

Cemetery Rules and Regulations

The following illustrates the changes to the definition of “Articles” and clarifies staff’s intent regarding the restrictions place on them. Staff is proposing amended language to the restriction of certain “Articles” to better reflect intent and current practices:

The proposed rules expand the definition of an “Article” to include the types of objects staff actually encounters—glass bottles, pictures, cards, toys, stuffed animals, figurines, flowers, flags, solar lights, candles and numerous other objects. Most of these objects aren’t inherently objectionable; the operational concern is where they are placed as it can create safety impacts (broken glass, projected from mowers) or visual clutter impacting the integrity of the cemetery. The language proposed for the updated Rules and Regulations is not being changed.

Staff is changing the proposed language to permit the placement of articles temporarily around holidays—from one day before until five days after—and to broaden the concept so it isn’t limited to a narrow list of holidays.

An important customer-service point for information: staff doesn’t simply throw an improperly placed personal item away. Staff inventories retrieved articles in a spreadsheet and retains them for at least 60 days so families have an opportunity to recover them.

Existing Language: 1996

(1) **Articles** - Including, but not limited to, boxes, shells, toys, ornaments, chairs, settees, crosses, statues, benches, vases, rocks, fencing, borders, windchimes, candles, candle holders, plants, shrubs, trees or herbage of any kind.

(2) **Certain Articles Prohibited** - The placing of any articles of any kind upon plots or upon or in front of crypts and niches that are not specifically authorized under these rules and regulations shall not be permitted. The Cemetery Manager reserves the right to remove same. The placing of small articles on a headstone memorial after a sixty (60) day period from the date of burial shall be prohibited. The placing of small articles on a headstone memorial on the deceased's birthday, Mother's Day, Father's Day, the anniversary date of the deceased's death, and on national holidays may be permitted. The small articles may be permitted for a period commencing one (1) day before and ending five (5) days after such birthday, anniversary or holiday. The Cemetery Manager reserves the right to remove all articles which interfere with the maintenance of the Cemetery or Mausoleum, or interfere with the accessibility to another plot, crypt or niche in the preparation of an interment, disinterment, entombment or disentombment.

Proposed Language: 2026

Articles - Including, but not limited to: boxes, pictures, cards, books, shells, toys, dolls, stuffed animals, trinkets, mementos, ornaments, figurines, flowers, floral containers, floral pieces, chairs, settees, crosses, statues, benches, vases, rocks, stones, pebbles, fencing, borders, windchimes, pinwheels, spinners, whirligigs, helium balloons, flags, banners, globes, solar

lights, candles, candle holders, plants (potted or otherwise), shrubs, trees or herbage of any kind.

(6) Regulation of Articles Prohibited- The placing of article(s) of any kind upon plots or in front of crypts and niches shall not be permitted, except in the case of birthdays, anniversaries and holidays. The placing of small articles at a headstone memorial on the deceased birthday, Mother's Day, Father's Day, the anniversary date of the deceased death, and on holidays is permitted. These small articles are permitted for a period commencing one (1) day before and ending five (5) days after such birthday, anniversary, or holiday. Articles should only be placed in approved containers, whenever possible. Articles will be removed if they interfere with the maintenance of the Cemetery, accessibility to another plot, crypt, or niche that is in the process of preparation for an interment, disinterment, entombment, or disentombment, or that are in violation of these rules and regulations. The Cemetery Manager reserves the right to remove and dispose of unauthorized articles without notice.

NOTE: the proposed rules and regulations will include the language in red, underlined font for consideration at the City Council meeting on August 25, 2026.