

## **Morris Orchard Natural Burial Cemetery Rules and Regulations:**

We invite you to our natural cemetery to both celebrate life and find peace in nature. Our property is maintained and managed to increase the biodiversity of both plant and animal life and celebrate the majesty of a 60 year old chestnut orchard. Our rules are intended to allow a place of quiet reflection for visitors in an ecologically rich environment, while maintaining the quiet order of the grounds and preserving the integrity of a final resting place. We hope you will walk the trails or sit and reflect on one of the benches placed throughout the property.

### **General Operations:**

- The cemetery is open to visitors from dawn until dusk, year round.
- Morris Orchard, a natural burial cemetery, will be operated exclusively as a green burial cemetery. Practices and policies conform to the guidelines set forth by the Green Burial Council (GBC), the organization that regulates Green Burial Standards for natural cemeteries in the United States.
- Visitors must not disturb wildlife or other visitors to the park. We request that personal devices such as mobile phones be switched off within the burial grounds to preserve the peace and tranquility of the area.
- Dogs must always remain on a leash and under your control. Pet owners are responsible for the clean-up and off-site removal of waste and for ensuring that dogs do not create a disturbance to other visitors or to the grounds.
- Flowers, decorative plants, shrubs and trees may not be planted at the cemetery except by Morris Orchard staff. Generally, plant growth on the grave site will be allowed to return to its natural state.
- If you are not a member of a funeral party or engaged in pre-approved planting activities, all visitors must keep to the paths to avoid trampling and damage to the natural and emerging ground cover.
- The set-up of tents, chairs, sound amplification systems, or similar items are generally inconsistent with the intended use of the cemetery and will not be allowed without the express permission of Morris Orchard management.
- All excavations of graves are performed by under the direction of Morris Orchard employees. Due to the challenges associated with digging in local soils, families may participate in the closing of the grave but not the opening.
- Morris Orchard will not be held responsible for stolen property, vandalism, or damage as a result of acts beyond its reasonable control.
- A register of burials with an electronic record, GPS coordinates and a map of exact burial sites will be maintained by Morris Orchard. Records will be made available for review upon request.

### **Green Burial Regulations**

- Interments must take place at a date and time agreed with Morris Orchard. Morris Orchard generally allows burials seven days a week (please note that additional fees may apply for weekends and holidays) unless severe weather conditions preclude burial on any given day. Morris Orchard shall be provided 48 hours notice (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays) for the opening and closing of burial sites.
- Burials on holidays (e.g. New Years' Day, Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day, Thanksgiving, Christmas) will require an additional 24 hours advance notice. If you need to arrange a burial on a holiday, you must get in touch with us at least three full days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays) in advance of that holiday, and we will let you know within 24 hours whether we will be able to accommodate you.
- For burial rights purchased prior to the funeral, the certificate of ownership of these rights must be produced before the burial takes place.
- No body shall be buried unless the death has been registered and the proper documentation is supplied to Morris Orchard.
- Morris Orchard offers Cremation Spaces for families who choose cremation for their final disposition and will be allowed in designated parts of the burial ground. The remains will be documented and recorded in the same manner as any burial.
- No cremated remains shall be buried unless a certificate of cremation is supplied to Morris Orchard.
- The cemetery relies on the next of kin or an authorized agent to identify the remains of the deceased.
- All necessary interment forms are to be signed by the next of kin or an authorized agent prior to any interment.
- Interment takes place between 10am and 3pm daily,
- If for any reason the interment cannot be scheduled during the regular time period, prior arrangements must be made with the cemetery.
- All inquiries should be directed to the cemetery general manager.
- ***All cemetery charges and fees must to be paid in full before an interment can occur.***

### **Caskets and Coverings:**

- Caskets, shrouds, and clothing must be made from naturally biodegradable materials approved by the GBC.
- Caskets, if used, must be made of pine, bamboo, wicker, soft woods, or other renewable sources.
- Hardwood caskets, metal caskets, or caskets that have been stained or finished will not be permitted, nor will burial vaults.
- A fabric burial shroud may be used providing it has been made of naturally biodegradable materials.

- Non-organic materials, such as metal, plastic, concrete, or synthetic materials are not permitted to be buried or placed in the Cemetery. No personal jewelry.
- Plastic flowers arrangements, vases, photographs, manmade or manufactured items may not be left on a gravesite or cemetery property.
- An urn used for cremated remains must be biodegradable.

#### **Embalming:**

- Toxic chemicals such as formaldehyde are not allowed.
- Embalmed bodies must use a GBC approved fluid, such as Enigma by the Champion Company.

#### **Memorial Markers:**

- This burial ground is being managed to encourage the natural landscape. Therefore, the erection of monuments, fences, decorative stones upon burial sites are not allowed.
- Morris Orchard will provide natural fieldstones that are no larger than 400 sq. inches and no more than 24 inches in one dimension. The name and dates of life will be placed on the stone marker, which will be flush with the ground.

#### **Floral Arrangements, Tributes, and Decoration:**

- In keeping with preserving the natural environment, funeral floral tributes and other objects must be removed after the completion of burial services to allow natural ground cover to develop.
- Plastic flower arrangements, vases, photographs and manmade or manufactured items may not be left on a burial site or elsewhere at Morris Orchard.
- Morris Orchard retains sole discretion as to all matters regarding landscaping and plantings, including landscaping plan and care, pruning, revegetation of graves, and removal of vegetation.