



Mackinac Island State Park Commission
Policy

Cemeteries

Minutes: October 10, 1975, p. 1553
 July 5, 1991, p. 2647
 September 26, 2025, p.

Preamble:

The Fort Mackinac Post Cemetery was the lone burial ground on Garrison Road until the 1850's. Two Mackinac Island cemeteries were established on military reservation land under the jurisdiction of the War Department in the early 1850's, and are known as the "Catholic" and "Protestant" cemeteries. The three cemeteries along Garrison Road came under the jurisdiction of the Park Commission with the government land transfer in 1895.

In accordance with Act 451, P.A. 1994, Sec. 76504 (4): The commission may grant permits for use of lands for the expansion of existing cemeteries, under terms and conditions as the commission prescribes.

On April 29, 1961 the Commission granted a use permit for use of additional land for cemetery purposes to the Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Marquette. In 1974 the Commission granted use of additional land for the Protestant Cemetery.

Under Public Law 101-237, Sec. 505, the Fort Mackinac Post Cemetery was designated in 1991 as a part of the National Cemetery System, and made eligible for an annual maintenance agreement through the Department of Veterans Affairs.

General Policy

Assistant Attorney General Maslowski [advised] that, in the absence of rules and regulations promulgated by this Commission, the City of Mackinac Island has the authority "to pass ordinances deemed necessary for the preservation and protection of cemeteries within the city belonging to or under the control of any church, religious society, corporations, etc." (Minutes, October 10, 1975, p. 1553).

The City of Mackinac Island Council enacted ordinance No. 323, effective December 12, 1994 which provides for the appointment of the cemetery board and care, management and preservation of cemeteries.