



Riverside Cemetery Rules

Revised: May 2015

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. Physical address of the cemetery is 680 Plymouth Rd, Plymouth, MI 48170. Phone number: 734.453.7737 office, 734.455.1666 fax, email: dms@ci.plymouth.mi.us.

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. For current price listing, contact the cemetery at the numbers listed above.

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 in advance.
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. **Memorial Marker:** Shall include head or footstones for family or individual use that are flush with the ground.
6. **Monument:** Shall include a tombstone or memorial marker of granite or marble, which shall extend above the surface of the ground.
7. **Lot Marker:** Refers to any means used by the cemetery to locate corners of the lot or grave.
8. **Mausoleum:** Shall be a structure used for the individual entombment of multiple human remains.
9. **Adult Burial:** Shall be any burial that involves a burial box greater than five feet in length.
10. **Child Burial:** Shall be any burial box over 3 feet but less than 5 feet in length.
11. **Infant Burial:** Shall be any burial of child under 1 year of age, and burial box is less than 3 feet in length.
12. **Cremains burial:** Shall be the burial of the ashes of a cremated body.
13. **Oversize Burial:** Any burial over 90 inches in length or over 34 inches in width.
14. **Perpetual Care:** Shall consist of mowing, seeding, trimming trees and shrubbery, removing dead flowers, and general upkeep of the lot.
15. **Superintendent:** Shall be the City Manager or his representative
16. **Sexton:** Shall be the Director of the Municipal Services Department or his representative.
17. **Mourning Period:** Shall be the 60 days following the interment.

INTERMENTS OR DISINTERMENTS

1. The depth of a grave for an adult or child burial shall be at least 4' 6". Oversize burial shall be at a depth of 5 feet. Infant burials 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 mother 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. 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.
4. No occupied grave will be opened and no body will be disinterred except when required by court order and will only be released to a professional licensed in mortuary science. Disinterment charges are determined by the regular interment costs of labor and equipment + 50% with a 4 hour minimum.
5. Plastic full size burial vaults for adult caskets are strictly prohibited at Riverside Cemetery.

MEMORIAL MARKERS, MONUMENTS AND MAUSOLEUMS

1. No mausoleum shall be erected without the specific approval of the Cemetery Board. 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 location is at the head or foot of the lot, and parallel to the head or foot lot line.
 - b. The height of the monument cannot exceed forty-eight (48) inches, the depth of the monument cannot exceed twelve (12) inches, the length of the monument cannot exceed thirty-six (36) inches for a single grave or fifty-six (56) inches for a two grave plot. Custom monuments require permission of the cemetery superintendent.
 - c. Specific rules governing markers for Blocks K, L, M and O supercede these requirements
 - d. Maximum number of markers on any grave is one (1) upright & two (2) flat markers OR four (4) flat markers based on the types of burials specified in "Interments or Disinterments", Item #2. Flat markers must be no larger than 24" x 12" and installed flush with the ground at the foot of the grave, this includes veteran's markers.
2. Monuments and memorial markers shall not be allowed to be installed on lots that have not been fully paid for.
3. All foundation work for monuments and memorial markers will be placed by the employees of Riverside Cemetery at the established rates.
4. The material used in the construction of mausoleums, vaults monuments, memorial markers and permanent corner posts must be of a recognized durable granite 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.
5. 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 1 long side of the base of the monument or marker and the 2 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. All plastic flowers are prohibited at all times. 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.

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).

8. Any seat, urn or similar object placed on a lot by permission of the superintendent shall be kept painted white and in good condition.
9. 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 Saturday after twelve o'clock noon 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 the 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: Upright; only slant granite markers set on a granite base (2 person companion marker or 1 person non-companion marker). Contact the cemetery office for the exact description. Flat; must meet regulations in Memorial Markers, Monuments and Mausoleums Item #1d.
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. All plastic flowers are prohibited at all times. 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.