

ALTA VISTA CEMETERY
RULES AND REGULATIONS

The City of Gainesville would like to thank you for considering the purchase of burial spaces in Alta Vista Cemetery. Alta Vista has been in continuous operation since around the mid 1800's. On February 1, 1953, The City of Gainesville instituted a "perpetual care plan", which means The City is responsible for keeping each lot reasonably clean and free from debris and rubbish and will on a reasonable interval cut the grass growing thereon. A portion of the purchase price of each space is set aside in a trust fund to help defer the costs of Cemetery care.

Ownership in Alta Vista consists of the right of interment and associated memorialization only. The lot can be used for no other purpose and cannot be divided into smaller portions than originally purchased. Should the lot holder die without devise of or any known kindred, title to such lot shall revert back to The City, for protection of those who may be interred therein.

Arrangements for all purchases of spaces in Alta Vista must be made through the Alta Vista Cemetery Office. Payment for the purchase of burial spaces shall be due in full on the date of purchase. Any resale by the owner of Alta Vista Cemetery spaces shall come through the Cemetery Office, as The City of Gainesville retains the "first right of refusal" to repurchase any and all lots. The City requires the surrender of the original deed to repurchased spaces.

CEMETERY ETHICS:

1. Treat the Cemetery grounds with respect at all times.
2. Remember, monuments, sculptures, and artifacts are the private property of others. Please do not touch without permission.
3. Mementos and Memory items must be placed on a monument. Items not on a monument shall be removed.
4. Do not litter (including cigarette butts).
5. Stay on designated walkways and paved roadways. Keep all vehicles on the pavement and off the grass.
6. Keep all pets on a leash and away from monuments and sculptures. Always clean up after your pets.
7. Be respectful of funeral processions and memorial services.
8. With the exception of bottled water, food and beverages are prohibited from Cemetery grounds.

MONUMENTS:

1. The Cemetery Manager must approve the plan, design, and placement of all monuments and markers.
2. All monuments shall have a minimum 5-inch thick concrete foundation. Flush and foot markers shall have a minimum 4-inch thick concrete foundation. Foundations shall exceed by a 5% minimum the length and width of the monument base or the marker.
3. All monuments shall consist of a base and a die. The die thickness shall be no more than 50% of the width of the base. The die length shall be at least eighteen (18) inches shorter than the base. Minimum thickness of a die shall be four (4) inches. Minimum thickness of a base shall be ten (10) inches.
4. For a single grave lot, markers of a flat type only shall be used. Flat markers are to be placed flush with the ground allowing lawn mowing equipment to pass over the marker without causing damage.
5. A monument for a two grave lot shall be placed in the center of the head of the two graves. The monument shall have a minimum base length of five (5) feet and a maximum base length of seven (7) feet.
6. A monument for a three grave lot shall be placed in the center of the head of three graves (similar to a two grave lot). The monument base shall have a minimum base length of five (5) feet and a maximum base length of eight (8) feet.

7. A monument for lots with four or more grave spaces side by side shall be placed in the center of the head of the graves. The monument base length shall be a minimum of five (5) feet. The maximum base length shall depend on the number of spaces purchased.
8. A monument for four (4) or more grave spaces purchased in a back to back layout shall be placed in the center of the spaces.
9. Metal markers left by Funeral Homes are only temporary markers and will be removed after a couple of weeks because of hazards they may cause to visitors, maintenance personnel and equipment
10. The lot holder or surviving kindred will be responsible for maintenance, upkeep, and cleaning of all monuments and foot markers on their respective lot. For the protection of all lot owners, persons or firms erecting, cleaning, or repairing monuments shall first contact the Cemetery Office during normal working hours before any work shall begin and all work shall comply with the rules and regulations as required.
11. No coping, fencing, walls, sidewalks, fixtures, figurines, or other items that might interfere with normal cutting and cleaning of the lot will be allowed, unless constructed, or placed by The City of Gainesville.

FLOWERS:

1. Artificial flower arrangements will be removed by the City on or after three months, or as they become in disarray.
2. Potted plants may be placed on the lot via in-ground pot holders or on the monument base. As long as they remain in good condition (watered and taken care of by the owner), and do not overgrow the lot, The City will not remove them.
3. Flowers for new burials will be removed after seven (7) days following a service. One arrangement may be left behind subject to Items 1 or 2. Family members wishing to save flowers should pick them up a couple of days after a service.
4. Christmas flowers will be removed around February 1.
5. Flowers may be removed if an abundance of flowers or wreaths on an individual lot interfere with maintenance of said lot.
6. It is suggested flowers placed on monuments be securely attached as they frequently are blown away by the wind.
7. Flowers are not allowed to be placed on the grass or stuck up in the ground. Flowers must be placed in an approved holder, or placed on a monument.
8. No flowers, trees, shrubs, or other vegetation shall be planted on any lot without the permission of the Cemetery Manager.

PROHIBITED ITEMS:

1. Glass of any kind can pose a threat to the health and safety of patrons and cemetery staff members.
2. Solar Lights or Peace Lights
3. Shepherd's Hooks
4. Privately installed benches: Benches installed on the owner's lot by a licensed and insured monument company are allowed but are subject to the monument rules listed above, and must be approved by the Cemetery Manager.

HOURS:

1. Cemetery Office is open from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
2. Cemetery visitation ends at dark.