

3.1.2020

LORETTO MOTHERHOUSE NATURE PRESERVE CEMETERY

SUMMARY OF RULES AND REGULATIONS

Availability: The Loretto Motherhouse Nature Preserve Cemetery is open to burials of Loretto Community members and persons who have a direct relationship with the Community or the Motherhouse land. It is not open to the general public.

Cost: The cost for Sisters of Loretto is taken care of by the congregation. For all other persons, the costs are on a sliding scale as follows:

- **Interment Rights: \$500-\$5,000** This guarantees you a space in the cemetery and covers all ongoing maintenance of that space.
- **Burial Fee: \$400-\$1000** This includes the physical logistics of the burial process: digging the grave, transporting the body from the parking area to the gravesite, and burying the body.
- **Cremains Interment Rights and Burial Fee: \$200-\$500** This guarantees a space in the cemetery, includes the physical logistics of the burial process, and covers all ongoing maintenance of that space.

Please note that body preparation, funeral arrangements, transportation of the body to the Loretto Motherhouse, and any graveside service / ritual are the responsibility of family members or friends of the deceased.

BURIAL REGULATIONS

Embalming: Remains should not be embalmed with toxic chemicals (newer nontoxic embalming chemicals approved by the Green Burial Council are acceptable). Clients are asked to inform funeral directors and/or morticians to avoid embalming and to use alternatives such as refrigeration, dry ice, or closed casket services.

Burial Containers: All interments shall be made in biodegradable containers such as a wooden casket, urn, shroud, cardboard cremation box, or other biodegradable container. Containers shall be constructed of sufficient strength to support the weight of an adult human body and must be approved by the Natural Burial Committee.

Outer Interment Containers: Vaults are inconsistent with natural burial and are not permitted at the Loretto Motherhouse Nature Preserve Cemetery.

Cremation Remains: Cremation remains are accepted. Containers are optional but must be biodegradable.

Gravesite Selection: The Natural Burial Committee selects gravesites immediately preceding preparations for the burial based on season, weather, restoration initiatives, and other factors.

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Visitation Rights: Family members and other friends are welcome to visit gravesites during daylight hours only. Please stay on established paths when walking in the Nature Preserve Cemetery.

Exhumation of Graves: Exhumation of graves will only be permitted through a court order. All costs, services, and liability will be assumed by the person arranging the disinterment. Disinterment procedures must have the approval of the of the Natural Burial Committee.

SITE MAINTENANCE REGULATIONS

Woodland Management: Loretto Motherhouse Nature Preserve Cemetery is a natural area. Our woodland management practices are designed to maintain and protect the natural habitat and native vegetation and to reflect the surrounding ecosystems. We use non-invasive methods to preserve a natural appearance, following the Green Burial Council's operations and management criteria. (For example, if a tree falls on a closed grave, we will most likely not remove it; similarly, if a native tree grows on a closed grave, we will also not remove it.)

Floral Tributes and Decorations: Decorations, floral tributes, flags, shepherd's hoods, and similar items are permitted only at the time of interment services. Funeral Directors or family members are required to remove such items immediately following graveside services. If they are not removed, the Natural Burial Committee will remove them.

GRAVE MARKER REGULATIONS

Marker Specifications: Modest grave markers are permitted. They must comply with the nature preserve concept and be approved by cemetery staff. Markers must be natural stone. They may be engraved, but may not be polished. The stones must lie flat and have a natural appearance, including irregular edges. Stones must be at least 96 square inches (approximately 8"x 12") but may not exceed 216 square inches (approximately 18"x 12"). Stones may not extend above the soil surface more than 3 inches. If needed, the Natural Burial Committee can help arrange the purchase of such a stone.

Living Memorials: Living memorials are native plants: trees, shrubs, grasses or flowers. All living memorials must be approved native species. Permission is required for any planting and a Natural Burial Committee member must be present at the time of planting. In order to avoid establishing undesirable species in the Nature Preserve Cemetery, permission will only be granted for native species from a list provided by the Natural Burial Committee. Plants must come from approved sources. A Natural Burial Committee member will make the final determination as to the suitability of any plant for any interment site.

To the extent that this summary is inconsistent with the complete Rules and Regulations of the Loretto Motherhouse Nature Preserve Cemetery, the complete Rules and Regulations will apply.