

Guidelines for Historic Oak Grove Cemetery c.1838

1500 Mansfield St. Brunswick, Georgia 31520

Oak Grove Cemetery Brunswick, Georgia is designated a local historic site under the protection of the Brunswick Historic Preservation Board (BHPB). Plot owners who wish to make changes and/or additions to their plot must contact BHPB at Old City Hall, 1229 Newcastle St. Brunswick, GA 31520 to apply for a Certificate of Appropriateness (C.O.A.). Said application shall include detailed information regarding the changes requested. It shall be in the discretion of the BHPB to approve or reject any or all of the changes request in accordance with the following guidelines:

Guidelines For Historic Oak Grove Cemetery

1. Historic material including but not limited to: bricks, monuments, markers, or artifacts may not be removed from any individual plot or Oak Grove Cemetery, unless private ownership has been established and approved by the BHPB .
2. Any new materials or elements proposed to be additions to an existing plot must be like-kind material to the materials and designs existing or can be proven to have existed by authenticated photographic documentation or authenticated written record.
3. Any proposed restoration, alteration, or repair to the fencing located on the perimeter of an existing plot must match the previous historic fencing in design, height and material. Where plot perimeter fencing is placed for the first time it shall be no taller than three feet in height from ground level, resemble and blend with the surrounding historic fencing. No additional material may be attached to fencing that does not correspond with the historic preservation guidelines, and/or has not been approved by the BHPB.
4. Proposed restoration, alteration, or repair of the coping surrounding and/or outlining graves, the perimeters of a plot, or the marking the corner of a plot shall match the existing coping in design and height using like-kind historic materials, bricks, or stone.

The addition of new coping surrounding and/or outlining graves, the perimeters of a plot, or the marking the corner of a plot shall replicate or resemble all existing historic coping and/or grave outlining in design, height and historic materials, brick, or stone.

5. The addition of a new monument, headstone, marker, statue, or other similar in nature artifact, shall be historically compatible with the established historic landscape and shall not intrude into the tree canopy. Placement of a new monument, headstone, marker, statue, or other similar in nature artifact, shall only be allowed so as to not damage or cause harm to any surrounding monument, headstone, marker, statue, or other similar in nature artifact, or tree. Items unacceptable for plots shall include, but are not limited to, the planting of trees, eternal flames, and/or permanent flagpoles. Any item intruding outside of plot boundary, or considered offensive or a nuisance may be removed by the city of Brunswick or its agent, provided first that thirty (30) days written notice is given

to the plot or item owner. When a new monument, artifact and/or material is added to the common area of Oak Grove Cemetery, the monument, artifact, and/or other material must first apply for and receive a C.O.A. from the BHPB recognizing the new addition or change as historically appropriate and contributing to the over-all historic nature of the site.

6. Debris burning, bonfires, lighted candles, torches, or open flames of any type are not allowed within in Cemetery limits, unless approved or authorized by the BHPB or the City of Brunswick Board of Commissioners.
7. Any proposed plant material, shrubs or flowers shall be allowed to private plots where private ownership has been established and approved by the BHPB. The proposed planting of new plant material shall not be invasive, interfere with, or cause damage to monuments, grave sites, or other artifacts and shall not exceed a mature height of two feet. Private plot owners and/or the proven descendant(s) of those interred at Oak Grove Cemetery may not add plant material beyond the boundaries of their plot. No digging activities are permitted at a depth greater than six inches for the purposes of adding plant material to a privately owned plot, all other digging an/or excavating activities are expressly forbidden. Soil may not be removed from the Cemetery, unless otherwise authorized under item no. 8.
8. Only the City of Brunswick or its designated agent, are authorized to conducted any excavation, digging, soil relocation, or other related activity in the areas of the Cemetery owned or governed by the City of Brunswick. Under no circumstance shall metal detecting be permitted anywhere within the Cemetery grounds.
9. Only the City of Brunswick or its designated agent, are authorized to conduct any tree removal, maintenance, or trimming within the Cemetery grounds. Provided however that when presented to the BHPB, minor alterations to trees or shrubs that may threaten private plots, and/or monuments, headstones, or other historic artifacts located therein, a C.O.A. may be issued to address the situation.
10. Plot owners and/or their proven descendant(s) shall be required to maintain any mausoleum, crypt, monument, headstone, marker, statue, or other similar in nature artifact, in accordance with the “Standards for Preservation and Restoration of Historic Properties “as specified by the Secretary of the Interior. For the purposes of the issuance of a C.O.A. damaged elements shall be repaired, rather than replaced where possible. If repair is not possible, replacement should match the original as closely as possible.
11. In the event a plot owner and/or their proven descendant(s) are unable to comply with the foregoing Guidelines it is strongly encouraged that they contact or enlist the help of the non-profit recognized by the City of Brunswick as a partner in the maintenance and general upkeep of Oak Grove Historic Cemetery. A copy of the resolution naming a non-profit to contact shall be available within the records of the BHPB and a copy is filed at the City of Brunswick Clerk’s office located on the 1st Floor of City Hall.

Definitions:

Historic Oak Grove Cemetery shall be defined and identified by the description and language provided for in Section 5-36 of the City of Brunswick Code of Ordinances.

Adopted:

Brunswick Historic Preservation Board: April 6, 2015

Approved:

Brunswick City Commission: June 17, 2015