



**MAPLEWOOD  
CEMETERY**  
EST. 1902

**DECORATING  
RULES AND REGULATIONS**



**765-642-3714**

You are encouraged to monitor our website [www.maplewoodcemetery.com](http://www.maplewoodcemetery.com) and follow us on Facebook for the latest information, notices, promotions, photos, events, and updates.

## INTRODUCTION

Our decorating rules and regulations were designed for the common good so that the natural beauty of our historic cemetery can be maintained. Despite concerted efforts it is simply impossible to accommodate everyone's interpretation of appropriate and tasteful decorations. The established guidelines attempt to strike a balance between the wants and needs of families whose loved ones are buried in our cemetery and the needs of visitors to the cemetery, along with necessary consideration for the efficiency and safety of the cemetery staff as they carry out the many tasks related to burials, general maintenance, and upkeep of our grounds.

We are increasing our efforts to enforce the rules and regulations that are in MAPLEWOOD CEMETERY'S Rules & Regulations (which have been given to those who purchase spaces for decades). We appreciate your understanding and cooperation as we work toward more consistent enforcement of our decorating policies for the betterment of everyone associated with **MAPLEWOOD CEMETERY**.

-MAPLEWOOD CEMETERY BOARD of TRUSTEES and MANAGEMENT

### REMINDERS

-Prohibited and noncompliant decorations are subject to removal and disposal by MWC **AT ANY TIME AND WITHOUT NOTICE.**

-Decorating a loved one's grave with valuable or extremely sentimental items is **strongly discouraged**. MWC does NOT assume responsibility for these items and cannot guarantee the safety or security of any item placed on the grounds of this public cemetery.

-Families purchase a right of burial in a specific space, but the space, crypt, or niche itself is owned by the cemetery.

### PERMISSIBLE ITEMS

**The following items are always permissible:**

-Cut flowers may be placed on graves at any time and will be removed by MWC Mgmt. when wilted and unsightly. (See "The Woods")

-Seasonally appropriate flowers (real or artificial) placed in granite or bronze vases. (Bronze vases are turned upside down and should not be used during winter months to prevent cracking.)

### PROHIBITIONS

**The following items are always prohibited in all sections of the cemetery:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| -enclosures of any kind  | -fencing, curbing, or edging of any kind |
| -rocks, mulch, or any other kind of ground covering  | -glass of any kind                       |
| -temporary markers not approved by MWC Mgmt.   | -non-traditional, unapproved markers     |
| -plantings of any kind not pre-approved by MWC Mgmt.   | -alcohol cans/bottles/containers         |
| -any decorations that, in the sole judgement of the Management, are deemed to be rude, offensive, or inappropriate |  |
| -decorations that, in the sole judgement of MWC Mgmt., are tattered, dilapidated, or in disrepair                  |  |

### VASES

are available for most marker styles. Our staff will help you determine whether there is a vase for your marker and talk you through the compatible style and color options available for your marker.

**NOTE:** Bronze vases collect water and the resulting ice will cause the vases to crack during the winter. Our staff will empty bronze vases and turn them upside down in mid-November and strongly recommend that they stay upside down during the remainder of the winter. We are not responsible for damage to vases caused by ice.

## SPRING CLEAN-UP

**MARCH 15 (Weather Permitting)** Our Grounds Crew will begin a clean-up of the entire cemetery. **Items that you wish to keep should be removed BEFORE March 15.**

The following items will be **removed AND discarded** during spring clean-up:

- Any items placed **on or stuck into** the ground including, but not limited to flowers, decorations on stakes, toys, knick-knacks, trinkets, rocks, shells, photos, wind chimes, pinwheels, solar lights, etc.
- Winter/Christmas/Fall flowers whether on the ground, in vases (including crypt/niche vases), or on markers
- Flowers in any location that, in the sole judgement of the management, have become faded, tattered, or are otherwise deemed unsightly

*Spring Clean-Up reminders are posted on our website, Facebook page, office doors starting mid-January each year and in the Herald Bulletin starting mid-February each year.*

### MARCH 15 – NOVEMBER 15

With few exceptions, **NO decorations** may be placed in or on the ground during mowing season. Any item found in or on the ground between March 15 and November 15 will be removed and discarded **WITHOUT NOTICE**. Regular inspections of the grounds and discarding of prohibited items will occur during mowing season.

*(Exceptions noted under "SPECIAL HOLIDAYS", & "SHEPHERD HOOKS")*

### NOVEMBER 15-MARCH 15

During the winter months it is permissible to place decorations on or in the ground. Families often decorate with holiday flowers, wreaths on easels, and grave blankets\*. If these items are to be kept for future use, they must be removed by the family before March 15\*.

*\*If the weather turns warm early and grave blankets are inhibiting spring grass growth, they may be removed earlier than March 15.*

## SPECIAL HOLIDAYS

Memorial Day, Mother's Day, Father's Day, and Easter Sunday decorations may be placed in or on the ground on the Friday before these specific holidays and can remain in place until the Sunday after these holidays. **We will remove and discard these items on the Monday one week after these holidays.**

## SHEPHERD HOOKS Effective

**March 15, 2025, shepherd hooks are only permissible under the following conditions:**

- black in color
- only 1 hook
- above ground height of 40" – 54" only
- only 1 per marker (none on 2<sup>nd</sup> Right markers)
- cannot be anchored in concrete
- poles must not extend above the hook and cannot have lanterns, finials, or other decorations attached to the top of the pole itself
- decorations must hang from the hook and cannot be attached to the pole itself
- no bird feeders or bird houses are permitted
- no other types or shapes of hooks, poles, posts, banner holders, or trellis-type structures are permitted
- decorations on shepherd hooks are subject to the same seasonal restrictions and scheduled clean-ups as all other decorations
- not permitted in The Woods, the Veterans Section, or at mausoleums
- not permitted on unmarked graves
- must not infringe on adjacent spaces

*More info related to shepherd hooks is available in the cemetery office.*

## THE GROVE & THE WOODS

Fresh cut/live flowers/funeral sprays/arrangements are permissible on the day of the burial and will be removed within 3-4 days. Fresh cut/live flowers (**without** ribbons, plastic, rubber bands, or any other non-biodegradable materials) can be placed on a grave at any time. Shepherd hooks and **ALL** other decorations are **always** strictly prohibited – **no exceptions.**

## MAUSOLEUMS

- Approved vases, emblems, and cameos are available for crypts and niches.
- Tape, Command hooks, Velcro, suction cups, stickers, photos, and wire are prohibited.
- Decorations cannot extend over another crypt/niche.
- Crypt / niche decorations are subject to the same seasonal restrictions and scheduled clean-ups as all other decorations.
- Shepherd hooks are not permitted.
- Decorations are not permitted on the granite ledge, in or on the ground, propped behind a name plate or stuck into a gap in the granite. *(Exceptions noted under "SPECIAL HOLIDAYS")*

## PLANTINGS

Plantings of any kind must be arranged through and approved by cemetery management. MWC Management reserves the right to trim, prune, or remove any planting that, in the sole opinion of management, is deemed overgrown, diseased, or unsightly, as well as plantings that infringe on neighboring spaces.

## MEMORIAL PLANTINGS

We take pride in our cemetery grounds and our peaceful, park-like setting is due in large part to the mature trees found throughout the cemetery. We know that planting more trees today will keep our grounds beautiful for generations to come. If you would like to leave a lasting and living memorial to your loved one, ask us about planting a memorial tree here at Maplewood.