



CITY OF PLYMOUTH

RIVERSIDE CEMETERY RULES

Adopted May 23, 2022 by Cemetery Board of Trustees

Approved June 20, 2022 by Plymouth City Commission

Effective July 1, 2022

Riverside Cemetery is a public cemetery, owned and operated by the City of Plymouth, Department of Municipal Services. The Cemetery Office is located at 1231 Goldsmith, Plymouth, MI 48170. The physical address of the cemetery is 680 Plymouth Rd, Plymouth, MI 48170. Phone number: 734.453.7737 office, 734.455.1666 fax, email: dms@plymouthmi.gov.

Riverside Cemetery offers cemetery lots, mausoleum crypts and niches. Services are offered on a pre-need or immediate need basis and arrangements should be made through the Cemetery Office. These rules are subject to change as deemed necessary and are interpreted at the discretion of the superintendent.

In addition to cemetery operations by the City of Plymouth Department of Municipal Services, Riverside Cemetery also has a Board of Trustees who are residents of the City. The purpose of the Board of Trustees is to review and make recommendations to the City Commission for the proper control, maintenance, and improvement of the Cemetery.

SALE OF LOTS AND INTERMENT ARRANGEMENTS

1. All arrangements for burials shall be made at the City of Plymouth Department of Municipal Services, 1231 Goldsmith, either by the undertaker or by a representative of the family of the deceased. Burial fees and charges must be paid prior to the completion of services.
2. No lot rights may be transferred, purchased, or sold for speculative purposes.

DEFINITIONS

1. Block: A division of land as shown on the cemetery plot, which is determined by existing roadways and structures.
2. Lot: Numbered divisions as shown on the cemetery plot that consist of two or more graves.
3. Grave: A space of sufficient size to accommodate one adult interment.
4. Interment: The permanent disposition of the remains of a deceased person by burial.
5. Entombment: The permanent disposition of the remains of the deceased person in a tomb (mausoleum)
6. Memorial Marker: Shall include head or footstones for family or individual use that are flush with the ground.
7. Monument: Shall include a tombstone or memorial marker of a recognized durable granite/marble or standard bronze, which shall extend above the surface of the ground.
8. Lot Marker: Refers to any means used by the cemetery to locate corners of the lot or grave.
9. Mausoleum: Shall be a structure used for the individual entombment of multiple human remains.
10. Adult Burial: Shall be any burial that involves a burial box greater than four feet in length.
11. Child Burial: Shall be any burial box over 3 feet but less than 4 feet in length.
12. Infant Burial: Shall be any burial of child under 1 year of age, and burial box is less than 3 feet in length.
13. Cremains burial: Shall be the burial of the ashes of a cremated body.
14. Oversize Burial: Any burial over 90 inches in length or over 34 inches in width.
15. Perpetual Care: Shall consist of mowing, seeding, trimming trees and shrubbery, removing dead flowers, and general upkeep of the lot.
16. Superintendent: Shall be the City Manager or his representative.
17. Sexton: Shall be the Director of the Municipal Services Department or his representative.
18. Mourning Period: Shall be the 60 days following the interment.

INTERMENTS OR DISINTERMENTS

1. The depth of a grave for an adult burial shall be at least five feet deep. The depth of a grave for a child shall be at least four feet deep. Infant burials shall be at a depth of 3 feet and cremation burials at 2 feet.

2. Burials permitted in a single adult grave are as follows: one (1) full body burial and up to two (2) cremation burials OR up to four (4) cremation burials without a full body burial, unless permission is otherwise granted by the cemetery superintendent. The full body burial of two or more persons in a single grave is prohibited except for a parent and baby if buried at the same time. Cremations must be placed in a metal, stone, or plastic urn; glass, cardboard and wood boxes are prohibited.
3. Entombments permitted for in the Garden Mausoleum are as follows: niches accommodate two (2) cremations, single crypts accommodate one (1) full body entombment and one (1) cremation or two (2) cremations, and double crypts accommodate two (2) full body entombments or two (2) cremations.
4. The City assumes no responsibility for errors in opening graves when such errors are caused by others. Orders from undertakers will be accepted by the City as orders from the owners.
5. No grave will be opened, or body disinterred except by order of husband, wife, father, mother, son, or daughter of the deceased and then only for good cause, and the city reserves the right to refuse any such request. A body will only be released to a professional licensed in mortuary science. This provision does not apply when disinterment is ordered by a duly authorized public official.
6. Plastic full-size burial vaults for adult caskets are strictly prohibited.

MEMORIAL MARKERS, MONUMENTS AND MAUSOLEUMS

1. No mausoleum shall be erected without the specific approval of the Cemetery Board.
2. No monument or memorial marker shall be installed without the specific approval of the Cemetery Board, unless the proposed monument meets the following requirements:
 - a. The maximum number of monuments or memorial markers on any grave is up to one (1) upright and up to four (4) flat markers.
 - b. No matter the type of monument and/or memorial marker(s), the total area covered shall not exceed 15 square feet.
 - c. The memorial marker or monument shall be located at the head or foot of the lot, and parallel to the head or foot lot line.
 - d. The height of the monument for a single grave cannot exceed forty-eight (48) inches, the depth of the monument cannot exceed eighteen (18) inches, and the length of the monument cannot exceed thirty-six (36) inches. The height of a monument for a two-grave plot cannot exceed 48", the depth cannot exceed 18", and the length cannot exceed 58". Custom monuments require express written permission of the cemetery superintendent.
 - e. Specific rules governing markers for Blocks K, L, M and O supersede these requirements
 - f. Flat markers must be installed flush with the ground. Flat markers shall be no larger than 60" by 36", this includes veteran's markers.
3. Monuments and memorial markers shall not be allowed to be installed on lots that have not been paid in full.
4. All foundation work for monuments and memorial markers will be placed by the employees of Riverside Cemetery at the established rates.
5. The material used in the construction of mausoleums, vaults monuments, memorial markers and permanent corner posts must be of a recognized durable granite/marble or standard bronze. Each monument or memorial marker shall consist of one part or piece only, provided that this rule will not apply to lots on which it is desired to put in monuments or memorial markers to match others already existing on the lot.
6. No vertical joints will be allowed in monument work.

LOT MAINTENANCE REGULATIONS

1. During the 60-day Mourning Period flowers, plants, planters, and similar objects shall be restricted to a thirty-six (36) inch border around the base of the monument or memorial marker. Such items shall not exceed three (3) feet in height.
2. Flowers, plants, and planters shall be restricted to an eight (8) inch border along one long side of the base of the monument or marker and the two short sides. Such items shall not exceed two (2) feet in height above the ground. At no time shall any items be allowed to extend onto another lot or into a path. All items exceeding these height and border standards shall be removed by the City.
3. Fresh or silk flowers shall be allowed on any grave all year around and will be monitored by the City for unsightliness, seasonal flowers included. Plastic flowers are prohibited. Items in violation of this regulation will

be removed by the City. The City shall not be responsible for the upkeep and cannot be responsible for any damage caused by vandalism or natural causes.

4. All plastic, cement, fiberglass, metal, glass, ceramic and wood decorations or objects, except recognized American Veteran Flags, are prohibited. Wrought iron or metal shepherd hooks are prohibited. All items in violation of the regulation will be removed by the City.
5. The use of landscape stones, decorative stones, artificial stones, or landscape blocks for decorative purposes shall be prohibited. Such stones shall be removed by the City.
6. Grave blankets and wreaths will be allowed from November 15th until April 1st of each year. The City shall dispose of blankets and wreaths that remain after April 1st.
7. Flowers, urns, benches and flags will be removed from graves if such items become unsightly. The City assumes no responsibility for their return to lot owners. Such items will also be removed if they have been placed in violation of these rules.
8. At any time when a monument, private vault or mausoleum becomes unsafe in the opinion of the superintendent, a notice of such condition will be mailed to the last known or recorded address of the owner and the structure(s) removed or repaired at expense of the owner(s).
9. Any seat, urn or similar object placed on a lot by permission of the superintendent shall be kept painted white and in good condition.
10. When a lot is uncared for and becomes unsightly or a nuisance or detrimental to other lots, notice shall be mailed to the last known or recorded address of the owner. By order of the Board of Trustees, the superintendent and employees shall enter such lot and clean up and make same presentable and the cost shall be collected from the owner or made a lien on such a lot.

CEMETERY CARE

1. Cemetery care shall include only seeding, top dressing, cutting and trimming grass, shrubs, trees and the general upkeep of the cemetery. Cemetery care shall not include the maintenance of a memorial marker. The City shall not be responsible for the upkeep and cannot be responsible for any damage caused by vandalism or natural causes.
2. Contractors and workers engaged within the cemetery on any class of work whatsoever will be held responsible for the damage done by them to any cemetery properties.
3. Material for any class of work will not be permitted on the grounds unless accompanied by workmen to erect same, except by special arrangement with the cemetery superintendent.
4. Roadways must be satisfactorily protected against damage from heavily loaded vehicles.
5. The rolling or moving of stones across any section of lots must be done under the supervision and orders of the superintendent. In all cases, planks must be provided by persons furnishing stones or monuments to properly protect the lawns.
6. All unsightly material or debris accumulating from any class of work must be removed at once and upon the completion of the work all equipment, tools, etc., must be removed immediately, and the ground left in as good a condition as found by the contractor.
7. No stonework shall be brought into the cemetery on Friday after 5:00 p.m. and no work shall be commenced on any day that cannot be finished on that day and the dirt and debris entirely removed before dark.
8. No person shall remove any object from any place in the cemetery or make any excavation without the consent of the superintendent of the cemetery.
9. No equipment other than the equipment of Riverside Cemetery shall be used at interments except by permission of the superintendent.
10. Watering: The water station is located at the southern tip of Block G between Blocks G and J. No personal hoses are to be attached to the water station. Please be courteous to all patrons using the water station. If any authorized body institutes outdoor watering restrictions, then the cemetery must abide by them.

OTHER REGULATIONS

1. No firearms will be allowed in the cemetery, except in the cases of military funerals or ceremonies by official veteran's organizations on federal holidays, without written permission of the superintendent of the cemetery.
2. No person shall obstruct any drive, walk, or alley.

3. No person shall, in any way injure, deface, or destroy any grave, vault, tombstone, monument, mausoleum, enclosure, building, fence, basin, fountain, bridge, seat, flower, tree, shrub, vine, lot or any other thing in Riverside Cemetery.
4. Block L of Riverside Cemetery shall be known as the extended family section of the cemetery, with family plots of six (6) or ten (10) graves to be sold in a group.
5. Block K and O of Riverside Cemetery shall be known as the Memorial Section of the cemetery, with only flat memorial markers allowed. No foundation required except in the case of veteran's markers. Markers can be made of bronze or granite. No above ground markers permitted in this section.
6. Block M of Riverside Cemetery: All lots in Block M consist of 2 graves and will be sold together as one lot. Additional Marker Regulations: Only upright, slant granite markers set on a granite base (2-person companion marker or 1-person non-companion marker) are permitted. Contact the Cemetery Office for the exact description. Any flat markers must meet regulations listed in Memorial Markers, Monuments and Mausoleums section of these rules.
7. Urns for flower planting must be made of cement or metal only. Urns shall not exceed 26 inches in height and will be limited to one urn per gravesite. When an urn is uncared for or becomes unsightly, it will be removed by the City. The City shall not be responsible for the upkeep of the urns and cannot be responsible for any damage caused by vandalism or natural causes. The City recommends covering urns during the winter months, to help protect from the elements.
8. Benches: If a family requests the installation of a bench on a lot, the request must first be made to the cemetery superintendent. The superintendent will determine if it is feasible to place a bench in the requested location without interference with other lots. Then the request will be sent to the Cemetery Board for approval. All benches will be of a standard size and shape and will be constructed of granite or marble and will require a foundation to be placed by the cemetery staff.
9. Filming and photography for use in a movie, book, newspaper, magazine, television news, paranormal research, Internet, or other electronic media are not permitted on Cemetery grounds. The exception to this would be for genealogy research.

CRYPT AND NICHE FRONT DECORATIONS

1. During the 60-day Mourning Period, flowers, plants, and similar objects may be placed on the sidewalk in front of the crypt or niche. Such items shall not exceed three (3) feet in height and will be removed by the Cemetery Superintendent should they become unsightly prior to the expiration of the 60-day Mourning Period.
2. Decorations on crypt and niche fronts shall be limited to flowers placed in a single City-approved bronze vase, or a seasonal wreath attached to the crypt or niche front with a City-approved hanger.
3. Wreaths shall not overlap onto adjacent crypt or niche fronts and shall be limited to 12 inches in diameter for crypt fronts and 6 inches in diameter for niche fronts. Wreaths will be removed by the Cemetery Superintendent should they become unsightly.
4. Plastic, self-adhesive, clear suction-type hooks and/or hangers shall be prohibited on all crypt and niche fronts. All plastic, cement, fiberglass, metal, and wood objects, including stuffed animals, hanging planters, flags, stickers, and other similar items shall be prohibited on crypt and niche fronts.
5. Fresh flowers or silk flowers are allowed in City-approved vases. Plastic flowers are prohibited. Flowers will be removed if they become unsightly. City-approved bronze vases can be purchased at the Cemetery Office. Vases are installed by Riverside Cemetery employees. The City of Plymouth and Riverside Cemetery assume no responsibility for vases and other items that are stolen, damaged, or vandalized.