



Dallas Park & Recreation

Park Naming Policy



August 31, 2017

Purpose

- Provide history and background on parks with Confederate names
 - Robert E. Lee Park
 - Confederate Cemetery
- Provide overview of Park and Recreation Department's Naming Policy

Robert E. Lee Park

- Land purchased by Park Board in 1909
 - 17.5 acres purchased from the Dallas Street Railway Company for \$38,000
 - Named Oak Lawn Park
 - Park became component of Turtle Creek Greenbelt



Robert E. Lee Park

- In 1928 Dallas Southern Memorial Association (DSMA) proposed placement of equestrian statue of Robert E. Lee at an unidentified Dallas park
 - Raised \$50,000
- May 5, 1936
 - Park Board approved location of statue at Oak Lawn Park
 - Renamed Robert E. Lee Park
 - Also considered Dealey Plaza and Swiss Avenue as potential locations
 - Park Board appropriated \$3,700 for sculpture base
 - Partially funded by Works Project Administration (WPA) grant
 - Designed by Dallas architect Mark Lemmon
 - Constructed by WPA



Robert E. Lee Park

- Robert E. Lee Monument unveiled June 12, 1936
 - Dedicated by President Franklin D. Roosevelt
- Arlington Hall
 - Groundbreaking ceremony on January 19, 1938
 - Designed by Mark Lemmon
 - Two-thirds-size replica of Arlington House, Custis-Lee family home located in Arlington National Cemetery
 - Cost: \$29,648
 - Funded in part by WPA Park Improvement Program
 - Dedicated October 24, 1939



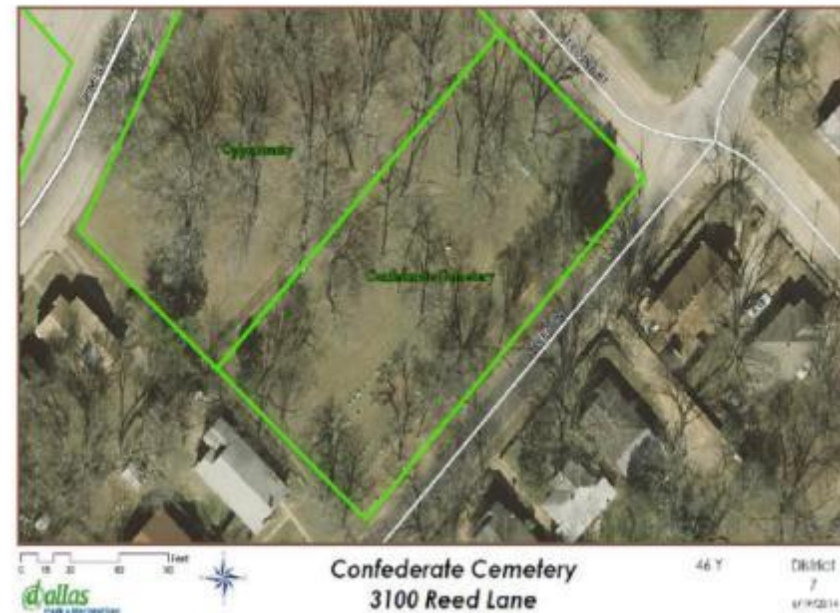
Robert E. Lee Park

- 1991 – Lee Park and Arlington Hall designated with a Texas historical marker
- 1992 (August 6) – Park Board voted 14-0 to deny renaming of Lee Park and removal of the Robert E. Lee statue
- 1995 – Lee Park/Arlington Hall Conservancy (LP/AHC) formed
 - Executed development and operation agreement with Park and Recreation Department in 1998
 - Public-private effort between the City of Dallas and LP/AHC to rehab and expand Arlington Hall
 - Completed in December 2003
 - LP/AHC raised \$2,150,000
 - City provided \$500,000 in 1998 bond funds



Confederate Cemetery

- In 1901, Dallas County set aside 0.75 acres in South Dallas for the burial of indigent ex-Confederate soldiers
- Land transferred from Dallas County to City in 1936
- Maintained and operated by Park and Recreation Department since 1936



Park Naming Policy

- Park Board created in 1905 by City Council to have jurisdiction over public parks (*City Charter Chapter XVII*)
- Park Board evaluated the then-current Park Naming Policy in 2008
- Current Park Naming Policy was adopted by the Board on February 19, 2009
- Board authorized a moratorium on naming parks pending a future review of the policy in April 2011
- Park Board began review and revision process of current policy in May 2017

Park Naming Policy

- Naming duration
 - Duration of an official name shall be deemed, in all cases, to be 40 years unless a shorter or longer period is specifically stated in the Board's naming or renaming decision
- Renaming can apply if:
 - Park has a placeholder name
 - Term of the official name expires
 - Current official name is “dishonored”

Park Naming Policy

- 137 parks officially named (396 parks in system)
- Park Naming Policy does not prevent City Council from naming parks
 - Practice has generally been that the Park and Recreation Board names parks on park land
 - During the 1980s, the City Council affirmed the Park Board's naming of six parks
- Robert E. Lee Park officially named May 5, 1936
- Confederate Cemetery has placeholder name

Questions



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