

THE CITY OF WINNIPEG
RULES AND REGULATIONS NO. 4
RESPECTING Natural Burials at Brookside Cemetery (Section G)
DATED 14 March 2025

MADE PURSUANT TO THE CEMETERY BY-LAW NO. 130/2007

I, Hazel Borys, DIRECTOR OF THE PLANNING, PROPERTY AND DEVELOPMENT DEPARTMENT, hereby make the following Rules and Regulations pursuant to the authority set out in Subsection 6(1) of the Cemetery By-law No. 130/2007:

DEFINITIONS

1(1) In these Rules and Regulations:

“**By-law**” unless otherwise stated, means the Cemetery By-law.

“**Natural Burial**” means a natural form of interment that meets specific criteria set out in these Rules and Regulations.

“**Rules and Regulations**” means these Rules and Regulations and any other Rules and Regulations made pursuant to Section 6 of the Cemeteries By-law.

“**Rules and Regulations No. 1**” means the Rules and Regulations made by the Director of Planning, Property and Development on July 18, 2007 pursuant to Section 6 of the Cemeteries By-law.

“**Section G**” means that section as laid out and identified as Section G in the Brookside Cemetery grounds.

(2) Unless otherwise stated, the definitions set out in the Cemetery By-law 130/2007 and in Rules and Regulations No. 1 apply to these Rules and Regulations.

SCOPE OF THESE RULES AND REGULATIONS

2(1) The Cemetery By-law 130/2007 and the Rules and Regulations No. 1 shall apply in all matters other than the following specific Rules and Regulations appertaining to Section G of Brookside Cemetery.

INTERMENTS

3(1) The following types of natural burial lots may be made available for purchase:

- a. Traditional natural burial lots, which may be used for the interment of the human remains of one (1) person, and;
- b. Cremation natural burial lots, which may be used for the interment of the cremated remains of two (2) people.

- (2) Lots within Section G can be pre-purchased for future use but a specific lot number will not be assigned until the time of need. Lot assignment will be based on a sequential plan, designed strategically to minimize disruption within the natural burial area.
- (3) Human remains proposed for interment in a traditional natural burial lot shall be prepared without embalming.
- (4) Interments into a traditional natural burial lot shall only be made using a shroud, natural body wrap or biodegradable container.
- (5) Biodegradable containers must be made entirely of natural, biodegradable materials. Containers made of plywood, particleboard or any other non-biodegradable materials are prohibited. The interior of the casket must be made from natural fibers, such as cotton or flax, and must not contain any polyester, synthetic fibers, or materials that produce microplastics. Caskets must not contain any non-biodegradable resins, glues, bonding agents, high gloss finish lacquers, paints or other non-biodegradable surface treatments. Additionally, they must be free of any mementos, articles, or personal belonging made from non-biodegradable materials.
- (6) The use of a shroud or natural body wrap must include a supportive bottom using the same material guidelines in item (5). The supportive bottom must be strong enough to assist in transporting and placing the body on the lowering device.
- (7) Interments in a cremation natural burial lot must use a fully biodegradable urn or container.
- (8) The City shall have the right to approve or refuse to accept for burial, any shroud, casket, alternative container or urn proposed for interment in a traditional or cremation natural burial lot.
- (9) The interment of human remains in a traditional natural burial lot shall be made at a depth that is deemed sufficient to achieve effective, natural decomposition of the human remains interred and that meets Provincial Legislation.
- (10) The City shall have the right to utilize such equipment, including motorized equipment, to open and close a natural burial lot as it deems necessary to protect the safety of all City personnel, and any person participating in and attending the interment service and to permit for the safe and dignified interment of the human remains into the lot. The City shall also make every reasonable effort to replace soil in a grave occupied by human remains in as sensitive a manner as is practical.
- (11) The use of a burial liner or vault is strictly prohibited.
- (12) Human remains or cremated remains interred within a natural burial lot are non-recoverable and disinterments are not permitted.
- (13) Following an interment, the grave will be allowed to naturally settle. When seasonally recommended, the earth will be over seeded with a prairie grass / wildflower mix in order for the site to reestablish.

- (14) The cemetery retains the right to limit access to pedestrians into the natural burial area in keeping with the environmental sensitivities within the site. This includes limiting access at the time of an interment.

MEMORIALS

- 4(1) No individual flat markers or upright memorials are permitted within this area.
- (2) Memorials shall be limited to communal areas and structures that may, from time to time, be made available by the City.

PLANTING AND MEMORABILIA

- 5(1) Only the City shall make or supervise planting within Section G.
- (2) Grasses and wildflowers native to and typical of those found in the City's climate zone shall be planted by the City within Section G.
- (3) No items are permitted within the natural burial area, including but not limited to: memorials, flowers, artificial wreaths, decorative items, borders, pictures, articles or personal effects, containers, wooden crosses, planters, vases, stands, plantings, trees or shrubs. Any objects will be removed by cemetery staff.

OTHER

- 6(1) Section G will be left to naturally evolve over time with minimal disturbance. The area will not be mowed unless it is to control the invasion of non-native species. A controlled burn may be required from time to time.

MADE BY ME, Hazel Borys, Director of Planning, Property and Development for the City of Winnipeg, this 29th day of August, 2025.



Hazel Borys
Director of Planning, Property and Development