

**To the Mayor and Members of the City Council****September 6, 2022**

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SUBJECT: PROTECTING HISTORIC CEMETERIES IN FORT WORTH

The purpose of this Informal Report (IR) is to provide additional information on protected historic cemeteries in Fort Worth and options available to the City to assist in the protection of historic cemeteries that are not currently designated. This IR is a continuation of the topic first introduced in IR 22-116 concerning the topic of historic cemeteries in Fort Worth.

Currently, only two (2) historic cemeteries are locally designated in Fort Worth:

- Oakwood Cemetery Complex (Demolition Delay [DD])
- Lake Como Cemetery (Historic & Cultural Landmark [HC])

The remaining 33 historic cemeteries are not locally designated. Property owner(s) of an individual property or a property within a proposed historic district may initiate the nomination process for historic designation by:

- Submitting a completed and signed designation application to the Historic Preservation Officer (HPO).
- After submission, staff will review the application to determine eligibility.
- If the property is determined eligible for designation, the HPO will forward the application to the Historic & Cultural Landmarks Commission (HCLC), which will make a recommendation to Council on the merits of the designation request.

City Council, the HCLC, and the City Manager may also nominate an individual property or district for historic designation by adopting a resolution to nominate such and directing the HPO to submit a designation application to the HCLC for consideration. Property-owner support is recommended when adopting a resolution for designation.

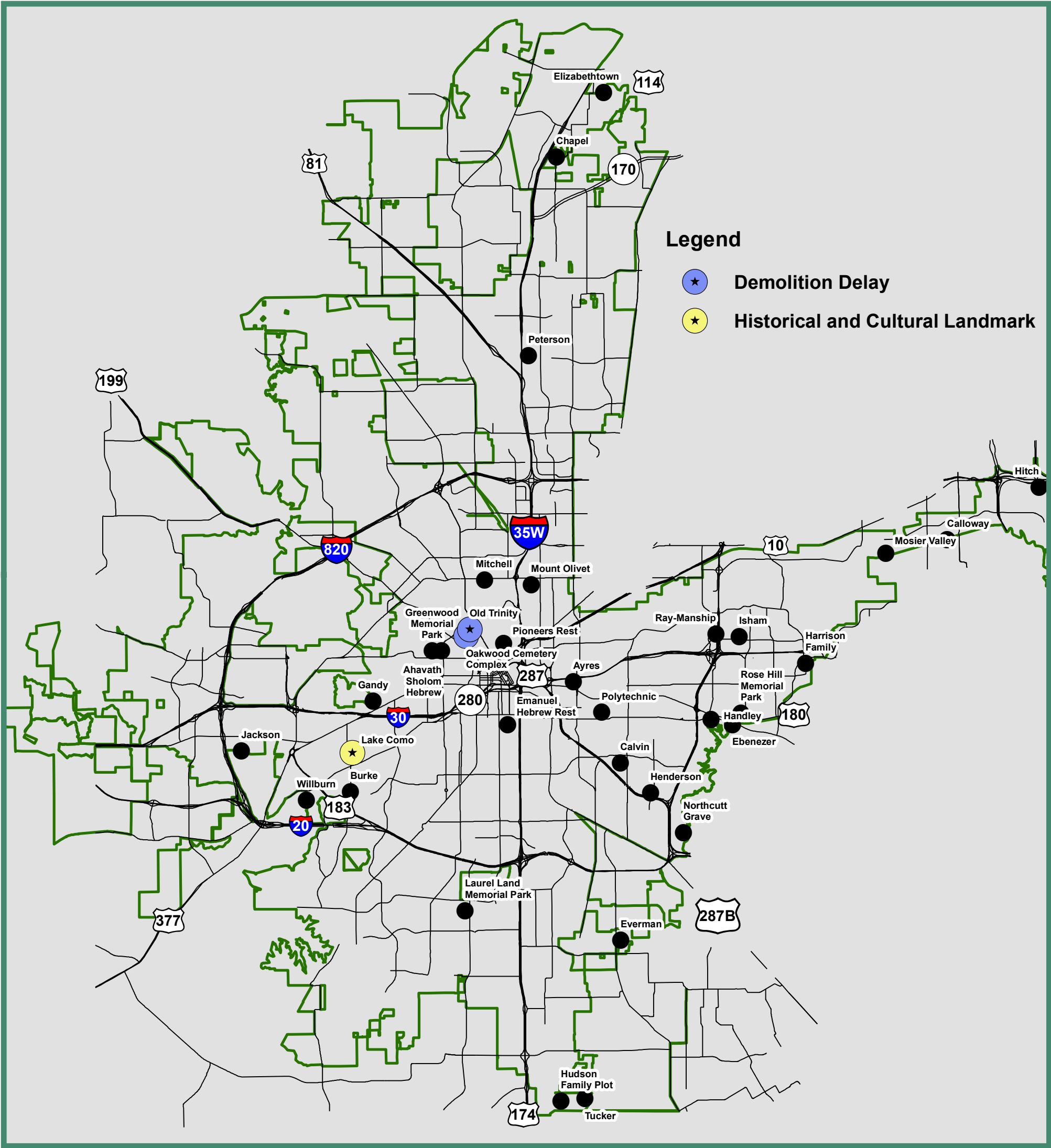
If a property is designated as a Historic & Cultural Landmark (HC), the property is eligible for the Historic Site Tax Exemption (HSTE) program if the property owner undertakes rehabilitation or repairs to the property. The HSTE can help a property owner recoup some of the rehabilitation cost of a project after the project is complete. Some cemeteries may not be eligible for the HSTE if the property on which the cemetery is located is entitled to certain property tax exemptions under Chapter 11 of the Texas Tax Code.

In order to encourage the protection of historic cemeteries, Preservation Staff will send letters to the property owners of historic cemeteries detailing the benefits of designation. Proactive education and engagement will have the added benefit of helping the City meet its statutory requirements under its Certified Local Government (CLG) agreement with the State of Texas.

If you have any questions, please contact Daniel Leal – Zoning and Design Review Assistant Director at 817-392-6214 or Justin Newhart – Historic Preservation Officer, at 817-392-8037.

David Cooke
City Manager

Locally Designated Cemeteries in the City of Fort Worth



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