



historic

**LINDEN
GROVE**

*cemetery &
arboretum*

**AN INITIATIVE OF
HISTORIC LINDEN GROVE
CEMETERY & ARBORETUM**

adopt-a-plot

ABOUT THIS DOCUMENT

This document includes all the specifics related to Historic Linden Grove Cemetery & Arboretum's Adopt-A-Plot program.

By the end of the document, you will:

- + discover fun and interesting things you can do as part of the program
- + understand how much Historic Linden Grove appreciates your involvement
- + find ways to help build the history of our community
- + have all your questions answered

QUESTIONS

Cole Imperi serves as the President of the Board of Overseers of Historic Linden Grove Cemetery & Arboretum and is spearheading this program. If you have any questions or concerns, ideas or suggestions, please send her an email at historiclindengrove@gmail.com.

ABOUT ADOPT-A-PLOT

We hope that through the 'adoption' of historic individuals, we'll accomplish a few things:

1. People will learn more about Historic Linden Grove and about Covington & Cincinnati's local history
2. People will engage in new events and activities
3. We'll steward a sense of honor and respect for our local history
4. We'll increase our knowledge about these individuals
5. We'll gain a group of caring individuals who become more educated about the cemetery and who want to see our history preserved, community more deeply connected and grow a beautiful green space

Please note, the Adopt-A-Plot program is an exercise in civic engagement, history preservation, philanthropic support and community development. It's not meant to be disrespectful to the deceased—rather, this is a way to honor those who came before us.

Only individuals who have been deceased for more than 100 years are eligible for the program. Individuals are selected by the Kenton County Library.

ABOUT HISTORIC LINDEN GROVE CEMETERY & ARBORETUM

Historic Linden Grove was established in 1843. It is 22.3 acres in size and we have more than 22,000 interments.

Over the succeeding decades, the Cemetery continually fell into disrepair and neglect. The situation degenerated to the point that in 1948, the Kenton County Circuit Court ordered the Cemetery property placed into receivership. Until 1998, a series of Trustees, appointed by the Court, was responsible for care, maintenance, and financial management of the Cemetery. Unfortunately, this system proved insufficient to the task of properly maintaining the Cemetery and a new management approach was required. An Inter-Local Agreement for the care and maintenance of Linden Grove Cemetery was executed in 1998 between the City of Covington and the Kenton County Fiscal Court. The Inter-Local Agreement established a Board of Overseers to manage and operate the Cemetery.

Today, Historic Linden Grove is run by a board of overseers appointed by the City of Covington, KY and Kenton County, KY. Both entities fund operations of the cemetery.

Historic Linden Grove achieved official Arboretum status in January of 2017. We are dedicated to becoming more of a 'restful park-like space' rather than just a cemetery. Historic Linden Grove's location is within walking distance to most of the urban core in Covington and surrounding neighborhoods. With new residential developments coming in to adjacent neighborhoods, we anticipate increased usage of our grounds. We feel it's important to provide a variety of volunteer and engagement opportunities to the community to keep our grounds safe and verdant.

*Open 9am to 5pm 365 days/year
historiclindengrove.com*

OUR CONTACT INFORMATION

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General:
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Superintendent: Rick Ludlum

Hours:
7 days a week, 365 days a year
9am-5pm

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HOW THE PROGRAM WORKS

- The pilot adoption period is open from April 1, 2021 until all individuals are adopted.
- Adoptions can be made completely on our website at www.historiclindengrove.org. Information about available adoptees is provided on the site.
- At our annual meeting, held in the autumn, we'll ask for volunteers from the program to share what they learned and their experience. We'll also honor program participants at this event and all program participants are invited.
- In the autumn, a new round of adoptees (containing some of the same individuals from our pilot launch) will be listed on the website and will be available for adoption.
- The pilot adoption period expires at our annual meeting in September unless otherwise extended.
- The adoption fee (AKA your donation) goes towards our general fund which we use to cover things like grounds maintenance and repair work.

THINGS YOU CAN DO

What can you do after you Adopt-A-Plot?

It's up to you, and you can do as little or as much as you like.

- The Kenton County Library is aware of this program and has a ton of resources for you to uncover information about your adoptee. Contact their genealogy department at www.kentonlibrary.org
- Provide us with any information you uncover and we'll add it to your adoptees profile listing on the Linden Grove website and share that information with the library. Written information should be submitted via email as an attached document or text within an email so it can easily be added to existing records.
- Visit your adoptee on their birthday.
- Visit the cemetery for a walk, run or to read a book.
- Share a photo of your adoptees headstone to social media and use the hashtag #lindenlives
- Learn about your adoptee's headstone. Imagery used on many headstones was usually symbolic of things that were important to them in their lives, or reflective of their personalities.
- Share about your participation in the program online—the more people that know about Historic Linden Grove the better!

WHO IS THIS FOR?

This program is for anyone no matter what draws you to it. Some folks will love knowing they are supporting a large, urban greenspace open 365 days a year. Others will get most excited about contributing their research skills. The reasons are endless and no matter what they may be, we appreciate your support.

Classrooms, Groups and Organizations:

Researching one of the individuals in our program teaches students how to use the library, provides an educational opportunity about cemeteries (and etiquette while on the grounds), an inexpensive field trip visit to bring their studies to life, and creates an appreciation for our local history. Researching someone at our cemetery reinforces that your actions live on and provides a real-life example of what that means—in our technologically-advanced world where children are connected online, a deeper understanding of our local history helps support character development.

Groups and Organizations: Is your company or group looking for a way to support the local community? This program provides an accessible opportunity for your entire team. Our goal is to see more thoughtful engagement with our cemetery. We would love to see local organizations lend their many hands to the Adopt-A-Plot project.

Families: Imagine taking your family for evening walks through the grounds over the warmer months where you can learn about trees and flowers and enjoy some quiet and a wonderful view of downtown Cincinnati. Maybe you take your children to visit your adoptee at the cemetery on their birthday and enjoy a picnic lunch. Perhaps you accompany your children to the library to learn how to research someone. Or maybe you grab some quiet time while you take the dog for a long walk, stopping by to 'visit' your adoptee while on that walk.

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GREENSPACE SUPPORTERS: In an urban area, expansive green space can be hard to come by. With Linden Grove being within walking distance for thousands of residents, it can be a welcome respite. Especially in the summer months. Adopting a plot supports access to clean green space for residents. Remember that lawns are 30 degrees cooler in the summer than asphalt, and the shade of our large trees and breeze floating across our grounds is a welcome respite. Supporting this program supports access for all.

YOUNG PHILANTHROPISTS: How do you become a philanthropist? By starting small. Many young professionals include philanthropy in their life long goals, and supporting a historic cemetery and arboretum might be a great fit. Our Adopt-A-Plot program provides an opportunity to support our publicly accessible space and gain a deeper connection to our history and community.

ACTIVE INDIVIDUALS: Whether you are already involved in your local community (or perhaps you would like to become more active and involved), this is a great opportunity for you. Looking for a quiet, peaceful place to go for a jog or a walk? Need a nearby place to tuck away to read a book? Looking for a place to eat your lunch on your lunchbreak? Looking to find new things to do that don't center around eating and drinking? Adopting-A-Plot might be the doorway you've been seeking.

ARTISTS: Many plein-air painters and sketch artists dot our grounds during the warmer months. With our diverse specimen collection, there is plenty of inspiration.

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HASHTAG + SOCIAL MEDIA

We encourage all visitors to use our hashtag:
#LindenLives

If you visit the grounds and share a photo—*use our hashtag!*

If you're at the library researching your adoptee and you post a photo of your process—*use our hashtag!*

The more you share about our cemetery, the better. Spread the word!

Our Instagram account: @historiclindengrove

Our Facebook page: @historiclindengrove

Please connect with us online!

ANNUAL EVENT

Each autumn (usually in September or October) our cemetery hosts its annual event. We invite folks from the City of Covington, Kenton County, local organizations, our volunteers and a number of other people. At this event, we talk about the previous year's projects, update our goals and thank our volunteers.

We'll have special Adopt-A-Plot honors this year for program supporters and participants.

The event is usually on a weekday in the late afternoon and early evening. It has been held on our grounds in years past.

CEMETERY ETIQUETTE

In the Victorian era, city cemeteries were often just as much a park space as a cemetery space. Today, we're seeing a return to our roots, so to speak.

Many cities are starting to view public cemetery space as a part of their park system rather than a completely separate entity.

At Historic Linden Grove, we see a lot of people come in for walks or to eat their lunch. Think of the cemetery space as a restful park-like space rather than a traditional park. Our grounds are not the place for football games, loud music or (heaven forbid) using headstones as part of your workout routine.

Great activities to engage in are walks, runs, walking the dog (please pick up the poop and dispose of it in one of trash receptacles), reading a book, drawing/painting, meditating, yoga, enjoying a packed lunch or attending one of our events.

You may also consider stopping by a local business and grabbing a coffee or fresh tacos or even fresh hot sausages with veggies and enjoying them in the cemetery.

Pick up trash: your own trash and if you see any on the grounds, please help us out and throw it away. Trash cans are throughout the grounds.

Be gentle with old headstones....many are very old. Once they are damaged, they are damaged.

Don't be afraid to visit our grounds, it is a peaceful and vibrant place.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

GARDENING

On Mondays, a group of Master Gardeners and volunteers meet to spend time on our trees, shrubs and flowers. Whether you are a gardening pro or you want to learn, please just drop in—we'll put you to work!

EVENTS

A number of events are held at the cemetery each year from Shakespeare theatre to yoga. We always need folks to help. Sometimes with things like setup or cleanup, but also just to have someone attend who is knowledgeable about the cemetery.

SOCIAL MEDIA + MARKETING

If you have skills with social media, marketing and/or websites (particularly Squarespace) then we could use your help! We have these efforts broken out into tasks so you can be sure it won't overtake too much of your time.

IDEAS?

Do you have an idea for how you can help? Just let us know.

THANK YOU!

Thank you for supporting Historic Linden Grove Cemetery & Arboretum. We hope your participation in the Adopt-A-Plot program brings you new experiences and ideas and connects you more deeply to our history and our community.