CHCs and Historic Cemeteries: A Framework for Preservation

Introduction to the Framework

Introduction

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

Collin CHC at Smith Cemetery, HTC 2022

CHC Annual Reports – Cemetery Activities

- Maintain an inventory of cemeteries ✔
- Assess the condition of cemeteries ✔
- Provide an inventory of cemeteries for public ✔
- Clean or repair objects in cemeteries ✔
- Maintain an inventory of cemetery orgs. ✔
- Partner with cemetery organizations ✔

www.thc.texas.gov/cht-cemeteries
Encourage Projects That:
• Result in long-term impact
• Emphasize preservation
• Generate public awareness
• Build capacity
• Use resources wisely
• Benefit all cemeteries
• Demonstrate a strong preservation ethic
• Rooted in inventory, assessment

Direct preservation outcome?
• Resources used efficiently, effectively?
• Wide-spread benefit?
• Demonstrates preservation knowledge, ethic?
• Long-term impact?
• Builds support?

CHCs & Cemetery Preservation Study Project

Telephone interviews =
40 counties

Online Survey =
126 counties

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>County Population</th>
<th>Responses</th>
<th>% Responses</th>
<th>Vs. All Counties</th>
<th>Vs. Statewide</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Group 1 (Under 500)</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>165</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group 2 (501-1199)</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>610</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>48%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Group 3 (1200-1799)</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>18%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Group 4 (Over 1800)</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>265</td>
<td>59</td>
<td>28%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Key Findings: Common Challenges

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

What = Successful Preservation:
- Maintain a list of cemeteries in county
- Locate and document abandoned cemeteries
- Monitor conditions and threats
- Maintain accurate burial records
- Obtain accurate GPS coordinates

CHCs Report Doing This:
- Maintain a list of cemeteries in county
- Locate and document abandoned cemeteries
- Monitor conditions and threats
- HTC Markers & Designations
- Work w/ city, county, law officials to enforce laws

Key Findings: Cemetery Activities

Keep it safe and accessible! Make good use of it!
A Suggested Framework for County-Wide Cemetery Preservation

IDENTIFICATION & ASSESSMENT

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

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