



## **OAK PARK CEMETERY RULES AND REGULATIONS**

The Oak Park Cemetery provides an atmosphere where all can enjoy and respect the aesthetic qualities and quietude free from distractions.

The rules and regulations are intended as a protective measure for all who use the Cemetery. The nature of all improvements, good appearance of the grounds and buildings, and respectful observance of the sacredness of the place requires adherence to the rules and regulations for the good of all.

We ask all owners and visitors to remember that the grounds of Oak Park Cemetery are sacredly devoted to the burial of the dead. Respect for the deceased and their surviving family and loved ones will be first and foremost along with maintaining the peace and serenity of the grounds.

### **The following rules and regulations shall apply to all tracts within the Cemetery:**

The Cemetery gates will be opened at sunrise and closed at sundown.

At the time of interment grave mounds shall not exceed four inches (4") in height in the center and shall slope to the edges so as to permit mowers to more easily pass over the mound.

City personnel will remove flowers and wreaths from the gravesite 7 days after interment. Persons desiring to retain flowers, plants, containers, wire racks or similar objects, shall pick them up within seventy-two (72) hours after burial services.

Flowers must be placed in vase receptacles that are permanently attached on the surface of the monument or marker. No detached vases or plant or floral receptacles shall be permanently placed on a lot/grave space.

Lot/space owners without an approved marker with a vase are permitted to put flowers on the grave space during holidays; 7 days preceding the holiday, and 7 days following the holiday. Flowers will be removed soon thereafter. *Mother's Day, Father's Day, All Saints' Day, Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, Presidents' Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, and Veterans' Day.*

Artificial flowers that no longer look natural, having a weathered appearance will be removed. Oak Park Cemetery assumes no responsibility for the loss or damage of the flowers.

The lot/space owner shall not plant any flowers, shrubs, trees, plants, or any other type of vegetation; or construct additional mounds or flowerbeds over grave spaces.

Ornaments, glass objects of any kind, toys, lighting, metal designs, and other similar articles are not allowed on grave spaces. The City shall have the right to remove any of them without prior notice. The City shall not be responsible for loss or damage of any kind associated with the removal of any similar article.

The City will not be responsible for loss and /or damage to articles placed upon lots or graves.

No fencing, railing, hedging, curbing, coping, borders, gravel, commercial ground cover, or trellises of any kind are allowed to be placed around grave spaces or lots. In the older sections of the cemetery (original cemetery through tract 4) borders and grave coverings were allowed prior to the adoption of these rules. Grave spaces within this area will be considered “grandfathered” until said items are removed for any reason; in which the replacement of such shall not be permitted.

The City shall have the right to remove all objects placed in violation of these Rules and Regulations and discard such objects.

The City shall have the right to plant and mow grass on any lot or grave; and shall have the right to remove and/or destroy all diseased, dead, unsightly, or undesirable trees, shrubs, or plants.

The City is not and shall not be responsible for the loss of or damage to trees, shrubs, or plants caused by the digging of graves.

One metal (shepherd) hook shall be permitted per plot in lieu of any other decorations or plantings. It must not exceed 5' in height and contain no more than one flower basket. Attachment of any other item to the hook is not permitted. Hook may not be decorated with artificial flowers or coverings.

Decorations attached to trees or shrubs shall not be permitted.

Chimes or any other decoration making noise shall not be permitted.

Maintenance of the lawn is continuous, placement of flowers and all other decorations on ground level will be removed. The placement of items on the ground level impedes the mowing process.

The City reserves the right to regulate the method of decorating plots and the right to regulate decoration so that ease of maintenance and aesthetics of the cemetery may be maintained.

All boundary/corner markers shall not be disturbed.

The grade of lots shall not be changed without the prior approval of the City.

No walkways of any kind are allowed on any lot or grave space.

No signs of any kind are allowed in the Cemetery.

The City shall have the right to perform maintenance activities it determines to be necessary.

No alcoholic beverages or container that once housed alcoholic beverages are allowed in the Cemetery.

No pets shall be allowed in the Cemetery.

All grave markers must meet the requirements as specified in the Code of Ordinances. Application for placement of grave marker/monument must be approved before placement of such.

The placement of permanent benches is allowed after obtaining an approved permit through the City Secretary's office. Benches must be made of granite or marble and be placed upon an engineered foundation.

Columbarium Niche area – No more than two cremains can be placed in each niche, depending on urn size. The size of each niche is 9" deep, 11" wide and 11" high.

Trees may be planted within the cemetery (not directly on top of a lot/space) only with the approval of the Parks Director. The care and maintenance will be the responsibility of the space owner. A request for a tree must be in writing and submitted to the Parks Department.

Each columbaria niche area dedicated to hold cremains is 11x11x9 inches deep; 2 cremains per niche is allowed as long as containers fit within said dimensions.

*Cemetery rules in both English and Spanish shall be posted in the Cemetery.*

*(These Rules and Regulations shall be attached to the form signed by the purchaser of any lot/space in the Cemetery.)*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I, \_\_\_\_\_, do hereby acknowledge that the burial space(s) that I have selected in Tract 5 of the Oak Park Cemetery has (have) restrictions that have been explained to me. Grave markers in Tract 5 shall meet the requirements as prescribed by said ordinance. I, also, acknowledge that I have been issued a copy of the City of Alvin Oak Park Cemetery, Rules and Regulations adopted in October, 1996 and revised on February 21, 2008, April 21, 2016, and April 20, 2023; *Chapter 5 ½ Section 3- Requirements regarding columbaria niches and lot/spaces and Chapter 28, Cemetery Fees.*

In selecting a burial space in said tract of said cemetery, I hereby agree to abide by the restrictions as set forth herein.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Witness: \_\_\_\_\_