



GRAND PRAIRIE MEMORIAL GARDENS  
*And Mausoleum*

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**Rules and Regulations**  
**Grand Prairie Memorial Gardens and Mausoleum**  
**Effective 02/01/2026**

**RULES AND REGULATIONS**  
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**Purpose**

**These rules and regulations are established to guide the use and management of the cemetery and to protect the interests of all who have a connection here. All burial rights owner(s), visitors, and contractors working within the cemetery are required to adhere to these rules, including any amendments or updates adopted by the City of Grand Prairie over time.**

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**General Rules and Regulations**

**1. Authority and Pricing**

The City of Grand Prairie sets the rules and regulations for burial spaces and services. Once approved by the City Council or City Manager’s Office, these rules and associated prices take effect. All cemetery services, work, and materials are charged at the City’s approved rates.

**2. Updates and Exceptions**

The cemetery reserves the right to update its rules and regulations at any time, with or without notice to burial rights owner(s). In special situations where the strict enforcement of a rule may cause undue hardship, the cemetery may grant temporary exceptions or adjustments if it deems it to be in the best interest of all parties. These exceptions do not change the overall rules that apply to everyone.

**3. Cemetery Management**

The cemetery is responsible for the care and management of all property, including land, buildings, roads, walkways, easements and utilities. It also oversees records and all cemetery operations. The cemetery has full authority to create, update, and enforce rules, provided they comply with all applicable local, state, and federal laws.

**4. Purchase of Burial Rights**

All cemetery spaces are sold under the laws of the State of Texas and the City of Grand Prairie. These spaces are intended for one purpose only: to serve as a resting place for deceased human beings. Rights apply to all types of spaces within the cemetery, including lots, niches, above ground niches, crypts, ground urn spaces, benches, cremation benches, cremation monuments, columbariums, trees, and above ground mausoleum, hereinafter referred to as “Burial Rights.” Each purchase includes permanent maintenance provisions, ensuring that the grounds and facilities are cared for on an ongoing basis.

## **5. Maintenance and Unauthorized Work**

The City of Grand Prairie oversees all maintenance. No burial rights owner(s), guest, or unauthorized contractor is allowed to perform maintenance on the grounds of the cemetery. If burial rights owner(s) or guests voluntarily pay for lawn maintenance or fertilizer from an unauthorized vendor or chemicals from home, the cemetery has the right, as the owner of the land, to deny services from that vendor and ask the burial rights owner(s) and guest to leave. The cemetery will not be held liable for any expenses incurred by unauthorized services.

## **6. Assurance of Care**

This framework of rules guarantees that families can have peace of mind, knowing their loved ones will be honored and the cemetery will be properly maintained for generations to come.

## **7. Required Payments**

All fees associated with Burial Rights – including the purchase price, interment (opening and closing) fees, and any other outstanding charges – must be paid in full and reflect a zero balance at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled burial. Additionally, the full purchase price must be received before a Certificate of Ownership and Maintenance Care document is issued. This ensures that burial rights are clear and properly recorded for the family. The cemetery reserves the right to cancel or delay services for any returned or stopped payments on goods or services before or during the service.

## **8. Certificate of Ownership and Joint Rights**

When you purchase Burial Rights, the cemetery issues a Certificate of Ownership and Maintenance Care document. This document identifies the space location and the legal owner(s). If there is more than one owner, it is a joint ownership with rights of survivorship, meaning the surviving owner(s) automatically keep the rights if another owner passes away. The certificate is not valid for use until the Burial Rights are paid in full, even if it was issued prematurely while a balance was still owed.

## **9. Proof of Burial Rights**

The Certificate of Ownership is the only official proof of burial rights recognized by the cemetery. Simply holding the physical certificate does not grant ownership unless your name is listed on it and recorded on the books of the cemetery. Purchasers of lots, crypts, or niches receive the right of interment only.

## **10. Land Ownership of the Cemetery Land**

It's important to note that burial rights owner(s) or monument right owners are not landowners of the cemetery and have no permission to convey the land of the cemetery. The City of Grand Prairie will always retain ownership of the land including buildings, fences, signs, trees, easements, utilities and any other structures.

## **11. Transfer of Rights**

Owners of Burial Rights may transfer those rights through a legally executed will. If an owner passes away without a will, the rights will pass according to Texas state law on inheritance. The cemetery recognizes these transfers only after official, recorded documentation has been presented and recorded in its books. All applicable transfer fees, according to the cemetery's established Schedule of Charges, must be paid in full.

## **12. Transfer of Unused Burial Rights**

Any unused and unoccupied Burial Rights may be transferred to a new owner with the permission of the Cemetery Office. To complete the transfer, the current owner must submit the original Certificate of Ownership and a notarized Transfer of Rights form issued by the Cemetery Office. All applicable transfer fees, according to the cemetery's established Schedule of Charges, must be paid in full.

## **13. Customer Issued Form**

The cemetery reserves the right to deny a Burial Rights transfer if the documents presented do not meet the required legal terminology or format.

## **14. Payment Verification and Refunds**

The new purchaser should personally examine their own records and, upon request, review the payment history from the cemetery's records to ensure the account accurately reflects all prior payments. Once the Burial Rights are transferred, no further refunds will be issued to the prior owner. Should a refund become necessary, the City of Grand Prairie reserves the sole right and discretion to issue that refund to the new burial rights owner(s).

## **15. Transfers in Cases of Divorce**

If Burial Rights are subject to a divorce decree, mediation agreement, or other legal settlement, the burial rights owner(s) or their attorney should immediately contact the Cemetery Office by phone or certified mail. The legal document must clearly list the correct Burial Rights, including their specific location and description, and explicitly state which party is entitled to the rights after the divorce. The cemetery reserves the right to deny a transfer between spouses if the legal language is unclear, incomplete, or ambiguous. The former or new owner of the burial rights must pay any applicable transfer fees.

## **16. Prohibition on Commercial Use**

Burial rights owner(s) are not permitted to allow burials on their lots in exchange for payment, compensation, or any form of commercial transaction.

## **17. Prohibition on Resale for Profit**

Burial rights owner(s) are not permitted to sell their interment rights for profit. They may transfer these rights to another person with the cemetery's approval. All outstanding fees or charges owed to the cemetery, including the applicable transfer fee, must be paid in full before the transfer can be completed.

## **18. Lost Certificate of Ownership**

If a Certificate of Ownership is lost or destroyed, the owner may request a replacement. The request must include a written explanation of the loss and a properly executed affidavit detailing the circumstances. Upon receipt, the cemetery will issue a duplicate certificate based on its official records and the original name. If customer wants a new name printed on the certificate of ownership, they will need to pay any applicable transfer fees. The cemetery reserves the right to request proof of any legal name change.

## **19. Cemetery Buyback Policy**

The cemetery will purchase back any property no longer wanted by the owner at **fifty percent (50%) of the original purchase price**. The cemetery reserves the right to amend, change, terminate this Cemetery Buyback Policy at any time without notice to burial rights owner(s).

## **20. Owner Contact Information**

All burial rights owner(s) must inform the cemetery of any change in their mailing address. The cemetery will send all official notices to the most recent address on file, and sending notices to that address will be considered sufficient fulfillment of notice requirements.

## **21. Authorized Work Only**

Only cemetery employees or authorized representatives are permitted to perform work within the cemetery and on city property. All opening and closing of graves must be carried out by cemetery staff or those specifically authorized by the cemetery.

## **22. Right of Entry**

The cemetery has the right to enter or use neighboring lots when necessary to perform its duties, such as conducting interments or placing markers, without giving prior notice to the burial rights owner(s).

## **23. Oversight of Improvements**

The cemetery oversees and directs all improvements on the grounds and on individual lots, both before and after interments take place.

## **24. Liability**

The cemetery will take reasonable precautions to safeguard burial rights. However, it is not responsible for any loss, damage, or injury that may occur within the cemetery grounds, including but not limited to damages from theft, vandalism, or natural events.

## **25. Thoroughfare**

Cemetery grounds may not be used as a passageway or thoroughfare to adjacent properties.

## **26. Vehicle Use and Operator Responsibility**

Any person operating a vehicle on cemetery property, including burial rights owner(s), their guests, and all visitors—is solely responsible for any damages caused by that vehicle if any. This includes damage to cemetery property, such as monuments, landscaping, and roads. By entering the cemetery, the vehicle operator acknowledges they have reviewed their personal automobile insurance policy, that it is current and in effect, and that they hold a valid, non-expired driver's license issued by any state. All drivers are encouraged to operate their vehicles with extreme caution and must adhere to the fifteen (15) miles per hour or slower speed limit.

## **27. Other Transportation and Pets**

Bicycles, motorcycles, horses, and similar vehicles may only be used on cemetery grounds with the cemetery's prior approval. Dogs are permitted only if kept on a leash, and owners must clean up after them. If rules are not followed, owners may be asked to leave their pets at home.

## **28. Alcohol Beverages and Illegal Substances**

The use or possession of alcoholic beverages is strictly prohibited anywhere on cemetery grounds, as this property is under the jurisdiction of the City of Grand Prairie. Any person who brings alcohol or any other illegal substance onto the cemetery property is in violation of City ordinances and may be subject to a fine, citation, and/or arrest by local law enforcement.

## **29. Fires, Grills, and Open Flames**

For the safety of all visitors and property, no open flames or heating elements are permitted on the grounds. This prohibition includes, but is not limited to, gas and electric BBQ grills and open-flame fryers.

## **30. Signage and Advertising**

No signs, notices, or advertisements are permitted in the cemetery unless they are placed by the cemetery itself.

## **31. Music**

The use of loud music is strictly prohibited on cemetery grounds. This includes, but is not limited to, large speakers, DJs, amplifiers, and any other sound equipment that may disturb the peace and dignity of the cemetery.

### **32. Solicitation**

Selling, peddling, or soliciting any goods or services is not permitted within the cemetery, except when conducted by the cemetery itself.

### **33. Cemetery Hours**

The cemetery is open to all visitors every day, Monday through Sunday, from sunrise until sunset, year-round. The cemetery reserves the right to amend or terminate open and closing times at any time, with or without notice. In the event that visitors or burial rights owner(s) could be in harm's way, such as during severe weather, an unforeseen security risk, or an unplanned protest, the cemetery reserves the right to amend this rule for emergency use and may require all visitors to leave the grounds immediately and cemetery staff lock the gates until it is safe to reenter.

### **34. Lot Landscaping and Chemical Use**

Burial rights owner(s) and visitors are not permitted to install grass, sod, seeds, fertilizer, or any organic or chemical treatments on grave spaces or cemetery property. Unauthorized application of chemicals on the cemetery's commercial property is strictly prohibited. Commercial-grade and many home-use chemicals require state certifications and licenses and adherence to specific restrictions prior to application on commercial land. Individuals who violate this rule may be held civilly and criminally liable.

### **35. Responsibility for Damages**

Burial rights owner(s) have a duty to inform their guests and the loved ones of the deceased that no chemical products are to be applied to any monument or marker without the express written permission of the Cemetery Office. Some chemicals, even those labeled safe for bronze or granite, may not be safe to use on monument items within the cemetery. Burial rights owner(s) and visitors are solely responsible for any damage caused to headstones, monuments, or Burial Rights resulting from unauthorized activity, including the application of chemicals. The City of Grand Prairie and the cemetery will not be held responsible for, nor replace, damage to monument items caused by the use of unauthorized chemicals. The City reserves the right to recover any and all costs associated with the repair or replacement of damaged property, up to and including filing suit and seeking legal judgments. Customers are permitted to use water to rinse off monument items.

**If maintenance, landscaping, or repair is needed, please contact the cemetery staff for assistance.**

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## **Interments, Entombments, and Funeral Regulations**

### **36. Burial Entitlement**

Burials in a lot are limited to individuals who are legally entitled to be interred there, in accordance with the cemetery's rules and regulations.

### **37. Burial Delays and Protests**

The cemetery is not responsible for any delays in burial if a protest has been made or if the rules and regulations have not been followed. In such cases, the cemetery may temporarily entomb the body and postpone the service until all rights and issues are legally resolved.

### **38. Maximum Interments Per Space**

Each grave space may be used for interments as follows, unless the City grants special permission. Standard interment charges apply for each burial:

1. One adult burial, or
2. Two adult burials (stacked), with the first (bottom) requiring a top-sealed, reinforced concrete vault (Monticello Vault at minimum) or an equivalent container,
3. One adult burial and one infant burial, or
4. One adult burial and one urn containing cremated remains, or
5. Two urns containing cremated remains.

Opening/Closing fees will apply for each burial, and the burial rights contract must be paid to a zero (0) balance.

### **39. Urn Containers**

All in-ground inurnments must use an approved, durable outer burial container for the urns. This is to protect the remains and the site from damage by maintenance equipment.

### **40. Casket Size**

Caskets longer than three (3) feet may only be buried if placed in an outer burial container or concrete receptacle that the cemetery considers strong and durable enough to resist deterioration.

### **41. Prohibited Outer Burial Products**

Polypropylene outer burial products are not permitted for standard burials and may only be used for cremated remains.

#### **42. Minimum Container Requirements**

The minimum container for a casket burial is a concrete grave liner. In areas where double-depth burials are permitted, the first (bottom) burial must be in a top-sealed, reinforced concrete vault (Monticello Vault at minimum) or an equivalent container.

#### **43. Hours of Service**

Burials will not be conducted before sunrise or after dusk.

#### **44. Prohibited Days for Burial**

No burials will take place on Sundays or on City-observed holidays, which include:

1. New Year's Day
2. Martin Luther King Jr. Day,
3. Cesar Chavez Day,
4. Memorial Day,
5. Juneteenth,
6. Independence Day (July 4),
7. Labor Day,
8. Thanksgiving Day,
9. the day after Thanksgiving,
10. Christmas (two days, as observed on the calendar).

*City holidays are subject to change at any time. Exceptions may be granted with prior approval from cemetery staff. Note: Burials scheduled on City-observed holidays or weekends may only occur during the hours of 10:00 AM and 3:00 PM and will incur an increased opening and closing fee.*

#### **45. Committal Services**

All committal services will be conducted either at the mausoleum or at the graveside, weather permitting.

#### **46. Disinterment**

No disinterment (removal of human remains) may occur without the approval of the next of kin, the burial rights owner(s), the cemetery, and the appropriate legal authorities.

#### **47. Liability for Remains Containers**

The cemetery is not responsible for any containers, receptacles, or urns of cremated remains placed in a lot or niche.

#### **48. Scattering of Remains**

Cremated remains may not be scattered over a family lot. All required documents and applicable cost must be paid in full prior to Scattering of Remains.

#### **49. Niche Requirements**

All niche spaces are intended for a single inurnment. Placement requires an urn, and a container made of appropriate, durable material.

#### **50. Mausoleum Entombments**

All entombments and inurnments in the mausoleum must be carried out by cemetery staff. Additionally, all bodies placed in the mausoleum **must be embalmed**.

#### **51. Funeral Arrival Time**

Funerals must arrive at the cemetery by 3:00 PM, Monday through Saturday. A late fee will apply for services that arrive after the designated time.

#### **52. Service Time Slots**

*Each funeral is assigned a one-hour time slot and must arrive at the cemetery at the scheduled time. Cemetery staff will make every effort to accommodate late arrivals and larger services.*

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## **Flower and Decoration Regulations**

**All items removed can be disposed of by the cemetery without notice.**

### **53. Removal of Decorations:**

The cemetery may remove any flowers, decorations, or other objects that violate the rules and regulations within seven (7) days following interment or as they become unsightly, deteriorated, or hazardous. The cemetery is not responsible for any items that are removed, lost, or damaged for any reason.

### **54. Seasonal Cleanup**

Spring cleanup begins the first week of March, and Fall cleanup begins the first week of October. During these periods, all decorations and flowers—fresh or artificial, including those in vases—will be removed from the grounds. Families wishing to keep any item should remove them before these dates. New flowers or decorations should not be placed until after the first week of March and the first week of October, except in the case of new burials during this time.

### **55. Floral Tribute Size**

The cemetery may limit the size and number of floral tributes. Each tribute should not extend more than twelve (12) inches outward from the center of the vase and no more than thirty-six (36) inches in height from the ground.

### **56. Vases and Containers**

Flowers must be placed in a permanent vase, with only one (1) vase permitted per lot. Temporary vases are permitted if they are made of heavy-duty plastic, securely anchored without adhesives, and meet the size limits for floral tributes. Temporary vases must have a simple design and may not include solar lights or panels.

### **57. Prohibited Items Attached to Memorials**

Decorative objects, photos, or similar items may not be placed, attached, or affixed to the gravesite, ground, headstone, memorial marker, or the front of a crypt or niche at any time.

### **58. Items Must Be Inside Vase**

All flowers and decorations must remain inside the vase. Items placed outside the vase are not permitted and may be removed or disposed of by the cemetery.

### **59. Perimeter Decorations**

Artificial flowers, solar lighting, fences, bricks, religious barriers and other decorations or material may not be placed around the entire perimeter of a grave.

## **60. Prohibited Materials Glass**

Pottery, glass, and resin items are not permitted on cemetery grounds at any time due to safety and maintenance concerns.

## **61. Candles**

Candles may not be left unattended at the gravesite and must be removed at the end of each visit.

## **62. Solar Lights**

Solar lights are only permitted when placed inside an approved vase. Cemetery is not responsible for damage caused to monument items for busted solar lights.

## **63. Electrical Lighting**

Battery-powered or electrical lighting, including holiday, devotional, or decorative lights, are not permitted in the cemetery.

## **64. List of Prohibited Items**

The following items are not permitted on grave spaces, including but not limited to balloons, toys, plants or plantings, shepherd's hooks, flags, stand-up decorations, wind wheels, wind chimes, real or artificial rocks of any kind, fencing, hedges, grave mounds, borders, or enclosures. No decorations of any kind are permitted in trees or flower gardens within the Cemetery.

## **65. Covering Pictures**

Protective glass or any breakable material may not be used to cover a picture on a memorial. This includes attaching photos with tape.

## **66. General Holiday Decorations**

Holiday decorations, except for Christmas, are permitted one week before the holiday. Decorations should be removed within five (5) days following the holiday. All decorations must remain in the vase. Any items left beyond this period, including those in the vase, will be disposed of.

## **67. Christmas Decorations**

Christmas decorations may be placed beginning the Friday after Thanksgiving and must be removed by January 5. Any decorations or items remaining after this date, including those placed in vases, will be removed and disposed of by the cemetery.

Decorations and tributes must not exceed thirty-six (36) inches in height and may only be placed within the boundaries of the assigned plot. Items placed outside the plot boundaries will be removed and disposed of. Trees and shrubs are not permitted to be decorated at any time.

The cemetery is not responsible for any damage to markers and/or monuments or attached items, including vases, caused by decorations.

#### **68. Trees and Shrubs**

Trees and shrubs are planted and maintained by the cemetery to enhance the beauty and serenity of the grounds. Any tree or shrub not planted by cemetery staff may be removed without notice.

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## Memorials

69. Temporary markers of any kind are not permitted in the cemetery.
70. The cemetery has the authority to reject any memorial that is unsuitable for a lot or grave due to its size, design, inscription, quality, color, or construction. The cemetery may prevent the placement of—or remove—any marker or object that does not meet the standards outlined in the supplemental “Memorial Requirements” document. Additionally, the cemetery may require that all markers be purchased from the cemetery or from approved producers or retail dealers.
71. The cemetery will not accept any marker or monument for installation unless a detailed sketch is provided showing dimensions, materials, and lettering, along with permission from the burial rights owner(s) or the authorized representative of the person holding burial rights. All markers and monument foundations must be installed by cemetery employees or authorized agents.
72. All cemetery charges and fees for Interment Rights, memorials, endowment, perpetual care, maintenance care, memorial installation and inspection fees and other applicable charges and fees must be paid in full before any memorial or monument item may be placed on any interment space within the cemetery. Any monument memorial which is placed prior to full payment or returned or stopped payments of all such charges may be removed by the cemetery, at cemetery expense if full payment is not made within thirty (30) days.
73. If a memorial must be moved to allow for an interment or disinterment, the cemetery has the right to remove it without prior notice from the burial rights owner(s).
74. The cemetery may, at its own expense and without liability, correct any mistakes that occur in the placement of a foundation or memorial.
75. Memorials must be installed according to the cemetery’s overall plan. Only one (1) memorial is permitted per grave, and it must be placed at the head of the grave.
76. Cameos may be included in a memorial marker with the cemetery’s approval. Specifications for their use are provided in the supplemental “Memorial Requirements” document.
77. All memorials must be made of high-quality bronze on granite that has been approved by the cemetery.
78. Bronze-on-granite markers are only permitted in designated garden areas and must be installed at ground level. Upright monuments are permitted only in designated garden areas.
79. Benches may be placed only in neutral areas and never on a gravesite. They must be granite, pedestal-style, with a maximum of two (2) benches per tree area, spaced at least three (3) feet apart.
80. Only cemetery staff or vendors approved by the cemetery are permitted to install, remove, or make any adjustments to memorial monuments.

Cemetery staff are available to help and ensure the final resting place of your loved one remains beautiful and serene. Please communicate any requests or concerns directly to the staff so they can assist you.