

VOLUNTEERING IN DEERFIELD CEMETERIES

Read and download/print [A Guide to the Preservation of Burial Grounds in New Hampshire](#). Visit www.nhoga.org or scan this QR Code.

This is the most important step, so please do not proceed until you have read this short but very valuable guide.



Pick a cemetery and determine whether it is **TOWN OWNED** or **PRIVATE**. Of the 100+ cemeteries in Deerfield, 28 of them are owned by the town. The rest are on private property, and it is best to ask permission before entering.

If you need help, contact the Cemetery Trustees by email at: cemeteries@townofdeerfieldnh.com. This QR code will bring you to the Cemetery Trustee page on the Town of Deerfield website (www.townofdeerfieldnh.com).



GENERAL CEMETERY MAINTENANCE

- ▶ Rake and remove leaves, pick up and remove garbage, sticks, and other debris.
- ▶ Straighten flags on or near the graves of veterans.
- ▶ Dispose of any stray/broken plastic decorations.
- ▶ Touch base with the Trustees to let them know you have helped! Photos are always appreciated.

NOTE: Leaf blowers are allowed. Tractors, mowers, and other heavy equipment are NOT allowed.

Never plant or pull anything without permission from the Trustees.

CLEANING MONUMENTS

- ▶ You must get permission from the cemetery trustees before cleaning headstones or monuments.
- ▶ Always try the gentlest method first. A soft brush and some water will often do the job.
- ▶ Never use high pressure washers or sand blasters.
- ▶ Never use metal tools or wire brushes.
- ▶ A toothbrush and a popsicle stick can help safely clean crevices.
- ▶ Given advance notice, we can provide you with the approved cleaning solution.

OTHER WAYS TO HELP:

Visit a Deerfield cemetery and contribute or transcribe photos on [Find-a-Grave](#) or [Billion Graves](#) online.

Identify plants. We would love to know what is growing in our graveyards! Cemeteries often hold rare specimens that have gone undisturbed for centuries because of their location. Take some photos and send your findings to the Trustees.

Report vandalism or other damage to the Trustees.

Support your cemetery trustees at the ballot box. Because Deerfield has not passed a budget in nearly a decade, our cemeteries are suffering. Warrant articles provide funding for general maintenance and specific projects (like the columbarium at Old Center Cemetery on Meetinghouse Hill Road). Your YES vote on these important warrant articles would be a big help!

RESOURCES:

The [New Hampshire Old Graveyard Association](#) website is a treasure trove of information. www.nhoga.com

The [New Hampshire Department of Historic Resources](#) believes that the historical, archaeological, architectural, and cultural resources of NH are among its most important

environmental assets. They promote the preservation, use, understanding and conservation of such resources for the education, inspiration, pleasure, and enrichment of New Hampshire's citizens. www.state.nh.us/nhdhr

The [Philbrick-James Library](#) has a collection of local cemetery information in their reference area. It is available for viewing during library hours, but cannot be removed from the library.