

Catholic Cemeteries – Caretaker Notes

GROUNDS

As one can imagine, maintaining the grounds at Catholic Cemeteries is an ongoing effort that does not end.

Burials take place daily, causing lawn areas to be excavated. We make every attempt to restore the area back to good condition as soon as possible. This includes tamping the area and reseeding.

Trees and shrubs are well cared for and pruned properly so they provide a beautiful park like setting. Trees do have a limited lifespan and occasionally it may become necessary for us to remove a tree so as to avoid a potential problem down the road. We ask your understanding in the event a tree you enjoyed for years near your loved one's gravesite has to be removed.

The roadways throughout the cemetery need to be repaved from time to time. This is especially true after harsh winters when plows come through often.

The metal edge around our roadways provides a nice clean-look edge. We ask your help in maintaining the edge work by parking only on the road. Keeping your car off the grass has multiple benefits. It keeps the lawn around the perimeter of the roadway healthy, it keeps the metal edging from sinking further into the ground and most importantly for you, it reduces the risk of your tires being punctured.

Water spigots are conveniently located at the edge of the road for you to water flowers and plants at gravesites. By keeping your car off the grass, the likelihood of damaging a spigot and your car is eliminated. Running water is generally available for use from early spring to early fall.

It is our goal is to provide beautifully well manicured grounds for the faithful departed and the family and friends who come here to visit.

Cemetery Maintenance

Catholic Cemeteries is maintained in a uniform fashion that reflects the church's teachings about the dignity of every human person. Staff responsibilities include the regular mowing of grass, trimming around monuments and memorials, fertilization and weed control. The care fund enables the cemetery to seed new graves, repair older graves, level flush memorials, and repair monument foundations as required. For reasons of uniform beauty as well as safety and insurance concerns, only employees or licensed contractors with permits from cemetery management may cut, fertilize, and add chemicals to the landscape.

Community Mausoleum Grounds: The turf and landscape surrounding community mausoleums are landscaped and maintained by the cemetery. Disturbing the turf or landscape areas is not permitted. Any unauthorized trees, shrubbery, bushes, flowers or other decorations placed on the common landscape will be removed without notice.

Shrubbery: No cemetery landscape items may be used for individual grave decoration. Management cannot control growth and assure pruning or removal when shrubbery grows too large. Therefore, new shrubbery is permitted only in carefully controlled situations. When shrubbery overshadows names on monuments, infringes on adjoining graves, or interferes with cemetery operations, it will be immediately removed without notice. Typically, overgrown items will be identified for removal each year prior to Memorial Day. Time will be allowed for families to contact the cemetery office to claim shrubbery; if responsible parties have not responded by August 1st, overgrown items will be discarded.

Water: During all but freezing months, water outlets that operate in the cemeteries enable families to tend to the flowers and plants placed at graves. Outlets are not intended for lawn sprinkling devices; when found, these will be removed.

Refuse: Because of recycle and disposal challenges, we are becoming "carry-in/carry-out" facilities. A limited number of receptacles for extenuating circumstances are still located at each cemetery; trash, however, should never be abandoned along cemetery roadways.

American flags are flown daily in designated areas over **Catholic Cemeteries** to honor the military service of all veterans. Smaller (8" x 12" maximum) national and public service flags are permitted on individual graves. All flags must be presentable and will be removed and disposed of according to established flag protocols.

Catholic Cemeteries – FOUR (4) Signs to Warn Visitors entering our grounds during or immediately following changes in weather conditions warrant notice and recommendations.

Effective 11.03.2016

For use by any Catholic Cemetery Employee present to observe the micro-climate conditions at the cemetery in anticipation, during, or immediately following a weather event, change of condition.

1 Welcome

The Standard greeting.



**# 2 CAUTION INCLEMENT WEATHER
WALK AREAS AT RISK**

For rainy, snowy, icy days walk areas included concrete paths, paved road surfaces, and lawn areas too.



#3 WARNING ROADSIDE-CHAPEL VISITATION ONLY

When people should not step on road surfaces nor lawn areas – Flooding, Icy (slippery surfaces) and Snow condition. If one cannot see the lawn one cannot see the hazard therefore car side and chapel visits are stated.



#4 VISITATION NOT RECOMMENDED

The gates (the hours) might be open for winter care services or for exiting people but the icy and the snow cover the walkways and the road surfaces as well as the lawn areas. Therefore it is too risky to be on the grounds



This guide is intended to be a general summary of Catholic Cemeteries program and services offered. Statements contained within may or may not imply care defined as permanent maintenance (perpetual care) or as an additional paid service to be performed by Catholic Cemeteries or its designated agents. Dates and statements of actions stated within are a schedule subject to change due to weather conditions, burial activity, financial and labor budgetary goals. No statement presented here represents a stated contract, implied service or an agreement to perform a service.