**HARRIS TOWNSHIP CEMETERY POLICY**

The object of the Town Board is to preserve the cemetery and provide a place of tranquility for those visiting the gravesites of loved ones, while also allowing peace and solitude to those burying their loved ones.

Harris Township maintains the cemetery for its residence and others. The importance of uniformity and efficiency in maintaining a cemetery requires certain rules and regulations to be followed documented. All parties must adhere to these guidelines to ensure proper notification, placement, and documentation of any interment.

No person shall have in his or her possession a firearm or explosive, excepting an off-duty police officer, or members of military organizations at funerals and civic functions.

**Hours**:

The cemetery is available to anyone every day from dawn to dusk.

**Harris Township Cemetery Rates**

**Rates Reflect Resident and Non-Residency**

**Cemetery Site Purchase Rate: $175.00**

**Itasca County Recording Fee: $46.00**

**Burials rates are for burial times:**

**Monday-Friday between the hours of 9am -3pm.**

**Regular Burial Rates:**

**Traditional Casket Adult: $500.00/winter is add’l $1500.00**

**Traditional Casket Infant: $150.00/winter is add’l $1500.00**

**Cremation: $125.00/winter is add’l $1500.00**

* **Standard Urn size is 18x18x18. If the Urn is over that size, the cremation cost doubles to $250.00**

**Disinterment: (traditional) $1,125.00**

**Disinterment: (cremation) $400.00**

1. An additional fee of **$200.00** will be charged for any burial that begins Monday- Friday after 3pm.
2. No burials will be permitted to begin after 5pm.
3. An additional fee of **$275.00** will be charged for weekend burials and shall only take place between the hours of 9am and 3pm.
4. An additional fee of $1,500.00 will be charged for all Winter burials, both traditional casket, and cremation burials. Winter is defined as anytime the ground is frozen and needs to be thawed with the grave heater to open the grave.
5. No burials will be permitted on New Year’s Day, Good Friday, and Easter Sunday, Memorial Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day.
6. If burial is requested and excavation is performed, AND the burial is canceled by no fault of the Township, half of the original fee for that burial will be charged.

**Purchase, and Sale:**

* All burials and purchases of sites must be arranged with and by the Sexton. No interment may take place without the notification and approval of the Sexton.
* All purchased sites must be paid by cash or check, payable to the Harris Township.
* All purchased sites require a Deed that will be drawn up by the Sexton and signed at monthly Board Meetings by the Board. Deeds must be recorded with the Itasca County Recorder’s Office. The recording fee, currently of $46 is required in addition to the fee for the site purchased at the time of sale, payable to Harris Township.
* All payments must be made to the Sexton or funeral home. The original Deed will be mailed to the purchaser after being recorded with Itasca County and a copy filed with the Township.
* Available lots may be viewed on the Harris Township web page by clicking the Cemetery tab at the top of the website home page. These will be updated to the website twice a year, effective January 1, 2019. <https://www.harristownshipmn.org/> or by contacting the Sexton for an appointment.
* A maximum of four (4) sites may be purchased per person, per deed.
* Deeds CAN NOT be transferred, assigned or pledged to another interested party.
* Private sale of burial sites is prohibited.
* The Sexton maintains the authority to discontinue sale with Board approval of a particular section, block or lot area to ensure the space for those who have pre-purchased sites is adequate.
* Section 1 sites may be prohibited from full casket burials.

**Site/Burial Regulations:**

* All burials must be arranged with the Sexton. No interments may take place without the Sexton approval.
* Vaults are required for all traditional full casket burials. Vaults are not required for cremations.
* Cremation remains are not allowed to be placed or spread above ground. Cremation remains, if in an urn and part of the headstone, are allowed.
* All excavating of sites will be performed by the Harris Township Cemetery Maintenance. No personal excavating is allowed. A minimum of 4 weekdays is essential during winter months to prepare the site and 2-3 weekdays during summer months. (Not to include the day of the request.)
* Times may need to be adjusted depending on the frost depth and shall be communicated with the funeral home.
* Each site purchased/ owned may hold 1 full adult traditional burial complete with a vault and 4 cremation urns. Full traditional burials should be placed prior to a cremation in the site owned or you will be referred to the disinterment process and fees. Two Infant traditional burials may be placed on the same level to allow 4 cremations above. This is the only adjustment made to the allowance of burials to be placed in each site purchased or owned.
* No burials above ground will be permitted.
* Prior to any burials taking place, a burial permit, disposition, or death certificate must be received by the Sexton.
* Personal excavations of the gravesites are strictly prohibited.

**Disinterment**:

* If a disinterment is requested of cremation or traditional burials- please refer to a funeral home to facilitate the process. All fees will be the responsibility of the requester and must be paid in advance.

**Headstone, Foot Stones, Markers:**

* Only one upright Headstone may be placed per site purchased. These will be marked by the Harris Township Cemetery Maintenance and laid by a licensed monument company.
* Up to 4 markers are allowed, on a burial site, for cremations.
* The placement of foot stones or foot markers may be placed by Harris Township maintenance at the hourly rate of the maintenance, if requested by a family
* . The charge will depend on the estimated time and number of Township staff required to place said markers and foot stones.
* The Headstone footprint/foundation shall not exceed 2ft X 4ft for a single plot and 2ft X 8ft for a double plot.
* ONLY Veteran Foot markers received from the Itasca County Veterans Office will be placed by the Harris Township Cemetery Maintenance Department free of charge.
* If you plan to purchase a head stone, foot stone, or flat marker, independent of a licensed monument company, any head stone, foot stone and flat marker, not purchased through a licensed monument company must be installed by a licensed monument company. Be aware there are restrictions on size and placement of any grave/monument marker placed in the cemetery.
* All headstones, foot stones, and flat markers, above ground level must be placed on a foundation.
* Homemade headstones, foot stones, and flat markers are prohibited, and will be removed.
* Harris Township shall not be responsible or liable for any loss, damage, vandalism, upkeep, or act of Mother Nature to any headstone, foot stone, or flat marker. If damaged, or if blight is caused by monument or marker maker, the township will attempt to contact the owner. If unsuccessful, the headstone, foot stone, and flat marker will be removed from the cemetery.

**Trees, Flowers and Ornamentations:**

* There shall be no planting of shrubs, plants or trees on cemetery grounds. Effective May 1, 2024, all existing shrubs, plants and trees will be removed by the order of the Harris Town Board. Any tree that is currently on grounds is subject to removal in the event of needing to be removed for burial excavation, maintenance, or death of the tree; or subject to being planted in violation of the policies placed forward.
* Metals, brick, wire, wood, cement, rock, bottles, or borders of any kind are strictly prohibited around the perimeter of burial sites.
* Glass containers, wind chimes, bells, personal momentos and trinkets are strictly prohibited on the burial site by or on any headstones, foundations, foot stones or markers.
* Faded, disintegrated or broken artificial flowers will be removed.
* A Headstone Flower topper, and 1 Shepherds hook w/plant, and a solar light will be allowed to be placed next to a headstone/foundation on individual sites from April 1st – October 1st annually. Holiday decorations are allowed 1 week before and 1 week after the holiday and will be removed by maintenance after that time period.
* Flowers, decorations, stands or holders are not the responsibility of Harris Township and may be removed at any time by order of the Harris Town Board, if there is interference with mowing, maintenance procedures, OR encroaching on other sites is violated. Wind chimes, and spinners are not allowed at gravesites or hung in trees and will be removed if violated. All flowers and decorations must be tasteful and of pleasant viewing.
* Removal of remaining flowers and decorations after October 1st will be removed by the order of the Harris Town Board. We strongly encourage the use of sturdy and durable shepherd hooks and plants to avoid being tossed around in the wind and to withstand the Minnesota seasons. After October 1st, all plants, decorations/ornaments will be placed, by section, on township trailers for up to 1 week after removal for owners to retrieve.
* Special ornamentation may take place for a full 7 days after a burial anytime of the year. By the order of the Harris Town Board, special ornamentation remaining after this period will be removed.
* All persons are strictly forbidden from cutting any tree, shrub, or plant, from marring or defacing, any landmark, monument, marker, memorial or structure; or from defacing or littering the grounds, in anyway.

**Disclosure**:

The Harris Township Board reserves the right to make exceptions, suspensions, or modifications of any of the policies and regulations set forth that may cause undue hardship of a pre-owned site or error of its doing, and such shall not affect the policies and regulations of the general application set forth.

 **Sections 1, 2, and 3 Burial Sites**

* Sections 1 and 2 of the Cemetery sites are 8 ft. long x 4 ft. wide.
* Section 3 of the Cemetery sites are 10 ft. x 4 ft. wide.
* Standard Urns must not be larger than 18x18x18. If they re over the standard size, the cost for a cremation burial would be double the standard cremation rate.
* Duplicate Deeds may be purchased from the Itasca County Recorder’s Office for a small fee.
* Harris Township may purchase a cemetery site back from its owner. The request needs to be made in writing to the Sexton and a copy of the Deed must be included with the request. The Townships recording fee will be subtracted from your purchase price returned to the owner, and no burials may be in the site location. Subject to Board approval.
* Harris Township Cemetery will allow loved ones who choose cremation to be buried together in one urn. This should be done prior to either being placed in the site or you will be referred to the disinterment process. There is only 1 fee per burial excavation. The correct paperwork for both persons must be filed with the funeral home that will be processed to the Sexton.
* We do not allow the burial of pets at the Harris Township Cemetery.
* There is map on the website at <https://www.harristownshipmn.org/> under the Cemetery tab; it is a helpful tool in understanding the layout of the cemetery. It highlights each section, block and lot.
* As of January 1, 2019, the website will have links available under the Cemetery tab that will assist in viewing the locations available for sale; sites sold, and burial locations of loved ones. These will be updated bi-annually to the website.
* [www.Findagrave.com](http://www.Findagrave.com) is a helpful site if you are unsure of the cemetery a loved one is buried.

**Harris Township**

**Cemetery Policy**

**Cemetery Sexton:**

Terri Friesen 218-398-5033 harristownshipsexton@gmail.com



Amended, 2003, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015. 2017, 2017, 2018, 2018, 2021,2022, 2022, 2024