

The Ashton Cemetery is owned and operated by the Village of Ashton, Illinois.

Rules & Regulations
Amended 2012

The Ashton Cemetery is owned and operated by the Village of Ashton, Illinois since July 19(65)

Care of Lots

All lots are sold under the Perpetual Care Fund set up for that purpose.

I. Rules Concerning Lots and Lot Owners

1. No lot shall be used for any other purpose than as a place of burial for human remains. The grade of all lots shall be determined by the Cemetery Board Chairperson.
2. Heirs or assigns of lot owners must prove their rights to the satisfaction of the City Clerk before their orders for interments will be accepted. Lot owners may dispose of their lots by will, subject to the rules of the Cemetery; otherwise ownership and the right to give orders for burial shall follow according to the laws of the descent of the State of Illinois.
3. All monuments or headstones are subject to the approval of the Cemetery Chairperson whose duty it shall be to see that all foundations are made substantial and according to the Rules and Regulations already existing and such as may be adopted from time to time for the management of the cemetery.
4. No markers or monuments shall be placed in the cemetery except in accordance with the Rules and Regulations with respect thereto as shown on the plat of the cemetery on file with the Village Office.
5. Lot owners shall not have the right to plant trees, shrubs, flowers or plants on their lots. Any existing items will remain until they are no longer acceptable and will be removed by the Village. They may not be replaced.
6. If any structure or any inscription be placed in or upon any lot which shall be determined by the Cemetery Board to be not in accordance with the cemetery regulations and to be offensive, improper or injurious to the surrounding lots or ground, the said Department shall have the right and duty to enter upon such lot and remove or cause the removal of the said offensive or improper objects. The Cemetery Board also reserves the right to direct the removal of anything offensive from graves and lots.
7. Owners may decorate their graves observing the Rules and Regulations of the cemetery and shall remove all rubbish to the place designated for the purpose. **Flowers and seasonal decorations must be removed by April 1 for Fall and Winter items, and October 1st for Spring and Summer items.** Items remaining after this date may be discarded. Faded or wilted items may be removed at any time.
8. No interments shall be made, nor shall any work be done on any lot on which unpaid charges are due for work done upon it.
9. Orders for disinterment or removals will be taken by the Cemetery Contact in the City Clerk's office.
10. Do not place fragile or loose objects on any grave. These objects become defaced or unsightly and will be removed according to the rules. Glass items are not allowed and will be removed.
11. No scattering of cremains is permitted. Scattered cremains will be collected and turned over to the county for disposal as unclaimed / unknown cremains.

II. Rules for Visitors

1. Fast or reckless driving is not allowed on the grounds. Automobiles and trucks are not allowed to leave the roads.

2. All persons are prohibited from picking any flowers or breaking any tree, shrub or plant. No flowers or shrubs can be taken from the grounds except by a written permit from the Cemetery Superintendent.
3. All persons are prohibited from writing upon, defacing, or injuring any monument, enclosure or structure in or belonging to the cemetery.
4. The superintendent and assistants are instructed to prohibit any person disturbing the quiet and good order of the cemetery by noise or other improper conduct, or found violating any rules, will be compelled to leave the grounds instantly. Discharging firearms or fireworks is strictly prohibited, except for military funerals or patriotic services.
5. Gardeners are not allowed at any time to solicit orders on the cemetery grounds.
6. The sexton, superintendent, and assistants are charged to see that all Rules and Regulations are observed, that persons found damaging any property on the cemetery are held to restore such to its former condition, and that all violators are prosecuted to the full extent of the law.

III. Rules and Regulations Concerning the Purchase and Transfer of Lots

1. Persons desiring to purchase lots should call the office of the City Clerk at City Hall where information about lots and prices may be obtained. The Cemetery Contact will upon receipt of the price of the lot in full, issue the deed signed by the Mayor and enter the same on the records, after which an order for interment may be at any time procured. No lot shall be considered as sold nor shall any interment be made thereon until the price of the lot has been paid.
2. Lots may be sold to husband and wife, but otherwise no single lot will be sold or deeded to more than one person.
3. Owners can transfer their lots only by applying to the Clerk's Office at the City Hall. A charge will be assessed for all transfers. In case of the death of a lot owner, the heir should call the Clerk's office at City Hall and have the proper entries made on the records. The same should be done if lot owners change their name.

IV. Rules and Regulations Concerning Funeral Directors and Interments

1. Funeral directors must give forty-eight (48) hours notice of all funerals to allow for timely grave opening and to avoid the necessity of opening graves on Sunday. They must give dimensions of outside receptacle and state the hour when the funeral will arrive at the cemetery. Funeral directors will be held responsible for damage, loss of time or labor caused by them in giving the wrong information to the Cemetery Contact.
2. Graves will be opened on the order of funeral directors and lot owners, but no interment will be made without the proper certificate from the Board of Health. Parties claiming burial in private lots must prove their ownership by showing their deed and, if they are not the owners or their legal heirs, they must file a written order signed by the owner(s) or the legal representative(s).

V. Special Rules Concerning Interments

1. One interment only will be made in any one grave.
2. Burial of bodies, babies, limbs or ashes in a wooden container is not permitted. Outside container must be concrete or a vault, except for babies up to one year of age.
3. In order to avoid confusion, the Cemetery Chairperson and/or assistants shall be in charge of all funerals from the time they enter the cemetery. Processions shall follow designated routes and automobiles shall be parked as they are directed.
4. Cemetery policy will allow up to two cremated urns in a single grave space. Each cremated remains will be in its' own container (urn) for burial. Monuments placed for such double interments must meet the specified regulations for the cemetery section in which the burial takes place. Two names will be allowed on such monuments. A second monument may only be allowed as a foot stone or a ground level marker that does not rise above the grass.

5. Burial of one cremain may be interred with a full single burial in a single grave. Monuments placed for such double interments must meet the specified regulations for the cemetery section in which the burial takes place. The two names will be allowed on such monuments. A second monument may only be allowed as a foot stone or a ground level marker that does not rise above the grass.

6. The Cemetery permits the burial of one parent/child interment in the same grave space and same casket. The Cemetery Chairperson reserves the right to approve every parent/child burial on an individual basis, depending on the size and age of the deceased. The general guideline will be a parent and a child under the age of two years. Monument regulations are the same as for any other burial in the particular section. Two names will be allowed on such monuments.

VI. Rules for Stone Men, Marble Cutters, etc.

All employees for stonework, erecting monuments, etc. are subject to the authority of the caretaker of the cemetery, who will ensure that such work is done according to the rules. The caretaker will give specifications for foundations for monuments, headstones, blankets, mausoleums, etc. All foundations will be built from early spring to late fall depending on weather conditions. Contractors violating the rules or not paying their bills promptly for foundations will not be permitted to work in the cemetery. All employees are prohibited from injuring any tree or shrub, or from scattering material over adjacent lots, or leaving the same on the grounds any longer than necessary. They must confine themselves to the lot for which they are engaged and such additional limits as may be assigned. They must remove all chips and rubbish to the place designated for that purpose.

VII. Rules and Regulations Concerning Improvements

1. Persons decorating lots or doing any kind of work on the Cemetery must remove all rubbish to the place designated for that purpose.

2. If branches of trees extend over monuments or enclosures, such monuments may, in case of rain during the bloom of trees, receive temporary stains. These stains are harmless as they will be washed away by subsequent showers and cannot be admitted as justifying demands for cutting down tree branches or trees, which are an important feature of a beautiful cemetery.

VIII. Suggestions

1. The Cemetery rules are not made to interfere with your rights; they are imposed to protect the interest of all lot owners and to promote general harmony to the benefit of all.

2. Ensure that you notify the office of the City Clerk if you inherit a lot or wish to transfer ownership. An order for interment could be delayed or denied, if the records do not reflect the true ownership.

IX. Monuments

All foundations must be of concrete.

Individual foundations will not exceed 40 inches and must provide wash to neighboring monuments unless the neighboring grave is owned by the same family. In the case where a husband and wife are buried side by side with individual monuments, the foundations must join in the center.

Two person single stones covering two graves may not exceed 80 inches in foundation width.

Depth for all foundations may not exceed 24 inches.

All Rules and Regulations of the City Cemetery are subject to change and amendment by the City Council.

