
RIVERSIDE CEMETERY ASSOCIATION FARGO, NORTH DAKOTA

Rules and Regulations

FEBRUARY 1, 2026
REVISED

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I. General Information

Riverside Cemetery was established in 1878 and became incorporated as a non-profit organization in 1903. Riverside is a non-sectarian cemetery that provides burials for persons of any race, color, creed, and religious denomination.

Riverside Cemetery is overseen by a board of directors. A portion--20% of all lot, crypt, and niche sales are placed in a perpetual care trust fund for maintaining the grounds and buildings within. It is the objective of the board of directors, manager, and staff to provide a dignified, attractive cemetery and service that is personal and caring. In which it is necessary to institute rules and regulations to manage the activity within our cemetery.

The intention of these rules and regulations is not to restrain, but rather to maintain the overall beauty, character, and level of trust and reputation we hold at Riverside Cemetery.

The cemetery manager and staff have the authority to enforce all rules and regulations and to exclude from the cemetery, any persons violating or disrespecting the premises and its rules and regulations. In addition to having full charge of the cemetery grounds and buildings, the manager and staff are responsible for the supervision and control of all persons visiting the cemetery grounds including: the conduct of funerals, traffic, lot owners, and visitors.

Riverside Cemetery Association hereby states the right to adopt additional rules and regulations or qualify, alter, or repeal any of the defined rules, regulations, paragraphs, sections, or sentences at any time, and without notice.

Riverside management is authorized to make any exceptions, deferments, or changes to any rule or regulation without notice, when the result of such action is necessary in the enduring best interest of the cemetery.

II. Purpose

Riverside Cemetery's purpose, under the North Dakota Board of Funeral Directors is restricted to the burial and cremation of the human dead and will not be used for any other purpose than stated.

III. Definitions

Association/manager: is defined as the supervisors and or officers who hold obligation for the administration and operation of the cemetery.

Burial: is defined as the placement of human remains in a grave.

Cemetery: is defined as all property presently and hereafter owned or otherwise operated by the Association within 2102 5th Street South, Fargo, North Dakota by the Association for cemetery purposes including, but not limited to: common areas, roadways, burial grounds, crematory, mausoleums, and all other buildings and improvements located thereon.

Certificate: is a certified signed copy showing purchase of a niche or crypt and to whom it is owned by and the disclosures of that ownership.

Columbarium: a structure with built-in niche space that store cremation urns. The final resting place can be a wall, room, or standalone structure.

Cremains: refers to the cremated human remains also known as "ashes."

Deed: is a certified signed copy showing evidence of purchase on a lot and to whom it is owned by and the disclosures of that ownership.

Disinterment: is the removal of human remains from a burial site.

Entombment: is the placement of human remains within a crypt or niche.

Interment: is defined as the burial, crypt or niche entombment, of a deceased person.

lot, grave, or burial space: (may be used interchangeably) refers to one or more grave, crypt, and or niche.

Lot Owner: refers to the owner of interment rights, crypt or niche entombment rights, as granted by the Association as the original purchaser or next to kin of a burial lot, crypt, or niche.

Mausoleum: is defined as a building used for entombment of human remains in crypts or niches.

Niche: is a recess in the wall in the mausoleum or columbarium which placement of individual cremation urns are interred.

Ossuarium: the ossuary vault is an above-ground community vault for multiple cremated remains in individual cloth urns.

Plot: the total area of land owned, with pins marking the corners of the perimeter.

Scattering garden: a designated area for the dignified scattering of cremated remains.

IV. General Rules

- i. The cemetery will at all times make the prudent effort to protect anything within the cemetery grounds against loss or damage. However, Riverside Cemetery Association disclaims any responsibility for loss or damage from causes beyond our control, defined as, but not limited to: damage caused by the elements, an act of God, thieves, vandals, floods, explosions, and un-avoidable accidents, whether the damage be direct or collateral.
- ii. Visitors within the cemetery grounds are to remain on the established roads and walking paths.
- iii. Visitors to the mausoleums are required to be in proper and respectful attire; shoes and shirts are required within our premises.
- iv. The behavior of all visitors within the cemetery must respect the area as a sacred and respectful place. Any noise or boisterous conduct is forbidden. The following are strictly prohibited within Riverside Cemetery premises:
 - a. The use of alcohol, illegal substances, or chemicals
 - b. Satanic ritual ceremonies.
 - c. Fireworks and explosives of all kinds.
 - d. Unlawful behavior and/or conduct.
 - e. Loitering / sleeping/ or soliciting on the grounds or within buildings.
 - f. Any disturbing signs or notices not approved by the manager.
- v. No firearms are permitted within the cemetery except on the occasion of a veteran's funeral, memorial services, and law enforcement.
- vi. No hunting, fishing, or disturbing of wildlife is allowed within the cemetery.
- vii. Pets are allowed but must follow the leash law of the City of Fargo, which requires that your pet remain on a leash when it is not on your property. The leash should not be more than six feet long. When you walk your pet, you must carry along supplies that will allow you to clean up any solid waste deposited by your animal.
- viii. All persons are to enter and leave through the front gates during operating hours. The cemetery hours are as stated: from May 1st through September 30th, 8AM to 8PM, and October 1st through April 30th, 8AM to 5PM. Mausoleums are locked to the public; only visitors of a loved one are allowed within the facility. Any persons found on the grounds after stated closing hours are trespassing and subject to legal action.

ix. All motor vehicles within Riverside Cemetery must operate with a level of caution and concern for other visitors. No speed over 20 mph is to be driven within the cemetery grounds. All motor vehicles must remain off the grass and only to be parked on roadway surfaces. Riverside Cemetery reserves the right to ingress and egress over lots for the purpose of passage to and from lots.

x. It is the Association's objective to provide a place of beauty and peace. Lot owners and visitors should abide by the following rules for decorating and planting on lots in order to provide a dignified, respectful cemetery for visitors while meeting the standards of our reputation.

a. Flowers are allowed in containers such as planters or vases (no glass vases allowed). Which can be lifted by one person for mowing and trimming personnel.

b. Designated areas allow planting of flowers or shrubs however, they must not extend onto other lot owners' lots and to be planted by the upright monument. Riverside Cemetery is not responsible for watering or maintaining planted flowers, trees, or shrubs on lots, that is the responsibility of the lot owner. Riverside staff holds the right to cut down or remove any planted flowers, trees, or shrubs if they become unsightly and not being maintained to cemetery standards.

c. The following flowers/shrubs are prohibited from planting: roses, lilacs, peonies, mugo pine, & sumac.

d. Artificial/plastic flowers, plants, or displays must be removed by October 1st. Riverside cemetery staff and management have the right to remove any unsightly, damaged, or unseasonal decorations in their discretion. Removable vases in flat grave markers must be emptied and turned down by the second weekend of October for the duration of the winter. When items in the vases become unsightly, at the discretion of cemetery staff, the items will be removed and discarded by cemetery staff.

e. Any decorations placed on the gravesite must be placed as close as possible to the grave marker. These items, if not properly maintained by the responsible party, will be removed and discarded by cemetery staff at their discretion. The Spring and Fall cleanup dates for seasonal decoration removal are April 1st and October 1st. These dates are subject to change and may be moved forward or backward subject to existing weather and seasonal conditions.

f. (In reference to letter e.) above, such decorations will interfere with the normal grass mowing in the cemetery. Therefore, the persons placing such items on the gravesite must assume the responsibility for maintenance of the site

including the trimming of grass that cannot be mowed in the normal grass mowing process. Failure by the responsible party to do this will result in the items being removed and discarded by cemetery staff.

g. Fresh Evergreen wreaths are permitted from November 1st through the Christmas season and will be removed during spring clean-up, or when they become unsightly.

h. Riverside Cemetery Association is not responsible for any loss or damaged; flowers, plants, shrubs, containers, shepherd hooks, statues, wreath or flower holders.

xi. Bench Policy

Benches that are not made of monument quality stone are not to be placed on burial plots or other parts of the cemetery grounds. The removal of benches from the cemetery grounds is a proactive measure designed to ensure that the space remains appealing and accessible for all. By addressing the challenges of tall grass, snow removal, and overall maintenance, this policy intends to preserve the dignity and tranquility of the cemetery. Any existing bench will be removed at the discretion of the cemetery staff. Any exception to this policy requires approval by the Board. A memorial bench may be installed on an owned cemetery plot with these restrictions:

a. It must be made and installed by a monument company. The rationale for this is that such a bench will be aesthetically pleasing, everlasting, and installed correctly with the appropriate foundation

b. It must be made entirely of monument quality stone (such as granite)

c. It must be placed in-line with the headstones and serve as the monument, no monument & bench allowed.

d. It must be set on a concrete or granite foundation (directly under the bench)

e. Bench and foundation may need to be moved for traditional burial to take place, lot owner is subject to fees for removal & reinstall

f. It and its foundation must be at least 3 inches from the boundaries of the plot

g. It may span two adjacent burial spaces, such as for a longer 48" bench on two grave plots

h. Riverside Cemetery reserves the right to require the bench to be removed at the owner's expense, if, in its sole discretion, we determine that the bench is not

aesthetically pleasing or everlasting or is not correctly installed with an appropriate foundation

xii. Photographs for commercial, personal use, or private gain are strictly forbidden; with the exception and approval of next to kin, photographs of funeral services, interments, and memorials by lot owners, family members, and friends are permitted.

xiii. All fees or charges for services may be paid at the Cemetery office located on the grounds during operating hours.

xiv. Riverside Cemetery Association reserves the right to enlarge, reduce, re-plot, or change boundaries of the cemetery in any section as well as modify, change or remove; roads, drives, and walk ways. The reservation also includes the rights to lay, maintain, alter, or change pipelines, gutters, electric lines, sprinkling, and drainage systems. Riverside Cemetery Association holds the rights to locate/relocate, alter, and remove flower gardens, shrubs, trees, and decorative items as deemed fit.

xv. Lot owners are responsible for notifying the office of any changes in address. Notices will be sent to lot owners with the last given address on file in the cemetery office will be sufficient and proper legal notification.

xvi. The Association reserves and shall have the right to correct any errors made in interments, disinterments, or removals in the description, transfer, or delivery of any interment property; by the canceling, substitution, or conveying in the exchange thereof, other interment property of equal value and similar location, or as selected by the Association, or in the whole discretion of the Association, by refunding the amount paid by said purchaser. In the case of such error will involve the interment of remains of any person, the Association and Management reserve, and have, the right without further liability whatsoever, to remove and/or transfer such remains so interred to property as properly conveyed or to such other property of equal value and similar location as substituted and conveyed in lieu thereof. This includes the proper notification as stated in Rule xv and without further notice to enter upon any other lot other than for sole purpose of disinterment and re-interment to correct errors. No right of action against the Cemetery Association or its officers and employees will accrue to any person(s) unless wrongful interment and or disinterment was the result of conscious, malicious misconduct.

xvii. In the circumstance that management is unable to make an interment or entombment of any lot, crypt, or niche for any reasons whatsoever beyond its control or in the essence that a burial space in the discretion of management, is not, at the time of burial, suitable for interment, or entombment; management may without any further liability convey in exchange therefore, other interment property of equal value and

similar location, to the sole discretion of management, refund the amount paid by state purchaser.

xviii. Secondary sales (person-to-person) are allowed, but ownership transfer must be completed by contacting the cemetery manager, and a transfer fee will apply. Lots bought back by the Association will be refunded the original amount paid by the purchaser.

xix. No more than one human remains may be interred in a single grave except in the case of mother/child or twin infants in one casket. Three (3) cremated remains may be interred on top of a single interred casket.

xx. All full-body interments are required to be in a vault constructed of steel or concrete for proper reinforcement. To eliminate sunken graves as well as maintain a high standard of care and comply with North Dakota Laws.

xxi. Riverside Cemetery staff and management reserve the right to open and close graves; no other persons are authorized to be digging on the grounds, except for planting purposes.

V. Interment, Entombments, Disinterment, or Re-interment

i. All interments, entombments, or disinterments must be made Monday through Saturday between 8:00 A.M. and 4:00 P.M. and be arranged with a 24-hour notice ahead of time. Additional notice will be needed during winter months due to the thawing of the ground prior to digging. All disinterments and re-interments must be scheduled at least one (1) week in advance.

ii. An additional opening/closing fees will be charged for Saturday burials. Certain exceptions and provisions may be made with the manager, they may be subject to additional fees as agreed upon by Riverside Cemetery.

iii. No interments, entombments, disinterment, or re-interments are allowed on the following holidays: New Year's Day, Easter, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas Day and Veteran's Day.

iv. No interment will be permitted if there is an outstanding balance with the cemetery unless an arranged payment plan has been accepted by the Association.

v. A burial permit from the North Dakota Department of health must accompany all human remains being brought to the cemetery to be signed by cemetery staff officials.

vi. A casket within the cemetery grounds is not to be opened, except for cremation, without proper authorized family member(s), or family representative of the deceased, or as court ordered.

vii. Riverside Cemetery Association will exercise the utmost precaution and care in the removal of a casket or urn however, will not be liable for damage to casket or urn during the process. Riverside Cemetery Association is not responsible for any cost if a new casket or urn is needing replacement.

viii. All disinterments or removal of cremains will require authorization, in writing, from the owner of the lot in which the interment is made, and by the legal next of kin to the decedent, and/or by court order.

ix. All cost associated with a disinterment or re-interment must be paid in full prior to the removing of remains.

VI. Mausoleums

i. Mausoleums remain locked at all times; rightful owners of crypts and niches are given a key to access the mausoleums at the time of sale. If one was not given, please contact the cemetery office.

ii. All entombed remains are to be in a durable, rigid container approved by the Association.

iii. All entombments and/or cremation urns are to be placed by Riverside Cemetery staff and management only.

iv. All cremated remains to be entombed in the mausoleum are to be in an urn or temporary container that is rigid, permanent, non-combustible, and heat-resistant material approved by the Association and of a size that will accommodate the intended space.

v. Silk flowers are allowed in the Mausoleum however, fresh flowers and/or plants are prohibited inside. We ask that only one floral display per family be observed. Pictures, memorials etc. are not allowed to be attached on any crypt faces or niches. Riverside Cemetery staff reserves the right to remove any decorations as they deem fit.

VII. Columbarium/Ossuary

i. In the columbaria urns must be a durable, rigid container approved by the Association. The family must verify the urn they select will fit in the niche they have purchased.

ii. No decorations are allowed on the columbarium. Taping, wiring, gluing, painting, or attaching anything to the columbarium is prohibited. Placing vases, plants, or any object on the path or walkway around the columbarium is prohibited. Cemetery staff reserves the right to remove any decorations as they deem fit. Funeral flowers (live ones) are permitted until the following day after service.

iii. Internment in the ossuary is irreversible due to difficulty removing top capstone to retrieve cremated remains later on.

iv. Unauthorized scattering of cremated remains is prohibited. Fines and fees apply to anyone who is discovered to have scattered cremated remains in the scattering garden and on any lot or plot within the cemetery.

VIII. Cremation

i. Riverside Crematory is dedicated to the cremation of the human dead and is governed in accordance with applicable laws.

ii. All permits, authorizations, and other Association requirements to cremate must be completed and brought with the deceased at the time of disposition.

iii. All electronic devices, implants such as; heart pacemakers, infusion pumps, etc. must be removed from the body prior to cremation.

iv. All jewelry, plastic, metal, and personal processions must be removed prior to being brought to Riverside Crematory.

v. The Association requires the decedent being cremated be brought in a fully enclosed, rigid-type, combustible container. No containers made of fiberglass, plastic, or metal will be accepted.

vi. The crematory will receive bodies for cremation Monday through Friday during cemetery operating hours: 8AM to 4PM, and Saturdays 8AM to 12PM. Exceptions can be made with the manager and/or staff, however additional fees may apply.

vii. No body is to be received for cremation other than from a licensed funeral home with all proper authorization forms signed by legal next of kin and licensed funeral director.

viii. Cremated remains will be released in accordance to the stated directions on the authorization form. Once released according to instructions either through delivery, pick-up, or U.S. mail method, the Association assumes no further responsibility.

ix. Riverside Cemetery reserves the right to use cemetery property for the crematory facilities.

IX. Veteran's Section

i. The veteran's section is open to men and woman who served honorably in the military. The U.S. Government provides a 2' X 1' bronze or granite flat marker for all

veterans at no charge. This is a flat marker section only, all up-right monuments are prohibited.

X. Consent and Approval

- i. No interment, other than that of a family member, immediate relative, or heir of the lot owner, be made in any lot without the written consent of the lot owner or heirs. No sale, transfer, or assignment of any lot shall be valid until cemetery management has been notified in writing with the names of buyer and seller and the amount. An administration charge may apply for transaction.
- ii. All monument dealers, vendors, or contractors employed to deliver, construct, install, letter, clean, repair, or do any other work pertaining to monuments, markers, memorials, etc. at Riverside Cemetery must first be approved by cemetery management before work begins.

XI. Monuments and Markers

- i. Riverside Cemetery reserves the right to reject any monument, marker, or memorial which does not conform to the rules and regulations of sections where they are placed. Designated sections of the cemetery only allow flat markers, while other sections allow either flat markers or upright monuments. No engravings on the back side of a monument are allowed unless the lot owner owns the back lot as well.
- ii. All lots must be paid in full before a monument can be placed. All monuments are subject to a setting fee. Setting fee must be paid prior to install.
- iii. The foundation under the monument must not extend onto other lot owners lots. The max foundation for a single grave is 50" and 68" for two grave lots.
- iv. No monument is to exceed a height of 5 feet, including the base, unless otherwise approved by cemetery management. All flat markers must, when set, be flush with the top of the sod. Only one upright monument allowed per one and two grave lots. The rest must be flat markers flush to the ground. All stones should be uniform to the others in that section. If concerned about which way monuments are placed and direction the writing faces contact the cemetery office.
- v. Should any monument and/or marker become unsightly, dilapidated, or become a tipping hazard, the cemetery reserves the right to correct it at the expense of the owner. Riverside cemetery does not level monuments or markers. You must contact a monument company to do the work.

XII. Contact Information

Riverside Cemetery Association

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