

City of Linden Fairview Cemetery Rules

General Supervision

Fairview Cemetery shall be under the management, supervision, and care of the Department of Public Works (DPW) Director (Sexton). All records of lots, plats, and the sales shall be recorded and maintained by the City Clerk. Requests for interment, disinterments, reinterments, installation of foundations, erection of monuments, tombstones and markers shall be made to the City Clerk. Once ownership is verified, the Clerk's office will then process the work order.

Burial Lots- Transactions

All burial transactions/agreements shall be executed and recorded on behalf of the City by the City Clerk.

Owner's Burial Rights

1. The owner(s) of any burial lot shall have the right of burial of the dead. Each lot shall be approved for the burial of one (1) body and up to six (6) cremains.
2. The owner(s) of an unused burial lot may sell, bequeath, donate, or by any other legal act, transfer the ownership of the burial lot to another. Transfer shall be made through and with the authorization of the City Clerk's Office.
3. If proof of transfer of ownership of any unused lot was not conducted through and with the authorization of the City Clerk's Office, transferor and/or transferee shall provide acceptable proof of such to the City Clerk. Except for the burial of a person authorized by the owner(s) named on the existing records on file with the City Clerk's office, no interment shall be permitted until transfer is approved by the City Clerk's Office.

Decoration of Lots

1. Definition – Lot decoration shall be deemed to include all structures, ornaments, plantings, or other embellishments, with the exception of monuments and markers which are placed on cemetery lots with the intention of improving their appearance.
2. As certain types of decorative elements impede maintenance operations and/or are not in harmony with cemetery development as a whole, the City has established and shall enforce restriction on the types of decoration that may be placed on cemetery lots.
3. With regard to lot decorations, the following rules shall be observed:
 - a. Placement of permissible decorations, plants, and/or flowers is restricted to an area measured as 18 inches out from the front of the stone/marker by a width no greater than the stone/marker. Such area may be delineated at surface grade with concrete pavers, or brick coping, edging, the outside edge of which may not exceed the above defined area.
 - b. Fencing of any kind, steps, structures of wood or equally perishable material are strictly prohibited.
 - c. The planting of woody, deciduous trees, hedges, and conifers is strictly prohibited. Only herbaceous (soft, nonwoody) planting material will be permitted. Any plant classified as invasive is prohibited and will be removed from cemetery property.

- i. Existing deciduous trees, hedges, conifers, or other plantings that impede, encroach upon adjoining lots and/or pathways shall be pruned/trimmed, or removed, without notice at the discretion of the Sexton.
- d. The use of glass jars, bottles, or other fragile receptacles for cut flowers is strictly prohibited.
- e. The placement of toys, stuffed, plastic, or otherwise manufactured, personal items and/or other unsightly objects is strictly prohibited. Sculptured animals, statues, or statuettes manufactured from durable materials such as concrete, stone, or granite will be allowed in the approved decorative area within 18 inches from the front of the marker. Sculptured animals, statues, or statuettes made from fragile materials such as glass or ceramic are prohibited.
- f. No elevated mounds shall be built over graves and no lot shall be filled above the grade established by the City.
- g. Receptacles for fresh and artificial flowers, the top edge of which shall be flush with the lawn's surface may be installed within the lot's designated area only.
- h. One (1) flag holder may be installed on each grave within the lot's designated area, only.
- i. Winter decorations, blankets, wreaths, urns, etc., are permitted on the grave from November 15th until March 15th and shall be secured in a manner to prevent displacement by the wind. Decorations that have been displaced by the wind may be removed by the City. Decorations remaining on the grave after March 15th shall be considered abandoned and shall be disposed of by cemetery management.
- j. Arches and shepherd's hooks for hanging baskets or eternal lights, only, are permitted within the decorations area as follows:
 - i. Arches and shepherds' hooks shall be self-supporting and constructed of metal.
 - ii. Arches shall be secured so as to prevent displacement by the wind.
 - iii. Arches shall be installed within the designated area or directly behind the headstone/marker.
 - iv. The placement of arches and shepherd hooks shall not impede maintenance operations.
- k. Benches donated to Fairview Cemetery shall be of granite, stone, metal, or other maintenance free materials. The benches shall be placed by cemetery personnel in areas determined by the Sexton to provide for silent reverie and reflection. Inscriptions are permitted with prior approval by the Sexton. Advertising in any form is strictly prohibited.

Erection/Installation of Monuments, Tombstones, Marker or Similar Structures

1. No monument, tombstone, grave marker or similar structure shall be installed except by cemetery personnel and shall be installed at the head of the platted grave.
2. Only one (1) grave marking element per gravesite is permitted, except for flat military foot markers may be permitted, as approved by the Sexton.
3. All grave marker/monuments shall be placed on a foundation of a depth and size deemed appropriate by the Sexton.
4. No grave marker larger than 36" x 18" is permitted on a single grave; no marker larger than 72" x 18" is permitted in Fairview Cemetery.

5. No monument, tombstone, grave marker, or similar structure shall unreasonably impede maintenance operation and/or care of burial sites or lots.
6. No artificial coloring shall be used on any monument, tombstone, markers, or similar structure in the cemetery.
7. No monument, tombstone, grave marker, or similar structure shall detract from the dignity of the cemetery.

Cemetery Plantings

No shrub, deciduous or coniferous tree, hedge, or any other woody plant material shall be placed or planted within the boundaries of the cemetery and shall be removed, without notice at the discretion of the Sexton.

Labor Charges

Fees for cemetery services shall be established by City Council and may, from time to time, be increased or decreased in the same manner. The City Clerk, on behalf of the City shall charge fees for services to be performed. Fees shall be paid in full to the City Treasurer before cemetery services are performed. No person other than an employee of the City or an approved contractor shall dig or open a grave, nor shall any person grade, fill, or make alterations to cemetery property at any time.

Lining for Graves

Each grave shall contain a commercial vault or box made of concrete, metal, polypropylene, or other synthetic materials with a stress strength of 3,000 pounds per square inch and a life expectancy of at least 50 years. Said vault shall be constructed, installed, and reinforced so as to prevent settling of the ground of the lot or burial space.

Use of Water

A water spigot will be made available for the care of flowers, plantings, and burial spaces from May 1st, through October 1st. No water from this source shall be used except for the maintenance of flowers and herbaceous plants. Unattended use, or the connection of sprinklers is prohibited.

Animals

Dogs must remain leashed while on cemetery property. Dogs must remain on cemetery service drives and/or sidewalks at all times. Dogs are prohibited from entering the grassy areas of Fairview Cemetery.

Cemetery Hours

Fairview Cemetery shall be open from sunrise to sunset. No person shall enter the cemetery except during these hours. Persons found in the cemetery outside of these times will be subject to the City's trespass ordinance.