

Saint Augustine Cemetery Regulations

Saint Augustine Cemetery's regulations are in keeping with the regulations established for all Archdiocesan owned cemeteries with one exception: we permit small gardens at graves which have upright monuments. However, all who wish to maintain a garden must apply for a free permit each year. The following regulations exist for the smooth operation of the cemetery.

Please help us maintain the beauty and dignity of these sacred grounds by observing the following regulations:

- Floral decorations (fresh flowers and artificial flowers) are permitted at all times.
- All holyday and holiday floral decorations will be removed for immediate disposal two weeks after all holydays and holidays.
- With the exception of Section E (flat markers section), all other graves with upright monuments are permitted to have a small flower garden extending no more than 13 inches beyond the front of the monument.
- For those families wishing to maintain a garden you must obtain a yearly FREE PERMIT for your garden. Permits are obtainable outside the cemetery building entrance and on the parish's website.
- For the sake of aesthetic uniformity, the garden must have a border comprised of grey bricks purchased from the cemetery. You may indicate on your permit your desire for bricks.
- Fencing or borders consisting of shells, stones, pebbles, plastic, metal, or other materials are prohibited and subject to immediate removal.
- Flower gardens may not circle the monument or extend beyond the sides of the monument.
- Mulch is strictly prohibited.
- Flowers must be low growing and not block the inscription on the monument.
- All non-floral decorations such as planter boxes (concrete, metal, wood, or plastic), containers or vases made of glass, plastic or crockery, toys, balloons, any type of sports pennants, flags of any type (except an American flag) ARE STRICTLY PROHIBITED and will be removed immediately.
- American flags may be displayed between April 1 and November 15 at which time they will be removed in order to prepare for winter.
- The following are also STRICTLY PROHIBITED and will be removed immediately:
 - Articles of clothing or hats, beverage cans, bottles, cups, drawings, photographs or pictures, iron furniture, ornaments, flowerpots, fencing and barriers, religious articles including crosses, crucifixes, holy cards and rosaries, shells, stones, pebbles, shepherd hooks, solar energy lights, Styrofoam, votive or vigil candles, statues of a religious or secular nature, food, or vegetables of any type.
- In essence, the only permissible decorations for any grave are fresh or artificial flowers.
- The cemetery reserves the right to remove any artificial flowers which have become unsightly.
- The planting of shrubs and trees, etc. on individual graves or lots is prohibited and subject to immediate removal and disposal.
- No dogs (with the exception of guide dogs) or other pets are allowed in the cemetery.
- This cemetery is owned and operated by Sacred Heart Church, Bridgeport. All questions may be directed to the cemetery office at 610-275-1750.

Based on our experiences with some cemetery patrons raising questions about the above regulations, we found it helpful to offer the following clarifications:

Cemetery Rules Clarified:

1. NO one is required to maintain a garden in the cemetery. IN FACT, WE HIGHLY RECOMMEND THAT YOU DO NOT BEGIN OR KEEP A GARDEN IF YOU ARE AN INFREQUENT VISITOR TO THE CEMETERY AS ALL GARDEN PERMIT HOLDERS ARE EXPECTED TO REGULARLY WEED AND MAINTAIN THEIR GARDEN. IF YOU DO NOT WISH TO TAKE ON SUCH A RESPONSIBILITY YOU MAY BE BETTER OFF JUST LEAVING FRESH FLOWERS AT THE GRAVE WHEN YOU VISIT.
2. Only those patrons who file a Free Permit are granted permission to keep a garden at upright monuments. No gardens may ever be maintained in Section E or any other section of the cemetery where there is a flat marker.
3. These gardens must be surrounded by the bricks which are to be purchased from the cemetery at \$1.00 each.
4. These bricks must be partially buried in the ground and not simply laid on the ground. If you would like to hire one of our cemetery men to place the bricks you may do so and work out the cost of placing the bricks with the men. The fee charged for this service will go directly to the cemetery personnel and not the cemetery. To arrange to have one of our men place the bricks please contact Jeff Houseal at jeffhouseal@shswedesburg.org
5. At no time may any type of plantings be done when a garden permit has not been granted.
6. People are always free to place or lay freshly cut flowers or artificial flowers at a grave which does not have a garden permit. Those flowers will be permitted to remain for one week (except Christmas and Easter Holidays) and then removed so as not to interfere with lawn maintenance and weed whacking.
7. Please realize that the cemetery is surrounded by multiple residential dwellings. Many people, at all hours of the day and night, walk through the cemetery. Sometimes they steal flowers or other decorations. Additionally, deer also visit the cemetery on a regular basis helping themselves to the flowers which are left there. Please do not automatically presume that flowers that you have left at a grave were removed by cemetery personnel. Such items could have been removed by strangers for their own reasons.
8. NO HOSTA plants OR any other PERENNIAL plantings are permitted at any grave. Experience has shown that we have had many abandoned garden graves where hostas and other perennials had been planted and overtook the grave site thus causing our cemetery personnel to use valuable man hours to cut back these plants each Fall. Going forward, all such perennials are strictly prohibited and will be removed by cemetery personnel.
9. Some people who filed for permits and have placed their bricks around the monument have continued to display items which are contrary to the posted regulations. Please remove such statues, flags, banners, etc. which are not in keeping with regulations. We will remove such items and if they are in good condition will leave them next to the garage for a period of two weeks before disposing of them.
10. We have noticed that some people have started putting head stone flower saddles on top of the monuments. Because this is a recent development and because some of these holders have already blown off the monuments during the strong winds which pass through the cemetery, and because we do not wish to field calls of complaint when such arrangements disappear because of thievery, HEAD STONE FLOWER SADDLES are prohibited. We ask that you remove them immediately. If your flower saddle is missing kindly check by the side of the garage. If the arrangement is not there please presume that it was stolen.