

Sowers Community **7th Annual Celebration & Appreciation Day**



Saturday, September 27, 2025 | 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.
Sowers Cemetery Grounds, 3101 W. Pioneer Drive, Irving, TX 75061

Public Welcome – Reminisce about Old Irving History and the surrounding Sowers Community.
Celebrate Improvements to the Cemetery and discover one of Irving's most historic sites.

**Join us at 9 o'clock for visiting and a headstone
restoration demonstration and participation.**

Wear work clothes to help with hands on restoration and/or headstone cleaning. Other cemetery tasks also needed.

11 a.m. – General Meeting followed by discussion and ceremony

11:30 a.m. – BBQ lunch will be served under the big oak trees – Donations Accepted (*Bring chairs to sit and visit*)

(see back for more information)

Sowers Cemetery

Association

A Memorial to the Sowers Community and Irving Pioneers for over 160 years • September 7, 2025

Dear Sowers Cemetery families and friends of those interred at the cemetery,

It is time once again to gather at the cemetery and reminisce about Sowers and other surrounding communities that grew to become Irving. We also want to acknowledge the small number of volunteers past, present and future, that give their time and devotion to the upkeep of the cemetery.

The Sowers board and volunteers made our most bold moves in 7 years. In 2024 we operated at a deficit for the first time in 6 years. We found ourselves making decisions to get us back in the black. This is one of the reasons Sowers Cemetery Association exists.

This year is historic for two reasons.

- 1) Cemetery maintenance (mowing) has been fully taken on by the Association volunteers for the first time in decades, or if ever.
- 2) Construction on the new Irving ISD Transportation Center is nearing completion. This will result in new fencing for approximately 350 feet on the north and west side of the cemetery.

It's worth mentioning the obvious again. Volunteer hours save us thousands of dollars in expenses. And monetary donations support us into the future.

Rewilding efforts to parts of the Cemetery

The rewilding of cemeteries involves transforming traditional, manicured burial grounds into natural habitats by replacing turfgrass with native plants, wildflowers, fostering biodiversity, and creating sanctuaries for local wildlife and people. This trend gained momentum during the pandemic and uses practices like reduced mowing, eliminating pesticides, and planting native species to create vibrant, ecological spaces. Cemeteries become educational resources, support local ecosystems, and offer peaceful, natural settings for visitors.

We partnered with **Constellation of Living Memorials** and we are a new star in their constellation. They envision that historic cemeteries in Texas can be transformed into a network of rewilded spaces.

Highlights of the Cemetery Association over the past year:

- We partnered with **Wreaths Across America** for the **9th year in a row** to place Christmas Wreaths on veteran's graves in the cemetery.
- Ongoing cleaning, straightening and repair of headstones/markers.

Why do we need donations and volunteers to reduce expenses?

- 1) To generate enough annual income to cover basic cemetery needs.
- 2) To pay for the occasional capital improvement. This year, a shipping container was purchased for all of our lawn equipment.
- 3) To keep up with inflation.

Please consider making a donation to the Sowers Cemetery Association. Any gift, no matter the size, will help continue the mission to improve and keep Sowers Cemetery an honorable part of the community well into the future.

Yours truly, The Sowers Cemetery Association Board

Gerald Farris, President & Treasurer

Betsy Farris, Vice President

Susan Candelaria, Secretary

SOWERS CEMETERY FOUNDATION – FUND DRIVE

☐ \$25 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ \$250 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$1000 ☐ Other _____

Checks payable to: Sowers Cemetery Association, 1817 W. Pioneer Dr. #1007 Irving, TX 75061

If you would like your gift named in memory of a loved one, please let us know below.

Gift in memory of _____

Your check's name and address will provide us the necessary address information for our records.

Can we publish your donation on our website? YES ☐ NO ☐ I do not wish to have my name published.

www.sowerscemetery.com | Follow us on Facebook

Contact Gerald Farris for more information 972-754-6547, info@sowerscemetery.com

Sowers Cemetery Association is a domestic nonprofit corporation registered with the state of Texas.