12.44.170 Monument Placement. The Missoula City Cemetery does not assume any responsibility or liability for monuments placed by anyone other than the Missoula City Cemetery on the Missoula City Cemetery grounds. The Missoula City Cemetery does not assume any responsibility or liability for damage to monuments after they are placed on the Missoula City Cemetery grounds that is not caused by Missoula City Cemetery staff negligence. The Missoula City Cemetery does not assume any responsibility or liability for damage to monuments due to weathering, weather events, acts of god, general aging or deterioration over time, or for vandalism. Monuments are the property of the legal owner or legal heir(s) of each interment location.

A. Marker. At time of interment, one temporary grave marker must be placed onto the grave for identification purposes. This temporary marker must not be replaced by Missoula City Cemetery and the grave must be unmarked. This temporary marker consists of the decedent’s name, year of birth, and year of death. This temporary marker is not to be sold or given away but is designed for continued re-use and is the property of the Missoula City Cemetery.

B. Pre-Verification. Monument requests require a pre-verification process. Grave location is verified for stones, trees, or shrubs that might hinder placement of a new monument or replacement of an existing monument. Decedent information is verified with Missoula City Cemetery records, grave ownership, and interment assignments.

C. Variances. All variance requests must be submitted to the Missoula City Cemetery for approval. Variances must be in writing and include a drawing that shows the design of the monument, the monument layout on the foundation, and include all measurements for the monument and foundation.

D. Permit. All monuments require completion of a monument permit, payment of all fees, and must meet requirements listed in this chapter and Cemetery Board of Trustees policies prior to the initiation of any work. Permit information must match pre-verification information and Missoula City Cemetery records.

E. Installation. Missoula City Cemetery shall provide all concrete foundations which are included in the fee schedule as set forth in the Missoula City Cemetery fee listing approved by Missoula City Council. Foundations and monuments must be installed by Missoula City Cemetery staff. It is the responsibility of the company providing the monument to meet all Missoula City Cemetery guidelines and restrictions as detailed in this municipal code. Monuments that do not meet Missoula City Cemetery regulations or do not match pre-verification and permit information must not be installed.

F. Sketch. Missoula City Cemetery maintains standard guidelines for the size and placement of monuments upon graves. A required sketch must show the design of the monument, the monument layout on the foundation, and include all measurements for the monument and foundation. Any irregular monuments must have a sketch presented and approved by the Missoula City Cemetery Director or designated representative and may be reviewed by the Missoula City Cemetery Board of Trustees prior to any installation.

G. Benches. A bench may be used as a grave monument, however, park benches are not allowed. All bench requests must comply with monument guidelines and require pre-approval by the Missoula City Cemetery. A drawing is required that shows the bench design, the bench layout on the foundation, and must include all measurements for the bench and foundation.

24” by 50” foundation accommodates a 36” monument on a grave
24" by 96" foundation accommodates an 80" monument on a double grave

H. Restrictions. Missoula City Cemetery and the Missoula City Cemetery Board of Trustees at their sole discretion shall have authorization to review, approve, or reject any monuments placed or presented for placement on the Missoula City Cemetery grounds that do not meet the integrity of the Missoula City Cemetery.

1. All monuments are required to have a foundation with a measured allowance of 6" and 5" from the furthest protrusion as shown in the detailed drawing. Foundation size may not exceed 50" in length on a single grave or 96" in length on a double grave. Foundations are required to measure 24" in width. (See diagrams for dimension examples.)

2. Monuments, other than flush, must be no less than 6" or exceed 36" in height as measured from foundation to top of monument. However, the Missoula City Cemetery Director or designated representative and the Missoula City Cemetery Board of Trustees shall have authorization to review all monument design, composition, and size in accordance with the grave location to determine acceptability.

3. Any monument, effigy, inscription or structure determined to be offensive, improper, or injurious to the surrounding grounds must be corrected or removed.

4. Full and half size graves must accommodate a 36" upright monument for two people.

5. Sections of the Missoula City Cemetery grounds may be designated and reserved by the Missoula City Cemetery for the designation of specific types of monuments.

6. Monuments must be placed centered on the grave(s). The monument must be located on the grave of the decedent as named on the monument with the exception of memorials.

7. Memorial monuments are allowed on the grave(s); however,
   a. A memorial monument constitutes the usage of the grave(s) following interment limitations as reflected in Section 12.44.120.
   b. A memorial monument or inscription must include the words ‘In Memory Of’.
   c. A memorial inscribed on an existing monument must be placed on the back of the monument and must include the words ‘In Memory Of’.
   d. All memorials must be registered with the Missoula City Cemetery office.

8. Up to two monuments are permitted on a grave location. One monument must be placed in the 2’ headspace of the grave and centered upon the grave(s). A second monument is allowed as follows:
   a. When two interments are in the same grave, a second monument may be permitted to be placed directly in front of the first monument. The second monument must be flush with the ground and centered on the grave(s) or directly aligned with the original monument.
b. When using infant pillow marker monuments, two markers may be placed in the same foundation providing the border restrictions are met. (See diagrams for dimension examples.)

c. Military plaques must be installed flush with the ground, in a foundation, and centered upon the grave or military plaques may be affixed to the back of an upright monument on the grave.

d. Large family lot monuments require additional grave purchases for the sole purpose of placement for the over-sized monument. The monument must be centered on the grave(s). Designated section restrictions must apply dependent on the size of the monument.

9. All monuments are required to be sealed with a monument setting compound. This includes a monument directly onto a foundation or a monument to a hearth to a foundation. Additional requirements may be incorporated through the internal policies of the Missoula City Cemetery.

10. All inscriptions are required to be documented on an inscription permit stating name(s), date(s), and grave location(s) and must be registered with the Missoula City Cemetery.

11. Only granite monuments/rocks or military bronze plaques are allowed in Missoula City Cemetery.

12. Foundations must be cement or granite. No aggregate or dye foundations allowed.

I. Vases. Vase restrictions are enforced according to the restrictions listed in Section 12.44.150. Vases must be installed by a company with a Missoula City Business License, worker’s compensation insurance, and general liability insurance on file with Missoula City Development Services. (See Section 12.44.190) Vases are allowed as follows:

1. Open Sections. Permanently affixed onto hearths only.

2. Veterans Sections. Installed in foundations only.

3. Closed Sections. All new vases must be installed on a hearth. Existing vases in foundations are acceptable but alterations require the vases to comply with current standards.

J. No dig in monuments are allowed without a foundation. All monuments placed on a foundation must follow the restrictions above. The standard military issue for the Veteran’s section is pre-mounted bronze plaques on a granite base foundation.

K. Veteran’s Section. Only flush monuments allowed. Spouse’s monument must match the Veteran’s monument. Bronze plaques pre-mounted on a granite base foundation are allowed.