From: Lisa LaRue-Baker - UKB THPO [<mailto:ukbthpo-larue@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2015 3:40 PM
To: McGregor, Charles SWF
Cc: Holly Noe
Subject: [EXTERNAL] DFW National Cemetery

The UKB defers consultation on this project, as the Dallas-Ft. Worth area is out of our historic interest area.
Thank you for contacting us!!
Lisa

Lisa C. Baker
Acting THPO
United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma PO Box 746 Tahlequah, OK 74465 c 918.822.1952 ukbthpo-larue@yahoo.com

This email and any files transmitted with it are confidential and intended solely for the use of the individual or entity to whom they are addressed. If you have received this email in error please notify the system manager. This message contains confidential information and is intended only for the individual named. If you are not the named addressee you should not disseminate, distribute or copy this e-mail. Please notify the sender immediately by e-mail if you have received this e-mail by mistake and delete this e-mail from your system. If you are not the intended recipient you are notified that disclosing, copying, distributing or taking any action in reliance on the contents of this information is strictly prohibited.

Please FOLLOW our historic preservation page and LIKE us on FACEBOOK <<https://www.facebook.com/pages/United-Keetoowah-Band-of-Cherokee-Indians-in-Oklahoma-Historic-Preservation/199767846834850>>

Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Caveats: NONE



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
FORT WORTH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
P. O. BOX 17300
FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-0300

3 April 2015

Regional Planning and Environmental Center

Mr. Mark Wolfe
Executive Director
Texas Historical Commission (SHPO)
P.O. Box 12276
Austin, TX 78711

RECEIVED

APR 09 2015

Texas Historical Commission

Dear Mr. Wolfe:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Fort Worth District, has prepared a draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) on behalf of the U.S. Veterans Administration (VA) for the proposed gravesite expansion and improvements at the Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) National Cemetery in Dallas County, Texas. The VA proposes to expand its capacity of crypts and columbaria niches at the DFW National Cemetery to ensure no break in service to the veteran community. All proposed activities would be contained within the DFW National Cemetery boundary. New sites would be developed for the crypts and columbaria niches; however, four sections that were originally developed for traditional burials would be converted to crypt areas. Other improvements and repairs would include drainage and pavement repairs, expansion of the parking area near the Administration Building, and construction of an ossuary and memorial wall. The environmental impact analysis process for this DEA was conducted by the USACE and VA in accordance with Council on Environmental Quality regulations pursuant to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969.

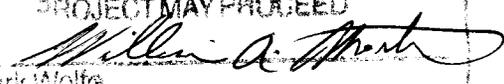
In accordance with Executive Order 12372, *Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs*, we request your participation in the continuing NEPA process by providing any comments you have to the enclosed copy of the DEA, or identifying any potential environmental impacts that are of concern to you. Please provide any written comments prior to or on May 8, 2015, which is 30 days from the date of the publication of the notice of availability of this EA.

Please address any written comments to Mr. Charles McGregor, Unit Chief, NEPA/Cultural Resources Section USACE, Fort Worth District, 819 Taylor Street, Room 3A12C, Fort Worth, Texas, 76102 or via e-mail to Charles.McGregor@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

Eric W. Verwers
Director, Regional Planning and
Environmental Center

NO HISTORIC
PROPERTIES AFFECTED
PROJECT MAY PROCEED

By 
for Mark Wolfe
State Historic Preservation Officer
Date 5/1/15
Track#



Life's better outside.®

April 22, 2015

Mr. Charles McGregor, Unit Chief
NEPA/Cultural Resources Section
USACE
Fort Worth District
819 Taylor Street, Room 3A12C
Fort Worth, Texas 76102

Re: Draft Environmental Assessment for Dallas-Fort Worth National
Cemetery Expansion and Improvements (Dallas County)
TPWD Project 34421

Dear Mr. Charles McGregor:

As the state agency with primary responsibility for protecting the state's fish and wildlife resources and in accordance with the authority granted by Parks and Wildlife Code §12.0011, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) has reviewed the draft Environmental Assessment (EA) regarding the proposed expansion and improvements at the Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery.

The project involves conversion of Sections 1 through 4 from traditional burial sites to pre-placed crypts; development of Section 84 for pre-placed crypts; construction of a columbaria site, ossuary and memorial wall; construction of an access road behind Sections 99 and 101; construction of a new parking area at the administration building; utilization of a proposed stockpile area; and construction of a temporary construction road along Sections 1 through 4.

The draft EA indicates negligible adverse impacts on hydrology, water quality, vegetation and wildlife and no impacts to threatened and endangered species. Best management practices to avoid or mitigate potential adverse impacts on fish and wildlife resources include protections for nesting migratory birds, managing storm water during construction, and re-vegetation of staging areas using native grasses. Based on the draft EA, TPWD does not anticipate significant adverse impacts to rare, threatened or endangered species or other fish and wildlife resources due to the proposed action or alternatives. TPWD has no additional comments or concerns regarding the project as presented in the draft EA.

Please note that TPWD now accepts projects through electronic submittal. Project review requests can be submitted via **unzipped** electronic files to WHAB@tpwd.texas.gov. For information regarding the Wildlife Habitat Assessment Program and the project submittal and review process please refer to http://www.tpwd.texas.gov/huntwild/wild/wildlife_diversity/habitat_assessment/.

Charles McGregor

Page 2

April 22, 2015

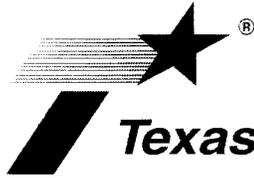
Thank you for considering the impacts of the project actions on the fish and wildlife resources of Texas. If you have any questions, please contact me at (903) 322-5001 or Karen.Hardin@tpwd.texas.gov.

Sincerely,



Karen B. Hardin
Wildlife Habitat Assessment Program
Wildlife Division

kbh/34421



Texas Department of Transportation

4777 E HWY 80 | MESQUITE, TEXAS 75150-6642 | (214) 320-6100 | WWW.TXDOT.GOV

April 30, 2015

Mr. Charles McGregor
Unit Chief
NEPA/Cultural Resources Section
Department of the Army
Fort Worth District
Corps of Engineers
P.O. BOX 17300
Fort Worth, Texas 76102-0300

Dear Mr. McGregor,

In reference to the Corps of Engineer's April 3, 2015 letter, thank you for the opportunity to review the draft Environmental Assessment concerning the proposed expansion of the DFW National Cemetery in Dallas County, Texas. My staff has reviewed the document and has no comments on the proposed project's impacts on TxDOT facilities or operations.

Concerning unique or environmentally sensitive areas or species that may be affected by the proposed action, please refer to Mr. Jay McCurley's letter of March 26, 2015. To reiterate, TxDOT records do not indicate any such areas or species within 1.5 miles. It is worth noting that south of the Cemetery in the area of Cedar Hill State Park there are occurrences of Black-capped Vireo (*Vireo atricapilla*), a federally listed species. As you are aware, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is the State agency charged with protection of natural resources in Texas and would be the best source of information.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Jay McCurley at 214-320-6207.

Sincerely,

H. Stan Hall, P.E.
Dallas District Advance Project
Development Engineer

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MAINTAIN A SAFE SYSTEM • ADDRESS CONGESTION • CONNECT TEXAS COMMUNITIES • BEST IN CLASS STATE AGENCY

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DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
 FORT WORTH DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
 P. O. BOX 17300
 FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76102-0300

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
 DISTRICT NO. 18

APR 08 2015

3 April 2015

Regional Planning and Environmental Center

Mr. Kelly Selman, P.E.
 District Engineer
 Texas Department of Transportation
 4777 E. Highway 80
 Mesquite, Texas, 75150-6643

Dist. Engr. _____ () _____
 Asst. Dist. Engr. _____ () _____
 Mo Bur _____ () Action _____
 Stan Hall _____ () Advise _____
 Dan Ruff _____ () Comment _____

FILE

Dear Mr. Selman:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), Fort Worth District, has prepared a draft Environmental Assessment (DEA) on behalf of the U.S. Veterans Administration (VA) for the proposed gravesite expansion and improvements at the Dallas-Fort Worth (DFW) National Cemetery in Dallas County, Texas. The VA proposes to expand its capacity of crypts and columbaria niches at the DFW National Cemetery to ensure no break in service to the veteran community. All proposed activities would be contained within the DFW National Cemetery boundary. New sites would be developed for the crypts and columbaria niches; however, four sections that were originally developed for traditional burials would be converted to crypt areas. Other improvements and repairs would include drainage and pavement repairs, expansion of the parking area near the Administration Building, and construction of an ossuary and memorial wall. The environmental impact analysis process for this DEA was conducted by the USACE and VA in accordance with Council on Environmental Quality regulations pursuant to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969.

In accordance with Executive Order 12372, *Intergovernmental Review of Federal Programs*, we request your participation in the continuing NEPA process by providing any comments you have to the enclosed copy of the DEA, or identifying any potential environmental impacts that are of concern to you. Please provide any written comments prior to or on May 8, 2015, which is 30 days from the date of the publication of the notice of availability of this EA.

Please address any written comments to Mr. Charles McGregor, Unit Chief, NEPA/Cultural Resources Section USACE, Fort Worth District, 819 Taylor Street, Room 3A12C, Fort Worth, Texas, 76102 or via e-mail to Charles.McGregor@usace.army.mil

Sincerely,

Eric W. Verwers
 Director, Regional Planning and
 Environmental Center



ALABAMA-COUSHATTA TRIBE OF TEXAS

571 State Park Road 56 • Livingston, Texas 77351 • (936) 563-1100

May 15, 2015

US Army Corps of Engineers
Fort Worth District
Attn: Charles McGregor
819 Taylor Street, Room 3A12C
Fort Worth, TX 76102

Dear Mr. McGregor:

On behalf of Mikko Colabe III Clem Sylestine and the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe, our appreciation is expressed on your efforts to consult us regarding the Dallas-Fort Worth National Cemetery expansion proposal in Dallas County.

Our Tribe maintains ancestral associations throughout the state of Texas despite the absence of written records to completely identify Tribal activities, villages, trails, or burial sites. However, it is our objective to ensure significances of American Indian ancestry, especially of Alabama-Coushatta origin, are administered with the utmost considerations.

Upon review of your April 3, 2015 submission, we decline to participate in this consultation. Dallas County exists beyond our scope of interest for the state of Texas. Therefore, no known impacts to cultural assets of the Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas will occur in conjunction with this proposal.

Should you require further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bryant J. Celestine".

Bryant J. Celestine
Historic Preservation Officer