

INTERMENT OF CREMATED REMAINS AT TOWER HILL BOTANIC GARDEN



OVERVIEW

Though Tower Hill is a garden of great beauty and inspiring tranquility it is not, in the classic sense, a consecrated cemetery. Yet, since the garden first opened, members and friends have expressed their desire that Tower Hill be the final resting place of cremated remains (cremains) of family members and/or companion animals. The most oft requested preference has been to place the cremains in contact with the roots of trees or other plants. The belief—and reality—is the cremains contribute to the health of the soil and the added nutrients are in part absorbed by the plant, generating in a sense, a “living tribute” to the departed.

At Tower Hill, there are two common scenarios in choosing a site for interring cremains*:

1. Acquiring the commemorative rights to a tree, bench, or other object before and in preparation of future interment.* *
2. Acquiring the rights to a tree, bench, or other object following the death of a loved one.* *

POLICIES AND FEES

- The selection of the location for a tree, bench, or other commemorative item is always dependent on the Master Plan of Tower Hill Botanic Garden.
- The selection of plant species is most often decided by understanding the special history of the interred individual; his or her interests, life’s work and personality are considered. This also helps in choosing the location of the commemorative object, which is balanced by the unique needs of the garden. A plaque with the loved-one’s name and other appropriate information is provided.
- Usually, there is a ceremony to inter the cremains. The family and/or friends of the individual being interred may select a day and time that is mutually convenient to them and the garden representative participating in the ceremony. If desired, a room will be provided for a reception before or after the ceremony. Also, we can coordinate a lunch before or after the ceremony where a table(s) will be reserved in the dining room or in a private room. There’s a charge for food and refreshment, though the spaces are complimentary.
- Interring cremains with an existing or new commemorative tree requires a gift of \$5000. Interring cremains with a commemorative bench requires a gift of \$10,000. These fees insure the maintenance and care of the memorial into the future. Interring cremains with other more unique commemorative gifts are a subject for discussion with the Executive Director to plan an effective result.

* Preparation of cremated remains are subject to the laws of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Visit the Cremation Society of Massachusetts website www.csofma.com for additional information.

**All fees are incorporated into the general endowment of the Worcester County Horticultural Society, the managing entity of Tower Hill Botanic Garden. As a 501c3 nonprofit organization, donations to Tower Hill are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law. For more information, call the development office at 508 869-6111 x 114.

