



Constellation of Living Memorials

Reimagining Historic Cemeteries as Living Landscapes

2-Year Fund Disbursement Plan

**In partnership with
Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service
counties and districts as authorized and mutually agreed**

and

The Native Plant Society of Texas

March 2026

Overview

Cemeteries can be sacred places, portals rich with renewed life. They have acres of untapped potential to offer an authentic sense of place and belonging to their local communities. By honoring the past, we can create a healthier future for everyone.

The goal of the Constellation of Living Memorials (CLM) is to create an ever-expanding constellation of cemeteries that are committed to the preservation of Texas's natural and cultural heritage.

2026-2027 Funds Disbursement Plan

This plan outlines how CLM funds will be allocated in partnership with The Native Plant Society of Texas, Texas Master Naturalists, and Texas Master Gardeners. In 2026, CLM will provide funds to 21 new cemeteries and 4 certification scholarships. The following year, 2027, CLM first will make funding available to all cemeteries on-boarded in 2026 and then, depending on the number of approved applications from existing CLM cemeteries, will fund between 17 and 43 additional cemeteries. Our goal is to expand the constellation to all eleven Texas eco-regions by the end of 2027.

Fund Administration and Fiscal Oversight by Texas Master Naturalist & Texas Master Gardener Chapters

All CLM funds allocated for programs administered through Texas Master Naturalist and Texas Master Gardener chapters shall be managed at the chapter level, with each participating chapter serving as the fiscal agent for its respective CLM project.

Participating chapters and chapter-affiliated volunteers must apply for CLM funding using approved CLM application and reporting procedures, in coordination with their designated Chapter Project Manager. Approved funds will be distributed to chapters on a reimbursement basis, contingent upon receipt and approval of required documentation.

Each chapter will be responsible for maintaining accurate financial records, ensuring compliance with CLM program guidelines, and fulfilling all reporting requirements. Chapters will collect and submit project-level documentation, including expenditures, volunteer hours, and ecological outcomes, to CLM in accordance with program timelines.

CLM will provide overarching program guidance, reporting templates, and evaluation criteria to ensure consistency, accountability, and alignment across all participating chapters statewide.

Funds Administration and Fiscal Oversight by NPSOT

All CLM funds allocated for programs administered through the Native Plant Society of Texas (NPSOT) shall be disbursed to the NPSOT State Office, which serves as the fiscal agent for participating chapters. NPSOT chapters and chapter-affiliated volunteers must apply for CLM funding through the NPSOT State Office using NPSOT-approved application and reporting procedures. Approved funds will be distributed by the NPSOT State Office to chapters on a reimbursement basis, contingent upon receipt and approval of required documentation. The NPSOT State Office will collect, review, and consolidate all chapter-level reporting and submit compiled reports to CLM in accordance with program requirements.

2026 (Goal: On-board 21 Cemeteries)

Allocation	Amount	Number Available	Total
Cemetery Grant	\$500	21	\$10,500
Certification Scholarship	\$200	4	\$800
2026 Total			\$11,300

2027 (Goal: Expand to 11 Texas Eco-Regions)

Allocation	Amount	Number Available	Total
Cemetery Grant	\$500	43	\$21,500
Certification Scholarship	\$200	44	\$8,800
2027 Total			\$30,300

Grant Criteria & Reporting Requirements

Eligibility & Approval

- Obtain written approval from the property owner before any land restoration begins.
- Provide your organization with the property owner's written approval.
- Complete a title search. We encourage finding a Title company that does pro bono work.
 - If the title search is uncertain, share research with your chapter before moving forward with the Grant Application.
- Consult the Texas Society of Professional Surveyors for local, pro bono support in defining cemetery topography and trees for restoration areas.
 - Do not request a survey of the property boundary, as this may create legal issues.
- Identify the cemetery's eco-region and eco-zone, as defined by Texas Parks & Wildlife.
- Work with the CLM On-boarding Liaison as you navigate through the application process.
- Because NPSOT operates as a single entity with chapters functioning under the state organization's EIN, NPSOT chapters must apply for funding through NPSOT State Office. Master Naturalist and Master Gardener chapters apply for funding directly to CLM.

Restoration Planning

- Within 1 month of signing the Cemetery Agreement, provide CLM with a map specifically defining the restoration area including fixed ground markers like headstones.
 - The restoration area must be greater than or equal to 1/8 of the total cemetery grounds.
- Develop a 1-year planning and maintenance schedule that includes:
 - Removing invasive species and lawn grasses.
 - Supporting what native species are naturally resurrecting.
 - Determining which additional native species to introduce to build biodiversity.
- Accepted methods include hand tools, excavation, cultivation equipment (limited to a depth of 10 inches), controlled burning (with Fire Department oversight), and herbicides (applied only by certified professionals).
- Restoration methods must consider:
 - Protection of headstones, monuments, waterways, shallow water tables, endangered species, and sensitive habitats.
 - Refraining from intentionally removing non-native plants that were deliberately planted in accordance with cultural practices.

Eligible Expenses

- Native seeds and plants (20% may be allocated to the purchase of beneficial, non-aggressive, adapted, non-native vegetation as defined by NPSOT or the Department of Agriculture).
- Non-motorized gardening tools, like loppers, weed wrenches, hand saws, etc.
- Garden hoses and mulch.
- Topsoil (eligibility will be determined on a case-by-case basis).
- Outdoor educational signage (CLM offers free templates available for download). Please check with CLM for sign/post source recommendation. The current cost for both is approx.. \$25 per aluminum sign, including post.

Up to 20% of grant funds may be used for educational signage, outreach materials, and tools. Free mulch/wood chips may be available from local tree services and services such as Chip Drop.

Ineligible Expenses

- Hardscaping, such as fences, pavements, or permanent structures.
- Storage sheds or buildings.
- Outdoor furniture, such as benches.
- Tree trimming.
- Project Management.

Reporting & Reimbursement

- Within 1 year of receiving a grant, participants must submit:
 - Receipts documenting approved purchases.
 - A Completed Volunteer Impact & Grounds Transformation Report. This is a brief report summarizing restoration activities, community engagement, and outcomes (blank template provided on pages 9-12).
- Reports should include photographs, plant lists, and records of volunteer participation.
- Grants are reimbursement-based. After submission and approval of the above, funds will be reimbursed up to the allocated amount.
- NPSOT Chapters should submit receipts and reports to the NPSOT State Office. NPSOT will consolidate reporting and submit it to CLM. CLM grant funds will be received by the NPSOT State Office, as the fiscal agent, and reimbursed to the grant recipient up to the allocated amount.

- Texas Master Naturalist or Texas Master Gardeners chapter members should submit receipts and reports directly to their chapters. Each chapter will compile the reports and send them to CLM for reimbursement up to the allocated amount.

Renewal & Growth

- Cemeteries that complete their first grant successfully may reapply for a grant each year thereafter.
- Returning cemeteries will be given priority before new applicants.
- As the CLM Endowment grows, the number of recipients and the total amount of funds available will expand, ensuring more cemeteries and communities benefit from the program.



Partner Organization Agreement

This agreement establishes the protocols for:

Partner Organization Name/Association

and its members who wish to apply for a Constellation of Living Memorials (CLM) grant.

Commitments of the Partner Organization

- Ensure applying members follow the Grant Criteria & Reporting Requirements.
- Review and approve written property owner permissions before forwarding applications.
- Confirm that restoration plans adhere to protocols, including removing invasives and lawn grasses, evaluating naturally resurrecting natives, identifying new natives to introduce, and avoiding cultivation deeper than 10 inches.
- Support applicants in community engagement efforts (volunteer recruitment, education, and outreach).
- Ensure grant recipients submit receipts and the Volunteer Impact & Grounds Transformation Report before the end of the 1-year grant term.
- NPSOT members will submit directly to the NPSOT State Office in accordance with NPSOT reporting procedures and timelines. The State office will serve as the primary point of fiscal oversight and reporting, including review, consolidation, and submission of all required participating chapter reports to CLM.
- Texas Master Naturalist or Texas Master Gardener members will submit directly to their chapter in accordance with their chapter reporting procedures and timelines. Each chapter will serve as the primary point of fiscal oversight and reporting, including review, consolidation, and submission of all required participating chapter reports to CLM.

Commitments of the Grant Recipient (Member)

This agreement is valid for 1 year from the date of signing.

Renewal and continuation are subject to compliance with reporting requirements and available funds.

Signatures

Printed Chapter Organization: _____

Partner Chapter Organization Representative: _____

Printed Name: _____

Date: _____, 2026

Grant Recipient (Chapter Member-Volunteer Lead): _____

Printed Name: _____

Date: _____, 2026

Constellation of Living Memorials: _____

Printed Name: _____

Date: _____, 2026



Volunteer Impact & Grounds Transformation Report

To be submitted at the end of the year for reimbursement up to \$500.

NPSOT members must submit to the Native Plant Society of Texas State Office.

Texas Master Naturalists and Texas Master Gardeners must submit to local TX chapter.

The title of the report is not to be changed.

CLM Partner: _____
Partner Organization Name/Association

Cemetery Name: _____

Cemetery Address: _____

Grant Recipient Name: _____

Reporting Period: From _____, 2026, to _____, 2027

Section 1: Volunteer Engagement

Attach sign-in sheets or volunteer logs.

Total Volunteer Hours Contributed: _____

Number of Volunteers: _____

Key Groups Engaged (students, civic orgs, residents):

Section 2: Grounds Restoration Activities

Invasive Flora Removed (list type and approximate volume/area):

Native Species Observed Resurrecting Naturally:

Native Species Introduced (seeds/plants added):

Section 3: Transformation Commitment

Attach a site map or photographs showing all grounds and area(s) allocated for Transformation.

Grounds: _____

Total Cemetery Acreage (or square footage)

Area Allocated for Transformation ($\geq 1/8$ of grounds): _____

% of Grounds Transformed: _____ %

Section 4: Community Engagement

Events Hosted (tours, talks, workshops):

Educational Signage Installed (include photos):

Partnership Highlights:

Section 5: Expenses & Receipts

Attach a list of receipts along with all copies of receipts)

Total Eligible Amount Requested for Reimbursement: \$_____

Summary of Outcomes

Attach a short narrative (2–3 paragraphs) describing:

- Progress made toward ecological restoration goals.
- Community and volunteer impact.
- Lessons learned and best practices recommendations for future cycles.

Required Attachment Checklist

- Receipts (copies)
- Short narrative
- Photographs (before/after)
- Maps/diagrams of restoration areas
- Volunteer sign-in sheets

Signatures

Printed Chapter Organization: _____

Partner Chapter Organization Representative: _____

Printed Name: _____

Date: _____, 2027

Grant Recipient (Chapter Member–Volunteer Lead): _____

Printed Name: _____

Date: _____, 2027

Constellation of Living Memorials: _____

Printed Name: _____

Date: _____, 2027