

Promoting, maintaining, and enhancing the naturally beautiful and peaceful cemetery grounds is one of our greatest responsibilities at MAPLEWOOD. We must also give equal attention to the efficiency and safety of cemetery staff as they carry out the many tasks related to burials, general maintenance, and upkeep of our grounds. In our efforts to better address these responsibilities, we are increasing our efforts to further clarify and more consistently enforce our decorating policies.

Over the past year the **MAPLEWOOD CEMETERY Board of Trustees and Management** have diligently considered and reviewed longstanding policies that prohibit the placement of decorations IN or ON the ground from March 15 thru November 15. Based on this longstanding policy, shepherd hooks have not been an approved means of decorating at MAPLEWOOD.

Instead of eliminating shepherd hooks entirely, the Board of Trustees and Management has decided to create an exception for shepherd hooks that fall within the specifications listed below.

After March 15, 2025, shepherd hooks that do not comply with these new specifications will be removed and discarded without notice.

The Board of Trustees and Management will review the public's compliance with this new SHEPHERD HOOK policy after one year. At that time the policy will either remain in place OR the decision will be made to eliminate shepherd hooks entirely.

- ✧ Acceptable shepherd hooks
 - Must be black in color
 - Can have only one hook
 - Cannot be anchored in concret
 - Are limited to an ***installed above ground height of 40"- 54"***
(*measured from the ground to the highest point)

BEGINNING MARCH 15, 2025, ALL SHEPHERD HOOKS MUST MEET THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS

- ✧ Only **1** shepherd hook permitted **per marker** (none on 2nd Right markers).
- ✧ Decorations must hang from the hook – nothing can be attached to the pole itself.
- ✧ **No other types or shapes** of hooks, poles, posts, banner holders, or trellis-type structures are permitted.
- ✧ Shepherd hook poles must not extend above the hook and cannot have lanterns, finials, or other decorations extending above the hook itself.
- ✧ No bird feeders or bird houses are permitted.
- ✧ Shepherd hook/decorations must not infringe on adjacent spaces.
- ✧ Decorations on shepherd hooks are subject to the same seasonal restrictions and scheduled clean-ups as all other decorations.
- ✧ Dead flowers / plants will be removed and discarded without notice.
- ✧ Shepherd hooks are not permitted in The Woods, the Veterans Section, or at mausoleums.
- ✧ Shepherd hooks are not permitted on unmarked graves.
- ✧ Glass items are always prohibited.

REMINDERS

- ✧ Decorating a loved one's grave with valuable or extremely sentimental items is strongly discouraged.
- ✧ Decorations not in compliance with MWC Rules and Regulations are subject to removal and disposal by MWC Management at any time and without notice.
- ✧ MWC does NOT assume responsibility for and cannot in any way guarantee the safety or security of any item placed on the grounds of this public cemetery.

Images below are examples of prohibited items but do not illustrate all prohibitions.

