

Property Care and Maintenance

The largest expense of maintaining the grounds at the cemetery is labor and equipment maintenance costs. Because it is a cemetery with a garden setting, it is filled with many leaf bearing trees and shrubs that require constant attention not only from fallen or broken or dead limbs, but from lots and lots of leaf vacuuming, raking, and removal during the fall season. Then there is the grass mowing. The grass mowing is a difficult task because the placement of memorial markers can be upright or flat on the ground. There is no restriction to size and shape. And sometimes, mourners like to place personal items around the memorial marker. In many places, it is not wide enough between the memorial makers for the riding mower, so a smaller hand mower must be used along with a weed whacker. Then there is the long, long walkway running four city blocks that has to be cleaned of litter, weed whacked, and when it snows, it must be hand shoveled. Its uneven surface makes snowing blowing difficult. There are buildings on the property that have to be maintained consisting of a Gothic chapel, two gatehouses, and the carriage house where the equipment is stored. Moisture often gets in the stone of the chapel and each spring the walls around the windows have to be plastered and painted. There are ongoing repairs to the gatehouses and the carriage house, including roof repairs. And within a full cycle of seasons, often the ground, after heavy water saturation, may settle or shift causing memorial markers to lean. They have to be repositioned and/or built up and reset. Also there are occasional (at least twice a year) vandalism of mischievous children knocking over a few memorial markers. These have to be reset, which sometimes requires heavy equipment to lift the marker and set it back in place.

The garden cemetery employs two full time and one part time laborers to do all of this general and daily work. Outside contractors are employed for major jobs like the cutting of large dead trees, snowplowing of the roads, and major repairs like the chapel roof or repointing the stone. The workers are friendly and do a great job of keeping the property and grounds well maintained. In most cases, they know most of the daily walkers and even the pets' names if walking with a pet. They are conscientious and care deeply about their job and about the property. They even bring bird seed to feed the birds during the winter months.

Contributions given by friends and supporters of the cemetery, unless specified for other restricted purposes, are used in the general budget to pay for the daily operating expenses of labor and equipment, and building repairs and maintenance. Any donation to help defray this expense is always appreciated.

Charitable contributions for daily care and maintenance can be sent to the Charles Baber Cemetery Preservation Trust, 200 S. Second Street, Pottsville, PA, 17901. The Charles Baber Preservation Trust is a non-profit organization, and your contributions are charitable donations. Your name, address, phone no. and contributions are confidential and will not be given nor shared with anyone or any other organization.

Charles Baber Cemetery Preservation Trust Property Care and Maintenance Contribution Form

Name _____ Phone: _____

Address _____

Amount of contribution enclosed: _____

Comments: _____
