MIAMI TOWNSHIP
GREENE COUNTY

101 E. Herman Street
Yellow Springs, OH 45387
Phone: 937-767-2460
miamitownshipgcoh.gov

Miami Township Glen Forest Cemetery
Rules and Regulations

I. GENERAL PROVISIONS & DEFINITIONS

- **Authority:** These rules are adopted pursuant to Ohio Revised Code Section 517.06. The Miami Township Board of Trustees reserves the right to enforce, amend, or add to these rules as deemed necessary for the proper maintenance and protection of the cemetery grounds.
- **Interment Rights:** The purchase of a grave plot grants an easement/right of interment only. The underlying real estate remains the property of Miami Township.
- **Sections of Glen Forest Cemetery:** Glen Forest Cemetery includes both our historic west and our newer developed east cemeteries. Interment sections include traditional full body burial, traditional and columbarium cremated remains burial, The Prairie and Oak Grove natural full body burial, Pine Forest cremated remains burial and a cremated remains scatter garden within The Prairie.
- **Hours of Operation:** Per ORC 517.12, cemetery grounds are open to the public from daylight to dusk. The cemetery is closed during the hours of darkness. Trespassers after hours are subject to prosecution under minor misdemeanor guidelines.
- **Pets:** Pets are prohibited on cemetery grounds unless confined inside a visitor's vehicle, with the exception of certified service animals.

II. PURCHASE OF LOT AND ADDITIONAL SERVICES

- **Eligibility & Pricing:** Burial lots shall be sold by the Township Trustees, designated cemetery Sexton or appointed staff member at prices fixed by resolution. A copy of the Miami Township Cemetery Fee Schedule is listed on the township website and available by request.
- **Record Keeping:** A precise plat of all lots, paths, and interments must be kept permanently by the Township Fiscal Officer.
- **Lot Payment:** Full payment for the lot and additional services must be received prior to any scheduled interment.
- **Additional Services:** Additional services include opening/closing, cement foundation for large monuments and placement of small monuments are available through the township upon request. Each of these services includes a separate fee.
- **Transfer and Resale:** A deed or right-of-burial may not sold, traded or transferred to another individual privately. All ownership changes must be formally processed and approved through the Miami Township Fiscal Officer.
    - A non-refundable twenty-five dollar ($25) fee is required to process any transfer of ownership, reissue a burial deed, or update the official cemetery lot registry.

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III. GENERAL BURIAL AND INTERMENT REGULATIONS

- **Notice:** A minimum of twenty-four (24) hours' notice (excluding weekends and legal holidays) must be given to the Cemetery Sexton or designated supervisor prior to any funeral or interment.
- **Permits:** A legal Burial-Transit Permit issued by the local health department must be presented before any burial takes place.
- **Approval of Memorials:** All monuments, markers, and foundations must be approved by the cemetery Sexton or Township Trustees prior to delivery and installation.
- **Military Veteran Flag Holders:** Military veteran flag holders are permitted and must be placed within twelve (12)" of the owner's gravesite monument.

IV. INDIVIDUAL SECTION REGULATIONS

- **Traditional and Columbarium Sections**
  - **Outer Containers:** All casketed interments in traditional full body burial sections must be enclosed in a durable, permanent outer container (concrete or steel burial vault/liner).
  - **Cremated Remains:** Interment of cremated remains is permitted within a traditional grave, columbarium space or designated cremation sections.
  - **Burial Plot Capacity:** For traditional full body burial plots, only one human body may be interred or one body with up to two (2) cremated remains. For cremated remain plots, up to eight cremated remains are authorized. For columbarium plots, up to two (2) set of cremated remains are authorized. In special cases, a mother and newborn infant may be placed together, subject to prior Township approval.
  - **Foundations:** Concrete foundations are required for upright monuments and must be installed by Township personnel or an authorized contractor at the expense of the lot owner/family. Foundations must stay within the limits of the individual burial plot and extend no more than three (3)" past the monument base on all sides. This applies to both single plots and companion plots.
  - **Monuments:** Monuments may not exceed forty-eight (48)" in height from the grass line to the top of the monument and are to be placed at the head of the body. Foot markers are allowed, but must be flush to the ground. No additional monuments may be affixed or placed on columbarium burial sections.

- **The Prairie Natural Burial Section**
  - **Environmental Intent:** The Glen Forest Cemetery natural burial sections are managed to allow a return to the earth with minimal environmental impact. The landscape is maintained as a natural habitat. Mowing cycles may be minimal compared to traditional sections.
  - **Exclusion of Outer Containers:** Vaults, concrete liners, and metal burial containers are strictly prohibited in these sections.
  - **Embalming Restrictions:** Human remains interred in any natural burial section must not be chemically embalmed, or must be prepared using only certified eco-friendly, biodegradable essential oils.

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- **Caskets and Shrouds:** All burial containers, caskets, or shrouds must be made entirely from 100% biodegradable materials (e.g., plain wood, wicker, bamboo, wool, cotton, or linen). No metal fasteners, plastic liners, or synthetic glues are permitted.
- **Grave Openings:** To protect the native soil structure and nearby root systems, the Township reserves the right to mandate hand-digging or use specialized, low-impact machinery for grave preparation.
- **Burial Plot Capacity:** Only one human body may be interred or one body with up to two (2) cremated remains. For cremated remain plots, up to eight (8) cremated remains. In special cases, a mother and newborn infant may to be placed together, subject to prior Township approval.
- **Monuments:** Traditional upright monuments and concrete foundations are prohibited in The Prairie Burial Section. Memorials in these sections are restricted to natural native stones or other natural materials, set flush with the ground or up to three (3)" in height. Memorials may not exceed two hundred and sixteen (216) square inches [approximately twelve (12)" x eighteen (18)"]. Artificial flowers are prohibited in the natural prairie section.

- **Scattering Garden Section**
  - **Environmental Intent:** The Glen Forest Cemetery natural burial sections are managed to allow a return to the earth with minimal environmental impact. The landscape is maintained as a natural habitat. Mowing cycles may be minimal compared to traditional sections.
  - **Designated Area Only:** Scattering of cremated remains is strictly restricted to the designated scatter garden section. Scattering anywhere else on cemetery property, including on traditional family plots, is forbidden.
  - **Method of Scattering:** Remains must be fully integrated into the soil or lawn surface as directed by the Sexton to prevent accumulation.
  - **Commemoration:** No individual markers, plaques or stones may be placed within the scattering grounds. Names may be engraved on a central Township memorial column.
  - **Property Rights:** The act of scattering relinquishes any future claim or right to retrieve the remains. The scatter garden area remains a communal space under the absolute control of the Township.

- **Oak Grove Natural Burial Section**
  - **Environmental Intent:** The Glen Forest Cemetery natural burial sections are managed to allow a return to the earth with minimal environmental impact. The landscape is maintained as a natural habitat. Mowing cycles may be minimal compared to traditional sections.
  - **Exclusion of Outer Containers:** Vaults, concrete liners, and metal burial containers are strictly prohibited in these sections.
  - **Embalming Restrictions:** Human remains interred in any natural burial section must not be chemically embalmed, or must be prepared using only certified eco-friendly, biodegradable essential oils.

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- **Burial Plot Capacity:** For traditional full body burial plots, only one human body may be interred or one body with up to two (2) cremated remains. For cremated remain plots, up to eight cremated remains are authorized. For columbarium plots, up to two (2) set of cremated remains are authorized. In special cases, a mother and newborn infant may be placed together, subject to prior Township approval.
- **Foundations:** Concrete foundations are required for upright monuments and must be installed by Township personnel or an authorized contractor at the expense of the lot owner/family. Foundations must stay within the limits of the individual burial plot and extend no more than three (3)" past the monument base on all sides. This applies to both single plots and companion plots.
- **Monuments:** Monuments may not exceed forty-eight (48)" in height from the grass line to the top of the monument and are to be placed at the head of the body. Foot markers are allowed, but must be flush to the ground.
- **Tree Décor:** Windchimes and other décor items are prohibited to be affixed or hung from trees in the cemetery.

- **Pine Forest Section**
  - **Cremated Remains:** Only the interment of cremated remains is permitted within the Pine Forest Section.
  - **Burial Plot Capacity:** Each Pine Forest Section plot may be split into 4 quadrants. Each quadrant may hold only one (1) cremated remains.
  - **Monuments:** Traditional upright monuments and concrete foundations are prohibited in The Prairie Burial Section. Memorials in these sections are restricted to natural native stones or other natural materials, set flush with the ground or up to three (3)" in height. Memorials may not exceed two hundred and sixteen (216) square inches [approximately twelve x eighteen (12 x 18)"]

VII. FLOWERS, DECORATIONS AND GROUNDS CARE

- **Prohibited Items:** To facilitate efficient turf maintenance and mowing, the following items are prohibited around burial sites: anything made of glass, ceramic, plastic, loose wire, balloons, flags, wind chimes, figurines, solar lighting, LED markers, wildlife feeders, painted rocks, mulch or landscape edging.
- **Planting Restrictions:** No trees, bushes, or flowers may be planted on any grave lot by individuals. The Township retains the right to trim or remove any unauthorized plantings. Certain native plants may be planted on individual prairie burial sites, but only after permission has been given by the cemetery Sexton. For a complete list of approved native plants for the prairie section, contact Miami Township.
- **Placement of Flowers:** Fresh cut or artificial arrangements are permitted only if placed in an approved, permanently attached vase on the memorial base or an approved saddle placed

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directly on the stone. Ground-staked plastic pots or glass jars are prohibited. Artificial flowers that become faded and unsightly, will be removed by township staff. Artificial flowers are prohibited in the natural prairie section.

- **Holiday Decorations:** Decorations that make light or sound are prohibited. Select seasonal holiday decorations are authorized for the following holidays:

  Mother's Day and Father's Day decorations may be left up for 1 week.
  Memorial Day decorations may be placed at burial sites on Friday before the holiday and be left up for 1 week.
  Christmas decorations may be placed at burial sites after December 15th and will be removed by January 1st.
- **Seasonal Cleanup Days:** The Township reserves the right to remove and discard faded, weathered, or unapproved decorations, wreaths, or potted plants at any time. Scheduled seasonal spring and fall cleanup days will take place on the first Monday in April and the first Monday in October or shortly thereafter, weather permitting.
- **Funeral Flowers:** Fresh-cut, un-tied flowers may be left at the time of service but will be removed by staff as soon as they fade.

VIII. VEHICLES AND CONDUCT

- **Speed Limit:** Maximum speed limit on all internal cemetery roadways is twenty (20) MPH
- **Parking:** Vehicles must remain on paved or designated gravel drives and must not block traffic or park on the turf, except for authorized funeral procession vehicles. No vehicles shall enter the natural burial sections.
- **Sound of Vehicle Radios:** The sound within a vehicle, should be turned down so that it cannot be heard outside the vehicle.
- **Conduct Around Monuments:** Do not touch memorials or monuments, they are privately owned outdoor sculptures. Gravestones can be fragile. Please do not climb or sit on them. Gravestone rubbing is prohibited.
- **General Conduct:** Loud talking, boisterous behavior, or any action disruptive to a quiet memorial atmosphere is forbidden.