

Contributions

The Ottumwa Board of Cemetery Trustees accepts donations and endowments for general maintenance and capital improvement projects. These thoughtful gifts are used to maintain the beauty and efficiency of the cemeteries. Donors may designate a use for gifts, and every reasonable attempt will be made to comply with their wishes.

Past donations have made possible such projects as the Infant Reflecting Garden in Calvary Cemetery and the installation of water service in Ottumwa Jewish Cemetery. Many donated funds have been used to plant trees in the cemeteries and to maintain the beauty and peacefulness for our visitors.

If you would like to contribute, please detach this part of the brochure and send it with your contribution to: **Ottumwa Board of Cemetery Trustees, 1302 N. Court Street, Ottumwa, IA 52501. Please make checks payable to Ottumwa Board of Cemetery Trustees.*

I would like to donate to the following fund or project:

New Office & Shop Building \$ _____

Tree Fund \$ _____ (\$250 per tree)

General Fund \$ _____

Other \$ _____ For _____

Name _____

Address _____

City, State, Zip _____

Phone _____

Email _____

Thank you for your donation!

A Brief History

Established in 1857, Ottumwa Cemetery is the final resting place for many of our community's citizens and loved ones. Originally placed on the outskirts of town, it now sits as a park-like centerpiece to the town's Northside. Toward the end of the twentieth century, the Court Street entrance to the cemetery began to take shape and become what it is today, starting with the installation of the red brick receiving vault, continuing with the wrought iron fence and Edgerly Gateway, and finishing with the limestone office and chapel.

Over the years, the City of Ottumwa acquired two additional cemeteries: Calvary Cemetery on Pennsylvania Avenue in 1953 and Ottumwa Jewish Cemetery on Van Ness Avenue in 2000.

Mission Statement

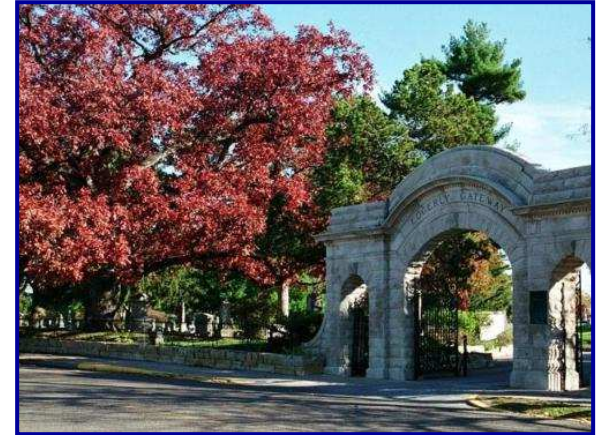
Our mission is to provide a serene and comforting place where the mortal remains of community members can be laid to rest, respecting their religious and cultural needs, in compliance with appropriate laws and regulations.

Ottumwa Board of Cemetery Trustees

John Hunolt
Terri Frimml
Connie Millard
Robert Snell
William Hansen
Roger Hemmings
James Carlson

Prepared 08/31/2023

CITY OF OTTUMWA CEMETERIES



Ottumwa Cemetery
Calvary Cemetery
Ottumwa Jewish Cemetery

Cemetery Office

1302 N. Court Street
Ottumwa, Iowa 52501
Phone: 641.683.0687
Fax: 641.683.0686
Email: ottcemetery@ottumwa.us
www.ottumwa.us/departments/cemetery

Office Hours

Monday—Friday
11:30 AM—3:30 PM
Grounds Open: Dawn to Dusk

City of Ottumwa Cemeteries

Lot Purchase

The purchase price of a burial lot includes:

- * the exclusive right of interment on the burial lot,
- * perpetual care for the maintenance of the lot, and
- * the right to erect a grave marker or monument that meets the size and quality regulations set by the Ottumwa Board of Cemetery Trustees

Interments

A reasonable fee for the opening and closing of a grave will be due at the time of interment. All interments shall be made in a vault constructed of steel or reinforced concrete, excepting cremated remains. A 24 hour notice for interment is required.

Interment Rights

Interment rights are deemed to be reserved for the lot owner and members of his/her family unless otherwise directed in writing by the owner. The Cemetery will permit the interment of members of the family at the request of any person upon proof of eligibility for interment. All burial rights in Cemeteries operated by the City of Ottumwa occupy the same position as real estate at the death of the owner.

No sale, transfer, or assignment of any lot, or part of a lot, shall be valid without the consent of the Cemetery. All transfers must be made at the Cemetery office, where a reasonable fee will be assessed to change the records.

Perpetual Care

Perpetual care is set aside in a permanent, irrevocable trust fund to maintain the lot. The interest from this fund shall be used for the permanent care of the lot and to maintain, repair, and care for the cemetery, excluding monuments and markers.

Memorial Trust

Perpetual Care provides for everything essential. However, some lot owners may wish to provide care for markers or monuments, have floral tributes placed at certain times of the year, or have existing shrubs or trees maintained. Money can be deposited in Memorial Trust funds, of which the income generated will be used for the purpose specified. Estimates and details for such funds will be given with the application.

Memorabilia and Tributes permitted

Fresh cut and artificial flowers and potted plants are permitted in vases on or closely adjacent to monuments. Plants will be removed by Cemetery personnel if they become unsightly. All floral decorations will be removed during biannual clean ups in March and October. Single-hook shepherd hooks will be permitted as long as they are next to the gravestone with the hook over the stone. One hook is allowed per space, two per lot. They must be a minimum of 48 inches from the top of the hook to the ground and a maximum of 60 inches. Vigil lights will be permitted, one per grave, two per lot. They must be placed near the gravestone. No other metal items are permitted. Plantings may be done with permission from the Cemetery office.

Memorabilia and Tributes not permitted

Artificial decorations such as, but not limited to balloons, stuffed animals, Styrofoam pieces, windmills, glass containers, lawn ornaments, signs, sculptures, items made of glass, ceramic or concrete, cans, toys, or other unsightly objects, or objects that will break causing safety concerns or injury to maintenance personnel, or impede the ability to mow and trim the cemetery, will not be permitted, and will be removed by Cemetery personnel without notice. No hedges, fences, edging or enclosures of any kind will be permitted on or around lots. Mulching with wood chips, rock, landscape fabric or similar items is strictly prohibited.

Memorials

No memorial stones or monuments may be erected on any lot until the lot is paid in full. All memorials shall be of first quality bronze or natural granite, of first class workmanship and in good keeping with the appearance of the grounds. Each section in the Cemetery has its own set of regulations as to size and type of memorial used. Before selecting a memorial, the lot owner or Monument Company must check with the Cemetery office on the size and type allowed in that particular section.

All memorials shall rest on a concrete foundation. Foundations shall be poured by the Monument Company from which the memorial was purchased or by an approved Concrete Mason, following regulations set by the Cemetery. Cemetery staff will layout and inspect all foundations for a reasonable charge.

Purchase of a cemetery lot before need is deemed wise and strongly urged. Prospective patrons may feel free to contact the cemetery for information without obligation or pressure.

Please call the office to schedule an appointment to discuss the purchase of a lot. Staff will have available suitable plats showing size, price, and location of lots.

Payment arrangements are available, and credit cards are accepted.

Special Services

The cemetery offers geranium pots to be placed on the graves of loved ones at Memorial Day each year. These floral pots are watered throughout the summer and picked up at the end of the season. Similarly, evergreen wreaths are offered in December of each year. Contact the office to inquire about these services or to be added to the mailing list.