

RULES AND REGULATIONS

Oak Lawn and Sand Hill Cemeteries

At Oak Lawn and Sand Hill Cemeteries, we want to honor and respect all the families that have chosen us as the final resting place for their loved ones. We also want to ensure that our cemeteries are places where any family member or friend can come to cherish the life of a loved one.

The following rules and regulations are established as part of the Cemetery Board's commitment to respect the dignity of every human person, preserve, and beautify the sacred resting places of the departed. They are intended not as restraining, but rather as defining an orderly plan of operation, care, safety, and maintenance, and are designed to ensure compliance. Your patience, understanding, and cooperation in compliance with these guidelines will help us preserve the security, beauty, and uniform character of our cemeteries.

The purpose of the following rules and regulations is to provide guidelines for maintenance, efficiency, safety, and enhancement of the cemetery grounds.

In order to provide security in the cemeteries, the gates to Oak Lawn Cemetery are locked from 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. The drive-through gate at Sand Hill is kept locked at all times. Management reserves the right to close either Cemetery on a temporary basis at any time.

A copy of these rules and regulations shall be provided, along with the cemetery deed, to all purchasers of plots; nevertheless, said rules and regulations apply to all lots in the cemetery. Failure to comply with these rules and regulations may result in the prohibition of a person or business from installing any stone or structure in the Oak Lawn or Sand Hill Cemetery. Management reserves the right to require all persons entering the Cemetery to obey all rules and regulations. The rules and regulations may be changed without notice to any owner.

General Rules and Regulations - Oak Lawn and Sand Hill

1. Management has the authority to enter upon any space and to remove any items that may have been placed there contrary to the rules and regulations.
2. Any item left on the lot thirty days after a burial shall be deemed abandoned, and the City shall be entitled to dispose of it as it sees fit.
3. All graves must be marked with a durable monument or markers within one year from date of burial. Any temporary markers (including metal funeral home markers and wooden crosses) placed after a burial must be removed once the permanent marker is installed.
4. Only one upright monument and/or marker placed at the head (west end of grave) and one footstone (east end of grave) are allowed per grave site. No variance shall be permitted EXCEPT by express approval of the Cemetery Board. Any such variance must be requested in writing ten days prior to the next scheduled Cemetery Board meeting.
5. Maintenance and upkeep of monuments and markers and compliance with the rules and regulations are the responsibility of the lot owners. It is the lot owner's responsibility to notify all family members of the rules and regulations.
6. Monuments and markers are to be made of granite, marble, or bronze metal. No variance shall be permitted EXCEPT by express approval of the Cemetery Board. Any such variance must be requested in writing ten days prior to the next scheduled Cemetery Board meeting.
7. Corner markers must be made of granite, marble, or bronze metal and set at ground level.
8. All faded, wilted or unsightly flowers will be removed and disposed of by the grounds keeper.
9. Fresh-cut burial flowers may remain on the grave up to ten days after burial, after which time the grounds keeper will remove and dispose of them. The grounds keeper may remove them sooner than ten days when

weather conditions drastically diminish their appearance.

10. The use of intoxicating beverages, outdoor cooking, and/or the consumption of food within the cemetery is strictly prohibited.
11. No permanent planting of trees, hedges, shrubs, or flowers are allowed in any part of the cemetery effective July 12, 2010.
12. No fencing, bricks, white rock, gravel, decorative rock, cement slabs, carpet, or any other type of ground covering shall be placed on any grave or lot.
13. The placement of any decorative items such as seats (benches, chairs, settees), statues, structures (boxes, metal designs, wood or metal cases), religious artifacts, glass items, shells, ornaments, lights, chimes, toys, flagpoles, etc. that impede maintenance of the cemetery is prohibited. Once such items have been removed, they shall not be replaced. Oak Lawn Cemetery and Sand Hill Cemetery grounds keepers will remove any items that are considered a safety hazard and/or in violation of the rules and regulations.
14. In order to assist the caretaker, only one flower arrangement may be used on each grave. Additional arrangements will be allowed to be placed for Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day, and Christmas, but the additional items not removed after thirty days following these holidays shall be deemed abandoned, and the City shall be entitled to dispose of it as it sees fit.
15. In order to protect the trees, permission from the Cemetery Board or its duly appointed agent, including the caretaker, is required before any herbicide (weed killer) is used in the cemetery.
16. Prior to setting any family or individual markers or monuments or installing any curbs or corner markers, approval must be secured from either the Board secretary, or the Grounds Chairman, so they may mark the boundaries of the affected lot and insure that the contractor complies with all regulations pertaining to curbing, corner markers, and monuments/markers.
17. Vehicles shall not be driven through the grounds at a speed greater than 15 miles per hour, and must at all times be kept on the paved roads throughout the Cemetery. Management reserves the right to determine when vehicles may be driven off the established roadways.

Rules and Regulations Regarding To Curbs in Oak Lawn

No curbs are allowed in Sand Hill Cemetery effective July 12, 2010

These Rules regarding curbs apply only to Oak Lawn Cemetery
in Blocks A, B, D, 101 - 107, and 1 - 34

1. All curbs, borders and anything else used to mark or designate a lot or grave space must meet all the requirements set forth by the Decatur Cemetery Board.
 - A. All curbs must be a minimum of 8 inches wide on the north, east and south sides.
 - B. All curbs must be a minimum of 16 inches wide on the west side and must be poured level to allow the monument to be set.
 - C. Curbs must originate no higher than one inch from the highest corner of burial lot.
 - D. Curbs cannot exceed 6 inches in height. Curbs must be stair-stepped down to meet the height requirements.
 - E. All curbs will be a minimum of 6 inches thick and must contain doubled steel reinforcements.

2. Curbs are allowed in all Blocks in the South Section (A, B, D, 101 - 107) and in all Blocks 1 through 34.
3. **Curbs will no longer be allowed in Blocks 35 through 41.**
4. Corner markers will be allowed in all Blocks including Blocks 35 through 41.
5. Corner markers are to be made of granite, marble, or bronze metal. Any variance must be requested, in writing, ten days prior to the next scheduled Cemetery Board meeting.
6. Corner marks must be set ground level so that the marker does not interfere or impede the equipment when mowing and maintaining the grave.

Specification of Monuments and/or Markers for Blocks 35 - 41 of the Oak Lawn Cemetery Opened after July 12, 2010

No curbs are allowed in Blocks 35 - 41

1. Family and individual markers must be set at the head (west end) of the grave. These markers can be upright, but meet the specifications mentioned in the above rules and regulations.
2. Individual markers, veteran's markers, and foot markers are to be set at the east end of the grave and at ground level so that it does not interfere or impede the mowing equipment or maintenance of the grave.
3. Corner markers will be allowed in Blocks 35 through 41.
4. Corner markers must be made of granite, marble, or bronze metal and set at ground level. Any variance to this must be requested, in writing, ten days prior to the next scheduled Cemetery Board meeting.

The above rules and regulations of the Oak Lawn and Sand Hill Cemeteries will take priority over past rules and regulations of the City of Decatur Cemetery Board, which manages Oak Lawn and Sand Hill Cemeteries, and are effective as of June 10, 2019, date approved by the City of Decatur.