

Columbia Cemetery Rules, Regulations and Policies

30 E. Broadway, Columbia, MO, (573) 449-6320

Hours of Operation

The office maintains normal business hours from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Monday through Friday. Meeting with cemetery staff outside these hours is by appointment only.

The cemetery is open to visitors every day from 7 a.m. to dusk. The entrance will be closed to all at dusk and visitation will end.

General Supervision

1. The following rules and regulations have been adopted by the Columbia Cemetery Association to provide consistency in the management and operation of the cemetery.
2. These rules and regulations may be changed by the Association without notice.
3. The Superintendent must be contacted and written permission granted in advance before any functions, activities or stone work is performed.
4. The cemetery abides by the City of Columbia leash laws; a dog must be on a leash at all times while on the premises and feces must be bagged and removed from the cemetery.
5. While the cemetery will take all reasonable precautions to protect and maintain the gravesites within the cemetery from loss or damage, it is not responsible or liable for loss or damage beyond its control, such as that caused by natural elements, thieves, vandals and civil disorder.

Care and Maintenance

All lots are sold with the benefit of continual care. Maintenance is done by the superintendent and his staff under the direction of the Columbia Cemetery Association without cost to lot owners. The cemetery is dedicated to the concept of perpetual care and will do all it can to maintain and enhance the beauty and reverent atmosphere of the cemetery.

Mausoleums

Mausoleum construction and other above-ground structures on the lots is permitted. However, prior written approval of the cemetery Board of Directors is required. The cemetery reserves the right to insure such structure and its location is in keeping with the overall appearance of the cemetery. The prevailing lot rates at time of purchase do not apply to the purchase of a lot for the purpose of erecting a mausoleum thereon.

Burial and Lots

1. All lots will be used for the burial of human remains only.
2. All graves will be sodded level with the adjoining ground. None shall be mounded.
3. No full sized gravesite may contain more than four urns of cremated remains or two if using an urn vault.
4. One full sized burial and two urns of cremated remains are allowed in a full sized grave.
5. The burial of two or more bodies within one gravesite is allowed in certain instances. One of the vaults will be buried twice as deep. An extra charge applies.
6. Only cemetery staff may conduct disinterments. Pre-payment is required.
7. All transfers of lot ownership must be in writing and must be recorded in the Cemetery Office Lot Ownership Record.
8. A funeral director must be involved in all burials.
9. Notification of burials must be made 24 hours in advance unless other arrangements are made with the superintendent's approval.

10. Burials at an angle other than the standard east-west orientation will be confined to a designated section of the cemetery.
11. All fees must be paid in advance of grave preparation. That includes opening and closing costs and the price of the grave.
12. The Columbia Cemetery will perform opening and closing of the grave. Handfuls of dirt may be placed in the grave by those in attendance. The grave will be filled after family and friends have left the cemetery.
13. A casket is not required for burials in the Columbia Cemetery.
14. No side niches or compartments are allowed in the grave.
15. Soil conditions below the surface are unpredictable. The Columbia Cemetery is not responsible for water entering the grave or collapse of the sides.

Monuments, Markers and Headstones

A monument or headstone is considered any edifice measuring six inches to four feet above ground level. A marker is considered any evidence measuring six inches or less above ground level.

1. A maximum of one headstone or monument and one marker are permitted on a full sized gravesite.
2. On multiple lots for entire families where a headstone or monument serves two or more bodies, the headstone or monument will be on a line centered between the lots. Markers may then denote each individual grave
3. A headstone or marker on a single gravesite may be up to three feet wide and 15 inches deep. A headstone or marker on a double gravesite may be up to 5 feet wide and 15 inches deep.
4. Every monument must be set on a concrete foundation four inches wider than the base for a depth of at least 30 inches. If the stone is more than 30 inches high, the foundation must be properly designated and pre-approved in writing by the superintendent. Bronze markers must be set on a concrete base of no less than 18 inches.
5. Headstones must be made of certified granite that will not discolor. Markers may be made of bronze with prior written approval of the cemetery.
6. If any headstone, marker, memorial, structure or inscription is determined by the cemetery to be offensive, the cemetery shall have the right to require the offensive item be replaced or altered at the patron's expense. Should the patron not comply, the cemetery retains the right to remove the item.
7. Enclosures around a gravesite or lot are not permitted.
8. Corner markers are allowed if they are set flush with the sod.

Decorations

Gravesites:

1. Approved decorations are welcome on gravesites. To protect and prevent damage, we require these items to be off the ground or in containers that will not be affected by grass trimmers from April 1 to Nov. 1. Your cooperation is requested.
2. During the rest of the year, wreaths, tripods, grave blankets, and similar decorations are allowed.
3. The cemetery will, at its discretion, remove decorations when they become unsightly or inhibit maintenance.
4. Shepherds crooks, hanging baskets and free-swinging decorations are not allowed.
5. Digging holes around grave markers to set jars or cans in the ground is not permitted.
6. Only the cemetery staff is permitted to do gravesite maintenance.

Landscaping:

1. Planting of live trees, shrubbery, vines or flowers around gravesites is welcome. Such plantings are subject to prior written approval by the Cemetery Association Landscaping Committee and shall be done at the lot owner's expense. See the cemetery's Tree Program (Web site).
2. Live trees, shrubs, vines or flowers may be trimmed or removed by the cemetery if they become unsightly, diseased, encroach on adjacent lots or otherwise become inconsistent with the cemetery's overall landscaping.
3. The cemetery is not liable for plantings that die due to natural or other causes. While cemetery staff will take every precaution to work around patron-supplied plantings, it is not liable for damage done to such plantings during the normal course of cemetery maintenance.