

CONCORDIA CEMETERY  
MISSION AND RULES OF OPERATION

Concordia Cemetery, founded around 1840, is the final resting place for many El Pasoans. The Texas Historic Commission designates Concordia as a Texas Historical Landmark. The County owns and manages a portion of the cemetery. The County administers its portion of the cemetery with the goal of encouraging, promoting and improving historical preservation and restoration of the cemetery.

The County, working with Concordia Heritage Association, the current 501 c 3 nonprofit group that cares for the cemetery, presents the history of the cemetery through education, cultural and historical programs and provides maintenance services for the property. The County welcomes such collaborations and invites any persons or groups with preservation ideas to contact the County.

The County adopts the following rules and policies to fulfill its responsibility to manage Concordia Cemetery in keeping with its historical landmark status.

- ◇ The County encourages the community to honor and respect this site as an historic landmark and a part of the story of this community.
- ◇ The County's standard for permitted uses recognizes both its historic landmark status and its use as an active cemetery where burials continue to take place.
- ◇ The County permits individuals or groups to conduct educational, cultural, or historic programs that promote the cemetery's historic value.
- ◇ The County manages access for these events in ways that protect the site and the general safety of individuals participating in the event.
- ◇ The County permits an individual, group, or organization to collect a fee for the education, cultural or historic program if the fee is for the program and not an entry fee into the cemetery.
- ◇ The County is responsible for disinterring or reinterring any remains in its portion of the cemetery.

The County establishes the following rules based on a need for family access and the protection of a landmark site:

1. Permitted Use

Concordia Cemetery, as a historic cemetery, is open to the public for interested persons or groups to honor those buried there, enjoy the rich cultural and historic sites and settings, and experience the history of our community.

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2. Hours of Operation

Concordia Cemetery has no lighting and is unimproved and in a natural condition. Its hours of operation during Standard Mountain Time hours are from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM seven days per week. Mountain Daylight Time hours of operation are from 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM seven days per week.

3. After Hours Admittance

El Paso County requires security for groups accessing the cemetery after hours. The current security company is Fidelis Protective Services, 3510 Lee Blvd., El Paso, Texas 79936 (855-2900). Fidelis Protective Services has a three (3) hour minimum charge. The hourly charge is \$20 per hour plus tax with payment (cash or check) prior to the tour. The application is available on-line at [www.elpasocounty.com](http://www.elpasocounty.com).

4. Additional Rules

The County

- a) Prohibits consumption of drugs or alcohol in the cemetery.
- b) Encourages visitors to remain on the paths to avoid damage and disrespect to consecrated ground.
- c) Prohibits the removal of artifacts, gravestones, landscaping materials and signage from the cemetery.
- d) Prohibits defacing any property in the cemetery.
- e) Prohibits littering on cemetery grounds.
- f) Prohibits remaining on cemetery property after operating hours.

5. Release of Liability

Any persons entering onto this property acknowledges that Concordia Cemetery has no lighting and is unimproved and in a natural state and assumes the risk of injury or death due to any cause and releases the County of El Paso, its officers, agents and employees from any and all liability.

Violation of any of these rules may result in expulsion from the cemetery and criminal prosecution.

*Adopted by Order of the El Paso County Commissioners Court on November 23, 2009.*