

# Forest Hill Cemetery Fee Structure

August 16, 2021

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# Presentation Objective:

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Share information with regard to Forest Hill fees including the answers to the questions previously submitted and answer any further questions.

# Cemetery Overview

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The City of Madison has owned and maintained Forest Hill Cemetery since 1857.

There are over 700 lots currently available include full size, cremation and infant lots.

- This does not include:
  - The 311 lots set aside for Madison resident veterans and their spouses, which are free to those who qualify.
  - The 26 lots donated and available to indigent persons in need of a resting place.

Board of Parks Commission has the authority and reviews and approves fee changes annually.

Fees include interment (burial), Entombment, lot and perpetual care services.

Lots and mausoleum niches include the right to designate an occupant, but not property ownership, which remains with the cemetery.

# Fee Patterns

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Sales of lots, entombment space and Interment services have varied slightly over the past 5 years.

- Lots ranged from 89 to 110, mausoleum spaces from 5 to 18.5 and entombments services varied from 11 to 47.

Fees typically increase 2-3 percent per year to align with the cost of service.

Our fees are equal to or less than privately run cemeteries.

# Fee Revenues

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YTD (June 2021) revenues were \$178,693 and on track with previous years

- June 2020 \$181,000.

Revenues have increased modestly over the last five years.

- 2016 revenues were \$309,000, compared to \$376,000 in 2020.

Revenues are distributed between the General Fund and the Permanent Fund.

- The Permanent Funds can only be used for cemetery purposes.
- The Permanent Fund allocation covers the perpetual maintenance care.
- An annual transfer of funds is made from the Permanent Fund to the West Parks operating budget.

# Equity

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Fee modifications have traditionally not been offered, rarely requested and are not accepted

The Wisconsin Funeral and Cemetery Aids Program (WIFCAP) provides donated funding for grave sites for indigent people.

- Applications are made available upon request and submitted to Department of Health Services.
- The funeral home supporting the burial provides the donation.
- The request for donated graves is extremely infrequent.

The Burial Mound Maintenance Policy was updated in 2021 with the support of the Ho-Chunk Nation.

Two Confederate symbols were removed from the cemetery in 2019.

On-going communication with the Hmong community. Work to align their burial customs with the decoration policy.

# Fee Modifications

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## Are there any fees that should be eliminated?

Yes. Pallbearer fee should be considered for elimination.

Justification – These fees are rarely charged and cemetery staff is already onsite for the burial. The terrain most often dictates the need to provide pallbearer support. There are no additional hard cost for the cemetery.

## Are there fees we are currently not supporting that we should?

Yes. A late fee, late cancellation fee and no show fee should be considered.

Justification - These situations create time and resource waste and opportunity loss.

## What feedback do we commonly get about these fees?

Feedback is mixed between the fees being too expensive to the fees being modestly priced. As noted above, we feel we are competitively priced compared to other cemeteries in the area.

## What is the one thing you would do different with these fees?

Post our fees on the Forest Hill website.

# Additional Questions

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## Lots remaining

YTD, 1459 total lots are available.

Includes 416 lots in the veterans section that are available only to City of Madison residents and their spouses who are war time veterans.

## What are our costs for a burial?

There are many factors that go into the costs of a burial, below are some general estimates:

- Full size casket burial - \$675
- Cremation(urn) burial - \$255
- Mausoleum entombment - \$455

## What has been done to control costs on weekends to reduce overtime?

Staff hours include a regular Tuesday – Saturday work shift.

Weekend burials are charged a premium rate to cover overtime costs.



# Questions?

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Approved 2021 Forest Hill Cemetery Fees

Burial Lots (includes 40% PC)	Cost
Resident single	\$ 1,930
Resident 2 graves	\$ 3,850
Resident 3 graves	\$ 5,800
Resident 4 graves	\$ 7,700
Resident 6 graves	\$ 11,600
Resident 8 graves	\$ 15,500
Non-resident single	\$ 2,530
Non-resident 2 graves	\$ 5,050
Non-resident 3 graves	\$ 7,600
Non-resident 4 graves	\$ 10,100
Non-resident 6 graves	\$ 15,200
Non-resident 8 graves	\$ 20,200
Cremation, resident	\$ 1,150
Cremation, non-resident	\$ 1,530
Infant lot, resident	\$ 550
Infant lot, non-resident	\$ 825

Cemetery Services	Cost
Stake only	\$ 105
Restake	\$ 170
Install government granite	\$ 160
Install government upright or bronze	\$ 250
Quitclaim processing	\$ 175
Special, non-perpetual care maintenance	\$ 115

Mausoleum Crypts**	Cost
Corridor single	\$ 5,900
Corridor Single, end room	\$ 6,300
Chapel, hall	\$ 7,800
Chapel, Sanctum	\$ 8,000
Chapel, Couch Room	\$ 8,400
Garden True Companion	\$ 7,800
Garden single	\$ 4,000

Mausoleum Niches	Cost
Apostle's Rest	\$ 835
Marble front (inc. urn)	\$ 970
Glass front (including engrunment)	\$ 1,140
Corridor ends	\$ 1,855
Corridor end-window seat	\$ 3,050
Tall urn, glass front	\$ 3,050
Garden family (up to 18) *	\$ 5,400
Garden nook, 1 or 2 urns (incl)	\$ 1,910
Niche plate	\$ 65
Lettering (per character)	\$ 25

Interment Services Monday - Friday	8AM-2PM	2PM- 4PM	4PM-5PM
Adult grave (over 36")	\$ 1,070	\$ 1,520	\$ 1,885
Cremains (to 18")	\$ 710	\$ 950	\$ 1,435
Child or small grave (to 36")	\$ 420	\$ 675	\$ 1,010
Infant/0-1 year	no charge	\$ 655	\$ 1,000
Open wkend & close wkday, full-size	\$ 1,480		

Interment Services Saturday, Sunday, City Holiday***	8AM-12PM	12PM-2PM	2PM-5PM
Adult grave (over 36")	\$ 1,500	\$ 1,900	\$ 2,600
Cremains	\$ 950	\$ 1,180	\$ 1,900
Infant, child, or small grave (to 36")	\$ 650	\$ 920	\$ 1,500
Both open & close on weekend or City holiday	\$ 2,175	\$ 2,700	\$ 3,250

Miscellaneous Interment Services	Cost
Disinter adult	\$ 1,920
Disinter cremains	\$ 775
Disinter infant or limb (to 36")	\$ 1,150
Locate & hold urn for reinterment	\$ 225
Winter burial of cremains, additional charge	\$ 370
Pallbearer surcharge	\$ 105

Entombment Services Monday-Friday	8am-2pm	2pm-4pm	4pm-5pm
Casket entombment	\$ 1,010	\$ 1,475	\$ 1,800
Urn entombment	\$ 400	\$ 620	\$ 860
Unseal crypt to entomb urn (additional charge)	\$ 230	Only available until 2pm	

Entombment Services Saturday, Sunday, City Holiday***	8AM-12PM	12PM-2PM	2PM-5PM
Casket entombment	\$ 1,470	\$ 1,900	\$ 2,410
Urn entombment	\$ 625	\$ 920	\$ 1,230

Misc. Entombment Services	Cost
Disentomb casket	\$ 1,440
Disentomb urn	\$ 365

**Monday burials should be scheduled by noon the previous Friday.**  
**Late arrival surcharge for interments \* entombments - 15 minute grace period, then \$30 per 15 minutes.**  
**No burials 2 hours before sunset or after 5pm, whichever is earlier.**  
**Niche or crypt buy-back is purchase price less 10%**  
**Removal of crypt/niche identification at cost plus 10%**  
**\*No Garden Family Mausoleum Niches currently available.**  
**\*\*Prices of all crypts include up to 25 engraved characters**  
**\*\*\*Interment/Entombment services only avail. Until noon on City Holidays**