

This email was sent to local rose society members.

Short Sighted & Misguided Action to Preserve Sacramento City Cemetery.

If you haven't already done so, please read the Sacramento Bee article about the Historic Rose Garden at the Sacramento City Cemetery. Click on the link below to read.

<http://www.sacbee.com/news/local/article65582972.html>

Please contact city representatives to inform them of and let them know that the **GARDENS LOCATED AT THE CITY OF SACRAMENTO CEMETERY ARE HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT!**

Currently, the goal is to preserve the artifacts of a cemetery. While that is a lofty goal, it totally ignores the intention of this cemetery.

At the time the Sacramento city cemetery was established, it was a place for families to enjoy while they paid tribute to their departed. The families picnicked, gardened, and enjoyed nature. It was not just a place to bury the dead with a monument marking the spot. Cemeteries of that era were not devoid of plants and trees like our current day cemeteries—which are mostly grass. (As such they do not evoke the romanticism of the past.)

The cemetery as it currently exists should be considered a living museum that pays homage to the past. The public visits this cemetery often as evidenced by the popularity of the historic tours and other events held at the cemetery. (The existing historic rose garden was planted in 1992 – and is a collection of historic roses of the period that the cemetery was established and not necessarily historic to the cemetery.)

The city has requested that plants must be removed from gravesites so the gravestones can be seen from all directions. The rationale given for removing the plants---they trap moisture and disturb the graves; which contribute to the destruction of grave markers is ok as far as it goes. If you follow that logic, then all the plants including trees should be removed and ultimately the entire cemetery should be covered in order to maintain a controlled environment thus eliminating the impact of the weather. This of course will provide the best preservation, although impractical.

However, the spirit and humanity of the cemetery as envisioned by the founders and families of the deceased will be lost. The approach espoused by the City of Sacramento is sterile and not in keeping with historic preservation of a time and place. It only looks to preserve artifacts and not the reason for a cemetery as a garden and refuge for the living and a place of rest for the deceased.

Why destroy a historic garden that has won worldwide recognition? If there are specific stone monuments that should be saved wouldn't it be better to remove them to a "safe" place and replace with a copy. This is a common way to prevent further damage due to weather. This compromise would save the monuments and preserve the spirit of the cemetery.

Stop the destruction of a historic rose garden which is a lovely example of the Victorian cemetery, a place of peace for their departed. As a living museum, the City of Sacramento Cemetery with its gardens is a fitting tribute to the individuals who founded Sacramento.

Please help save this garden. Send emails and letters to:

Kevin Johnson - Mayor mayor@cityofsacramento.org

John Shirey, City Manager JFShirey@cityofsacramento.org

Steve Hansen, District 4 Council member shansen@cityof sacramento.org.

Their address is: 915 I Street, 5th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814