

PROJECT PROFILE



Two 53-foot-diameter peninsulas were created using the Highland Stone[®] retaining wall system.

Forest Park Cemetery HOUSTON, TEXAS

PRODUCT

Highland Stone[®]
retaining wall system

MANUFACTURER

Pavestone Company
Houston, Texas

OWNER

Service Corporation
International
Houston, Texas

DESIGN BUILD

CONTRACTOR

Lecon
Houston, Texas

WALL DIMENSIONS

10,000 square feet
19 feet 6 inches high

THE CHALLENGE

For more than 75 years, Forest Park Cemetery has been serving the needs of Houston families. Recently, the owners of the 254-acre, serene, wooded cemetery had to face the need for more land, and a pond with failing granite retaining walls had become shallow and murky. The pond, Lake of the Woods, wasn't the beautiful amenity that it had been. Of course, any work done at the cemetery had to be conducted without disturbing its serenity and had to meet high aesthetic standards.

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Outlet pipes were designed so the batter was the same as the wall.



The blended color of the rough, rock-like texture of the multipiece system helped the product fit with the rustic granite shore walls that remained in place.



The contractor appreciated the ease of installation when the Highland Stone® retaining wall system was used in the curved-peninsula applications.

THE SOLUTION

As options for rehabilitating Lake of the Woods were explored, the idea of adding a mausoleum on an island was suggested. The island idea fell flat because bridge construction costs were too high. So instead of an island, two 53-foot-diameter peninsulas were created. After the lake was drained and dredged, the peninsulas were built using the Highland Stone® retaining wall system. The blended color and the rough, rock-like texture of the multipiece system helped the product fit in with rustic granite shore walls that remained in place. The general manager noted that the Highland Stone product also blended with a stone chapel near the lake and met the cemetery's high aesthetic standards. The contractor was excited about how the retaining wall could be installed as the curves of the peninsulas were built. Construction was easy and the block weights made the product easy to handle, he noted. Geosynthetic reinforcement was carefully installed so that the mausoleum piers could be placed at a later date without conflict. An 84-inch outfall pipe was also installed for flood control.

THE RESULT

Lake of the Woods in Forest Park Cemetery, is once again a serene area for contemplation. The warm look of the Highland Stone product helped maintain that tone. Construction caused minimal interruption at the cemetery, and the planned mausoleums will be a stately addition to the property.

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