

Pioneer Park Frequently Asked Questions

1. **What is Component Five of the KBHCCD Master Plan?** Component Five is part of the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center Dallas (KBHCCD) Master Plan, focusing on the revitalization of Pioneer Park, Pioneer Plaza and Pioneer Cemetery.
2. **What are the goals of Component Five?** The plan aims to preserve the historical significance of these landmarks while integrating modern elements to create a functional and engaging urban space.
3. **What's the difference between Pioneer Plaza, Pioneer Cemetery and Pioneer Park?** Pioneer Park is a 9 acre area near the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center Dallas that is made up of Pioneer Cemetery, Pioneer Plaza and open green space.

Pioneer Plaza is a large, special-use park in the Convention Center District that features a sculpture depicting a cattle drive, while Pioneer Cemetery is adjacent to the plaza.

4. **What is Pioneer Cemetery?** Pioneer Cemetery is a collection of four historic cemeteries that served as burial places in early Dallas. These cemeteries included:
 - Masonic Cemetery
 - Odd Fellow's Cemetery
 - Old City Cemetery
 - Jewish Cemetery
5. **When did burials begin at Pioneer Cemetery?** Historians believe the first burials took place sometime between 1846-1849.
6. **Why was Pioneer Cemetery selected as a burial site?** Early maps and descriptions characterize Pioneer Cemetery as being located on a high piece of ground, isolated from the original town of Dallas. This site was high enough that it was protected from flooding, making the site a perfect place for a cemetery. ([Dallas Landmark Commission](#))
7. **Who are some notable figures buried in Pioneer Cemetery?** Some notable individuals include:
 - John W. Lane - Dallas mayor and prominent businessman.
 - Eleanor H. Russell - most famously known for molding the first bullet fired by an American colonist in the Texas Revolution.
 - John M. Crockett - second mayor of Dallas
 - Augusta D. Mayes - Born in Cadiz, Ky., Augusta was the wife of Dr. Mathew Mayes. Cadiz Street was named in her honor.
 - W.C.C. Akard - A merchant who moved to Dallas in 1864. Akard Street was named after him following his death while freighting goods.

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- Edward C. Browder – Served as District Clerk (1850–1854). Browder Street honors his contributions.
 - John William Crowder – Served as Dallas Mayor (1881) and City Alderman. Crowder Street commemorates him.
 - Alexander Harwood – Dallas' first elected mayor, District/County Clerk for over 30 years and Constitutional Convention delegate. Harwood Street is named for him.
 - Marilla Ingram Young – Known for her charitable works, Marilla Street is named in her memory.
 - John J. Good – Lawyer, designer of the Dallas County Courthouse and former mayor. Good Street is named in his honor.
 - Reverend William C. Young – Methodist minister who became a prominent citizen and politician after the Civil War. Young street is named after him.
8. **What year was the last person buried in Pioneer Cemetery?** The last known burial took place in 1921.
9. **Are there historical markers at Pioneer Cemetery?** Yes, several Texas Historical Commission markers are present, detailing the cemetery's history and the lives of prominent figures buried there. These markers highlight individuals like Alexander Harwood and Nicholas H. Darnell, as well as Dallas' early development and the cemetery's role in preserving that legacy.
10. **What is the significance of Pioneer Plaza?** Pioneer Plaza commemorates Dallas' Western heritage, featuring large-scale bronze sculptures depicting a cattle drive in the 19th century. Pioneer Plaza was created in partnership with Texas Trees Foundation. Under the leadership of Trustees and Project Co-Chairs the late Jim Lake, Diane Scovell and Jack Beckman—\$4.8 million in private contributions were secured from local businesses and individual donors.
11. **Who created the cattle drive sculptures?** The sculptures were designed by artist Robert Summers and installed in 1994.
12. **How many sculptures are in Pioneer Plaza?** Pioneer Plaza features 49 bronze longhorn steer and three trail riders on horseback, commemorating the historic cattle drives of Texas. The sculptures depict Texas longhorn cattle, a breed distinguished by its signature curved horns that can span up to seven feet. ([Texas Trees Foundation](#))
13. **Why are the cattle drive sculptures significant?** The sculptures are significant because they honor Dallas' role in the historic Shawnee Trail cattle drives, which were crucial to Texas' early economic growth.
14. **What are some of the unique features of the sculptures?** The sculptures are made

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of bronze and are remarkably lifelike, capturing movement and detail with impressive craftsmanship. Some longhorns are shown trotting forward, heads lowered as if navigating rough terrain, while others appear to pause, grazing or turning to face the riders.

The three trail riders on horseback are equally detailed, each displaying unique features and attire typical of 19th-century cowboys. They are depicted with wide-brimmed hats, boots and saddles, representing the rugged spirit of the cattle-driving era.

15. **How large are the longhorn sculptures?** Each steer stands approximately six feet tall and weighs about 1,200 pounds.
16. **Can visitors walk among the cattle drive sculptures?** Yes, visitors can walk through the sculptures, which are arranged in a lifelike, moving formation. Visitors are asked to refrain from sitting on the sculptures.