

Mt. Olivet Cemetery – General Information / Rules and Regulations

A site costs \$750 for a Chaffee County resident and \$2,500 for a non-resident. You may come to Town Hall to purchase the site(s) or call the Town Clerk at 719-395-8643.

Before purchasing a site, the Town recommends that you download a cemetery map from our website (<http://buenavistaco.gov/2184/Cemetery>) or pick up a copy of the map at Town Hall. Blue indicates that a site has already been purchased, and yellow indicates that it is still available. You may wish to take the map with you out to the cemetery to familiarize yourself with the cemetery grounds and to aid you in deciding where you would like your loved one to be buried.

General

- Visiting hours are from dawn until dusk, seven days a week.
- All visitors should conduct themselves in a manner that is respectful of cemetery grounds.
- The speed limit in the cemetery is five miles per hour. Vehicles shall not be turned around on cemetery grounds, but shall be driven forward following roadways. Cemetery visitors are responsible for any damage caused by their vehicles to cemetery grounds or emplacements.
- Any cemetery visitor who brings a pet onto cemetery grounds must maintain control over them at all times. Pet owners are responsible for any damage caused by their pet.

Interments

- One casket and up to eight cremains may be interred in each burial site. Each site measures 5' x 10'.
- No double burial of caskets (also known as a 'stacked' burial) is permitted.
- Concrete vaults are not required. If a vault is installed, its top must be a minimum of three feet below ground level.
- No mausoleums are permitted.
- Turn in a complete Burial Permit and the associated \$20 fee to the Town at least 3 business days before an interment will take place. This will allow our staff adequate time to go mark the borders of the burial site, and to coordinate with the funeral home to supervise the excavation (for a casket).
- Town staff does not do any digging in the cemetery. Contact your funeral home to make excavation arrangements.
- If you are interring cremains, the Town does not need to supervise that process. We will still need you to submit a Burial Permit and the associated fee 3 business days in advance, however, and Public Works staff will go out to mark the site for you. When burying an urn, it is customary to excavate the ground to a 3' depth, or to ensure that the top of the urn is at least 2' below the surface of the earth.

Headstones/Monuments

- You will need to make arrangements with a monument company to get a marker placed on a site. Contact the funeral home of your choice for referrals, or check the internet/yellow pages for companies in the area.
- The Town Clerk's office must be notified at least forty-eight hours in advance of installation of a headstone. The installation must take place during regular business hours and be supervised by a member of Public Works staff.
- All headstones must be made of stone, synthetic stone, concrete, or other industry-standard material. Brass plaques may be used as flat markers.
- All foundations and headstones shall be set by a licensed memorial company or grave headstone company.
- Grave markers shall contain at minimum the name of the deceased, the date of birth, and the date of death.
- Grave markers shall be permanently placed in the ground. Grave markers are limited to one upright marker (headstone) per grave site, and one flat marker per interment (allowing for up to nine flat markers per grave site).
- Concrete footers (a slab placed at the foot of a grave) are prohibited.
- For Blocks 45 – 87, a base shall be placed flush to the ground under each headstone. Such base shall extend at least 8 inches in all directions from the headstone.

Grave Decorations – Permanent

- **All permanent grave decorations must be cleared with the Town Clerk's office before installation.** This includes enclosures, landscaping, benches, and any other item intended to remain at the grave site on a long-term basis. The removal of trees or shrubs must also be cleared beforehand with the Town Clerk, due to the risk such removal might pose to adjacent gravesites.
- All permanent grave decorations and emplacements, including fences, railings, curbs, or other enclosures around plots and graves shall be maintained by the heirs of the deceased. If such emplacements are not maintained, fees for the care of the same may be assessed to the heirs of the deceased. If no responsible party can be contacted or if, after having been contacted they do not choose to pay the fees, the Town may remove the emplacements. The Town may also remove any emplacements deemed by the Public Works Director to present a safety hazard without first attempting to contact the plot owners/heirs. Any emplacements deemed historically valuable may be maintained by the Town at its sole discretion.

Enclosures (Fences, Railings, etc.)

- Enclosures must be constructed of durable material. Iron or steel is preferred but good-quality wood is also allowed. Plastic fencing is not permitted.
- Enclosures must not exceed 4' in height.

- For blocks 45 – 87, no curb or similar enclosures shall be constructed, placed, or maintained around any cemetery site or group of sites.

Landscaping

- Flowers, trees, and shrubs may be planted upon grave sites. Keep in mind future intended use of the site(s) when planting shrubs and trees, as they may grow to a size that will hinder later interments.
- The Town reserves the right to remove trees, shrubs, and other plantings on grave sites which become dangerous or detrimental to the adjacent grounds because of encroachment of roots or branches.

Benches

- Benches must be constructed of iron, steel, or wood. Plastic benches are not allowed.
- Benches may only be installed on sites owned by the individual(s) who are placing the benches. Benches may not be located on cemetery roads, in the aisles between blocks, or on nearby gravesites owned by other individuals or the Town.

Grave Decorations – Temporary

- The following temporary decorations are allowed at Mt. Olivet Cemetery:
 - Fresh, cloth, or plastic flowers, with or without a non-breakable vase
 - Wreaths
 - Metal shepherd's hooks + hanging flower pots
 - Small flags during the holidays
 - Wind chimes
 - Notes or photos, if secured to prevent them from blowing away
- The following temporary decorations are not allowed at the cemetery:
 - Any items made of glass, ceramic, or any other breakable material
 - Any items made of plastic, other than flowers
 - Large flags or banners
 - Light-up decorations
- The Town reserves the right to remove temporary decorations at any time in order to maintain the beauty and dignity of the cemetery grounds.