

Peabody Historical Commission Guidelines to Cemetery Clean-Up and Preservation

**The Peabody Historical Commission should be notified by letter or email, that said party/person will be doing said work on any Historical Cemetery, all correspondence should include persons name, address and phone number - Mail to The Peabody Historical Commission
Peabody City Hall at 24 Lowell St Peabody MA 01960.**

Please note that the guidelines listed below are found on the Mass.Gov website and is 340 pages long. We have condensed a few points that you need to be aware of before starting any cemetery clean-up projects. We want to thank you for your help and understanding while trying to preserve our many historical cemeteries located in Peabody.

<https://www.mass.gov/files/documents/2018/01/16/preservation-guidelines-cemeteries.pdf>

<p>Safety should be your first concern in planning any clean -up of these older cemeteries. Please use caution in the cemetery and bring a first aid kit, also bring plenty of water and sunscreen.</p>	<p>Make sure everyone involved is capable of physical labor and familiar with dangerous tools. Be aware of insect bites, snakes, hidden depression in the ground, old barb wire fencing and other dangerous items.</p>
<p>A certain degree of Preparation and Planning is always necessary prior to starting your project. This is done through the preservation planning process which has three steps: <u>documentation, evaluation, and decision making.</u></p>	<p>It is best to research the techniques and tools you wish to use and develop a solid plan before stepping foot in the cemetery of choice.</p>
<p>Most cemeteries are located on private property. Please get property owners permission before starting any projects. Respect their land and their wishes.</p>	<p>Bring recycle or yard debris bags with you and leave no trash on their property. If you pass through closed gates, reclose the gates when you leave.</p>
<p>Take extra precaution around aging and fragile stones. Keep in mind that restoration does not mean restoring the cemetery to its original condition. Tilting headstones and fading inscriptions are part of the character achieved through time.</p>	<p>Do Not move broken gravestones, even if laying on the ground. Do Not Clean Any of the Grave Stones Do Not Use Wire Brushes on any of the stones. Leave the cleaning to professional conservators!</p>
<p>Clearing a cemetery is not like mowing a lawn, plan to work exclusively with hand tools until you are sure all the stones have been located and not moved.</p>	<p>No metal rakes around gravestones Do Not use lawnmowers or weedwhackers around the fragile stones.</p>
<p>Best Tools: Flagging tape for marking stone locations Garden tools Gloves Hand held grass clippers</p>	<p>Plastic rakes Bamboo tines Garbage and recycle bags No Power Equipment</p>
<p>Take photos before and after your project</p>	<p>Do record the date and cemetery location you are clearing. Send any photos and notes to the Historical Commission when work is completed.</p>
<p>Plan to make a follow up visit the next year to ensure that the clean-up was a success.</p>	