

# ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

## HOUSTON NATIONAL CEMETERY LAND ACQUISITION HARRIS COUNTY HOUSTON, TEXAS

May 2006



### ABSTRACT:

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), National Cemetery Administration, operates the Houston National Cemetery, located in Houston, Texas. In 2004, Houston National Cemetery conducted a total of 2,407 burials and was ranked number 10, regarding burial workload, within the VA cemetery system.

The additional property proposed for acquisition (the Phillips property) is approximately 32.4 acres in total size arranged in a narrow rectangular shape running lengthwise along the southern boundary of the existing Houston National Cemetery. The majority of the acquired land will be maintained as a vegetated buffer, between the cemetery and adjacent residential development to the south.

This environmental assessment reports on the effects of acquiring the property and performing selective vegetation management; additional appropriate environmental documents would be prepared prior to any expansion of the cemetery or construction on the property.

The acquisition of this property and subsequent selective clearing and use would not have any significant impact on the environment.

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## Section 1.0 - EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

### BACKGROUND

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), National Cemetery Administration (NCA), operates the Houston National Cemetery, located in Houston, Texas. In FY2004, Houston National Cemetery conducted a total of 2,407 interments and was ranked number 10, regarding interment workload, within the VA system.

The proposed action is the acquisition of a 32.4 acre parcel adjacent to the southern boundary of the site offered by a private donor.

The proposed donation site is not immediately needed for burial purposes and—based upon its narrow shape and separation from the main cemetery by a drainage ditch—represents low potential for burial development. Presently, the property is not improved and is not being maintained in any way. Should the site be acquired by VA, it could be selectively cleared and maintained as an attractive, wooded buffer consistent with NCA appearance standards. Government ownership would also preclude other, non-compatible uses of the land.

This Environmental Assessment reports on the effects of acquiring the property from the private donor. Impacts related to site development would be evaluated in a separate EA.

The acquisition of additional land at the Houston National Cemetery would not have any significant impact on the environmental conditions on the property.

### LOCATION

The additional property proposed for acquisition (the Phillips property) is approximately 32.4 acres in total size arranged in a long rectangular shape measuring approximately 4,352 feet in length and 324 feet in width. The property runs along the southern boundary of Houston National Cemetery, extending in an east-west orientation. The property also contains a drainage ditch approximately 20 feet wide and 6 feet deep running along the northern boundary immediately adjacent to the cemetery.

### PRIOR ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES

A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment was completed on January 6, 2005 by MACTEC Engineering and Consulting of Houston, Texas. Based on the information presented in this report, no evidence of recognized adverse environmental conditions was identified with regards to the Site. No further assessment was recommended at that time.

### DESCRIPTION OF ALTERNATIVES

#### No-Action Alternative:

Under this alternative, VA would not accept the donated land, and the area could be developed for commercial or residential property, immediately adjacent to current burial areas.

#### Proposed Alternative A: Acquire adjacent 32-acre tract

Under Alternative A, VA would accept the donated land and maintain the tract as a wooded buffer shielding nearby residential development.

#### Other Alternatives:

VA is not actively seeking additional land at this time; therefore, there are no other alternatives.

## **BASIS FOR SELECTION**

Alternative A was selected as the preferred alternative. VA ownership of the donated land will allow Houston NC staff to maintain an attractive vegetated buffer along the southern boundary of the cemetery.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS**

### Specific Areas Evaluated:

Aesthetics – The proposed action will result in a positive impact to cemetery appearance. Currently, the site is unimproved and overgrown with heavy underbrush. VA plans to manage overgrown vegetation and maintain the area as an attractive, wooded buffer along the southern boundary of the cemetery.

Air Quality – Slight, short-term adverse impact during selective mechanized vegetation removal.

Community Services – No impact

Cultural Resources – Based on available records and correspondence from the Texas Historical Commission, no major impacts to archeological or historical resources are anticipated.

Economic Activity – No impact

Floodplains, wetlands – Based on available records and correspondence from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, no floodplains or wetlands are present on the property.

Geology and soils – No impact

Property Use – No impact--the property would be maintained as an undeveloped portion of the cemetery.

Noise – Slight, short-term impact during selective mechanized vegetation removal.

Real Property – The transfer of the property would cause privately owned property to become Federally-owned property. This conversion represents a minor loss of property tax income for the city of Houston, Harris County, and the local school district.

Resident Population – No impact

Solid/Hazardous Waste – Based on a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment completed on January 6, 2005 by MACTEC Engineering and Consulting of Houston, Texas, no evidence of recognized adverse environmental conditions was identified with regards to the Site. No solid, hazardous, or toxic waste was identified on the site.

Transportation – No impact

Utilities – No impact

Vegetation/Wildlife/Biological – No federally listed or proposed threatened or endangered species have been identified or are likely to occur at the project site.

Water Resources – No impact

## **2.0 PURPOSE AND NEED**

### **2.1 Purpose**

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), National Cemetery Administration (NCA) is responsible for providing cemetery services to veterans and other eligible persons pursuant to the provisions of the National Cemeteries Act of 1973 and other statutory authority and regulations. Under this mandate, the National Cemetery Administration is responsible for the operation and maintenance of 122 existing National Cemeteries, and the construction of new National Cemeteries. The purpose of the proposed action is to accept donated land adjacent to the Houston National Cemetery to create an attractive wooded backdrop for existing burial areas.

### **2.2 Need**

The proposed donation site is not immediately needed for burial purposes and—based upon its narrow shape and separation from the main cemetery by a drainage ditch—represents low potential for burial development. Presently, the property is not improved and is not being maintained in any way. Should the site be acquired by VA, it could be selectively cleared and maintained as an attractive, wooded buffer separating the cemetery from nearby residential development. Government ownership would also preclude other, non-compatible uses of the land.

National cemeteries carry expectations of appearance that set them apart from private cemeteries. One of the strategic goals of the NCA is to ensure that each national cemetery is maintained as a shrine with an appearance appropriate to honor the service and sacrifice veterans have made. The acquisition and maintenance of the additional land would improve cemetery appearance consistent with NCA standards.

## **3.0 DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION**

### **3.1 The Action**

The proposed action is the acquisition of a 32.4 acre parcel of land adjacent to southern boundary of the Houston NC. The land will be selectively cleared and maintained as a vegetated buffer between the cemetery and nearby residential areas to the south.

### **3.2 Location**

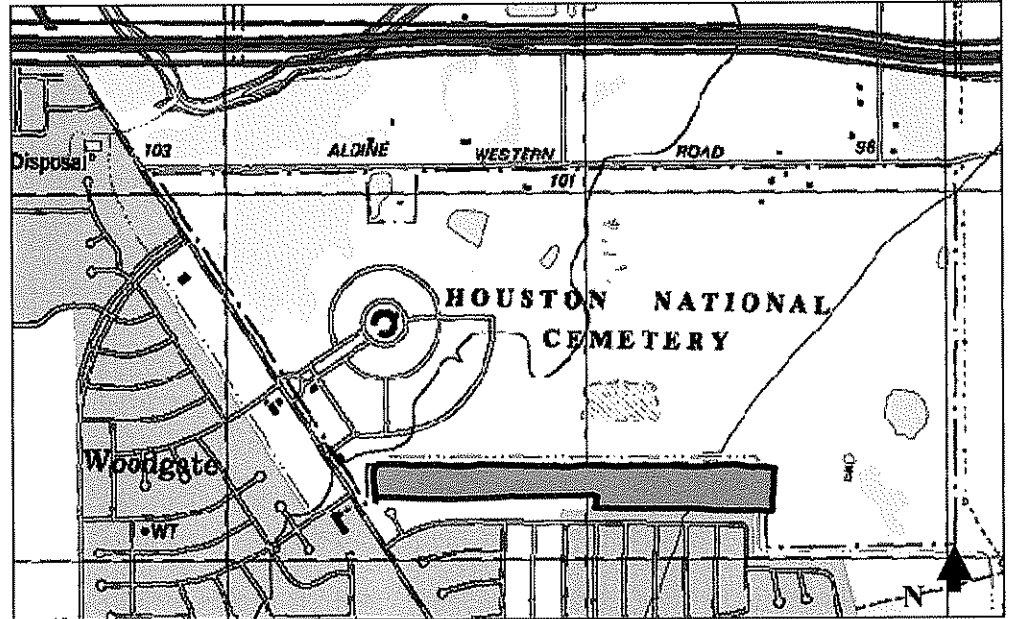
The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), National Cemetery Administration, operates the Houston National Cemetery, located in Houston, Texas. In FY2004, Houston National Cemetery conducted a total of 2,407 interments and was ranked number 10, regarding interment workload, within the VA system. Houston National Cemetery was the largest veteran's cemetery of its kind at the time of construction. Designed entirely by VA staff, it was also the only new VA cemetery not located on the grounds of a VA hospital. Houston became a national cemetery in 1973 after the passage of the National Cemetery Act, when operations and management were transferred from the U.S. Army to the Veterans Administration.

The additional property proposed for acquisition (the Phillips property) is approximately 32.4 acres in total size arranged in a long rectangular shape measuring approximately 4,352 feet in length and 324 feet in width. It is covered with heavy undergrowth and trees and contains no apparent human-made improvements. The property runs along the southern boundary of Houston National Cemetery, extending in an east-west orientation. The northern edge of the property contains a drainage ditch

running the entire length of the site; the ditch is approximately 20-feet wide by 6-feet deep. The ditch is part of a broader water control system and may constitute a recorded easement on the property. The Department of Veterans Affairs has already awarded an access easement across VA land to the Phillips property at the western end.

Figure 3.2 – Location

■ Proposed Site



## **4.0 DESCRIPTION OF ALTERNATIVES**

### **4.1 No Action Alternative**

Under the no action alternative the VA would not accept the donated land and would not take any action to manage it. The no action alternative is not preferable as the appearance of the property negatively impacts Houston National Cemetery's ability to achieve NCA appearance standards.

Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no environmental impacts to the property, as it would stay in its present vacant, unimproved condition.

### **4.2 Alternative A – Expand Cemetery on Adjacent Property Transferred from RIA**

Under Alternative A, VA would accept the donate 32.4 acre parcel and would manage the overgrown vegetation on it to improve appearance consistent with NCA standards.

### **4.3 Other Alternatives**

There are no additional alternatives.

### **4.4 Basis for Selection**

Alternative A was selected as the preferred alternative. VA ownership of the donated land will allow Houston NC staff to maintain an attractive vegetated buffer along the southern boundary of the cemetery.

## **5.0 ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSIS**

### **5.1 Procedures**

Since Federal funding is involved, an Environmental Assessment (EA) was conducted in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations implementing NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations 1500-1508), and VA Regulations, Title 38 of the CFR, Section 26.4 (a). The VA policy includes provision to:

Act with care in carrying out its mission of providing services for veterans and to ensure it does so consistently with national environmental policies. Specifically, the VA shall ensure that all practical means and measures are used to protect, restore, and enhance the quality of the human environment;

Avoid or minimize adverse environmental consequences, consistent with other national policy considerations;

Prepare concise and clear environmental documents which shall be supported by documented environmental analyses;

Preserve historical, cultural, and natural aspects of our national heritage.

### **5.2 Prior Environmental Studies**

To reduce redundancy with previous relevant documents related to environmental conditions as required by the Council on Environment Quality, all of VA's Environmental Assessments are based on

the findings of prior environmental studies. The Houston National Cemetery was constructed in the early 1960's prior to requirements for environmental impact assessments.

A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment was completed on January 6, 2005 by MACTEC Engineering and Consulting of Houston, Texas. Based on the information presented in this report, no evidence of recognized adverse environmental conditions was identified with regards to the Site. No further assessment was recommended at that time.

### **5.3 Specific Areas Evaluated**

The acquisition of additional land at the Houston National Cemetery could potentially impact natural, cultural, and economic resources as well as the surrounding infrastructure. This EA examined the acquisition's potential impacts on aesthetics, air quality, community services, cultural resources, economic activity, floodplains and wetlands, geology and soils, surrounding property uses, nearby resident populations, transportation facilities, utilities, wildlife, and water resources as well as potential increase in noise and production of solid and hazardous waste.

The following sections contain discussions of each environmental aspect, the existing conditions at the site, potential impacts associated with the project, and NCA's strategy to mitigate negative impacts.

#### **5.3.1 Aesthetics**

Aesthetics refers to the visual resources including natural and man-made features that give a particular piece of property its aesthetic properties. High sensitivity relates to rare or unique natural settings. Medium sensitivity relates to more developed areas with motor vehicles and modern civilization. Low sensitivity relates to areas with minimal landscape features and few changes in appearance.

##### Existing Setting

The proposed expansion site is densely wooded and relatively flat. The site may contain invasive plant species that will be managed as required by Executive Order 13112. To the south the property is bounded by residential development, to the north, east, and west is the Houston National Cemetery.

##### Potential Environmental Impacts

Under the no action alternative there will be no change in the appearance of the proposed development site.

Under Alternative A, Houston National Cemetery staff will selectively remove overgrown vegetation and will maintain the site as a managed, wooded area. This change to aesthetics is considered a positive impact.

##### Proposed Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

#### **5.3.2 Air Quality**

Air quality refers to the concentration of air contaminants in a specific location. Air quality is determined by the type and amount of pollutants emitted into the atmosphere, the size and topography of

the air basin, and the prevailing meteorological conditions. Impacts refer to changes in the air quality related to changed conditions caused by an action.

#### Existing Conditions

Harris County is a 1-hour ozone non-attainment area and an 8-hour ozone non-attainment area according to the United States Environmental Protection Agency Green Book website.

#### Potential Environmental Impacts

Under the no action alternative there will be no adverse impacts on air quality.

Under alternative A, there would be no impacts to air quality associated with site acquisition and minimal, short-term, adverse impacts associated with selective, mechanized vegetation removal.

#### Proposed Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

### **5.3.3 Community Services**

Community services refer to services provided by surrounding communities such as police, fire, and ambulance services.

#### Existing Conditions

Community services are not regularly used in the proposed property, as it is vacant.

#### Potential Environmental Impacts

Under the no action alternative there would be no change in use of community services.

Under Alternative A there would be no increase in use of community services associated with site acquisition and maintenance.

#### Proposed Mitigation Measures

No mitigation is required.

### **5.3.4 Cultural Resources**

Cultural Resources refers to compliance with the National Historic Preservation Act, which addresses the protection of archeological, historic, and cultural resources.

#### Existing Conditions

The area under consideration does not include any cultural or historic resources or structures (Appendix A – SHPO letter).

#### Potential Environmental Impacts

Under the no action alternative there would be no impact to cultural and historic resources

Under Alternative A there would be no impact to cultural and historic resources.

#### Proposed Mitigation Measures

No mitigation required.

#### **5.3.5 Economic Activity**

Economic Activity refers to the effect that the proposed action would have on the economic conditions in the surrounding area.

#### Existing Conditions

The vacant federal property has no economic effect on the community. The Houston National Cemetery employs 32 full time staff.

#### Potential Environmental Impacts

Under the no action alternative there would be no impact to economic activity

Under Alternative A, there would be no impact to economic activity.

#### Proposed Mitigation Measures

No mitigation required

#### **5.3.6 Floodplains, Wetlands**

Floodplains are those areas delineated by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) in their Flood Plain Maps indicating both 100-year and 500-year floodplains. Floodways are those areas delineated by FEMA indicating areas where floodwaters will be deepest and swiftest.

Wetlands are areas that are subject to inundation or saturation with water near the surface of the ground for a period during the growing season, have a vegetation cover dominated by plants adapted to wet conditions, and have soils with characteristics that develops due to waterlogged conditions.

#### Existing Conditions

There are no floodplains or wetlands located in the property according to existing records, maps, and correspondence with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. (Appendix B – USCOE concurrence letter).

#### Potential Environmental Impacts

Under the no action alternative there would be no impact to floodplains or wetlands,

Under Alternative A, there would be no impact to floodplains or wetlands.

#### Proposed Mitigation Measures

No mitigation required

### 5.3.7 Geology and soils

Geology and soils refers to the potential for loss of soils and changes in geological conditions due to rock excavation, soil erosion, soil compaction, soil horizon removal, grading, and cutting and filling operations.

#### Existing Conditions

According to the Harris County Soil Survey (1976) the site contains Clodine loam and Gessner loam soils. Both soils are poorly drained and nearly level. Clodine loams are hydric soils that are saturated during winter and early spring. Gessner loams are saturated in wet periods.

#### Potential Environmental Impacts

Under the no action alternative there would be no impact to geology and soils on the property.

Under alternative A, there would be no impact to geology and soils on the property

#### Proposed Mitigation Measures

No mitigation required.

### 5.3.8 Noise

Noise refers to the generation of noise by construction or normal operations on the property.

#### Existing Conditions

The existing cemetery currently generates some noise as a result of normal cemetery operations. Sources of noise include preparations for interments, performance of military honors during funeral services, automobile traffic associated with funeral services, and landscape maintenance. Most of these activities occur during regular business hours and cause only a minimal adverse impact on the surrounding area.

#### Potential Environmental Impacts

Under the no action alternative, noise levels would not change and there would be no adverse impacts.

Under Alternative A, noise levels may increase temporarily during selective clearing of overgrown vegetation; there would be no long-term, adverse impacts.

#### Proposed Mitigation Measures

Adverse impacts will be mitigated by limiting construction to time periods allowable under local noise ordinances.

### 5.3.9 Property use

Property Use represents the current and planned use of the property in a jurisdiction by the governing authorities.

### Existing Setting

The proposed property consists of 32.4 acres of privately owned, undeveloped land adjacent to the Houston National Cemetery.

### Potential Environmental Impacts

Under the no action alternative there would be no change to property use.

Under alternative A the property would remain vacant and undeveloped. Vegetation on the site would be managed to improve health and appearance.

### Proposed Mitigation Measures

No mitigation required

### **5.3.10 Real Property**

Real Property refers to the reduction of land on the tax rolls or reduction in land value as a result of the cemetery expansion.

### Existing Conditions

The proposed property consists of 32.4 acres of privately owned land adjacent to the Houston National Cemetery.

### Potential Environmental Impacts

Under the no action alternative there would be no change to real property.

Under alternative A the property would revert from private ownership to federal government ownership and would no longer generate property tax revenue for Harris County, Houston, and the local school district.

### Proposed Mitigation Measures

The impact to county tax revenue could be mitigated by not accepting the donated land. This mitigative action is not preferable as it would remove control of the property's appearance from cemetery staff.

### **5.3.11 Resident Population**

Resident Population refers to the addition of cemetery staff, change in the neighborhood makeup, or alteration of demographic characteristics.

### Existing Conditions

There is residential development to the south and west of the cemetery

### Potential Environmental Impacts

Under the no action alternative no changes would occur in the resident population.

Under the Alternative A no changes would occur in the resident population.

#### Proposed Mitigation Measures

No mitigation required

#### **5.3.12 Solid/Hazardous Waste**

The Solid/Hazardous Waste category refers to the presence of and changes in the proper management of solid waste and hazardous waste in compliance with local, state and federal regulations.

#### Existing Conditions

No generation of solid or hazardous waste currently exists or will be generated at the property.

A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment was completed of the site on January 6, 2005 by MACTEC Engineering and Consulting of Houston, Texas. Based on the information presented in this report, no evidence of solid or hazardous waste was identified. (Appendix C – MACTEC Phase I Environmental Assessment).

#### Potential Environmental Impacts

Under the no action alternative there would be no change to solid/hazardous waste generation.

Under Alternative A there would be no change to solid/hazardous waste generation.

#### Proposed Mitigation Measures

No mitigation required

#### **5.3.13 Transportation**

The Transportation category refers to changes in the vehicular traffic related to the operations on the property and how it might impact surrounding traffic patterns.

#### Existing Conditions

Currently visitors and funeral corteges enter by the main entrance on Veterans Memorial Drive. No new entrances will be added as part of the expansion project.

#### Potential Environmental Impacts

Under the no action alternative there would be no change to transportation use.

Under alternative A there would be no change to transportation use.

#### Proposed Mitigation Measures

No mitigation required

### **5.3.14 Utilities**

The Utilities category refers to changes in the use of public utilities at the property.

#### Existing Conditions

The cemetery currently uses a public water system and sanitary sewer.

#### Potential Environmental Impacts

Under the no action alternative there will be no change in use of public utilities.

Under Alternative A, there will be no change in use of public utilities.

#### Proposed Mitigation Measures

No mitigation required

### **5.3.15 Vegetation and Wildlife**

The Vegetation and Wildlife category refers to the presence of threatened or endangered species and the removal of trees and vegetation.

#### Existing Conditions

The expansion site is not located within officially designated critical habitat and does not contain any known or proposed federally listed threatened or endangered species (Appendix A – USFWS concurrence letter).

#### Potential Environmental Impacts

Under the no action alternative there will be no impact to federally listed or proposed threatened or endangered species.

Under Alternative A there will be no impact to federally listed or proposed threatened or endangered species.

#### Proposed Mitigation Measures

No mitigation required

### **5.3.16 Water Resources**

The Water Resources include those portions of the natural environment related to surface water and groundwater.

#### Existing Conditions

The existing cemetery has an irrigation system that can be extended to serve new burial areas and site amenities.

### Potential Environmental Impacts

Under the no action alternative no additional irrigation water will be needed.

Under Alternative A, no additional irrigation water will be needed.

### Proposed Mitigation Measures

No mitigation required

## **6.0 SOURCES CONSULTED/CONTACTED**

Catherine Yeargen. US Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, Clear Lake Ecological Services Field Office. Correspondence, October 2004.

F. Lawrence Oaks, State Historic Preservation Officer. Texas Historical Commission. Correspondence, October 2004.

Bruce Bennett. US Army Corps of Engineers, Galveston District. Correspondence, March, 2005

US Environmental Protection Agency. Green Book: Currently Designated Non-attainment Areas for All Criteria Pollutants. <http://www.epa.gov/oar/oaqps/greenbk/>

Phase I Environmental Site Assessment, Houston national cemetery. MACTEC Engineering and Consulting, Houston, Texas. January 2005.

**HOUSTON NATIONAL CEMETERY  
10410 VETERANS MEMORIAL HIGHWAY  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77038**

**ADJACENT LAND DONATION**

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND  
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

The U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) assessed the potential impacts related to acquisition and management of adjacent donated land to act as a buffer on the south end of the Houston National Cemetery. An Environmental Assessment was completed with a finding that no adverse conditions were found on the site. An Environmental Impact Statement is not required as the land acquisition will have only minimal environmental impact, related to minor cleanup of the buffer area.

This project involves acquisition of a 34.2-acre tract of undeveloped land donated by a private landowner to the Houston National Cemetery. The donated land is adjacent to the southern boundary of the existing cemetery located in the City of Houston, Harris County, Texas. The property will not be developed for burial purposes, but will be maintained as a natural buffer to shield residential areas from activities of Houston National Cemetery.

The project is needed to improve the existing appearance of the undeveloped, wooded areas adjacent to burial areas. The property will be cleaned and landscaped to achieve National Veterans Cemetery appearance standards.

Two alternatives exist for the land acquisition. The no-action alternative allows the property to remain in its unimproved state or be sold for residential or commercial use, depending on zoning. Alternative A, the preferred alternative, is for the Houston National Cemetery to accept the land donation. This would allow the Houston National Cemetery to improve the appearance of the property, assuring an improved appearing buffer between the existing cemetery and the adjacent residential areas.

A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment was completed on January 6, 2005 by MACTEC Engineering and Consulting of Houston, Texas. Based on the information in this report, no evidence of adverse environmental conditions was identified on the buffer area site. No further assessment was recommended.

Acquisition of the property will not significantly affect the property. There may be short-term impacts from landscaping equipment operation to clean up the site. The landscape contractors will operate all equipment in accordance with city and state noise and environmental requirements.

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:**

After reviewing the Environmental Assessment for the acquisition and management of donated land at Houston National Cemetery, the implementation of the proposed action as described would not constitute a major federal action that would have significant impact upon the quality of the human environment within the meaning of Section 102(2c) of the National

Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969. Accordingly, the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

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**Michael Elliott**  
**Director, Project Support Service**  
**National Cemetery Administration**  
**Department of Veterans Affairs**

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**Date**

### **CONTACT INFORMATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT LOCATIONS**

1. Houston National Cemetery  
Jorge Lopez, Cemetery Director:  
10410 Veterans Memorial Highway  
Houston, Texas 77038  
281-447-8686
2. Department of Veterans Affairs, National Cemetery Administration  
Environmental Assessment Website:  
<http://www.cem.va.gov/pdf/HoustonEA.pdf>
3. Donald Campbell  
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mi., loaded, runs great,  
cold ac, \$9,500.  
(832) 545-5102 (77371)

**FORD FOCUS '05'** 34K  
miles, perfect cond.  
leather seats, new tires.  
\$10,800. (281)867-0276  
(77385)

**FORD TAURUS SE '02'**  
one own, v-6, loaded,  
61K mi. \$4750.  
(936)597-6130.

**HONDA CIVIC COUPE**  
'04' blk.5 sp, sunroof,  
44K mi. \$14,600.  
(281)981-6530/(936)  
448-1101 (77356)

**INFINITI '98 J30**  
'98pd touring, 155k,  
loaded, Bose, pearl, blk.  
leather, \$4,800.  
(936) 522-7535 (77356)

**LAND CRUISER '93**  
well maintained,  
leather interior,  
180k, \$8,900.  
(281) 493-7427 (77380)

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repairs, runs great,  
\$4,300. (nego.)  
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trans, leather seats,  
silver, 38K mi, under  
warranty. \$20,200.  
(281)487-0846 (77505)

**MAZDA 626 1995'**  
Body kit, leather int, dual  
exhaust, 90K mi. \$2800  
Obc. (713)419-0949/  
(281) 354-6660 (77365)

**MERCEDES CLK-320,**  
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ter/stone, 1 owner, per-  
fect cond., \$34,500.  
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680 SEL '98 Fair Cond,  
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Or (281) 367-7807.  
(77385)

**NISSAN ALTIMA '02 3.5**  
V6, Silver, auto w/lthr.,  
loaded, 81k miles  
\$11,700. obc  
(832) 704-1282

**NISSAN EXTERRA, XE,**  
4WD, '04., White, Exc. Cond.  
47K Mi. \$17,500, (281) 252-  
6664 (77395)

**NISSAN MAXIMA**  
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exc. cond., Bose,  
leather, \$8,500.  
(281) 292-6645 (77366)

713) 610-9700  
(77049)

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CAB '01 Diesel, 4x4, 77k  
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sport. 35k mi.; tool box,  
bed liner, sport wheels,  
\$8,500. (281) 387-9837  
sbrown4528@aol.com

**DODGE QUAD CAB**  
RAM 02: v-8, auto,  
loaded, new tires, 58K  
mi. \$11,500. (713)206-  
4137 (77339)

**F-150 4X4, '89**  
black, step-side, loaded,  
great condition, 1 owner,  
\$9,000.  
(713) 320-8698

'80 FORD BRONCO Good  
condition; Needs Transfer  
Case. (\$600) New mud  
tires. \$1,200 936-537-0004

**FORD F-150 STX V-6**  
'04' Maroon, running  
board, prem sound, tow  
pkg, 21K mi. Asking  
\$15,900. Troy (281)380-  
1002 (77536)

**FORD F150 LIGHT-**  
NING '03' Loaded,  
17K mi., imm cond  
upgrades. \$26K.  
(832)457-6798 (77378)

**FORD F-150 '02'** 7700  
pkg, white, grill guard, g/n  
hitch, 88,000 mi. \$9500.  
(281)357-5964  
(77447)

**NISSAN TRUCK 4X4**  
'88' Good cond., blue  
color, new tires. \$1700  
CBO. (281)681-9937  
(713)444-1979 (77382)

'98 SILVER DODGE  
2500 Quad Cab. 4x2 de-  
isel, 212k, extras. 1  
owner, runs great \$7950.  
firm. (281) 356-2414

**TOYOTA TUNDRA**  
LATE '04' V-8, Side  
Step SR5, towing pkg,  
bedliner. 10,800K mi.  
\$21,500. (936)499-6140.  
(77382)

**Vans for Sale**

**\$4,250 '99 PLY. GRAND**  
Voyager, loaded & all  
work. Beautiful blue,  
dual air. Orig. owner  
(281) 693-6228 KATY.

**DODGE GRAND**  
CARAVAN '03 Fully  
Loaded, Quad Seats,  
Exc. Cond.,  
Non-smoker \$12,500.  
(832) 452-3349 (77382)

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'91 Load, A/C, Auto,  
White. \$2,500.  
(281)485-1044 (77581)

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**For Sale**

**CHEVROLET CAMARO**  
'89' Convertible, auto,  
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\$8500 Obc. (713)419-  
0049/(281)354-6660  
(77365)

**CHEVROLET COR-**  
VETTE COUPE '88'  
Immaculate cond.,  
31,058 mi, torch red, too  
many option. \$24,500.  
(713) 906-0365 (77354)

**HOUSTON NATIONAL CEMETERY**  
10410 VETERANS MEMORIAL HIGHWAY  
HOUSTON, TEXAS 77038

**ADJACENT LAND DONATION**

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND  
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF  
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

The U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) assessed the potential impacts related to acquisition and management of adjacent donated land to act as a buffer on the south end of the Houston National Cemetery. An Environmental Assessment was completed with a finding that no adverse conditions were found on the site. An Environmental Impact Statement is not required as the land acquisition will have only minimal environmental impact, related to minor cleanup of the buffer area.

This project involves acquisition of a 34.2-acre tract of undeveloped land donated by a private landowner to the Houston National Cemetery. The donated land is adjacent to the southern boundary of the existing cemetery located in the City of Houston, Harris County, Texas. The property will not be developed for burial purposes, but will be maintained as a wooded buffer to shield residential areas south of Houston National Cemetery.

The project is needed to improve the appearance of the undeveloped wooded areas adjacent to burial areas. The property will be selectively cleared and landscaped to achieve National Cemetery Administration appearance standards.

Two alternatives exist for the land acquisition. The no-action alternative allows the property to remain in its unimproved state or be sold for residential or commercial use, depending on zoning. Alternative A, the preferred alternative, is for the Houston National Cemetery to accept the land donation. This would allow the Houston National Cemetery to improve the appearance of the property, assuring an improved appearing buffer between the existing cemetery and the adjacent residential areas.

A Phase I Environmental Site Assessment was completed on January 6, 2005 by MACTEC Engineering and Consulting of Houston, Texas. Based on the information presented in this report, no evidence of recognized adverse environmental conditions was identified with regards to the Site. No further assessment was recommended at that time.

Acquisition of the property will not significantly affect the property. VA may create short-term impacts from construction equipment operation. Construction contractors will operate all equipment in accordance with city and state noise and environmental requirements.

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT:**

After reviewing the Environmental Assessment for the acquisition and management of donated land at Houston National Cemetery, the implementation of the proposed action as described would not constitute a major federal action that would have significant impact upon the quality of the human environment within the meaning of Section 102(2c) of the National

Environmental Policy Act of 1969. Accordingly, the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.

/s/ Michael Elliott  
Director, Project Support Service  
National Cemetery Administration  
Department of Veterans Affairs

**CONTACT INFORMATION AND ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT LOCATIONS**

- Houston National Cemetery  
Jorge Lopez, Cemetery Director:  
10410 Veterans Memorial Highway  
Houston, Texas 77038  
281-447-8686
- Department of Veterans Affairs, National Cemetery Administration Environmental Assessment Website:  
<http://www.cem.va.gov/PDF/HoustonEA.PDF>
- Donald Campbell  
Environmental Engineer  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
National Cemetery Administration  
Office of Construction Management  
810 Vermont Avenue, NW, LAF 235  
Washington, DC 20420  
202-565-5924  
donald.campbell@va.gov

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**HORSES FOR SALE** - One seven yr old, mare, Line Back Dunn, quarter horse, 15 hands. One seven yr old, gelding, Paint Quarter horse, 15 hands. Vet checked all shots current. One 16 inch circle Y saddle. One 16 inch Wintec Synthetic saddle. Two saddle blankets. Two bridles, feed buckets and water trough. \$5000 for all. (281)728-4395 (77365)

**Pets/ Lost and Found**

**LOST COCKATIEL:** Male Full Grown Gray, Yellow & White, Answers to Glory (281) 469-9412 (77070)

**MISSING BLK & WHT CAT** Waterford Est. REWARD, blue collar says "Smeagol" (936) 537-3719 (77304)

**Garage Sales**

**AUCTION EVERY OTHER SATURDAY NIGHT!**  
30337 Dobbin Huffsmith, By Outback Western Wear. Sept. 2nd, 2006. Viewing Starts 5p, Auction Starts 7p. See website for further info [www.gswtauctions.com](http://www.gswtauctions.com) Lic# 11731, B. Prince (281) 259-0194

11711 CEDAR POINT CT. (77070) Fri. & Sat., 8-5p Children & Adult Clothes, furn., Toys, Shoes, Dishes, luggage & Misc Items.

**HUGE MOVING SALE**  
**HUNTWICK SUBDV.** 5414 Milledale Rd (77069). SAT SEPT 9 8AM-2PM. YOU WANT WE GOT IT!

**OLD NORTH WOOD FARMS SUBDV.** 17427 West Strack Dr (77379). FRI, SAT SEPT 8,9 8AM-4PM. Gas cook stove, household items and misc.

**SPRING CREEK FOREST,** 17311 Rustington. Thurs 9/7-Sat 9/9, 8a-2p. Furn, Appls, Moen Faucets, Jacuzzi, Lawn Equipment, Tools, Etc.

**TRADE DAY EXTRAVAGANZA!** Humble, 8301 Will Clayton Pkwy. (281) 448-4140. Under Covered Pavilion Saturday 9/16, 8a-5p. FREE Parking & Admission. FREE DOOR PRIZES!

**Crafts/Fairs**

**CRAFTERS WANTED** To Reserve Spaces For Handmade Arts/Crafts Sat. Sept. 16, 8th Annual Fall Festival & Crafts Fair. St. Paul United Methodist Church 1100 W. Semards, Conroe, 77305 For Info Call Dolores 936-597-4815

**Miscellaneous for Sale**

**HOT**

**AIR CONDITIONER (2):** 6,000 BTU, 115 Volts & 9.7 EER, 1 Yr Old Whirlpool w/Remote. \$100 Each. (281) 883-7086 (77357)

**ANTIQUE**  
End of bed bench

**Horses**

**HORSES FOR SALE** - One seven yr old, mare, Line Back Dunn, quarter horse, 15 hands. One seven yr old, gelding, Paint Quarter horse, 15 hands. Vet checked all shots current. One 16 inch circle Y saddle. One 16 inch Wintec Synthetic saddle. Two saddle blankets. Two bridles, feed buckets and water trough. \$5000 for all. (281)728-4395 (77365)

**Arts/Crafts**

**APQS Millennium Long Arm Quilting Machine Lazer,** Hartley Fences, Extras, Used 5 hrs., Health Forces Sale \$14,000 Obo. Serious Inquires Only (281)364-0128

**ARTS/CRAFTS SHOW** Saturday, October 7th Totally Bazaar sponsored by St. James Episcopal Church at Montgomery County Fairgrounds Building 1 Handmade Arts/Crafts Booths Available. Call Catherine (281) 292-0374

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**LAMINATED FLOORING** Designer. Oak Finish. Still in Box. Must Sell! \$.75sq ft. 30% Thicker 713-266-0274 (77070)

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**STEEL BUILDINGS** Several Sizes Trade/Farm Show Surplus and Canceled Orders. No Reasonable offer refused. Call Now! 800-991-9251

**Cemetery Lots**

**ROSEWOOD MEMORIAL PARK-HUMBLE:** (8) Spaces \$2200 ea / Best Offer Crosses of Calvary. (713)203-6723 Lselby1@houston.rr.com

**Computers**

**DELL ALL IN ONE PRINTER** Fax, Copier, Scanner. \$40 Needs Ink Cartridge (281) 812-4954 (77346)

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**Firewood**

**BAR-B-QUE** wood, Summer side on chunks. Hickory

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**FOR SALE**  
**KID CARGO BEDROOM SET** - 5 piece include desk, bookshelves, desk chair, book case head board, storage wardrobe incl 3 large drawers & 4 shelves, like new condition. \$550. (281)353-3509 (77388)

**PRICE!**  
**LARGE ELEGANT Sofa & Loveseat,** Cream in Color, Excellent Condition \$500. (281) 852-1508 (77346)

**Model Home Furniture**  
30% - 70% Off Layaway  
**281-492-9964**

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**PLAID 80" SOFA** Excellent condition \$400. **COMPUTER DESK \$100. LAZY BOY RECLINER \$75** Conroe (936) 856-7094

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**POWER LIFT RECLINER**  
like new very clean with remote and all connections. less than one year. \$450. (936) 231-3671 (77302) odda@consolidated.net

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**'95 STARCRAF** w/ '95 Merc. 17 axel w/step up shape, must! (936) 82

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## Schadeberg, K Dudley

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**From:** Lopez, Jorge  
**Sent:** Monday, September 13, 2004 3:02 PM  
**To:** Schadeberg, K Dudley  
**Subject:** RE: Donation of Phillips Property to Houston National Cemetery

Thanks Dudley. He's coming.

**Jorge Lopez**  
Director  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
Houston National Cemetery  
Office - 281-447-8686 Ext. 200  
Fax - 281-447-0580

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Schadeberg, K Dudley  
**Sent:** Monday, September 13, 2004 1:14 PM  
**To:** Lopez, Jorge  
**Subject:** RE: Donation of Phillips Property to Houston National Cemetery

Jorge:

Thanks. I gave Bob Holbrook a briefing this morning, and included this information at that briefing. As a heads up -- Bob Holbrook may be making a trip to Houston National Cemetery in the next couple of weeks to further investigate the proposed land donation. If a trip is scheduled, I will let you know soonest when it will be.

Dudley

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Lopez, Jorge  
**Sent:** Monday, September 13, 2004 9:26 AM  
**To:** Schadeberg, K Dudley  
**Subject:** RE: Donation of Phillips Property to Houston National Cemetery

Yes, it's developed with houses as noted on the map

**Jorge Lopez**  
Director  
Department of Veterans Affairs  
Houston National Cemetery  
Office - 281-447-8686 Ext. 200  
Fax - 281-447-0580

-----Original Message-----

**From:** Schadeberg, K Dudley  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 09, 2004 1:23 PM  
**To:** Lopez, Jorge  
**Subject:** Donation of Phillips Property to Houston National Cemetery

Good Afternoon, Jorge:

John Reiker, Engineer at MSN III, forwarded to this office today a plat showing the size and configuration of the subject parcel (acrobat attachment). As a result, you do not need to expend further action in an attempt to provide me with a plat or boundary survey of the Phillips property.