

City of East Bethel

Cemetery Policy

The purpose of these regulations is to provide a uniform set of rules for the use and visitation of the public cemeteries within the City of East Bethel. The regulations are designed to help improve the appearance and reduce the maintenance requirements for the cemeteries while maintaining respectful grounds for the deceased.

Management

- 1) Oak Leaf Cemetery, Old Bethel Cemetery, and East Bethel Cemetery are owned and operated by the City of East Bethel.
- 2) The City of East Bethel is responsible for the selling and recording of all plots.
- 3) The City of East Bethel is responsible for the opening and closing of all plots. No person shall proceed to disturb the grounds without the knowledge and consent of the Public Works Manager.
- 4) The City of East Bethel is responsible for the maintenance of the cemetery grounds.
- 5) Prices for plots, plot digging, and other services provided at the city cemeteries are established in the annual fee schedule adopted by the East Bethel City Council.

Visitor Rules

- 1) Cemetery visitors will be allowed in the cemetery from sunrise to sunset. Any person(s) found loitering on the grounds during closed hours will be subject to penalties.
- 2) No pets allowed on the cemetery grounds.
- 3) No motorized vehicles will be allowed off designated roadways at any time with the exception of city maintenance personnel, monument setters, and vault company employees.
- 4) Any person disturbing the tranquility of the cemetery by noise or other improper conduct will be asked to leave the grounds or be subject to penalties.
- 5) All visitors are reminded that the cemetery is considered sacred ground for the deceased, and that a strict observance of all properties due such a place will be required.

Burial Rules

- 1) No interment shall take place without all laws of the State of Minnesota and the City of East Bethel having been complied with.
- 2) 72 hours notification will be required for grave opening services.
- 3) Full Interment will not be allowed unless in a cement or steel vault.
- 4) Cremation interments require an approved vault not to exceed 36 inches per side constructed of cement, steel, or high density polypropylene to protect the urn and be capable of supporting soil weight and burial depths up to 3 feet.
- 5) Two adult interments in one grave (one on top of another) will not be permitted. An infant child or cremation will be allowed at the foot end of an adult grave.
- 6) For record keeping purposes, identification and determent, cremated remains should not be buried on top of a vault. Only two cremated remains may be buried on a burial site. Center of location is to be 2.5' from the side of the plot and 3' from the end.

Monuments (Plots sold before October 3, 2012)

- 1) While reasonable care will be taken to protect monuments and markers, the City of East Bethel is not responsible for the damage done to monuments or property. Stone monuments are considered private property of the deceased relatives and are therefore responsible for their care.
- 2) All monuments must have a cement base with a minimum 4" margin around the headstone and the base shall be inside of the lot line.
- 3) All large headstones are to be set on the west edge of the lot.
- 4) All markers placed on the east end (foot end) of the grave must be flush to the nominal ground level. At no time will above ground markers be allowed on the east end of a grave.
- 5) All monuments shall be of good grade marble, granite, or bronze materials built by reputable companies. All foundations for monuments and other structures must be of sufficient depth into the ground in order to support it.
- 6) All monuments must be set in line with other monuments so far as possible.

Monuments (Plots sold after October 3, 2012)

- 1) All markers, both headstones and footstones, must be flush to the nominal ground level.
- 2) While reasonable care will be taken to protect markers, the City of East Bethel is not responsible for the damage done to markers or property. Stone markers are considered private property of the deceased relatives and are therefore responsible for their care.

Privileges and Restrictions for Plot Owners

- 1) No tree or shrub shall be planted, removed, cut down or trimmed on cemetery grounds without permission of the Public Works Manager.
- 2) All newly placed flowers, whether real or artificial, must be in approved above ground pot stands.
- 3) Grave decorations will be allowed for placement on ground only if kept within on foot of grave markers for the period of two weeks prior to Memorial Day and one week following Memorial Day. Following the final allowed date for such decorations, maintenance staff will remove and dispose of those not in approved stands.
- 4) At no time will jars, tin cans, unsightly plastic containers, fences, retaining walls, or any other objects be allowed in the cemeteries.
- 5) Perpetual care of cemeteries which cover mowing, tree trimming, grass trimming, and leaf removal will be assumed by city maintenance staff only.