

## **Attachment I**

### **Part IV – Narrative Description of your Activities**

Located in Dallas's Forest Hills neighborhood on the original homestead of pioneer Warren Angus Ferris, the 1847 Ferris Historic Cemetery is the final resting place of prominent early settlers. It is the mission of the Friends of the Warren Ferris Cemetery to recognize and honor those buried there, to design and execute a landscape restoration plan and to beautify and maintain the landscape to the standards of a certified wildlife & monarch butterfly way station, to secure the funds, report historic findings, and hire the necessary staff to continue the ongoing project.

The Friends of the Warren Ferris Cemetery are restoring the neglected landscape of this historic cemetery. After remediation, a marker naming many of the approximately 100 people buried at the site, including Warren Ferris himself, will be located to replace original tombstones vandalized or stolen over the past century.

Current activities include the on-going removal of invasive plants, development of an open feeling to the property with a marked pathway to encourage visitation and discourage vandalism, documentation of the emergence of native species since the first clearing of invasives in March/April, mulching of the forested area with wood chips on the cemetery's open western side to discourage non-native growth and to restore the depleted soil, reduce erosion and help retain moisture during the summer months, and the creation of a wood chip, infinity-shaped pathway through two stands of mini-forest in the cemetery, allowing for native flowers and grasses to grow on either side.

Future plans of activities include placement of an in-ground marker bearing names of interred Dallas pioneers, develop a community educational program on native flora and fauna in partnership with Sanger Elementary School, plant ID tags to be placed in front of established and new native growth, including the names of birds & butterflies that they benefit, partnerships with local colleges for further study of people buried on the property, on-going history and documentation of archeological findings, in fall, evaluation of native regrowth and design a planting scheme based on the Concept Plan (see illustration below) to replant and reseed the inner and outer grounds, installation of birdhouses and a bird water source, and on-going maintenance program to include removal of debris, removal of invasive species, placement of seasonal plant signage to educate the public, annual reseedling of native wildflowers, planting of native vegetation as needed and upkeep of wood chip walkway.

Our future goal is that other neighborhoods across the state of Texas will revitalize their own fallen cemeteries. Cemeteries are important keys to Texas' past. They are tangible reminders of settlement patterns and reveal information about historic events, religion, lifestyle, and genealogy