

DEERCREEK TOWNSHIP CEMETERY



RULES AND REGULATIONS

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ORGANIZATION

The Deercreek Township Cemetery is a Township Cemetery (in compliance with the Ohio Revised Code – ORC) not operated for profit. There are no stockholders and no dividends; all net receipts are expended on property upkeep and improvements.

The cemetery is under the management and control of the Deercreek Township Board of Trustees who are elected by the voters of Deercreek Township who alone have control and direction of the affairs of the cemetery.

The management of the Deercreek Township Cemetery will be conducted pursuant to these Rules and section 517 *et. seq.* of the Ohio Revised Code.

NOTE: THESE RULES AND REGULATIONS MAY BE CHANGED WITHOUT NOTICE BY THE DEERCREEK TOWNSHIP BOARD OF TRUSTEES AND NOTHING HEREIN SHALL PREVENT SAID BOARD FROM USING THEIR DISCRETIONARY ACTIONS PERTAINING TO THESE RULES AND REGULATIONS.

APPROVED: November 2010
Revised: March 1, 2013
Revised: November 7, 2022

PURCHASE OF LOTS

The purchase of lots is controlled by Ohio Revised Code section 517.07. Persons desiring to purchase a family lot are invited to contact the cemetery sexton at the Township Office where arrangements can be made to view the lots that are available for sale.

Lots are for burial purposes only; no other claim can be made by the owner or deed holder.

Upon purchase of lot and payment for it, the township clerk will deliver a deed to the purchaser. No lot is considered sold until paid in full. Prices of all lots are fixed by the trustees and cannot be altered except as provided for in the O.R.C., as pertaining to "indigents" etc. There is a "schedule of fees" available from the sexton and/or trustees.

Traditional grave spaces are four (4) feet by ten (10) or eleven (11) feet. Oversized vaults may require the purchase of two grave spaces. "Cremation only" grave spaces are (4) four feet by (5) five feet.

Lots will be marked by corner stones, numbered to correspond with the deed, record, and plat-book, and set as level as possible with the sod.

Transfer of record title to a cemetery lot from the name of the decedent to that of an heir at law or next of kin may occur upon written request to the Township Trustees with notarized documentation of relationship to the decedent.

Resale of grave spaces is not permitted. Unused lots may only be sold back to the Deercreek Township at the price that was originally paid.

As a term of sale, the Township Trustees reserve the right of re-entry to an unused lot, as governed by the O.R.C.

The Township Trustees require the following as conditions of sale of multiple cemetery lots other than husband and wife:

A. a list of the names and addresses of the person to whom the grantee's property would pass by intestate succession.

B. any subsequent changes in the name or address of any persons to whom the property would descend.

C. Any person who receives a township cemetery lot by gift, inheritance, or any other means other than the original conveyance shall, within one (1) year after receiving such interest, give written notice of his name and address to the board having control over the cemetery, and shall notify the board of any subsequent changes in his name or address.

D. The Township may specify that the owner, a member of the owner's family, or an owner's descendant, must use the lot, or at least one burial place within the lot, within a specified time period. The board may specify this time period to be at least twenty (20) but not more than fifty (50) years, with the right of renewal at no cost.

FUNERALS AND INTERMENTS

Arrangements for interments must be made at least forty-eight (48) hours in advance of time set for the funeral. Arrangements must be made by personal contact with the cemetery sexton or a Township Trustee.

If the service date is changed after notifying the Township, the forty-eight (48) hour period begins at time the Township is notified. Proof of deed and available burial space information must be given to the sexton or trustee when the notification of service date is given.

All interments are under the direction of the sexton, who will have entire control of the digging of graves and all matters relating thereto. Funerals upon reaching the Cemetery will be under the charge of the sexton or one of his assistants.

Only one interment may be made in one grave space with the exception of an infant or cremains. These may be entered on grave with permission of lot owner if it doesn't interfere with existing vault. Two cremains are permitted on one grave space. Fees apply per interment.

Interments in the township cemeteries will only be made under the approval of a Township Trustee.

No outer casing of wood will be permitted. Steel or concrete vaults are required.

Services at the cemetery should begin no later than 3:00 p.m. on weekdays and 1:00 p.m. on weekends and holidays. An additional \$100 per each half hour applies to services starting later.

No interments will be permitted on the following holidays:
New Year's Day, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day.

Under the rules and regulations of the Board of Health, immediate burial may be required in certain circumstances.

The cemetery will not be responsible for an order received by telephone or for any error resulting from the lack of precise and proper instructions as to the particular space, size, and location in a plot where interment is to be made and the Township Trustees shall not be liable in damages for any error so made.

All interment charges must be paid in advance, or guaranteed by the funeral director, personally.

All interments are subject to local, county, and state laws, regularly constituted.

Graves will not be re-opened for inspection, except for official investigation or by order of the trustees.

The cemetery must insist that all interments are settled solid before sodding or seeding and area must be level with surroundings.

No interments will be made without a burial permit furnished by the funeral director and delivered to the sexton before disposition of body concerned.

Upon entering the cemetery gates, the funeral cortege is in the charge of the sexton and/or his assistants, and his orders must be followed by the funeral director. No funeral director, his assistant, employee, or agent shall be permitted to open the casket or touch the remains without the consent of the legal representation of the deceased or without a court order.

The cemeteries close at dusk.

CARE OF LOTS

Under no circumstances will a lot be terraced above or below surroundings of adjoining grounds.

To keep all lot owners harmonious as possible without infringing on an adjoining lot, all planting must be under the supervision of the sexton, with the approval of the Board of Trustees.

On traditional grave spaces, no planting the full length of grave space, or digging holes in sod, is permitted. All planting must be on graveside of monument not to exceed 18 inches from base of monument and no more than thirty-six (36) inches in height. On "cremation only" grave spaces, no planting or digging holes is permitted.

Holiday decorations will be respected for a reasonable period of time as determined by the Trustees. (Usually thirty (30) days)

Township Trustees will not be responsible for any tools, clothing, or other personal property, unattended by its owner.

No trees, plants, shrubs, will be planted on lots or graves, nor shall any trees or shrubs be trimmed or removed by anyone other than a cemetery employee unless authorized or directed by the Board of Trustees. Applying chemicals to control weed growth is strictly prohibited.

If any existing tree or shrub on any lot becomes detrimental or injurious to adjacent lots, walks, or avenues, it will be the right and duty of cemetery personnel to remove as instructed by Township Trustees.

The Township reserves the right to remove any or all floral designs, flowers, weeds, trees, shrubs, or plants of any kind, wooden, iron, or steel case or artificial animals, statues, or any other item, if, in the judgment of the trustees, they do not conform to the standards maintained.

No curbing, fencing, hedging, borders, or enclosures, or other boundary marketing will be permitted on any lot. The Trustees reserve the right to remove it if erected, planted, or placed.

Items of value which do not conform or not maintained in good condition will be removed and stored for thirty (30) days. Items may be claimed by calling the cemetery sexton.

The taking of plants, shrubs, trees, or flowers from another lot or grave is strictly forbidden.

MONUMENTS – MARKERS – MEMORIALS

Any person contemplating the erection of a monument, marker or memorial should first consult the sexton so that stones appropriate in size and design are selected for the proposed location. The sexton receives instructions from the Trustees who standardize the design, size and material that is acceptable.

All orders for foundations must be presented on a regular form provided by the monument company, signed by the lot owner and dealer furnishing the memorial. Burial space information must be given with the order.

All foundations to monuments, markers, etc. will be made at ground level and be constructed of wet concrete by cemetery personnel. Foundations for monuments will be erected at times as determined practical. The Township officials or employees shall not be liable for certain completion dates.

No monument, marker or memorial will be installed without a foundation.

Under no circumstances will any kind of homemade marker resembling a memorial stone or rough boulder be placed on any lot in the cemetery.

When any monument or memorial of any kind is to be removed for inscription, cleaning, or any other work to be done upon it, permission must be obtained from the Board of Trustees.

MONUMENTS OR MARKERS

The Township Trustees will allow one piece above ground headstones for the Cemetery which meets the following criteria:

1. Military markers shall only be permitted at the foot of the grave, readable from the foot of the grave facing the head. Military markers shall be considered foot markers.
2. Only one headstone and one foot marker per grave.
3. Foot markers must be flush and identify one grave only.
4. Headstones may be flush or upright and may identify one or two spaces.
 - a. "Cremation only" grave spaces require flush headstones or footstones. No upright markers are permitted.
5. Dimensions:
 - a. Upright slant faced headstone for a single grave. 24" long, 10" wide, 16" high.
 - b. Upright slant faced headstone for a double grave. 60" long, 14" wide, 42" high.
 - c. Flush headstone for a single grave. 24" long, 12" wide, 4" high.
 - d. Flush headstone for a double grave. 36" long, 10 " wide, 4" high.
 - e. Footstone. 24" long, 12 " wide, 4" high.

The above dimensions represent maximum sizes of allowable markers.

REMOVALS AND DISINTERMENTS

All disinterments are subject to local, county, and state laws which will be enforced at all times. Fees will be determined by the Township Trustees.

Disinterments and removals must be all paid in advance.

When removing from one cemetery to another, the sexton must have the removal permit or disinterment permit from the county health department.

Removals and disinterment can be ordered only by a court order.

In the case of interment, disinterment or removal, the cemetery employees will exercise the greatest of care in handling the casket or vault and the Township or its officials or employees will not be responsible for any damage incurred by so doing.

Cemetery Fees

Grave Space - traditional	Resident	\$300
	Non-resident	\$1,000
Grave Space - cremation only	Resident	\$200
	Non-resident	\$600
Opening / Closing*	Weekdays	\$550
	Weekends and Holidays	\$700
Opening / Closing - Cremation*	Weekdays	\$200
	Weekends and Holidays	\$300

*Services at the cemetery should begin no later than 3:00 p.m. on weekdays and 1:00 p.m. on weekends and holidays. An additional \$100 per each half hour applies to services starting later.

Oversized Graves - Additional \$100

Marker Foundations (2" margin around marker) \$.55 / Sq. In.

Sunday Burials	Yes
New Year's Day	No
Martin Luther King Day	Yes
President's Day	Yes
Easter	No
Memorial Day	No
Juneteenth	Yes
Independence Day	No
Labor Day	No
Columbus Day	Yes
Veteran's Day	Yes
Thanksgiving Day	No
Christmas	No

Revised and Effective 8/15/2022