



ELMWOOD VISITOR POLICY 2024

Elmwood Cemetery is a sacred place. We welcome the public; however, visitors are reminded that this is a private cemetery whose primary mission is to serve its families and lot holders. The Elmwood Cemetery Society and its representatives have the authority to refuse admittance to, or require immediate removal of, any person from the cemetery at any time as they deem appropriate.

- Remember that we are an active cemetery; please avoid disturbing others at a graveside or chapel service as they are visiting their loved ones.
- Children under 16 years of age must be accompanied by an adult.
- Pets are welcome but must be on a leash.
- Visitors and lot owners are requested to leave comments and inquiries at the cemetery office, or through the mail slot on the main office door.
- All vehicles should use our main gate located at 4900 E Truman Road. Gate hours change seasonally. Please see our website for current hours of operation. No vehicle shall be driven in the cemetery at a speed greater than 15 MPH. All vehicles shall be restricted to the roads and shall drive and park on the right side. No undue noise shall be permitted in operation a vehicle through the cemetery.
- Do not disturb the grounds, no digging or planting without prior cemetery permission. The cemetery also reserves the right to exclude any vehicle which might cause any damage to roads within the cemetery.
- Soliciting within the cemetery is prohibited.

In addition, some commonly asked questions concerning Cemetery Etiquette include:

Can we have conversations in the cemetery?

Yes, but please be respectful. Keep the volume of voices down, and refrain from using inappropriate language. Other people in the cemetery may be mourning and deserve a tranquil place in which to do so. Please respect the privacy of others in the cemetery, and refrain from starting conversations with strangers at gravesites, as they may wish to be alone with their thoughts.

Can I touch the monuments and gravestones?

Visitors are reminded that monuments and markers can be old and fragile. Please keep contact with monuments and gravestones to a minimum. Specifically, "rubblings" of any monuments are prohibited. Some older memorials could be in disrepair and might fail from even the slightest touch. With the exception of benches, absolutely no sitting on or resting against any monument is allowed.

Can I take photographs in the cemetery?

Scenic photography in the cemetery is encouraged, however please restrict your photography to scenes of landscape, nature, architectural elements, and those in your party, when appropriate. We encourage you to share your photos with us via Instagram with the hashtag #elmwoodcemeterykc. Please respect the privacy of other visitors, and do not take photos of other people or funeral activities in the cemetery. No commercial photography or videography is permitted without advance permission from the Elmwood Cemetery Society. *See our Professional Photography Policy.

Can I walk off the roadways?

Yes, you may feel free to wander the grounds, however, please watch your step as the ground may be uneven. Do not disturb plantings or grave spaces.

ELMWOOD FLOWER POLICY 2024

Elmwood has transitioned to a policy that favors natural flowers in 2024.

Fresh and artificial flowers:

Fresh and artificial flowers are permitted year-round provided that they are in good condition and do not appear dead or faded. Flowers that are dead, faded or out of season will be removed and discarded at the discretion of cemetery personnel. ***Flowers should not impede mowing or trimming around grave markers.***

United States flags:

Small U.S. flags are permitted year-round provided that they are in good condition and in a cemetery-approved vase. An exception is made for Veterans Day and Memorial Day, when one small flag per veteran may be inserted into the ground at the head of a gravesite up to 7 days prior to the holiday. All flags inserted into the ground will be removed 3 days after the holiday. Removed flags will be handled in accordance with United States government flag handling guidelines.

Planting and landscaping:

Planting flowers, shrubs, trees, etc., at a gravesite or anywhere on the cemetery grounds, is not permitted. This includes altering the state of or creating a landscape bed with mulch, fence, bricks, pavers, etc.

Funeral flowers:

Funeral flowers will be removed one week following the funeral service, or as deemed necessary to ensure the safety of visitors or to avoid hindrance of cemetery operations.

At no time are candles or other devices requiring an open flame to be placed graveside.

Day of the Dead (November 1 & 2)

In keeping with Hispanic tradition we welcome Day of the Dead décor at our cemetery with certain restrictions:

- Graves are not to be decorated prior to Oct. 26
- Decorations must be removed no later than Nov. 5
- All Day of the Dead decoration will be removed by cemetery personnel as of Nov. 6
- As stated above at no time are candles or any device with an open flame allowed at Elmwood Cemetery