



City Manager's Office
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Fairview Mausoleum Frequently Asked Questions

What is the issue with the Mausoleum?

Expert opinions have determined that the Mausoleum has significantly deteriorated. It is no longer structurally sound, shielded from outside elements, sanitary, or safe. This poses significant health and safety risks to the public.

Who owns the Mausoleum?

The Mausoleum is owned by a private, for-profit entity called the Fairview Mausoleum Association, Inc. The Association has owned and operated the Mausoleum since approximately 1969. The City of Shawnee does not own the Mausoleum.

Why is the Mausoleum located in the City's cemetery?

The City-owned Fairview Cemetery is located on land that was conveyed to the City of Shawnee in 1897. Thirty years later, in 1927, the City deeded a portion of the cemetery to an entity as part of an agreement that stated this entity would build and operate a mausoleum on the site. Around 1969, the then-owners of the Mausoleum established the Fairview Mausoleum Association, Inc., which has owned and operated the Mausoleum for the past 54 years.

Is the Fairview Mausoleum open to the public?

No. The City of Shawnee was forced to restrict access to the Fairview Mausoleum to the public on December 15, 2023. This was done to protect the public against the severe health and safety risks posed by the deteriorated condition of the Mausoleum. The District Court of Pottawatomie County issued an Emergency Ex Parte Temporary Restraining Order on December 21, 2023, requiring the Fairview Mausoleum Association to close the Mausoleum to the public.

Can I go to the Mausoleum to visit a loved one?

No. The closure of the Mausoleum applies even if a person desires to visit a loved one at the Mausoleum.

What solution is the City of Shawnee pursuing for the Mausoleum?

The City of Shawnee has initiated a legal proceeding against the owner of the Mausoleum in the District Court of Pottawatomie County. The City requested the Court to declare that the Mausoleum is a public nuisance, order the nuisance to be abated, and to appoint the City of Shawnee as the commissioner and will be responsible for overseeing the abatement.

The City of Shawnee is currently considering various alternatives for the Mausoleum, which will require Court approval. The City of Shawnee will provide additional information as it becomes available through the continued legal proceeding.

How long will this process take?

The City of Shawnee does not currently have an estimated time on how long it will take to abate the nuisance at the Mausoleum. The City will provide notice to all interested parties as more information becomes available. It is likely that this process will continue for the foreseeable future.

What will happen to the remains at the Mausoleum?

The City of Shawnee has obtained opinions from various experts, stating that repair of the Mausoleum is likely not feasible. Therefore, the human remains at the Mausoleum may need to be relocated. The City of Shawnee is currently looking at various alternatives and professional services required to relocate those interred within the Mausoleum. At a minimum, relatives and heirs of the deceased within the Mausoleum will be provided with notice of the legal proceeding and will have an opportunity to choose the location for relocation of their loved ones. All actions taken will be under the supervision of the Court and with the input of the surviving family of those interred. The City of Shawnee will provide additional information as it becomes available upon further development of the legal proceeding.

If I own a crypt, can I use it?

No. In accordance with the Emergency Ex Parte Temporary Restraining Order issued by the District Court of Pottawatomie County on December 21, 2023, the Fairview Mausoleum Association is prohibited from interring further human remains at the Mausoleum.

Can I still purchase a lot in the Mausoleum?

No. In accordance with the Emergency Ex Parte Temporary Restraining Order issued by the District Court of Pottawatomie County on December 21, 2023, the Fairview Mausoleum Association is prohibited from selling, transferring, or conveying further lots within the Mausoleum.

Who can I contact for further questions?

The last known address of the Fairview Mausoleum Association, Inc. is invalid. As part of the legal proceedings, the City of Shawnee will take action to obtain the Association's contact information. If you have a material interest in the Mausoleum, please send your contact information to mausoleum@shawneeok.org, so the City may contact you when new information is available.

THE CITY WILL PROVIDE ADDITIONAL INFORMATION WHEN AVAILABLE.