

RULES and REGULATIONS
WOOSTER CEMETERY & GREAT PLAIN CEMETERY
20 Ellsworth Ave., Danbury, CT 06810
Phone: (203) 748-8529 www.wooster-cemetery.com

For the mutual protection of lot owners, the following rules and regulations have been adopted by The Danbury Cemetery Association, Inc. All lot owners and visitors within the cemeteries, as well as future lot owners, shall be subject to the current rules and regulations, as well as any amendments or alterations deemed necessary by the Danbury Cemetery Association.

The Danbury Cemetery Association, Inc. and its directors, officers, employees and agents assume no liability for damage, mental anguish, or loss caused by vandalism or other acts beyond its reasonable control.

Note that: "We," "Our," and "Us" refer to Danbury Cemetery Association. "You" or "Your" refers to lot owners and their heirs and assignees. "You" or "Your" may also refer to visitors where specified. "Visitors" refers to anyone (including lot owners, heirs, and assignees) who visits Wooster Cemetery or Great Plain Cemetery as part of a funeral party, or simply to walk around and enjoy the property. A "plot" is a burial area intended for the burial of one person.

Special situations may develop where the literal interpretation of the rule may impose a hardship requiring a just decision by us. We shall reserve the power to make exceptions, suspensions, and/or modifications of any of the Rules and Regulations, as the Executive Board deems necessary on an individual basis.

We welcome bequests or donations for the development and longevity of the cemeteries' historical relevance. The Danbury Cemetery Association, Inc. is a non-profit, non-sectarian, organization functioning under the laws of the State of Connecticut.

We are open for burial seven days a week unless severe weather conditions preclude burial on any given day. We are closed on New Year's Day, Memorial Day, the Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. Additional fees may be incurred by the families from the Funeral Home or independent contractors for any services performed after normal working hours, weekends or holidays.

BURIAL SITE PURCHASES, INTERMENTS, DISINTERMENTS, AND FUNERALS

All plots are sold in accordance with the provisions of the laws of the State of Connecticut and shall not be used for any other purpose than as a burial place for deceased human beings.

Purchases and/or verification of burial lots, lawn crypts or mausoleums may be made at the office of the Association located at 20 Ellsworth Avenue, Danbury, CT 06810. Your purchase will be recorded in our books at the cemetery office. After full payment, a deed will be issued to the owner and recorded on our books. No transfer, sale or gifts of any interest in lots, grave sites, lawn crypts, niches or mausoleums or portions thereof will be valid unless approved by us and made on our books/records. If you purchase two or more plots, we encourage you to designate family members or friends as owners of each plot.

If you decide you want to sell your lot, you are required to notify us, of the name and address of the new lot owner. There will be a fee incurred for issuing a new deed. You may transfer your lot to another person.

If you purchase a lot for yourself but, upon death, are buried elsewhere, then your lot passes to those named in your Will. If you die without leaving a Will, or without specifically mentioning in your Will the persons whom you wish to inherit your cemetery lot, it will be automatically inherited in equal shares by your descendants, who are defined as "living children and children of the lot owner's deceased children at the time of lot owner's death." If there is only one descendant, he or she becomes the sole owner. If there is more than one descendant, they become equal co-owners. A residuary clause in a Will to certain persons will not legally devise your Cemetery Lot to them. Your spouse will still have

the absolute right to be interred and so will anyone else for whom you may have filed a Non-revocable Designation; or filed a Revocable Designation which you have not changed or revoked during your lifetime. Any such Revocable Designation becomes Non-revocable upon the Lot Owner's death.

No casket interment will be allowed without a permit from the Registrar of Vital Statistics as required by the laws of the State of CT and verification of ownership from the owner or his/her legal representative. Burial of cremation remains require identification of ashes (Cremation Certificate). All indebtedness must be paid before any interment or entombment may be carried out.

Owners of gravesites or mausoleum crypts or niches shall not make interments for remuneration, nor shall they be permitted to transfer any interest of the aforesaid unless made valid on our books and put in writing to the President of the Association.

You are prohibited from allowing someone to inter a body on your lot in exchange for money, goods, or services.

Interments and dis-interments are subject to fees approved by the Association. All arrangements must be made with a funeral director, the Sexton or a designated member of the Board of Directors of the Association, and must be performed by a DCA approved/appointed vendor with an insurance liability certificate on file and in accordance with the laws of the state of Connecticut.

All burials, including cremation must be enclosed by an approved burial vault, with exception of Section S (Natural Burial Grounds). Entombments in crypts must be placed in a protective container.

For Natural Burial Grounds (Section S) ONLY:

Concrete or steel vaults and grave liners will not be permitted.

Bodies or cremated remains may be interred only in natural biodegradable materials such as, but not limited to, wood or a shroud. Ask us or your funeral director for guidance. Metal, concrete, plastic, or other synthetic materials and stone may not be used for interment.

Deceased bodies that are embalmed or otherwise chemically preserved may not be interred. Because of its proximity to the water, exceptions to this rule cannot be considered. The Sexton will work closely with the family to arrange for a suitable alternative site.

No upright stone markers are permitted. You may have engraved natural, flat rocks indigenous to or quarried in the Danbury area, set flush with the ground and encompassing no more than 400 square inches, placed as markers over the grave.

CARE AND IMPROVEMENTS

The Association has no desire to interfere with the taste of individuals as to the style and improvement of burial lots, grave sites, or lawn crypts. The Association reserves the right to prevent, prune, or remove any structure, enclosure, planting or inscription that the Association deems obstructive to maintenance, proves to be injurious, or detrimental, offensive or unsightly to the general population. The Association reserves the right to remove all flowers, wreaths, or other natural decorations without notice as soon as they become unsightly.

In Section S (Natural Burial Ground), the Board of Directors shall have sole discretion as to all matters regarding landscaping and plantings, including landscaping plan and care, pruning, revegetation of graves, and removal of vegetation. No unauthorized plantings or hedges, fences or enclosures of any kind are permitted on or around lots. We may remove or alter unauthorized plantings or enclosures. Ceramic or glass vases or blocks (as receptacles for flowers), flags, artificial flowers, and other decorations may NOT be placed on graves.

Lot owners who make improvements to their lots are responsible for leaving their plots (as well as the adjoining plots) in good visual order. Any repairs by the Association will result in a cost to the lot owner.

PERPETUAL CARE

INCLUDES: Cutting the grass as often as necessary, raking the leaves, cleaning the roads.

Perpetual Care DOES NOT INCLUDE: Laying of turf, fertilizing the soil, care or pruning of plantings, cleaning and repairing of monuments, memorials or foot markers.

TREES AND SHRUBS

Lot owners must obtain permission in writing from the Association in order to place any tree or shrub.

Once planted, the care of trees or shrubs is the sole responsibility of the lot owner.

The Association is not responsible for trees or shrubs that die or are stolen.

FLOWERS AND GARDENS

SIZE: up to 18 inches from the stone and no wider than the width of the stone. If there is no gravestone, the garden can be no larger than 18 inches deep and 30 inches wide. They must be kept trimmed to prevent encroaching on neighboring lots

Potted plants (flowers and shrubs) that are left unplanted and left uncared for will also be removed. They will be discarded or replanted at more appropriate locations to be determined by the Sexton and/or Board of Directors.

NO bushes or trees are to be planted without prior approval from the Board of Directors.

NO ground covers will be planted.

Flowers are permitted, but will be removed if allowed to become overgrown or unsightly. The owner may be charged for any removals.

Artificial flowers or grave decorations will be removed by the Association if they are left to deteriorate, are unsightly or are a nuisance to care.

Mementos left at gravesites must be placed against the grave markers.

NO GLASS OR CERAMIC ITEMS OF ANY KIND ARE TO BE PLACED ON GRAVESITES.

NO FENCES, but stone or brick borders are allowed and must conform to size regulation.

NO SOLAR-POWERED LIGHTS are allowed.

NO BALLOONS, pinwheels and like items.

WINTER AND HOLIDAY GRAVE DECORATION

Winter decoration (grave blankets, etc.) are permitted, but they must be removed before March 15th. Containers or decorations for lot owners will NOT be saved; it is your responsibility to remove these if they wish to save the containers.

All other holiday decorations must be removed within a reasonable length of time (2 weeks after the holiday).

FLAGS

Flags placed on graves will NOT be removed by the Association unless they are badly damaged.

The Association is not responsible for the placement of flags on graves, although we will always provide assistance to community groups who wish to place flags. Flags are NOT allowed in the Natural Burial Grounds.

A limited number of flags are available in the office.

COMMUNAL MAUSOLEUMS

Owners and visitors at communal mausoleums and niches are prohibited from taping or affixing any pictures, objects, cards or flowers to the mausoleum crypt fronts and niche fronts.

HEADSTONES, MONUMENTS, MEMORIALS, GREEN BURIALS

Concrete foundations for memorials, foot markers and monuments are required, with the exception of the Natural Burial Grounds (Section S). All foundations and boundary stones are to be installed by contractors approved by the Association and require the written permission from the lot owner. Memorial installation forms are available through local monument dealers or in the cemetery office.

Inscriptions to be added to existing stones must be done by contractors approved by the Association.

Retaining walls, planting of shrubbery or trees must be approved in advance by the Association.

Monuments and headstones made from materials other than granite and/or bronze must be approved in advance by the Association. No stones at any time are to be moved without notification and approval by family or a legal guardian. The Association is not responsible for the cleaning and maintenance of memorials, monuments and foot markers.

VISITORS (GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS)

The Wooster Cemetery and the Great Plain Cemetery are private property. The cemeteries are open to the public from 8:00 AM to sunset.

All visitors are welcomed and are subject to the Rules and Regulations of the cemetery but anyone younger than 16 years must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Pets are expected to be leashed per Danbury City Ordinances and their droppings placed in plastic bags and placed in trash receptacles.

Anyone exhibiting improper conduct or engaging in malicious activities will be asked to leave the grounds. Illegal activities may subject the individual to arrest and prosecution.

Any film projects of the cemetery grounds are subject to full board approval along with film permit application, application fees, restrictions and proof of insurance.

All vehicles must be removed from the roadways when a funeral procession is approaching so as not to interfere with their activities. The speed limit within the cemetery is 10 MPH.

In Section S, all vehicles, except for hearses, trucks and equipment necessary for our operation, must park along the main road.

Any memorial ceremony related to interment is permitted. All other ceremonies, services or use of the cemetery property must be approved by the Association in advance.

NOT ALLOWED:

- Discharging firearms in the cemetery unless it is a military funeral.
- Flowers or artificial decorations on Veteran Graves owned by the City of Danbury. An American flag is permitted as well as winter decorations.
- Boats, rafts, ice skating, fishing or wading in the pond.
- The use of sleds, toboggans or other snowmobiles.
- Skateboards, roller blades, motorized off road vehicles, ATV's or "pocket bikes".
- Open fires or camping.
- Feeding of the wildlife, unless approved by DCA in compliance with CT Dept. of Energy & Environmental Protection (DEEP)
- Hunting and trapping.
- Depositing trash, debris, or littering on any part of the cemeteries. This will be prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.
- Intentional damage or destruction of monuments, memorials or Association property will result in prosecution to the fullest extent of the law. Under CT State Law, it is a Class C Felony.
- Additional prohibitions may be added by the Association and will be posted on the Wooster Cemetery Website.

POLICY FOR DECORATING GRAVESITES

The decorating of the graves of loved ones is a time-honored tradition. We encourage this activity. In order to provide guidance to families and to help preserve the natural beauty of the cemetery, the following guidelines are to be followed.

1) Care of individual plots by us (commonly referred to as "Perpetual Care") includes cutting of the grass, trimming of grass around gravestones, raking of leaves, removal of branches and debris, and maintaining the primary roads. Perpetual Care does NOT include laying of turf, fertilizing, pruning of shrubs or watering of plants. It also does not include the cleaning or repair of gravestones.

2) No tree or shrub shall be planted on any burial lot except with the permission of the Board of Directors. Once planted, the care of trees or shrubs is the sole responsibility of the lot owner. We cannot assume any liability for trees or shrubs that die or are stolen.

3) You may prepare a flower garden in front of a gravestone. Such gardens may extend up to 18 inches from the stone and may not exceed the width of the stone. In the absence of a gravestone, the garden may not exceed 18 inches deep and 30 inches wide. They may be surrounded with brick edging or other suitable blocks. Gardens are NOT to be enclosed with fencing of any kind as it is a significant safety hazard to our grounds crew.

4) Potted plants or flowers that are left unplanted and left uncared for will be removed. They will be available at the office for one week to claim them. After one week, they will be discarded or replanted at more appropriate locations to be determined by the **Sexton** and/or Board of Directors. Potted shrubs will be removed immediately.

5) Maintenance of flower gardens shall be done by the lot owner or designee. We reserve the right to remove any garden which becomes unsightly or overgrown. All plantings must be kept trimmed to prevent encroaching on neighboring plots. The use of ground covers is forbidden.

6) Mementos left at grave sites must be placed against the grave markers or on the monument base, if present. For safety reasons, no glass or ceramic items may be placed on grave sites. No mementos may be left in the Natural Burial Grounds.

7) Balloons, pinwheels and solar lights are **NOT** allowed at any time.

8) Any questions or concerns should be addressed to the Sexton's office at the Ellsworth Avenue entrance.

9) We will NOT remove flags placed on graves unless they are badly damaged. We are not responsible for the placement of flags on graves, although we will provide assistance to community groups who wish to place flags. A limited number of flags are available in the office.