

May 1, 2000

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Steve Beachy, Director Parks and Recreation

**FROM:** Ross Albrecht, Forestry Superintendent

**SUBJECT:** Existing Cemetery Usage Information

As per your request at this morning's staff meeting, here is the statistical information on the existing site, and the assumptions for the proposed new site.

1. The Parks Almanac lists the existing site at 18.5 acres. This is the number used in all performance measure and service level reporting. The recent land evaluation by TxDOT in preparation for the widening of Texas Avenue has the property at 16 acres.
2. The existing site has approximately 6,000 platted spaces. This does not include the Shiloh and Salem sections, as these were never platted. We also have no indication of the total number of spaces/burials in these two areas. Using the 4-acre figure that is indicated in the deed of the Shiloh and Salem cemeteries to the City, this leaves either 14 or 12 acres for the remaining site. This is further clouded as the 4 acre portion apparently included land that is now part of the Arboretum. With all in consideration, we have 6,000 spaces in either 14 or 12 acres, or 430 to 500 spaces per acre. This equates to 50 to 57% of each acre being used for spaces. These calculations are based only on a 5 by 10-foot adult space (50 sq. ft.).
3. During the process of defining the City's needs for a new site, we used 70 to 75% of each acre for platted spaces. It should be noted that this percentage of available area per acre is ambitious, and should probably be decreased. Based only on our current adult space size of 50 square feet, this gives 600 to 650 spaces per acre. This number will change with the space size, the road bed location, the mixture of adult/infant/cremate only spaces, and the layout of the property. Cemeteries are traditionally laid out on the compass points. If the property is aligned with the compass, the number of spaces can be maximized. In the existing cemetery site we have the low percentage of each acre in platted spaces as the lots are all laid out at approximately a 45-degree angle from the boundaries so as to be on the compass points.
4. The future cemetery site size uses the assumption of the current site being 18.5 acres, and that it has served the community since 1948. With the increase in size of the community, and the desire to establish a large enough second site to accommodate the community for at least another 50 years, the Cemetery Committee feel a 30 to 40 acre site should be acquired.

At 60% of each acre being platted:

30 acres yields 18 acres	or 784,080 sq. ft.	or 15,680 spaces (523/acre)
40 acres yields 24 acres	or 1,045,440 sq. ft.	or 20,910 spaces (523/acre)

At 65% of each acre being platted:

30 acres yields 19.5 acres	or 849,420 sq. ft.	or 16,988 spaces (566/acre)
40 acres yields 26 acres	or 1,132,560 sq. ft.	or 22,651 spaces (566/acre)

At 70% of each acre being platted:

30 acres yields 21 acres	or 914,760 sq. ft.	or 18,295 spaces (610/acre)
40 acres yields 28 acres	or 1,219,680 sq. ft.	or 24,394 spaces (610/acre)

At 75% of each acre being platted:

30 acres yields 22.5 acres	or 980,100 sq. ft.	or 19,602 spaces (653/acre)
40 acres yields 30 acres	or 1,306,800 sq. ft.	or 26,136 spaces (653/acre)

**5.** As of 5/1/00, we have 1,253 spaces to be sold. Please recall that once the cemetery is sold out, it will not be inactive. We will still have numerous burials per month.

The last five years average number of spaces sold is 176. This equates to 7 years until sold out.

The last ten years average number of spaces sold is 152, or 8 years until sold out.