

# River Hills / Lake Wylie

## CEMETERY

Formerly River Hills Community Church Cemetery

### Plot and Magnolia Tree Rules and Regulations

Revised July 1, 2019

#### PREFACE

Experience has proven that the adoption and enforcement of the rules and regulations herein published is absolutely necessary to secure the best results and insure protection of the interests of all lot owners. If rules are not made, the exercise by certain owners of what seem to them their proper rights would interfere with the rights and privileges of others as well as destroy the general plan and beauty of the property. **All persons will be required to observe the rules and are requested to report any infraction on the part of others.**

These rules and regulations may be changed or amended at any time by the Board of Directors of the Cemetery and will be so changed and amended when any rule is found to be detrimental to the best interest of the lot owners as a whole or when new conditions compel the adoption of other or further regulations.

#### PERPETUAL CARE

The term "Perpetual Care" shall include the repair and maintenance of all buildings, columbaria, fences, drives, walks and other improvements belonging to the Cemetery; cutting of the grass upon each lot at reasonable intervals, pruning of the shrubs and trees and such work as may be necessary; meaning and intending to continue similar work forever. It does not include the repair or replacement of any grave markers or structures erected upon the lots, or the care of special planting on any lot or grave.

No ground is sold until it has been surveyed and platted and the plot or plats duly recorded in the Office of the Clerk of Courts, York County, SC. The grade of all lots is established by the Cemetery Board and no change will be permitted. .

No persons will be recognized as owners or co-owners of a lot unless their names appear upon the record as such. The possession of a deed is not sufficient evidence of the transfer of a lot from the original owner, and no sale, transfer or assignment of any lot or interest therein shall be valid without the consent in writing of the Cemetery Board upon such transfer or assignment.

Each lot owner should at once notify the Cemetery Board in writing of any change in address or ownership.

#### QUALIFICATION FOR PURCHASE OF CEMETERY LOTS

Any person or persons desiring to purchase burial space in the River Hills / Lake Wylie Cemetery must qualify under one of the following:

1. Are presently or have been residents of River Hills.
2. Are presently or have been residents of the greater Lake Wylie community, and their immediate families.
3. Have members of immediate family buried in the Cemetery. The term "immediate family" shall include husband and wife or offspring through one generation and the husband or wife of such offspring.
4. Lot owners who desire to give the privilege for future interment to relations, without consideration, may file such instructions with the Cemetery Management in writing, duly signed, and same will be recorded on its books.
5. Joint ownership of any cemetery lot by different families is not allowed.
6. The Cemetery Management is empowered to make exceptions in individual cases.

## **INTERMENTS**

No burial of a casket will be permitted without the use of a concrete vault. No wooden boxes are allowed anywhere in the Cemetery.

No more than one body shall be interred in a grave, except a parent and infant child, and but one casket shall be placed in each grave. No interment of any body other than that of a human being will be permitted. No interment will be permitted without proper burial permit as required by the authorities.

The ashes of persons cremated may be buried in a standard lot (3.5' x 9'). Two cinerary urns may be buried in the same lot. In any case, only one memorial marker may be used. One or two cinerary urns may be interred in 12" x 24" Block 23 lots, known as the Magnolia tree area.

One casket and one cinerary urn may be interred in any standard lot.

Any person who, at the time of death, is the owner of an estate in fee in any lot or undivided part thereof, and the surviving husband or wife of any such person, may be interred therein. Any member of the immediate family of any such owner or part-owner may be interred in any such lot on the written permission of any owner or part-owner thereof. No other person may be interred in any lot without the written consent of all those owners of the lot who are recorded as such on the books of the Cemetery.

The cemetery company is not permitted to perform the operation of opening and closing graves, selling memorial markers, installing memorial markers or similar operations, preceding or following interment. Lot owners should have their funeral directors make arrangements for these operations. **However, cemetery personnel must be advised before any of these operations are performed in the cemetery so that the lot location may be verified and memorial markers installed in accordance with the adopted rules and regulations.** Excess dirt from opening graves, or any other operations, must not be left anywhere on cemetery property. Any excess dirt may be left at the River Hills Community Association maintenance compound located at the end of the road alongside the Cemetery and the power lines. **Persons or companies assigned by the lot owner, performing these operations must coordinate their schedule with Cemetery personnel beforehand.** Call the Cemetery office at 803.831.2310 (local call from Charlotte, Clover, York and Gastonia).

## DISINTERMENTS OR REMOVALS

No disinterment in a lot or removal of a body will be allowed without the consent in writing of the surviving husband or wife or next of kin of the person whose body is to be disinterred or removed. A written permit or order for the same from the owner of the lot, or his lawful representative, and the approval of the Cemetery Board, is required. In case of disinterment from single graves for removal of the remains from the Cemetery, the lot must be properly backfilled, tamped, and mounded not to exceed three inches. No allowance will be made for the grave vacated, and ownership of said lot will revert to the River Hills / Lake Wylie Cemetery.

Graves will not be reopened for inspection after one week's interment, except for official investigation.

Remains removed from other cemeteries with the intention of burial in this Cemetery, must be accompanied by the proper papers as prescribed by law.

## CARE AND DECORATION OF GRAVES

All work in the care and improvement of lots shall be supervised by cemetery management. Trees and shrubs are planted in accordance with the general plan for landscape work and are the property of the Cemetery, and not lot owners. No lot or grave shall be defined by fence, railing, coping, or hedge. Steps leading to lots will not be permitted.

**Boxes, shells, toys, balloons, wire screens, arbors, trellises, tripods, chairs, benches and objects of similar description will not be permitted on any lot or graves.**

When the cemetery was opened by the former owners, one of the restrictions was "No artificial flowers". While our studies show that some people like to use artificial flowers to decorate graves, most people do not. We have made a considerable investment in flower beds in the cemetery and a commitment to their constant care.

**So please, no artificial flowers!**

We have placed two large trash cans in a wooden enclosure on the grounds. Wilted or dead flowers should be deposited in these cans. Designated Cemetery personnel will also remove wilted and dead flowers from graves.

Flowers placed on graves in a regular vase or pot are inevitably blown over. When a built-in vase is not available in the memorial marker, some arrangement must be made to anchor the vase. A stake driven in the ground to which the vase is tied will usually suffice. Conventional cemetery vases which can be concealed below ground when not in use or anchored upright with flowers are available from the makers of memorial markers. The vases can be mounted in the marker if specified when the marker is ordered.

If anything shall be placed in or upon any lot or grave which is deemed to be unsightly or injurious, The Cemetery Management may, and it shall be their duty, to remove such unsightly or injurious articles, at the owner's expense.

No lot or grave shall be decorated by its owners or others interested therein with any trees, shrubs or plants except with the written consent of the Cemetery Management.

No person shall trim or prune or remove any part of any tree or shrub in the Cemetery whether on his lot or not.

Should any tree, shrub or planting become objectionable for any cause whatever, the Cemetery reserves the right to remove said tree, shrub or other planting at its discretion. All graves, when thoroughly settled, will be sodded or seeded without charge to the lot owner and shall be mounded not to exceed three inches. The planting of flowers on graves is not allowed.

## **GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS**

Each lot holder is entitled to admission to the grounds for his or her family. Lot holders also have the privilege of introducing strangers. Other persons may secure admission to the Cemetery at the discretion of the Management. Children under fourteen years of age will not be permitted unless accompanied by an adult. **No dogs shall be admitted at any time.** No flowers shall be plucked or cut. No driving on the grass will be permitted. No person with firearms will be admitted, except at military funerals.

It is not the custom of the Cemetery to repurchase lots from owners wishing to sell a lot or lots. Management may, however, assist said owners in locating a new purchaser.

## **MEMORIAL MARKERS**

No monument above ground shall be erected on any lot and any structure above the ground shall be considered a monument. No curbing or coping, fence, bench, stationary urn, or similar object will be permitted on any lot or grave. **Everything on the ground must allow for passage of the power mowers.**

Markers should be made to fit the following specifications:

1. Individual markers shall be about 12" wide and 24" long made of standard bronze centered on a 16" x 28" granite base, or alternatively

Containing a built-in removable flower holder, shall be 14" wide and 24" long made of standard bronze centered on a 18" x 28" granite base, or alternatively

12" wide and 24" long and 4" thick made of granite or marble. Vase is separate.

2. Companion markers shall be 14" wide and 44" long made of standard bronze centered on a 18" x 48" granite base, with or without a built-in removable flower holder, or alternatively

16" wide and 48" long and 4" thick made of granite or marble, with or without a built-in removable flower holder.

3. Infant markers may also be 8" wide and 16" long made of standard bronze centered on a 12" x 20" granite base.

4. Markers for Magnolia tree area 12" x 24" cinerary urn lots shall be 10" by 20" (and no larger than 12" by 24", made of standard bronze only. **No granite base.**

All markers **must be approved** and properly laid out by the Cemetery management **before being placed** on the burial plot.

**The Cemetery Board reserves the right to remove any marker that does not comply with these specifications.**

The Cemetery disclaims any responsibility for any injury or damage from any cause to raised letters or projected carving or ornament on any marker or other structure on any lot. Lot owners are urged to use incised letters or ornamentation. Only one marker shall be placed on any grave. The Board of Directors of the cemetery may take exception to any of the above in individual cases. Rules and regulations are subject to change without notice.

### **LOCATION OF MEMORIAL MARKERS**

Markers may not be placed on any lot without supervision by Cemetery Management to assure lot number and location, and to check the marker and specify its location on the grave. Call the Management office at 803.831.2310 to coordinate schedules.

No marker may be installed on a lot with is not fully paid for and for which a deed has been issued.

Markers on a 3.5' x 9' lots shall be placed at the East end of the lot (the end towards Hamilton's Ferry Road and the church) 8" inside and parallel to the Eastern limit of the lot. The top surface of the marker should be even with the surface of the ground. The marker shall be oriented to read from the North.

Companion markers for two graves side by side (7' wide and 9' long) shall be located the same as above for individual 3.5' by 9' lots except that the companion markers should be centered on the 7' width of the two lots. If only one of the two graves is opened, it will be necessary to move the marker. After the second grave is filled, the marker should be installed properly.

Markers for the cinerary urns in Section 1, Block 23, the Magnolia Tree area, shall be centered on the 12" by 24" dimensions of the lots. The top edge of the marker should be even with the surface of the brick. The marker should be oriented to read from the West on Lots #1 through #126; lots #127 through #252 should read from the East. This arrangement is necessary because of the magnolia tree planted in the center of Block 23.

Corner markers should be placed 1" inside the short side of the lot and 1" inside the long side. The top surface should be even with the surface of the ground. All four markers should be oriented to read from the West. Installers should be careful not to dig up the location spike which will be found at the corner of some lots.

### **SPRINKLERS, PARKING, NO PARKING**

Our Cemetery is equipped with a sprinkler system. It will be programmed to operate the sprinklers at night to prevent any surprise or inconvenience to daytime visitors.

It is permissible to park across the side road from the Cemetery without blocking the access drive to the Community Association Security building. Parking is also allowed in the parking lot of the church Family Life Center.

Along the side road we have placed some "No Parking" signs and some waist-high stakes. Please do not park in this area. The sprinkler line for the shrubbery runs alongside the pavement; any parking is likely to damage the sprinkler heads.