

Wiscasset Cemetery Regulations

1. Definitions

Greenlawn Memorial Garden: An area within Greenlawn Cemetery exclusively for urn burials.

Marker: A marble, granite or bronze memorial that is placed flush with the surface of the ground.

Monument: A marble, granite or bronze memorial that rises above ground level.

Multiple burial lot: An area containing more than one burial space. Multiple burial lots are no longer sold in Wiscasset.

Single burial lot: An area not to exceed 10 feet long, three feet wide and four feet deep intended to provide space for one casket burial.

Urn burial lot: An area in the Greenlawn Memorial Garden portion of Greenlawn cemetery not to exceed three feet wide, three feet long and deep enough to accommodate an urn burial.

2. Charges

The charge for a single burial lot is \$325 for Wiscasset residents and \$525 for non-residents.

The charge for a single burial lot that is only deep enough to allow urn burials in all cemeteries except Greenlawn Memorial Garden is \$200 for both residents and non-residents.

The charge for an urn lot in Greenlawn Memorial Garden is \$100 for both residents and non-residents.

There is no charge for use of Wiscasset tombs when they are available.

All charges for lots include perpetual care.

Lots will be repurchased by the Town at the current rate per lot even if higher than the original cost, but perpetual care charges are not refundable.

3. Markers/Monuments

Marker and monument size, construction (design and material) and placement on a burial lot are subject to the approval of the Town before the marker or monument is placed.

A. Placement:

1. Markers may be used to mark an individual burial space on any size lot. Single burial lots and urn burial lots may have only markers. A marker shall be placed at the west end of the burial lot and run lengthwise north and south.
2. Urn and single burial lots used for urn burials may have up to two grave markers. Markers shall be placed at the west end of the lot and run lengthwise north and south.
3. Existing multiple burial lots as well as adjacent single burial lots that belong to one family, may have no more than one upright monument, which shall be centered at the west end of the lot or lots and run lengthwise north and south.

B. Construction: All markers and monuments shall be constructed of marble, granite or bronze. Exceptions to this rule shall be approved by the Town before the marker or monument is placed on a lot.

C. Size

1. Markers may not exceed 24 inches in length and 15 inches in width.
2. Upright monuments for two or three graves may not exceed 42 inches in length, 15 inches in width and 32 inches in height.
3. Upright monuments for four or more graves may not exceed 60 inches in length, 15 inches in width, and 60 inches in height.

D. Foundation

1. A marker shall be flush with the ground.
2. An upright monument shall have a concrete foundation, the dimensions of which shall have been pre-approved by the Town.

4. Decorations

A. Location: Decorations may be placed on each grave in an area no more than 12 inches wide and only as long as the length of the lot's marker or the base length of the lot's upright monument. This area shall be on the east side of, and contiguous to, the lot's marker or upright monument. Flower beds, artificial flowers, decorations and flags may be placed only in this specific area.

B. Interment period: Excepting Greenlawn Memorial Garden and notwithstanding any other provision of these Regulations, flowers and decorations may be placed upon any portion of the grave for a period not exceeding 20 days from an interment. If the lot owner does not remove such flowers and decorations after 20 days from the date of interment, the Town shall do so without prior notification to the lot owner.

C. Artificial Decorations: Artificial flowers and decorations are permitted only during the period from the Monday before Memorial Day to the Monday following Labor Day.

D. Flags: Flags shall be no higher than 36 inches from the ground.

E. Prohibited: Shrubs, trees, glass containers and glass objects are never permitted on a lot. No decorations that extend beyond the location area as defined above shall be placed or allowed to remain on a lot.

F. Greenlawn Memorial Garden: Decorations of any kind with the exception of the American flag are not permitted.

5. Open Time: Because of weather conditions, the cemetery land is susceptible to damage from vehicles. In order to minimize damage to cemetery roadways, walkways and lots, the Town shall determine when the cemetery roadways shall be open to vehicular traffic, when the cemetery shall be open for burials and what restrictions (if any) shall apply to any particular burial.

6. Urn Burials: Human and animal ashes shall be buried in urns. Urns may be of any size and made of any materials. No more than two urns may be buried in a single burial space and they shall be buried deep enough so that the urn(s) is covered by at least one foot of soil at the existing grade level of the ground. Any person may bury an urn after obtaining the Town's approval.

7. Pet Burials: Only pets that have been cremated may be buried in Wiscasset's cemeteries.

8. Perpetual care: Perpetual care consists of mowing cemetery lots, trimming around monuments and markers, and enforcing cemetery regulations for the benefit and protection of all cemetery lot owners and visitors. Perpetual care does not include repair and cleaning of monuments, markers or other associated stonework. Owners and descendants are expected to clean and repair their own memorials. The Town may contact owners or descendants and request them to repair damaged or unsightly monuments and markers, especially if they interfere with cemetery maintenance. The town, at its discretion, may reset, clean or repair old monuments and markers when no living descendants are known.

9. Eligibility for burial: Unless otherwise authorized orally or in writing by the original purchaser of the cemetery lot, only the purchaser, spouse, domestic partner, direct descendants and their spouses may be buried in available cemetery burial spaces in the lot. The Town may require proof of eligibility as deemed necessary. The Town reviews burial requests in the order received and accepts no responsibility to notify other living descendants and spouses of burial requests.

10. Miscellaneous prohibitions

A. No ATV, snowmobile or horse is allowed within a Wiscasset cemetery. No vehicle within a cemetery may leave the cemetery's roadways except with the prior approval of the Town.

B. No grave may be dug and no burial may take place in a Wiscasset cemetery without the prior permission of the Town, through the submission of an "Intent to Bury" form. The permission shall specify the day the grave may be dug and the day the burial may take place. Except in unusual circumstances, permission will not be given to dig the grave more than one day in advance of the burial.

C. No use may be made of Wiscasset's tombs without the prior permission of the Town.

11. Violations

A. Decorations: If decorations, including trees and shrubs, are placed on a grave in violation of these Regulations, the Town may remove the decoration and dispose of it without prior notice to the grave owner.

B. Markers/Monuments: If a marker or a monument is placed on a grave in violation of these Regulations, the Town shall send a notice of the violation by first class U. S. mail to the lot owner, if known, advising him or her of the violation and giving him or her a fixed period of time not less than 10 days from the date the letter is sent to correct the violation. If the owner does not correct the violation within the stated time, the Town may correct the violation and charge the cost of the correction to the grave owner, to the person or entity that originally installed the marker or monument, or both.

C. Unauthorized digging: In addition to any other applicable penalty, the Town reserves the right to bar from using Wiscasset's cemeteries any person or entity that digs, or causes to be dug, a grave without the prior approval of the Town. The Town shall, on a case-by-case basis, set the period of time that such suspension shall last.