



Prudence Memorial Park

and natural burial ground

Rules and Regulations

Prudence Memorial Park was created to shape and preserve a natural area for the benefit of the natural environment, provide a final resting place for members of the Prudence Island community, establish a natural burial ground option for the general public, and to offer a place for quiet reflection for future generations of visitors. The park will be maintained and managed to increase the biodiversity of native species while limiting disturbance to the land and is intended to provide a peaceful, ecologically rich, and, above all else, a fitting memorial to those buried here.

We sincerely ask that visitors treat the burial ground with care and respect.

General Operations:

The park is open year-round to visitors from dawn until dusk.

Prudence Memorial Park (PMP) will be operated exclusively as a green burial cemetery. Practices and policies conform to the guidelines set forth by the Green Burial Council (GBC), who 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.

PMP will establish and maintain numerous areas within the park to be available for visitors to enjoy periods of quiet reflection (e.g. gazebo, trail-side benches).

Picking of flowers as well as the distribution of seeds is prohibited without the express permission of PMP management.

Flowers, decorative plants, shrubs and trees may not be planted at the cemetery without first securing the express permission of PMP management. Permission will only be granted for native species from an approved list provided by PMP. Generally, plant growth on the grave site will be allowed to return to its natural state.

If 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.

To reduce the potential impacts associated burial site access, graveside gatherings will be limited to twenty people. The set-up of tents, chairs, sound amplification systems, or similar items designed to accommodate larger groups are generally inconsistent with the intended use of the cemetery and will not be allowed without the express permission of PMP management.

All excavations of graves and all other works shall be coordinated through a representative of PMP or by a person approved by them. Due to the challenges associated with digging in local soils, families may participate, upon request, in the closing of the grave but not the opening.

Motorized vehicles are not allowed within the park without the express permission of PMP management.

Parking for access to park trails is limited to roadside parking on the east side of Alden Avenue and the north side of Hornbine Avenue. Due to limited visibility for passing drivers on the crest of the hill, roadside parking is not permitted on Broadway.

PMP will not be held responsible for stolen property, vandalism, or damage as a result of acts beyond its reasonable control.

A register of burials and an electronic record and map of exact burial sites will be maintained by PMP. Records will be made available for review upon request.

Embalming:

Given the toxic nature of traditional embalming fluid, embalming is not allowed. Exceptions may be allowed by PMP management under specific situations (i.e. if required for the transport of remains from certain states, etc.) but only if a GBC approved fluid is used. Funeral directors and morticians need to be instructed not to use traditional embalming fluids and should be encouraged to use short-term preservation alternatives such as refrigeration, dry ice, or similar as necessary.

Outer Burial containers and liners:

Vaults and similar outer containers are inconsistent with green burial and are not permitted at Prudence Memorial Park.

Biodegradable containers and coverings:

All burials shall be made in naturally biodegradable containers such as shrouds, blankets, bare wood caskets, biodegradable urns, or cremation grade cardboard boxes approved by the GBC. Shrouds, blankets or similar are preferred because they require less disruption of the root systems where the

burial takes place. Caskets cannot be made with metal or exotic woods. Containers shall be of sufficient strength and construction to support the weight of an adult body.

Non-organic materials, such as metal, plastic, concrete, or synthetic materials are not permitted to be buried or placed in the cemetery. PMP may, at its discretion, allow personal jewelry.

Cremated Remains:

PMP does accept cremated remains (cremains), however, we ask that the energy demand of cremation be considered in your decision-making when comparing burial vs. cremation. If the cremains are buried in an urn, all urns must be biodegradable. Burial, niche placement and scattering of cremains will be allowed in designated parts of the burial ground and will be documented and recorded in the same manner as any burial.

Memorial Markers:

This burial ground is being managed to encourage the natural landscape. Therefore, the erection of monuments, fences, decorative stones, and the placing of markers upon burial sites are not allowed, with one exception. In keeping with RI General Law, a plaque issued by the Veteran's Administration may be installed on the burial sites of veterans interred within the park.

In keeping with the understanding that the grave sites will return to their natural state, many families may choose not to have a memorial marker. If a marker is desired, an engraved permanent stone marker comprised of native field stone may be placed along permanent pathways or other designated areas; however, it must sit flush to the ground (extending no more than three inches above grade) and must meet the established size limitation of a maximum of 225 sq. inches and no more than 24 inches in one dimension.

Marble, granite and other impermeable rock/stone is not permitted. Markers must have as natural an appearance as possible, including irregular edges (i.e., not cut, machined or polished), and they may not rest in an upright position. No concrete, paint or metal is allowed in the placement or decoration of markers.

Native field stone is commonly found on Prudence Island (and throughout the region). We ask that you please refrain from contributing to the destruction of stone walls (prohibited by the Town of Portsmouth) or any other cultural feature. Examples of field stone of the proper dimensions appropriate for use in the park will be available to view on-site.

All marker costs are the family's responsibility. All markers must meet prior approval of PMP, who is required to assist in the placement of the marker. Contact PMP before engraving a marker to make sure that it complies with the cemetery's regulations.

PMP has the right to remove and reset any approved markers in order to maintain cemetery grounds or trails.

Floral Tributes and Decorations:

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. A modest representative of all floral tributes and a single religious identifier may be buried with the individual's body.

Plastic flower arrangements, vases, photographs, effigies (e.g. statuettes), and manmade or manufactured items may not be left on a burial site or elsewhere on PMP property. PMP has the right to remove and dispose of any and all grave adornments that are a detriment to the environment or natural character of the cemetery.

Native plants may be placed on individual burial sites, but they must be approved by PMP management prior to planting to ensure these plants are natural, appropriate to the specific location, and noninvasive. See PMP's 'Commemorative Planting Guide' for assistance in selecting appropriate and approved plantings.

PMP retains sole discretion as to all matters regarding landscaping and plantings, including landscaping plan and care, pruning, revegetation of graves, and removal of vegetation. PMP or their representative will remove or alter unauthorized plantings.

As the sole exception to the use of decorative tributes, PMP will coordinate the placement of commemorative flags honoring identified individuals who served in the U.S. Armed Forces. Flags will remain for a period not to exceed 31 days annually, inclusive of Memorial Day.

Interments:

PMP offers burial sites for the interment of human remains as well as burial sites, niche placement and a scattering garden for families who choose cremation for their final disposition.

Interments must take place at a date and time agreed with PMP. PMP generally allows burials seven days a week unless severe weather conditions preclude burial on any given day. PMP shall be provided 48 hours' notice (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and holidays) for the opening and closing of burial sites and a minimum of 24 hours' notice to prepare sites (e.g. access mowing) for other selected options.

Burials on holidays (e.g. New Years' Day, Memorial Day, the Fourth of July) 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 are able to accommodate you. No burials will be permitted on Thanksgiving or Christmas.

For burial rights purchased prior to the funeral, the certificate of ownership of these rights must be produced before the burial takes place.

All cemetery charges and fees are to be paid in full before an interment can occur.

No body shall be buried unless the death has been registered and the proper documentation is supplied to PMP. No cremated remains shall be buried or scattered unless a certificate of cremation is supplied to PMP.

All necessary interment forms are to be signed by the next of kin or an authorized agent prior to any interment.

Purchase of Burial Rights:

The purchase of burial rights is the purchase of grant of the right of burial in that burial ground only and does not confer ownership of the ground or any other rights.

The purchase of burial rights requires a signed cemetery application form that includes an agreement to abide by the Rules and Regulations concerning the type and placement of memorial markers and the planting of trees and flowers, etc.

We practice sequential burial in each of four general areas of the park as well as a veteran's only area with separate sections in each area designated for full body interments and the interment of cremated remains. Bodies are buried, one after the other in the area pre-selected by the deceased (if known, or by the authorized agent), in the order in which burials take place. The same holds true for remains whose burial rights were purchased pre-need.

Families may purchase burial sites adjoining the deceased prior to or at the time of the deceased burial and are encouraged to do so to guarantee that the adjacent space remains available to them. If rights to more than one burial site are purchased together, adjacent burial sites will be reserved upon the first burial in the group for the remaining burial lot assignees.

The interment of cremated remains in niches (e.g. incorporated into the tumbled remains of foundation walls) or within the scattering garden are, by their nature, less structured as to final placement; however, these events would also require the purchase of burial rights and will be recorded similarly in the register of burials.

Only one person, whether as a full body interment or as cremated remains may be buried in each site— with one exception: if you wish to bury cremated remains in the same grave as a full-body burial, you may do so; however, that will require the additional purchase of burial rights for the interment of cremains.

Burial rights are granted either in perpetuity or, for individuals who do not wish to leave a permanent footprint, in succession to allow for reuse of a burial site in the future. The specified time frame for the release of burial rights will be 60 years; representing approximately two generations.

No burial rights may be re-assigned to alternate family members or other assignees without written and notarized approval of PMP.

Inheritors of burial rights should let PMP know of changes in ownership status at their earliest convenience so they may retain up to date records and avoid potential delays in future interment arrangements.

PMP will not buy back burial rights. The owner of burial rights can resell or transfer rights with written and notarized approval of PMP and the payment of a \$50 transfer fee.

The purchase of burial rights can be made by lump sum or paid in installments at a rate and frequency (e.g. monthly, quarterly, annually) mutually agreeable to the purchaser and PMP. Any remaining balance must be paid in full prior to interment.

PMP will allocate a minimum of 20% of all sales of burial rights to a perpetual care fund to ensure maintenance of the preserved land and natural burial ground into the future.

These rules and regulations are expressly designed to help meet the goals of Prudence Memorial Park for the establishment and maintenance of a natural area that promotes the preservation of native species of plants and the wildlife that depend on them while also providing a place of comfort to the bereaved across current and future generations. We trust that you find these rules and regulations reasonable and share our vision for the maintenance of an enduring tribute to all our loved ones who have come before.