

Western Heights Cemetery

Western Heights Cemetery, located at 1617 Fort Worth Avenue, is the burial ground for many Dallas pioneers and families, as well as veterans of the Civil War (both Union and Confederate), the Spanish/American War, World War I and World War II. Perhaps most notably, Clyde Barrow of the infamous Bonnie and Clyde gang is buried here with several of his family members.

Previously overgrown and neglected, it was adopted by the Fort Worth Avenue Development Group in 2009, who kept the grounds mowed and trees trimmed. In 2022, through active fundraising, the group raised community awareness and participation by undertaking a master reclamation and restoration project involving volunteer maintenance, monument repairs, a web-based directory of gravesites and participation in a pilot program transforming the cemetery into a native eco-system. In addition, commemorative bricks are being sold to create a plaza near the entry, which was completed in 2024, and to further add a pathway from the entry into the cemetery.

Volunteers are welcome to participate in cemetery maintenance each Wednesday from 9 to 11 a.m. (earlier in hot weather) except holidays. Accommodation can be made to meet volunteers who would like to help but aren't available on Wednesday mornings, but we do ask that all activities are coordinated with us due to the complex nature of the native ecosystem being established at the cemetery. Please contact us at President@fortworthave.org if you'd like to help out.

Several public events take place at the cemetery throughout the year, and we'd love to have our neighbors join us. Our next event is the second annual Descendants Day on May 3rd. There will be a history breakfast next door at White Rhino coffee, cemetery tours, and Living Biographies (telling the stories and relating the history of the people interred at the cemetery). The following event will be a Memorial Day celebration on May 27, with flags being placed on Veterans' graves and tours of the cemetery including more Living Biographies. Please join us as we celebrate the history of this unique part of North Oak Cliff history!

Of course, restoring and maintaining the Western Heights Cemetery can be a costly endeavor. While our volunteers have donated countless hours and, in many cases, personal funds to support this, donations are always welcome and appreciated. If you would like to help out, please visit https://www.paypal.com/donate?campaign_id=66EJ25E4WG8FQ and support this community treasure.