

CITY OF COLUMBUS
MOUNTAIN VIEW CEMETERY
CEMETERY REGULATIONS

Revised March 2018

The City Council of the City of Columbus, Montana, having determined that certain revisions and regulations are necessary for the orderly growth development and management hereby adopt the following rules and regulations.

Sec. 1. Cemetery defined.

The word "cemetery," as used in this article, shall mean the Mountain View Cemetery, Columbus, Montana.

Sec. 2. Lot conveyances.

The City Clerk or his/her designee is authorized and empowered to execute on behalf of the City, contracts for the sale of lots or portions of lots, in the cemetery, and to issue deeds of the City to lots, or portions of lots located in such cemetery upon payment of the purchase price therefor; to accept on behalf of the City notes of purchasers of lots located in such cemetery in payment of the purchase price thereof; provided, that any conveyance made by such officers shall be subject to the provisions of this article.

Sec. 3. Covenants to run with burial lots.

The covenants, rights, limitations and obligations set forth in the conveyance of lots in the cemetery, together with the provisions of this article, are declared to be covenants running with the land, and shall be binding upon all present and future owners of burial lots in the cemetery.

Sec. 4. Rules and regulations.

The City Clerk or his/her designee shall promulgate and publish rules and regulations for administration, operation, maintenance and control of activities relating to and within the City-owned cemetery.

Sec. 5. **Use of lots.**

1. Cemetery grave sites cannot be purchased for speculations or resale. No sale, assignment, or transfer of a grave site or grave sites shall be valid without notification of the City and endorsed upon such transfer or assignment and entered on record by the City.
2. If the internment is not a member of the owner's immediate family or heirs, the internment shall be designated in writing by the owner of said grave site or his/her heirs.
3. All deeds to cemetery grave sites from this date forward are subject to the limitations and conditions contained in these regulations.
4. A casket or substitute container is required for burial.
5. Minimum outer container requirements: every grave (except cremains) site shall have installed therein at the time it is excavated for burial either a fiberglass vault or concrete dome.
6. Cremains must be buried, interned within an approved site. Ashes may not be spread upon the ground.
7. Decorations in the form of natural or artificial flowers or any other memorial, except the headstone, shall be allowed to be located at the grave site for a period of three (3) days before Memorial Day and seven (7) days after Memorial Day each year, and for seven (7) days following burial or funeral services; any flowers or decorations at a grave site not removed within the time limit contained herein will be considered abandoned and can be removed by the employees of the City of Columbus and destroyed or disposed of, the City shall incur no liability therefor.

8. No plantings of any type are permitted on cemetery grounds, no potted plants wreaths, flags, shepherd hooks, emblems or the forms of decoration are permitted unless specifically authorized during defined holidays.
9. No artificial or manmade flowers or trinkets shall be allowed in ground-level containers or allowed to be set or laid on the ground in the cemetery from October 15th through May 15th with the exception of holiday decorations. Ground-level, holiday grave decorations shall be allowed three (3) days before and three (3) days after the holiday. Christmas decorations are allowed from December 15th through the first week of the New Year.

Sec. 6. Cement, walks, trinkets.

Gravel, stone, brick or cement of any kind, or artificial walks, shall not be allowed upon the lots, nor will any boxes, shells, trinkets, toys and the like be permitted on such lots.

Sec. 7. Fencing and enclosures prohibited.

Fencing, coping or enclosures of any nature whatsoever shall not be allowed upon the lots or graves.

Sec. 8. Multiple Burials.

Burials of two (2) human remains in the same casket shall not be allowed except when the remains of the bodies can be placed in one (1) outer burial container approved by the City. One casketed burial is allowed per grave, single depth, there will be no double depth burials.

Burials of (1) full-size casket and (3) cremains burials are allowed for one grave site.

Burials of four (4) cremains are allowed in an unoccupied grave with grave markers see section 15.

The grave markers (stones) shall conform to the existing requirements in regards to size on a single site.

Sec. 9. City to mark lots.

All lots shall be marked and put in order by the City.

Sec. 10. Mounds prohibited.

Elevated lots or grave mounds shall not be allowed.

Sec. 11. Injuring plants prohibited.

Picking the flowers, breaking or injuring trees or plants or any other property within the cemetery is prohibited.

Donations may be made for purchase of trees, but may only be planted in designated areas under the direction of the Public Works Department. The Public Works department will determine the type of trees that will be planted.

Sec. 12. Cemetery traffic.

Vehicles must remain on designated roads within the cemetery at a slow rate of speed. Parking is allowed on any of the roads within the cemetery.

Sec. 13. Picnics and unattended children prohibited.

Children, unless accompanied by an adult, shall not be admitted to the grounds. Picnic parties are prohibited.

Sec. 14. Dogs.

Dogs shall be admitted to the grounds of the cemetery, as long as the dog remains on a leash in the control of the owner. Pet owners shall acknowledge and clean up after their pets accordingly.

Sec. 15. Monument regulations.

Monuments/markers will be placed on foundations of concrete, the foundation will be constructed a minimum of six (6) inches wider and longer than the marker or monument base. Flush mount markers shall have a minimum border of 4 inches. Monuments including cement border shall be restricted to an area of 24 inches by 54 inches for a single grave. For a double grave the area shall be 24 inches by 108 inches. Only one upright marker will be allowed all other markers shall be flush mounted.

Sec. 16. Monument Installers.

Monument installers who wish to install monuments for clients at the cemetery must provide a monument setting bond in the amount of \$10,000.00, naming and holding harmless the City of Columbus for all work done by said installer.

In setting a monument or marker or building a foundation the contractor/monument company shall be liable for any damage to other people's property or to the general appearance of the cemetery. The contractor/monument company shall be responsible for leaving the cemetery in the same general condition as it was before setting the stone.

Prior to the installation of the monument, the installer must give the City of Columbus 48 hours' notice and provide the proposed time and date for the installation and details regarding the dimensions of the monument. Once notice is received the City of Columbus will mark the area where the monument is to be place and will supervise the installation.

Sec. 17. Marker Materials

All grave markers in the Mountain View Cemetery shall be of a permanent material such as granite, marble, stone or bronze.

No slab, coping, curbing, hedging or enclosure of any nature will be permitted in the grave row.

Grave markers will remain the property of the family. The City will not replace or repair grave markers.

All work must be under the inspection of the City and completed as rapidly as possible. Materials not used must be removed as the work is completed.

Sec. 18. Mausoleum graves.

Individual Single Crypt Mausoleums may be erected in designated areas only and only with the consent of the City after all plans, construction specification and materials have been approved by the City Council.

Individual Single Crypt Mausoleums cannot be more than 42 inches high. Foundation must be installed below frost line. A six inch deep concrete border shall be installed flush with existing ground around the individual Single Crypt Mausoleum to encompass the entire lot size. This concrete border shall be installed at the same time and be a part of the foundation installation and be pinned to the foundation wall.

No perpetual care is provided for the individual single crypt mausoleums. Maintenance and repair is the sole responsibility of the Family.

No other structures, headstones or markers will be allowed on the gravesite. Names and dates shall be placed on the individual Single Crypt Mausoleum.

The placement of one human remain with casket and up to 3 cremains would be allowed in an individual single crypt mausoleum as long as the single crypt mausoleum is designed and constructed with separate enclosures with separate doors to accept cremains containers. No cremains containers will be allowed to be placed within the enclosure that contains the casket.

Sec. 19. Grave regulations.

All graves and sexton fees shall be paid in full before burial can occur.

The space between the graves shall remain the property of the City.

Sec. 20. Fees for Cemetery lots and services.

Fees for the purchase of cemetery lots and service charges for opening and closing graves are listed below.

For the taxpayers of the City of Columbus –
\$300.00 per grave site.

Residents of the City of Columbus who are not taxpayers in the City of Columbus or residents of Stillwater County who are not taxpayers in the City of Columbus –
\$400.00 per grave site.

Nonresidents of Stillwater County who are not taxpayers in the City of Columbus –
\$500.00 per grave site.

Baby graves will be 75% of the above cost and such cost will be determined by the tax status of the parents or guardian.

(The term "taxpayer" for the purpose of these regulations is a person who pays taxes to the Stillwater County Treasurer, which money is then transferred to the City of Columbus according to the mill levies set and assessed by the City of Columbus for operation of the City.)

Sec. 21. Opening and closing fees.

Sexton Fees

	Weekday	Saturday
Full Size Casket	\$300.00	\$400.00 (Saturday)
Cremaains	\$100.00	\$150.00 (Saturday)

- Baby grave 75% of above costs

No Saturday afternoon, Sunday or Holiday sexton service will be available. Sexton fees shall be paid on or before the day of the funeral.

Funeral directors must schedule services so that the City Crew can complete their work no later than 3:30 p.m. During regularly scheduled work days or no later than 12:00 p.m. on Saturdays.

The City Clerk will not be allowed to sell grave sites or transact business for the purchase or sale of same on Saturday, Sunday or Holidays.

The cemetery is open daily from dawn until dusk.

The City of Columbus, or its employees, shall at no time do work that is capable of being handled by a Funeral Home. City personnel are responsible for openings and closings only.

Excavation for graves will not be undertaken unless at least 36 hours (2 working days) notice of need for the grave site is given to the City Clerk's Office.

Contact Information:

City of Columbus

PO Box 549

Columbus, MT 59019

(406) 322-5313

City Hall Hours Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Public Works Department

(406) 322-4424

For information or to schedule a burial, call the City Clerk's office.