

	<p>You have a LEGAL DUTY to under STATE LAW maintain the cemetery in a condition that does not endanger the public health, safety, comfort, or welfare, not some option or right you can choose to exercise when you see fit.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback on the proposed cemetery rules. Your input is valuable to us and helps Cemetery Operations understand the thoughts, concerns, and questions most important to our stakeholders.</p>
	<p>Some spaces are owned by Trusts. This section does not address this type of ownership.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback on the proposed cemetery rules. Your input is valuable to us and helps Cemetery Operations understand the thoughts, concerns, and questions most important to our stakeholders. 14.4.6(C) The owner, or their heir or assign, shall provide Cemetery Operations with their current contact information and the contact information of any person designated by the owner to receive communications. The owner shall update such information as necessary and Cemetery Operations is entitled to rely on the contact information on file in communicating with the owner.</p>
	<p>The State Law is clear and I quote Health and Safety Code Section 713.011 "A municipality that operates or has jurisdiction over a Public cemetery SHALL maintain the cemetery in a condition that does not endanger the public health, safety, comfort, or welfare. Including leveling or straightening markers or memorials... The way this section is worded in the proposed rules indicates that the city can pick and choose what they want to enforce. The enforcement is clear that the city shall enforce the state law. The families should not be tasked or charged for what the city is responsible for under the Health and Safety Code.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback on the proposed cemetery rules. Your input is valuable to us and helps Cemetery Operations understand the thoughts, concerns, and questions most important to our stakeholders.</p>
	<p>I can clean my family stones when needed and do not need to ask permission.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback on the proposed cemetery rules. Your input is valuable to us and helps Cemetery Operations understand the thoughts, concerns, and questions most important to our stakeholders.</p>
	<p>Section 14.4.6.B seems to conflict with Section 14.4.5.2. Who has the responsibility to level and straighten memorials? This implies it is the owner's responsibility, but that the Cemetery Operations has the 'right' to also level or straighten. Is it possible to charge the Cemetery Operations with leveling and straightening the memorials on a routine basis for aesthetic reasons and to avoid any one memorial from becoming so unlevel that it is a danger to humans standing by or is in threat of falling and breaking? These are often expensive investments by family that they hope to have standing for generations to come. Leveling them would certainly cause them to last longer.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback on the proposed cemetery rules. Your input is valuable to us and helps Cemetery Operations understand the thoughts, concerns, and questions most important to our stakeholders. (B) The owner of a space is solely responsible for cleaning and repairing memorials and mausoleums. An owner must obtain written approval from Cemetery Operations before undertaking such tasks. (D) In the event a memorial or mausoleum is in disrepair, Cemetery Operations shall attempt to notify the owner to undertake repair or replacement. If the repair or replacement has not been completed within 180 days of the first attempt to notify the owner, Cemetery Operations may repair or replace the item and charge the expense to the owner.</p>
<p>14.4.7 Interments</p>	<p>When I purchased 2 plots several years ago I did so with the understanding that 2 caskets or 4 cremated remains could be interred in each plot. How can that be changed now? It would mean families would need more plots and might be scattered around the cemetery.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback on the proposed cemetery rules. Your input is valuable to us and helps Cemetery Operations understand the thoughts, concerns, and questions most important to our stakeholders. Per the current rules under the section Instructions for Space Holders and Space Holders' Rights: 4. Only one casket will be permitted in each grave. In the event cremation is utilized, a maximum of four (4) interments will be permitted in one (1) space.</p>
	<p>the city has never done dbl depth burials in any of the cemeteries , your deed should explain that,if you do not have your copy. there should be one on file at Travic county records office use this link https://www.tccsearch.org/RealEstate/SearchEntry.aspx</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback on the proposed cemetery rules. Your input is valuable to us and helps Cemetery Operations understand the thoughts, concerns, and questions most important to our stakeholders.</p>

	<p>Re: section (A) above-- this should be amended to say that the Owner ___or their Assignees (such as a mortician and/or funeralhome staff)___ are responsible for.... (etc) This is generally handled by the funeral home is it not? It should not be a requirement that is specifically placed upon the Owner, especially during the bereavement period after a loved one's death...</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback on the proposed cemetery rules. Your input is valuable to us and helps Cemetery Operations understand the thoughts, concerns, and questions most important to our stakeholders. The owner of a space shall provide written authorization to Cemetery Operations to conduct an interment, disinterment, or reinterment at least working 12 hours prior to the service. Cemetery Operations is not liable for the accuracy of the information provided in an authorization, including the identity of the person to be interred, disinterred, or reinterred.</p>
	<p>in the case of a disinturnment state law staes the owner of the lot or someone within the 3rd degree of relationship has the right. not a funeral home or director. a few tyears ago the TexasState cemetery attempted to relocate sussana Dickenson and Joseph Hanning to the texas statecemetery. they wanter this notable texas woman at the state cemetery, they hired a funeral directorto track doen the great neice of Joseph Hanning and had her sign the paperwork as the neice of thedeceased. they were one signature away from making this happen (the director of the parksdepartment) when i discovered this. within 36 hrs we (Members of Save Austin's ecemeteries) hadliving descendants on the phone and they stopped the process. the city claimed they had noresponsibly to check any of the facts! open records reques for the texas State cemetery yeilded arecording of a board meeting were the plabn was hatched and the question was raised about thecity weighing in and the sextn went on record that they are the State of Texas, they dont care whatthe city thinks! the law protect burials from descendant latter on who may want a prime burialspace from filling out paper work and moving you or a loved one elsewhere so they can get yourspace. the city has to dillently review all request for legality.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback on the proposed cemetery rules. Your input is valuable to us and helps Cemetery Operations understand the thoughts, concerns, and questions most important to our stakeholders.</p>
	<p>I'm not sure what the purpose of (C) (2) and (3) are. These are dead people's remains. What does thecity care about piling in a bunch of urns?</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback on the proposed cemetery rules. Your input is valuable to us and helps Cemetery Operations understand the thoughts, concerns, and questions most important to our stakeholders.</p>
	<p>14.4.7.(C).(2) needs clarity. Does this mean that in a space that contains a casket, only one interment of cremated remains is permitted in addition to the remains in the casket??</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback on the proposed cemetery rules. Your input is valuable to us and helps Cemetery Operations understand the thoughts, concerns, and questions most important to our stakeholders. Yes, this the case. (C) Occupancy of Spaces: (1) Only one casket is permitted in each space. (2) In a space that contains a casket, only one interment of cremains is permitted. (3) In a space that does not contain a casket, four interments of cremains are permitted.</p>
	<p>14.4.7.(A), needs some clarity. If Cemetery Operations is NOT LIABLE for accuracy of information, who is?</p>	<p>(A) The owner of a space shall provide written authorization to Cemetery Operations to conduct an interment, disinterment, or reinterment at least working 12 hours prior to the service. Cemetery Operations is not liable for the accuracy of the information provided in an authorization, including the identity of the person to be interred, disinterred, or reinterred.</p>
	<p>There are numerous graves at COA cemeteries that have surface vaults which are contradictory to Item "E". Surface vaults are still manufactured and sold in the Central Texas Area. As a funeral director I haveno issue in a family selecting this type of container and do not see why it should be prohibited by the city of Austin.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback on the proposed cemetery rules. Your input is valuable to us and helps Cemetery Operations understand the thoughts, concerns, and questions most important to our stakeholders.</p>

	<p>In a space that has one casket, isn't there room for TWO cremains? If so, why is this not allowed?</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback on the proposed cemetery rules. Due to space variances in each cemetery and section, we must adhere to consistent standards for burials throughout the cemeteries. We understand implementing these rules pose challenges and we are more than willing to discuss individual needs with the understanding that we must preserve the rights of all customers and provide overall safety. With the updated rules and a continuous open line of communication, we hope to be able to better serve our community.</p>
	<p>What about ashes? Probably in another section?</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback on the proposed cemetery rules. Your input is valuable to us and helps Cemetery Operations understand the thoughts, concerns, and questions most important to our stakeholders.</p> <p>14.4.7. (C) Occupancy of Spaces:</p> <p>(1) Only one casket is permitted in each space.</p> <p>(2) In a space that contains a casket, only one interment of cremains is permitted.</p> <p>(3) In a space that does not contain a casket, four interments of cremains are permitted.</p>
	<p>It is the familys responsibility to insure that the ownership records are up to date. heres the catch at Oakwood nothing has been sold by the city since 1910, the Oakwood annex it opened in 1914, evergreen in 1926 ? and the city acquired Austin Memorial park in the 1940's; so much time has lapsed the city has no idea who the current owners of property sold more than 40 years ago is. that is why the 1978 rules state it is the families responsibility to ensuer their contact information is up to date in the office. most for profit cemeters have simuilar signage at their cemeteries. No one thinks of this untill a death accures. the city is not going to tell the family that graet grandpa purchased the lot and the family need to provide wills, probate records, births and death certificaes to establish that the person in front of them is in fact the leagal owner. instead they have "john doe" sign a form assuming all responsibility, and claim they are not responsible for the accuracy of the information provided in the authorization! When i was at an industry work shop they touched on this issue, I shared a copy of the citys form and the lawyer for the insudtry who was the speaker was aghast. without proper authorization by the legal owner the city is liabale if they allow an unauthorized person to be buried in that space! Instead the city if questioned will point to the authorization form and thell the intrested party, do you know john doe? look here, he signed this so your problem is with him, not the city of Austin. The reality is the city wants to meet the needs of the family at the time of death, if they make it to hard fro the family to utilize the assumed empty space, they may go someplace else and buy a space , then the city gets no monies for services they would have provided, so..... 1. its about \$\$ and meeting the needs of the family, and 2. the city is self insured and has a team of lawyers. it is very difficult to sue a municipality in Texas, unless the police shoot you in the back and there is enough public outcry., Any lawyer will tell you you will spend tens of thousands of dollars fighting for a space of earth that is worth less than three thousand dollars so they give up. The city knows this, they bank on it.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback on the proposed cemetery rules. Your input is valuable to us and helps Cemetery Operations understand the thoughts, concerns, and questions most important to our stakeholders.</p>
	<p>C) Who determines this and what is the reasoning behind this?</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback on the proposed cemetery rules. Due to space variances in each cemetery and section, we must adhere to consistent standards for burials throughout the cemeteries. We understand implementing these rules pose challenges and we are more than willing to discuss individual needs with the understanding that we must preserve the rights of all customers and provide overall safety. With the updated rules and a continuous open line of communication, we hope to be able to better serve our community.</p>

	(E) Why? There are existing ones at Oakwood.	Thank you for your feedback on the proposed cemetery rules. Your input is valuable to us and helps Cemetery Operations understand the thoughts, concerns, and questions most important to our stakeholders. The structures at Oakwood were put into place prior to 1978. Thank you for your feedback on the proposed cemetery rules. Your input is valuable to us and helps Cemeteries Operations understand the features, functional concerns, and questions that are most important to you. We carefully reviewed all feedback to determine how to best accommodate both current and new customers.
14.4.8 Rules for Memorial Work	(A) An owner should have the right to perform reasonable cleaning and repairs to their "own" familyplot. If heavy tools or equipment is needed - then the contractor rules and insurance should apply.	Thank you for your feedback on the proposed cemetery rules. Your input is valuable to us and helps Cemetery Operations understand the thoughts, concerns, and questions most important to our stakeholders. We have taken this into consideration in our updates.
	this whole section is created to give you compltere oversite and the ability to extort monies fromfamilies for silmple fixes or cleaning of a monument. ITS PRIVATE PROPERTY, you are claiming that onlya contractor approved by you who has insurance can do any work, im sure a kick back is alreadyplanned. you can not follow your own policies on setting of monuments . you have NO ONE trained inrepair or setting monuments. as an example you do not use angular gravel ad sand for a base . you usepea gravel because you have LOTS of it at the old holly street power plant and its free. using pea graveis like stabilizing something on a pile of Ball bearings. it may allow for drainage but it will bot compactand creat a stable sub base, look at the profile for the walking and jogging paths in the parks system the sub base is not pea gravel. you already had one employee leave the city due to misconduct with amonument vender, you are setting yourself up for failure and a lawsuite	Thank you for your feedback on the proposed cemetery rules. Your input is valuable to us and helps Cemetery Operations understand the thoughts, concerns, and questions most important to our stakeholders.
	Contractors approved by the City, while understandable in the abstract, in reality this almost alwaysmeans that the cost of doing the work quadruples...! (this relates directly to my concerns about section14.4.6 above) Any work done by the City or the short list of city-approved contractors will cost a greatdeal more than it needs to. That is not to say that the requirement for insurance and following allconstruction-related requirements are not reasonable expectations, however any skilled GC, especiallyyones who routinely level slabs, etc. would most likely be able to perform the same quality of work atlower cost-- which means that more people would be willing to spend the money to improve/repair thegraves of their relatives (a desirable goal), were it more affordable to do so.In short, would not _more_ graves and monuments that have fallen into disrepair be improved, if theCity were to set reasonable expectations/requirements/specifications for the work to be performed,and then hold the Contractors (not the Owners) accountable if they fail to meet these standards ?	Thank you for your feedback on the proposed cemetery rules. Your input is valuable to us and helps Cemetery Operations understand the thoughts, concerns, and questions most important to our stakeholders.
	city employees have no business recomending to familys who someone should hire. there is a realrisk for back door financial relationships in the form og contract kick backs or referrel paymentsmade directly to city employees. there are lots of factors on why monuments shift, ground settelingand poor install patices, as well as mower strike top the list.	Thank you for your feedback on the proposed cemetery rules. Your input is valuable to us and helps Cemetery Operations understand the thoughts, concerns, and questions most important to our stakeholders.
	Define "repairing and cleaning".	Thank you for your feedback on the proposed cemetery rules. Your input is valuable to us and helps Cemetery Operations understand the thoughts, concerns, and questions most important to our stakeholders. We have taken this into consideration in our updates.

	<p>A. The City utilizes at least a dozen approved contractors for cemetery work. The work is not like other projects (restrictive work space, many trees to protect, other memorials to protect, time constraints, etc.), thus I support the continued practice followed by the City. Collectively as owners, we need to know the companies doing work in our cemeteries are qualified and being held accountable.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback on the proposed cemetery rules. Your input is valuable to us and helps Cemetery Operations understand the thoughts, concerns, and questions most important to our stakeholders.</p>
	<p>I paid for a monument at Oakwood annex the approved vendor set the monument and city crews signed off stating it was done properly with a concrete foundation with sq sides and x inches thick, and 1 inch wider than the foot print of the stone, when i examined, it was clear the contractor, which was approved by the city just dug a hole placed in dry cement set the monument , sprinkled abut of water on it, placed some grass back around it and it looked fine. the city crew took my money as an inspection fee and pencil whipped the paper work without ever looking at it. the knowingly falsified a goverment record, which is a class A misdeminor. I was told they are ding thebest they can! and now they want more authority and responsibility?</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback on the proposed cemetery rules. Your input is valuable to us and helps Cemetery Operations understand the thoughts, concerns, and questions most important to our stakeholders.</p>
	<p>This entire section is BS. Family members who show up to beautify and even relevel graves are going to violate this for no reason. Rewrite or omit.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback on the proposed cemetery rules. Your input is valuable to us and helps Cemetery Operations understand the thoughts, concerns, and questions most important to our stakeholders. We have taken this into consideration in our updates.</p>
	<p>If you want the cemetery to be vibrant and cared-for, you cannot punish descendants--and friendly groups like Save Austin's Cemeteries--for cleaning and resetting gravestones by insisting that the work be done by an approved contractor with gobs of paperwork AND BY CHARGING FEES. The City, Cemetery Operations, descendants, and friends need to work together to preserve and conserve this resource in good faith, not be hamstrung with rules, applications, and fees.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback on the proposed cemetery rules. Your input is valuable to us and helps Cemetery Operations understand the thoughts, concerns, and questions most important to our stakeholders.</p>
	<p>I have established a website documenting in detail PARD's bureaucratic foot-dragging and equivocations over the past NINE years of this rules process: https://saveaustinscemeteries.blogspot.com/2022/09/protect-austins-cemeteries-from-pard.html This page expressly addresses PARD's duties regarding cemetery maintenance under state law and its failure to do so: https://saveaustinscemeteries.blogspot.com/p/not-so-benign-neglect.html Under Section 713.011, Texas Health and Safety Code, a municipality's responsibility to maintain a cemetery includes leveling or straightening markers or memorials. However, PARD has repeatedly denied it has any such a duty under state law, instead insisting that the duty and cost of maintaining gravestones and markers falls solely on the owner of the space and his or her heirs. This proposed rule required that the resetting, releveling, repairing, or cleaning of a memorial or other structure within a cemetery must be performed by a contractor approved by Cemetery Operations. Such work may be subject to an inspection fee and other fees as set forth in the fee schedule available from Cemetery Operations. So not only is PARD shirking its duty under state law and trying to pawn off the responsibility and expense of maintaining grave markers to the space holder or heirs, PARD is apparently looking at making extra income by charging fees to those performing what is the PARD's legal obligation. In other words, PARD's entire attitude toward maintaining grave markers is more equivalent to a protection racket than compassionately and carefully performing its duties under state law. If the public does not pay up, as far as PARD is concerned, the gravestones can crumble and tumble until Austin cemeteries look more like the setting for a Lovecraft story than the final resting place for loved ones.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback on the proposed cemetery rules. Your input is valuable to us and helps Cemetery Operations understand the thoughts, concerns, and questions most important to our stakeholders.</p>
	<p>The family monuments have always been considering private property. I should have the right to clean my family's tombstones. Also there are historical markers in Oakwood, i.e. Zilker, that should be cleaned with water to show the history of Austin. It is embarrassing to see these stones of old families who are no longer in Austin.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback on the proposed cemetery rules. Your input is valuable to us and helps Cemetery Operations understand the thoughts, concerns, and questions most important to our stakeholders. We have taken this into consideration in our updates.</p>

	<p>Families (owners) of the plot/monument have a right under Texas law to maintain the monument. If the family and/or a volunteer engaged by the family performs minor work - cleaning, etc., there is no need for "inspection" nor does the City have a right to inspect the work.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback on the proposed cemetery rules. Your input is valuable to us and helps Cemetery Operations understand the thoughts, concerns, and questions most important to our stakeholders. We have taken this into consideration in our updates.</p>
	<p>There is a lot wrong with this section. First and foremost, a requirement being made to utilize city approved contractors. There are multiple trades in our family as an example that can do maintenance (and have) and we are not approved city contractors. Working within the City of Austin with its layers of bureaucracy is the perfect example of why this section needs some serious work.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback on the proposed cemetery rules. We understand implementing these rules pose challenges and we are more than willing to discuss individual needs with the understanding that we must preserve the rights of all customers and provide overall safety. With the updated rules and a continuous open line of communication, we hope to be able to better serve our community.</p>
	<p>Owners / purchasers of memorials should be allowed to clean them at will (whenever they want) without first having to fill out a permission form after visiting their loved one, and then return to the cemetery to clean and maintain what they have already purchased and is further subject to the environment. What shortsightedness on your part.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback on the proposed cemetery rules. Your input is valuable to us and helps Cemetery Operations understand the thoughts, concerns, and questions most important to our stakeholders. We have taken this into consideration in our updates.</p>
	<p>Where can an owner find out which contractors are approved by Cemetery Operations?</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback on the proposed cemetery rules. We understand implementing these rules pose challenges and we are more than willing to discuss individual needs with the understanding that we must preserve the rights of all customers and provide overall safety. With the updated rules and a continuous open line of communication, we hope to be able to better serve our community.</p>
	<p>Also, I am assuming 'cleaning of a memorial refers to extensive cleaning such as using chemicals or power spraying of memorials? Otherwise, regular cleaning by the family is acceptable, correct?</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback on the proposed cemetery rules. Your input is valuable to us and helps Cemetery Operations understand the thoughts, concerns, and questions most important to our stakeholders. We have taken this into consideration in our updates.</p>
<p>14.4.9 Memorials</p>	<p>Re: (G) ---- hey City-- it would be courteous to the families of the deceased if you would at least inform them that their bench does not meet cemetery requirements, and verify communication with them 30 days prior to removing a bench that they probably paid thousands of dollars for to honor someone close to them who has died....</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback on the proposed cemetery rules. We understand implementing these rules pose challenges and we are more than willing to discuss individual needs with the understanding that we must preserve the rights of all customers and provide overall safety. These rules are intended to address those memorials and benches which were not approved by the City, while still allowing for cultural and religious expression. Memorial benches can be a meaningful way to honor a deceased loved one while offering a restful spot for people to sit. We have revised the proposed rules to accommodate existing benches with restrictions, as outlined in 14.4.9. With the updated rules and a continuous open line of communication, we hope to be able to better serve our community. The items will be flagged based on the "Out of Compliance" with an IMMEDIATE REMOVAL NOTICE or a 30-DAY NOTICE.</p>
	<p>I understand the need here, but would it hurt to at least contact the family members and explain the situation, rather than have them show up one day only to find this bench-- one that they sit on to remember someone dear to them-- has been removed with no prior warning?</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback on the proposed cemetery rules. These rules are intended to address those memorials and benches which were not approved by the City, while still allowing for cultural and religious expression. Memorial benches can be a meaningful way to honor a deceased loved one while offering a restful spot for people to sit. We have revised the proposed rules to accommodate existing benches with restrictions, as outlined in 14.4.9. With the updated rules and a continuous open line of communication, we hope to be able to better serve our community.</p>

	Come on; let's have some dignity and show compassion to our neighbors and fellow citizens, please...	Thank you for your feedback on the proposed cemetery rules. Your input is valuable to us and helps Cemeteries Operations understand the features, functional concerns, and questions that are most important to you. We carefully reviewed all feedback to determine how to best accommodate both current and new customers.
	Is it really necessary to remind City employees that their first duty is to serve the citizens who pay their salaries with kindness and compassion ?	Thank you for your feedback on the proposed cemetery rules. Your input is valuable to us and helps Cemeteries Operations understand the features, functional concerns, and questions that are most important to you. We carefully reviewed all feedback to determine how to best accommodate both current and new customers.
	These are ridiculous rules. Benches located on an owner's plot, adjacent to their deceased family member should be allowed.	Thank you for your feedback on the proposed cemetery rules. Your input is valuable to us and helps Cemeteries Operations understand the features, functional concerns, and questions that are most important to you. We carefully reviewed all feedback to determine how to best accommodate both current and new customers.
	Disagree with most of this provision. The Cemetery has a fiduciary responsibility to maintain a Memorial once installed. If a COA employee, equipment, contractor performing work in the cemetery causes damage to an existing memorial then it should not be the responsibility of the family to bear any cost to have the memorial made whole. Again gravel is not a medium that should be used for memorials in setting. Placing a memorial of any size on material that will shift is not a safe idea. The industry standard is either utilizing a pre made concrete base or setting the monument in a composition of sand and dry concrete.	Thank you for your feedback on the proposed cemetery rules. Your input is valuable to us and helps Cemetery Operations understand the thoughts, concerns, and questions most important to our stakeholders.
	Memorials for cremated remains with niches can be defined as a Bench that happens to be drilled to hold 2-4 sets or have compartments for Cremated remains. These type of memorial save space in a cemetery and should be encouraged rather than prohibited.	Thank you for your feedback on the proposed cemetery rules. Your input is valuable to us and helps Cemeteries Operations understand the features, functional concerns, and questions that are most important to you. We carefully reviewed all feedback to determine how to best accommodate both current and new customers.
	Much of this provision limits the family from designing a memorial suitable to properly memorialize their loved one. If you allow the proper memorialization on the actual memorial the family is less inclined to leave items around the grave that become projectiles when the grass is cut (though that is not often at any COA cemetery)	Thank you for your feedback on the proposed cemetery rules. Benches are more than welcome however, we require that they be placed at the head as a memorial. We understand implementing these rules pose challenges and we are more than willing to discuss individual needs with the understanding that we must preserve the rights of all customers and provide overall safety. With the updated rules and a continuous open line of communication, we hope to be able to better serve our community.
	I must say that there are many items that encroach into my mother and my son's gravesites. There have been benches, folding chairs, rock formations, hoses, gardening tools, plastic flowers and so much more that have been laying in and around our family plots. Many of them are not 'flushed, centered and aligned" with spaces around ours. I sometimes do not know where to place the folding chairs, benches, etc. and just toss them aside or place them next to the plots by ours. Honestly, it can look pretty junky. I am one of the few people that prefer a bit more uniform and presentable display of personal objects rather than the hodgepodge that is seen on many graves. (I apologize if this is offensive to families that like to place a lot of personal items on the gravesite of their loved one.)	Thank you for your feedback on the proposed cemetery rules. Your input is valuable to us and helps Cemetery Operations understand the features, functional concerns, and questions that are most important to you. We agree that people should be able to grieve in the manner of their choosing. The intent of rules in a public setting is to protect the rights of all customers while providing a safe and accessible environment.

	<p>Dimensional requirement shouldn't be part of these provisions except the say the must fit on the internment area. Any material that with stands decades of wear should be allowed since the technology has evolved. Prohibiting niches appears to violate others religious beliefsD (3), (6). I don't understand these dimensional limits when there are many taller - larger headstones and memorials at Oakwood.</p> <p>E (1)(c) I don't understand why you want the concrete to be above ground level by 1 or 2 inches. Is that in anticipation of it sinking that much?</p> <p>F Already exists all over Oakwood. Why are you limiting what generation-ally owned private propertyowners can do?</p> <p>G If you determine a bench is "unstable " Cemetery Operations needs to notify the property owner thatthey need to look at it and repair, replace, remove as necessary. Not at "sole discretion" of CemeteryOperations.</p> <p>*Note* - Sole discretion of Cemetery Operations is wording that should not be used anywhere there is involvement of generation-ally owned private property with owners loved ones in it.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback on the proposed cemetery rules. Your input is valuable to us and helps Cemeteries Operations understand the features, functional concerns, and questions that are most important to you. We carefully reviewed all feedback to determine how to best accommodate both current and new customers. "</p> <p>We understand implementing these rules pose challenges and we are more than willing to discuss individual needs with the understanding that we must preserve the rights of all customers and provide overall safety. With the updated rules and a continuous open line of communication, we hope to be able to better serve our community."</p> <p>The Items will be flagged based on the "Out of Compliance" with an IMMEDIATE REMOVAL NOTICE or a 30-DAY NOTICE.</p>
	<p>this should state all new memorials. I would guess if i did an open records request to inspect all memorial approvals you are not following this. I have proven that employees sign off on inspections that never happened, and when the city did the work for frost bank at the wormoth lot at Oakwood NO foundations were used when the city reset all of the monuments. no employee was called out on it and the city billed the bank as if the work was done properly. you need a statement that if an employee falsifys a report the city will proscute them for tampering with a government record and not just claim "we are doing the best we can" and sweep it all under the rug</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback on the proposed cemetery rules. Your input is valuable to us and helps Cemeteries Operations understand the features, functional concerns, and questions that are most important to you. We carefully reviewed all feedback to determine how to best accommodate both current and new customers.</p>
	<p>What is the purpose of (F)? I see those in just about every cemetery I've ever visited and see no reason they should be prohibited everywhere.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback on the proposed cemetery rules. Your input is valuable to us and helps Cemetery Operations understand the features, functional concerns, and questions that are most important to you. We agree that people should be able to grieve in the manner of their choosing. The intent of rules in a public setting is to protect the rights of all customers while providing a safe and accessible environment.</p>
	<p>I do not support these rules. One of the reasons provided for the unreasonable rules about monuments and memorials was mowing. (I really am opposed to disallowing a flat plaque (VA) at the head of a gravesite in addition to a family monument, or only allowing a bench if it serves as aheadstone, and disallowing plants and gravel - all practices currently in place that add to the beauty of the cemetery.) I don't see any mowing happening around my parents' gravesites (there's nothing to mow - only dirt, clover, weeds, and fire ant mounds). But if these kinds of rules are required in order to mow (I'm not convinced) please consider a ground cover around gravesites that doesn't require mowing</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback on the proposed cemetery rules. Your input is valuable to us and helps Cemetery Operations understand the thoughts, concerns, and questions most important to our stakeholders.</p>
	<p>14.4.9.(G): Please be clear as to your intent. Suggest you change the word "may" to "shall" or "will".Leaving things in the gray area really doesn't help anyone -- not even AMP.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback on the proposed cemetery rules. Your input is valuable to us and helps Cemeteries Operations understand the features, functional concerns, and questions that are most important to you. We carefully reviewed all feedback to determine how to best accommodate both current and new customers.</p>
	<p>14.4.9.(E).(1), these requirements are quite detailed, how do you plan to monitor and enforce? Will you be sending these requirements out to all the memorial providers? How else would they ever know?Definitely NOT from the purchaser who would never see this</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback on the proposed cemetery rules. Your input is valuable to us and helps Cemeteries Operations understand the features, functional concerns, and questions that are most important to you. We carefully reviewed all feedback to determine how to best accommodate both current and new customers.</p> <p>The Items will be flagged based on the "Out of Compliance" with an IMMEDIATE REMOVAL NOTICE or a 30-DAY NOTICE.</p>

	<p>Regarding 14.4.9.(D)(4): "Flush" is no longer flush?? Be ready to accept the responsibility for damages caused by lawnmower blades and other equipment, not to mention the potential danger to someone tripping on a marker that's sticking up above ground level.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback on the proposed cemetery rules. Your input is valuable to us and helps Cemetery Operations understand the thoughts, concerns, and questions most important to our stakeholders. We carefully reviewed all feedback to determine how to best accommodate both current and new customers. Due to the topography of our cemeteries, "Flush" is not always obtainable. Cemetery Operations believes a precautionary measure of 2" above ground allows for later adjustments to be made due to potential ground shifts.</p>
	<p>Regarding 14.4.9.(D)(3), does the 42" height meant to include or exclude the base?,</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback on the proposed cemetery rules. Your input is valuable to us and helps Cemetery Operations understand the thoughts, concerns, and questions most important to our stakeholders. The 42" height requirement includes the base and will be measured above ground level.</p>
	<p>Regarding 14.4.9.(C), stating that a companion or family memorial may be installed on two or more spaces, how many spaces can a family memorial span? Is a giant 5 or 6 space memorial allowable? Several of these statements are written very carelessly for which will be a troublemaker for AMP and the public.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback on the proposed cemetery rules. Your input is valuable to us and helps Cemeteries Operations understand the features, functional concerns, and questions that are most important to you. We carefully reviewed all feedback to determine how to best accommodate both current and new customers.</p> <p>14.4.9(C)One memorial may be installed at the head and one at the foot of a space; provided, however, that a monument bench may be installed only at the head of a space. Memorials installed at the head of a space shall be centered and aligned with adjacent memorials. Memorials installed at the foot of a space shall be flush, centered, and aligned with adjacent memorials. A companion or family memorial may be installed on two or more spaces.</p>
	<p>Section 14.4.9.1 states that "...memorials... shall be maintained at the owner's sole expense." Does this mean that when the Cemetery Operations exercises their right to level and straighten memorials, clear out dead plants and deteriorated plastic (as mentioned in other sections of these rules) will a bill be presented to the owner?</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback on the proposed cemetery rules. Your input is valuable to us and helps Cemeteries Operations understand the features, functional concerns, and questions that are most important to you. We carefully reviewed all feedback to determine how to best accommodate both current and new customers. 14.4.11 (A) In addition to routine cleaning and maintenance, Cemetery Operations may conduct cleanups of Sections and Lots after February 1, after August 1, and after November 1 (the "Scheduled Cleanups"). During Scheduled Cleanups, ornamentation and decorations may be removed and disposed of.</p>
	<p>B. Does this allow a memorial for two people to be placed half on one space and half on the adjoining space?</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback on the proposed cemetery rules. Your input is valuable to us and helps Cemeteries Operations understand the features, functional concerns, and questions that are most important to you. We carefully reviewed all feedback to determine how to best accommodate both current and new customers.</p> <p>14.4.9(C)One memorial may be installed at the head and one at the foot of a space; provided, however, that a monument bench may be installed only at the head of a space. Memorials installed at the head of a space shall be centered and aligned with adjacent memorials. Memorials installed at the foot of a space shall be flush, centered, and aligned with adjacent memorials. A companion or family memorial may be installed on two or more spaces.</p>
	<p>(D) (3) Why is the statement "except as provided in (7) below" necessary when stating a memorial height limit of 42 inches? (D) (7) imposes a height limit of 2 inches above ground level, which doesn't seem to conflict at all with the limit in (D) (3). What am I missing here?</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback on the proposed cemetery rules. Benches are more than welcome however, we require that they be placed at the head as a memorial. We understand implementing these rules pose challenges and we are more than willing to discuss individual needs with the understanding that we must preserve the rights of all customers and provide overall safety. With the updated rules and a continuous open line of communication, we hope to be able to better serve our community.</p>

		Thank you for your feedback on the proposed cemetery rules. Your input is valuable to us and helps Cemetery Operations understand the thoughts, concerns, and questions most important to our stakeholders.
	if the corner markers are 2" or less then the mowers can pass over them without damage to the mower or the corner markers	
14.4.10 Ornamentation and Decoration	you have not followed the rules of 1978 on this because you dont want the public back lash this section was a bif problem in the last round. look at any childs grave and you will find small toys and things left behind. Grief is , as you know a powerful emotion, and will defete this if you do not explaine why the rules and new news are important. its about the ability to saftly mow and maintan the property. a riding mower will discharge obsticals like toys , glass , rocks out of the machine at 400ft/second- they did a myth busters on this. its a time / budget and safety issue first and formost. I have documented mower strikes and damage from string trimmers for many years. if you ask the city for their compliance then you have to train your staff not to damage these memorilas, and take responsibility if they do. you can not have your cake and eat it to.	Thank you for your feedback on the proposed cemetery rules. Your input is valuable to us and helps Cemeteries Operations understand the features, functional concerns, and questions that are most important to you. We carefully reviewed all feedback to determine how to best accommodate both current and new customers.
	You should not dictate what a family member leaves (reasonably) for another on their memorial. If someone wants to leave a medal, or toy or coin etc.. The City SHOULD NOT TOUCH IT. You do not get to dictate how family's and individuals grieve. The City is new to this. My family has owned this for over 150 years.	We agree that people should be able to grieve in the manner of their choosing. The intent of rules in a public setting is to protect the rights of all customers while providing a safe and accessible environment. 14.4.10 (B)The permitted items listed in (A) above may be placed only at the head of a space or to the immediate left, right, or on a memorial.
	I think defining the extra items that can be left at a gravesite by visitors is needed. I've witnessed what appears to be a pile of undistinguished tokens of respect/memorials that have become an eyesore. It may be that the family members no longer visit and what was once attractive and meaningful is no longer that. The items disintegrate, become mowing hazards, are blown into other areas, and get stuckin trees. This reduces the possibility for a beautiful, peaceful and serene setting.	We agree that people should be able to grieve in the manner of their choosing. The intent of rules in a public setting is to protect the rights of all customers while providing a safe and accessible environment. 14.4.10 (B)The permitted items listed in (A) above may be placed only at the head of a space or to the immediate left, right, or on a memorial.
	I am glad we are finally getting these rules updated. I respect peoples ability to mourn family and friends but not at the expense of everyone else. We need to keep Austin Memorial Park as clean as possible. Putting decorations on trees or decorating on graves and leaving it there for someone to remove is disrespectful. If you want to provide decorations then you should be able to, however, you should also be required to remove them and not let them deteriorate and spill over to someone's grave. Keep it clean!!	We agree that people should be able to grieve in the manner of their choosing. The intent of rules in a public setting is to protect the rights of all customers while providing a safe and accessible environment.
	Wind chimes are beautiful. When my only child passed at the age of 25, the wind chimes as I walked daily to his grave reminded me I could still talk to him. However, my NEW chimes were taken down for no consideration.	Thank you for your feedback on the proposed cemetery rules. Benches are more than welcome however, we require that they be placed at the head as a memorial. We understand implementing these rules pose challenges and we are more than willing to discuss individual needs with the understanding that we must preserve the rights of all customers and provide overall safety. With the updated rules and a continuous open line of communication, we hope to be able to better serve our community.
	Trees that have been planted, rose bushes that have been planted, these should not be cut down. Why,what help is that?	We agree that people should be able to grieve in the manner of their choosing. The intent of rules in a public setting is to protect the rights of all customers while providing a safe and accessible environment. All trees that have been tagged and registered with PARD Forestry Division will remain; unless they become a safety issue.

	<p>These rules are for all cemeteries, not only the oldest. After strong storms, some ornaments and decorations (cloth) are tattered may be relocated throughout the property and staff needs to remove .</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback on the proposed cemetery rules. We understand implementing these rules pose challenges and we are more than willing to discuss individual needs with the understanding that we must preserve the rights of all customers and provide overall safety. With the updated rules and a continuous open line of communication, we hope to be able to better serve our community.</p>
	<p>The City should not have the right to remove any personal property that is left within one's own space. Why are you threatening to remove trees, shrubs and other plants? The tree planted in my families memory has now been registered with the Texas forestry service. The daffodils that come up every year are my mother's favorite flower and that rose bush provides a nice scent drifting past the wind chimes that we hung. Why are you DICTATING how we decorate our own property. The last I looked, we own the property, not the City of Austin.</p>	<p>We agree that people should be able to grieve in the manner of their choosing. The intent of rules in a public setting is to protect the rights of all customers while providing a safe and accessible environment. All trees that have been tagged and registered with PARD Forestry Division will remain; unless they become a safety issue. Spaces are granted for the rights of sepulture only.</p>
	<p>On a number of occasions, we have received Cemetery approval to plant trees and shrubs in easements and other boundary areas to beautify the area and for other religious purposes. Are you saying that that will no longer be allowed?</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback on the proposed cemetery rules. We understand implementing these rules pose challenges and we are more than willing to discuss individual needs with the understanding that we must preserve the rights of all customers and provide overall safety. With the updated rules and a continuous open line of communication, we hope to be able to better serve our community.</p>
	<p>What about wind chimes in adjacent trees? Toys? Beer cans? Crosses? Angel statues? Candles? I see many, many items placed in the cemetery. I like some of these items, but there are many that I personally don't like. I think the important issue is to have continuity of what is allowed and how unallowed items are disposed of. Since there are currently many items NOT allowed, how and when will they be removed?</p>	<p>We agree that people should be able to grieve in the manner of their choosing. The intent of rules in a public setting is to protect the rights of all customers while providing a safe and accessible environment. The Items will be flagged based on the "Out of Compliance" with an IMMEDIATE REMOVAL NOTICE or a 30-DAY NOTICE.</p>
	<p>This is a biggie: no more beer cans, stuffed animals, candles or photos of the deceased on graves. I approve of the ornamentation and decoration rules above. And while I appreciate the exuberant Mexican tradition of leaving things on the grave during the Day of the Dead, Austin is not Mexico. American cemeteries are park-like places for quiet reflection. And besides, leaving items on the grave got out of hand -- it became year round and messy. Some graves became heaped with stuff. In time, items became faded and sad looking. Our dead deserve a respectful repose.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback on the proposed cemetery rules. We agree that people should be able to grieve in the manner of their choosing. The intent of rules in a public setting is to protect the rights of all customers while providing a safe and accessible environment. The intent of the rules is to protect the rights of all customers while providing a safe and accessible environment.</p>
<p>14.4.11 Designated Cleanup Schedule</p>	<p>Now it sounds as if the city intends cleanups to occur <u>only</u> once a year (??) which, if accurate, help explain why they are so badly in need of basic maintenance.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback on the proposed cemetery rules. Your input is valuable to us and helps Cemetery Operations understand the thoughts, concerns, and questions most important to our stakeholders. Cemetery Operations provides year-round trash and litter cleanup. The cleanup dates mentioned in the rules follow major holidays.</p>

	<p>I suggest that a fall clean up is literally a wasted effort as soon as the trees lose their leaves and winterwinds blow everything about.... Surely it would be better to have an "annual" cleaning performed in__early spring__, (i.e.: a Spring Cleaning) so that the cemeteries are in their best condition in spring andsummer, which is when most people visit them, is it not ?</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback on the proposed cemetery rules. Your input is valuable to us and helps Cemetery Operations understand the thoughts, concerns, and questions most important to our stakeholders. We are working on implementing a Cemetery Operations volunteer program for many of these suggestions in addition to our work with Austin Parks Foundation and our participation in It's My Park Day twice a year. You can contact us via email at Programs_Conservation@austintexas.gov if you would like to learn more about our volunteer program.</p>
	<p>May I suggest you also post a notice online for those of us that are no longer local? Seems a simple request</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback on the proposed cemetery rules. Your input is valuable to us and helps Cemeteries Operations understand the features, functional concerns, and questions that are most important to you. Please visit our webpage at https://www.austintexas.gov/department/cemeteries</p>
	<p>Based on the previous section 14.4.10, will all Ornamentation and Decoration not falling into the fourallowed categories really be removed during designated cleanups? For the 20 years we have had a plot,many objects and items have been allowed to remain, such as pinwheels, chimes, yard sculptures,holiday decorations, ribbons, etc. I realize some of these items are very meaningful to families but my hope is that they will circle back around and check on the items to see if they have blown away, fallen over, etc.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback on the proposed cemetery rules. We agree that people should be able to grieve in the manner of their choosing. The intent of rules in a public setting is to protect the rights of all customers while providing a safe and accessible environment. The intent of the rules is to protect the rights of all customers while providing a safe and accessible environment.</p>
	<p>Cemetery Operations should send an email out detailing where, when, and what they are going to do.</p>	<p>Thank you for your feedback on the proposed cemetery rules. Your input is valuable to us and helps Cemeteries Operations understand the features, functional concerns, and questions that are most important to you. " Thank you for your feedback on the proposed cemetery rules. Your input is valuable to us and helps Cemetery Operations understand the thoughts, concerns, and questions most important to our stakeholders. 14.4.6(C) The owner, or their heir or assign, shall provide Cemetery Operations with their current contact information and the contact information of any person designated by the owner to receive communications. The owner shall update such information as necessary and Cemetery Operations is entitled to rely on the contact information on file in communicating with the owner." If you would like to be added to the Cemetery Operations email list please forward your information to cemeteries@austintexas.gov</p>