

# CEMETERY ORDINANCE FOR THE MUNICIPAL TOWN OF OXFORD

Enacted  
6/17/2006

Amended  
October 12, 2006  
March 4, 2021

**OXFORD CEMETERY ORDINANCE**

**Town of Oxford  
County of OXFORD  
STATE OF MAINE**

Chapter 1

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This Article shall be known and may be cited as the "Cemetery Ordinance of the Town of Oxford, Maine."

§ 1-2. Purpose.

The purpose of this chapter is to set fees for cemetery burial plots; establish regulations and procedures to govern burials, placement of monuments and decorations; ensure the safety of employees; and provide a beautiful and dignified resting place for deceased loved ones at all cemeteries operated by the Town of Oxford.

§ 1-3. Hours of Operation.

All cemeteries operated by the Town of Oxford shall be open to the public from dawn to dusk every day.

§ 1-4 Restricted Activities.

No dogs or other animals shall be allowed in cemeteries off leash. Picnics, sports activities, or any gatherings not in keeping with the purpose and dignity of a cemetery are prohibited.

§ 1-5. Cost of Burial Lots.

The cost for one standard gravesite shall be \$175 for a resident of the Town of Oxford and \$250 for a non-resident. The cost for a cremains site shall be the same as a standard gravesite. All purchasing of plots requires a \$19.00 recording fee per deed. All proceeds from the sale of sites shall be deposited into the Cemetery Reserve Account.

§ 1-6. Remains in Lots.

All cremations shall be buried in an approved urn. Plastic bags or boxes are prohibited. Ashes may not be scattered in the cemetery. Up to six cremations may be buried in a one 4' X 10' lot or one full body. All burials require an interment form to be submitted to the Town Clerk's office prior to burial. Cremation burials done by the family need a State Authorization form completed and submitted to the Town office and State prior to burial of cremated remains.

§ 1-7. Opening and Closing of Graves.

It is the financial responsibility of the lot owner to provide for opening or closing graves. Lot owners and/or funeral directors must contact the Town of Oxford at least 48 hours prior to any grave opening, interment, or disinterment to locate and mark the correct burial space. Immediately following an interment or disinterment, lot owners shall be responsible for restoring the gravesite. No sites shall be mounded, except where consistent with existing practice. Lot owners shall remove all excess material from the site and placed in designated area, repair damage to any other lots, and repair any settling of the site following any excavation, grave opening or closing.

§ 1-8. Placement of Headstones, foot stones, lot markers and corner markers.

Cornerstones are required on all new plots. All new graves must have an appropriate marker of some type. The location of headstones, foot stones, lot markers and corner markers shall be approved by the Town of Oxford prior to placement. The Town of Oxford shall be contacted at least 48 hours prior to placement of headstones, foot stones, lot markers or corner markers. All cornerstones, foot stones, lot markers, corner markers are the responsibility of the plot/lot owners. All cornerstones, foot stones, plot markers, corner markers shall be on the inside corners of each plot and be leveled with ground.

§ 1-9. Adornment of Gravesites.

Artificial flowers must be placed in containers. Glass containers are prohibited. No more than 2 solar lights per grave are allowed. The Town has the right to remove trees or shrubs planted on a gravesite which become dangerous, or detrimental to the adjacent grounds because of encroachment of roots or branches. Such trees or shrubs may be removed only after reasonable attempts have been made to contact the plot owner or other responsible party. No hedges, trees, shrubs, fencing, walls, curbing, railings, or similar structures or enclosures shall be erected around gravesites following adoption of this ordinance. All winter decorations shall be removed prior to mowing season. Absolutely no mulch is allowed on gravesites. All spring/summer flowers must be removed before October 1<sup>st</sup> for fall cleanup.

§ 1-10. Administration, Enforcement and Appeal.

This Ordinance shall be administered and enforced by the Town Manager or his/her designee. Appeal of decisions made by the Town Manager's designee, under the authority granted by this ordinance, may be made in writing to the Town Manager. Appeal of decisions made by the Town Manager, under the authority granted by this ordinance, may be made in writing to the Selectmen. The Selectmen or Town Manager (whichever is appropriate) shall schedule a hearing as soon as possible and render a written decision on the appeal within fifteen (15) days.

§ 1-11. Penalties.

Any person, firm, corporation, or other entity violating the provisions of this Ordinance commits a civil violation for which a civil forfeiture of not less than \$100.00 nor more than \$500.00 may be adjudged. The Town may also seek injunctive relief for violations of this Ordinance.

§ 1-12. Veterans Graves

Lot owners shall notify the Town of Oxford if a veteran has been buried in the lot.

§ 1-13. Perpetual Care

All lots have perpetual care (mowing, trimming). All stones and upkeep are the responsibility of the owners excepting Maine Statute 13 title 13 § 1101. If there is extensive work required, owners must have permission from the Town.

§ 1-14. Burial of Pets

Pets may only be buried as cremated remains subsequent to all regulations of this ordinance pertaining to burial of human remains.

§ 1-15 Effective Date

The provisions of this ordinance shall take effect as of March 4, 2021.