

# Evergreen Cemetery Association

## Lot Owner's Guide

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Evergreen Cemetery Association  
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### INTRODUCTION

This brochure serves as a modest introduction to Evergreen Cemetery and Memorial Gardens. It is the aim of the Association board members and its employees to make Evergreen Cemetery and Memorial Gardens quiet, beautiful resting places for the dead, where well kept turf and varied foliage of trees and shrubbery shall give a sense of repose.

Dedicated staff members are ready to assist you with your burial needs - whether you are a current lot owner or are searching for a future resting place for yourself or your loved ones.

Contact Karen Lentz, Executive Director to answer any questions you may have about lot ownership or to purchase lot(s) at Evergreen or Memorial Gardens Cemeteries.

Rusty Billman, Grounds Superintendent, possesses in-depth knowledge of the physical aspects of the cemeteries and will have the answers for any grounds or lot maintenance questions.

Board members (see back page) can assist in answering Association-related questions that you may have.

We hope that you will enjoy your visit.

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## PLANNING

Planning a funeral can be stressful. But there is help available. Funeral Directors know how to guide families through the process. And the staff at Evergreen Cemetery Association can help with burial details.

Inquiries about purchasing grave sites or locating those already owned can be answered by the Association staff or by visiting the web site. Referrals to marker and monument providers are available. A price list is published as a helpful tool to determine costs.

If you already own a lot and need to know how many graves are still available on the lot for burials, office personnel can consult the records and tell you which graves are still available.

Whether you are planning ahead for yourself or taking care of a family funeral, the Evergreen Cemetery Association office should be one of your first stops.

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## VISITING

Our website (see cover for the URL) has a [\*Directory of the Dead\*](#) that has all known burials in Evergreen and Memorial Gardens. Before arriving at the Cemetery you can find the location of a burial by consulting that Directory. You can then stop by the office for directions to the burial site.

The Association intends to keep the grounds well-maintained. Mowing, trimming, etc, depend heavily on the weather and on the work load of the cemetery grounds workers so bear with us if the grass is a bit long.

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## BURIALS, LOTS AND SERVICES

In Evergreen Cemetery, there are limited traditional grave sites and many cremation sites available.

At Memorial Gardens, many traditional gravesites are available in the Garden of Paradise (where upright monuments are allowed in lots of the proper size), in the Garden of Devotion, and the Garden of the Christ.

A burial vault must be ordered through the Funeral Home when making funeral arrangements. They will handle pricing and payment.

Cremated bodies may be buried on any traditional lot. They are also permitted as a second burial on a traditional gravesite. Evergreen also

has a section dedicated to cremation burials, only. A columbarium is available at Memorial Gardens.

Cremated bodies must be interred only by cemetery staff. All in-ground burials of cremated bodies must be enclosed within a separate urn vault approved by the Association. Scattering of ashes within the cemeteries is not allowed.

The cost for opening a grave varies by season and by day of the week. Costs are higher in the winter and on Saturdays. Please see the price list for details.

At least two days notice is required for burials..

The costs of funeral services are not handled by the Cemetery. Visit the funeral home of your choice to get cost estimates.

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## MARKERS AND MONUMENTS

The Association does not sell markers or monuments. A referral list of local companies that deal in monuments and markers is available, but companies not on the list can be used as well.

Please be certain that the placement of names on double markers corresponds with the placement of the actual burials.

The installation of markers and monuments must be performed by the Superintendent.

Concrete borders around markers are encouraged to protect the marker and to minimize the "sunken marker" effect as the years go by.

A lawn-level marker or any base upon which a marker is mounted must be at least 4 inches thick.

The requirements for lawn-level markers on a gravesite are as follows:

On a single traditional gravesite, a single burial may have a 24" x 12" marker. For a combination of a traditional burial and cremation burial or two cremation burials, a single 30" x 14" marker with both names on it may be used. Alternatively, an additional 20" x 10" standard marker or 24" x 12" veterans marker may be used for the second burial.

For a double marker centered on two side-by-side traditional graves, the maximum allowed size is 48" x 14". For two side-by-side cremation graves the maximum is 30" x 14" (a concrete border should not be placed around a double marker until both burials have taken place as it can be difficult to inter the 2nd burial with the concrete border already in place).

Upright monuments are permitted under certain conditions in Evergreen Cemetery and at Memorial Gardens in the Garden of Paradise. (Upright monuments are not allowed in the Garden of Devotion or the Garden of the Christus). The lot must have four or eight graves in a 2 x 2 or 2 x 4 configuration and the monument must be centered in the middle.

An upright monument must have a concrete foundation prepared by the Superintendent to provide proper support.

Markers are set and concrete work is done in a timely fashion depending on the weather and on the work schedule of the groundskeepers. Delivery of markers will be accepted only from April 15 to October 15.

Over the years, markers might settle into the ground and become overgrown. Anyone can report a settled marker. A marker is raised as time allows by cemetery personnel at no charge as this service is covered under Perpetual Care. However, lot owners may raise a settled marker with the understanding that the Association is not responsible for any resulting damage.

A memorial marker for someone not buried in the cemetery is allowed, subject to the above marker requirements. Registration in the office and the payment of a small fee is required.

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## DECORATING GRAVESITES

In Evergreen Cemetery, a lot owner may plant a tree or a bush in a lot with four graves in a 2 x 2 configuration or eight graves in a 2 x 4 configuration. Permission must be obtained from the office beforehand and the Superintendent must be consulted about where to dig.

At Memorial Gardens a lot owner is not allowed to plant trees or bushes.

In both Cemeteries, live and artificial flowers and decorative greenery are allowed all season long in urns and stands. Artificial flowers and decorative greenery placed in or on the ground are allowed any time between May 1st and June 15th; after June 15th and prior to May 1st they may be removed and discarded by cemetery personnel.

Live flowers can be planted in the ground but must be located at the top or the bottom of a marker or at the front or back of a monument to minimize interference with mowing and general maintenance of the cemeteries.

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## LOT OWNERSHIP

Upon receipt of any request affecting a lot, the first obligation of the Cemetery Association is to establish ownership of that lot.

Ownership of a lot may be established in several ways. A lot may be purchased from the Cemetery Association, a lot may be inherited, or lot ownership may be transferred. Regardless of how ownership is established, title can be held by only one person.

Upon the death of the owner of a lot, it is very important that the descent of title be documented with the Cemetery Association. A cemetery lot may be inherited pursuant to the terms of a will per Minnesota Statute § 306.29; however, we find this to be a rare occurrence. Otherwise, Minnesota Statute § 525.14, is then applied based on the owner's date of death. Under current law, effective April 13, 1981, title to a cemetery lot descends free and clear of all debts as follows:

1. To the surviving spouse, a life estate, with right of interment, the remainder to the person who would be entitled to ownership if there were no spouse. If however, there is no such person, lot ownership passes to the surviving spouse.
2. If there is no surviving spouse, then to the decedent's eldest surviving child.
3. If there is no surviving child, then to the decedent's youngest surviving sibling.
4. If there is no surviving spouse, child, or sibling, and the lot is not sold during the administration of the decedent's estate, then title to the lot passes to the Cemetery Association in trust as a burial lot for the decedent and such of the decedent's relatives as the board of trustees of the Cemetery Association shall deem proper.

Help will be provided to those taking on the task of tracing descent of ownership, but no actual research will be done by Association personnel beyond consulting cemetery records. In some circumstances, fees may be charged.

If an owner desires to transfer title to a lot, the owner should contact the Cemetery Association for information on how to proceed. The transfer must be done through the Cemetery Association and cannot be done directly between the parties involved in the transfer. There may be a transfer fee as well as a payment required to bring the Permanent Care Fund account up to date for the lot.

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## CONTRIBUTIONS

Donations and bequests are welcome and appreciated. In the past, contributions have funded many improvements at Evergreen Cemetery and Memorial Gardens.

At Memorial Gardens, a new columbarium to accommodate the modern trend toward cremation has been installed. Landscaping improvements have been made and will continue to be made in phases as funding becomes available.

A streamlined process to donate unused graves or lots is in place.

Donations and contributions to the Evergreen Cemetery Association, a non-profit 501(c)(13) corporation, may qualify as a tax deduction.

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## ASSOCIATION BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Members serve three-year terms.  
Elections at Annual Meeting in July.

John Boeder – President  
Duane Blanck – Vice-President  
John Van Essen – Secretary  
Gary Bluth – Treasurer  
Conrad Bye  
Frederick Casey  
Denise Blackwell-Kraft  
Thomas Fitzpatrick

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## ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Karen Lentz

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## ASSOCIATION SUPERINTENDENT

Rusty Billman

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## HOURS OF OPERATION

**Office Hours:** Mon. - Fri. 9:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M.  
Closed during lunch hour. Available by Appointment.  
Saturdays Closed. WINTER HOURS: Closed on Fridays  
**Vehicle Gates:** Mon. - Fri. 8:00 - 5:00 (weather permitting)  
Saturdays 9:00 - Noon (Apr 15 - Oct 15)  
Memorial Weekend Fri. & Sat. 8:00 - 8:00  
Sun. 10:00 - 8:00 & Mon. (3<sup>rd</sup> Ave Gate only) 1:00 - 8:00  
**Pedest. Gates:** 24/7 (keep gates closed to keep animals out)