

ABILENE MUNICIPAL CEMETERY POLICIES

Abilene's Cemetery is made up of five sections: City, Masonic, Oddfellows (or IOOF), Cedar Hill, and Cedar Hill Flat. The Cemetery is operated and maintained by the Parks Division of the Community Services Department of the City of Abilene. The City's policies regarding the Cemetery are for everyone's benefit and protection and have been adopted only when experience has shown it to be necessary. These policies are reviewed on a regular basis and are amended as needed by the Parks and Recreation Board and/or the City Council.

VISITING THE GROUNDS

You may visit the Cemetery grounds during the day between sunrise and sunset. During your visit, please be sensitive to services that may be in progress. If you need help, Cemetery staff is available from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays, or you may call the office at 325/676-6094.

LOT USES AND IMPROVEMENTS

Gravestones or markers may be placed on graves in the Cemetery. A monument company can help you in selecting and setting a marker and will handle the paperwork involved. However, should you want to set the marker yourself, you must buy a permit from the Cemetery office and follow the requirements for lot uses and improvements, as well as the following:

All markers in the Cedar Hill Flat section must be flush with the ground. Double markers are permitted for two graves which are side-by-side. All footstones shall be flush with the ground so that they do not interfere with lawn maintenance.

Markers must be set on a formed, 4"-thick concrete base, which must extend 3" beyond all sides of the marker. These markers must be no more than 24" in depth and no wider than the width of the grave. In the area known as "Babyland," markers must be set on a base which measures 18" x 36".

No construction is permitted on Cemetery lots. This includes items such as fencing, curbing, gravel, wood or brick coverings, enclosures of vegetation, etc. These interfere with mowing and other Cemetery operations.

Grave coverings such as monolithic slabs of concrete or other solid, sound stone are allowed. However, the City will not be held liable for any damages to these coverings, and a permit must be obtained from the Cemetery office prior to the installation of each covering. The covering must extend 6" beyond the edges of the grave excavation or to the boundaries of the lot, and the top of the covering shall be no more than ½" above the existing soil grade and must be flat with no raised decorations. The grave backfill shall be water settled and tamped in 6-8" lifts to help prevent settling of the cover. Coverings that do sink shall be corrected by the owner or their agent. The slab shall be a minimum of 4" thick. Concrete shall be reinforced with 3/8" rebar, 18" o.c. in a square grid to within 4" of all sides. There shall be a 2" sand cushion under the slab.

Decorations such as flowers, plants, and vases are permitted if they do not interfere with mowing and maintenance. We suggest that wreaths, flowers, or ornaments be placed on the grave marker or in a vase or piece of pipe in the ground, in line with the row of grave markers so that Cemetery staff may mow and maintain the grave without interference. Before planting trees and shrubs, please contact our staff to obtain information about approved types of plant material, locations, and maintenance. Dead plants may be removed by our staff, and we reserve the right to prune or remove plants, if necessary, to prevent damage to markers or graves and to remove obstacles to maintenance operations.

Unfortunately, vandalism occurs from time to time, and markers or decorations may suffer. Though the Cemetery cannot be held liable for any damages, we want you to know that we will do all we can to ensure that the Cemetery is properly protected and maintained.

If you have questions or need additional information, you may reach us at:

1133 Cottonwood – Cemetery
633 Walnut - Cemetery Office
P.O. Box 60
Abilene, Texas 79604
325-676-6094 (office)
325-676-6289 (fax)