

Scattering of Ashes in Public Open Spaces Guidance

Parks

4 November 2019

London Borough of Richmond upon Thames

Parks Service

Scattering of Ashes in Public Open Spaces Guidance

Often family members wish to scatter the ashes of loved ones in a Park or Open Space because it was a place they loved or had spent time together in. In order to ensure this is done appropriately, the following guidance is in place for those considering scattering ashes in one of Richmond Council managed Parks or Open Spaces.

Ashes contain large concentrations of certain minerals which can adversely affect the soil and therefore the plants that grow in the soil and the wildlife that relies on the plants for food and shelter. We will therefore ask you to consider carefully the location before scattering.

Legally, anyone wishing to scatter ashes must get the landowners permission in advance. In this case, blanket permission is given subject to the conditions below, **except on sites managed primarily for nature conservation (a list of which can be found here:**

http://www.richmond.gov.uk/home/services/parks_and_open_spaces/parks_improvements_and_conservation/nature_conservation.htm) where express permission must be granted by emailing parks@richmondandwandsworth.gov.uk

Permission is granted as long as the following conditions are met:-

- 1) The person responsible for scattering the ashes has confirmed the ownership of the land and ensured that permission is in place to scatter.
- 2) Ashes are scattered in a location agreed in advance by the Parks Service Manager; at a prearranged time, day and date in consultation with the next of kin or executor. (There is a statutory duty to keep records of ashes that are scattered within Richmond's Parks and Open Spaces.)
- 3) The act of scattering the ashes is done discreetly with no interference with others enjoyment of a park or open space. We would also not expect that visitors to the Park or Open Space could see any visual presence of ashes.
- 4) A maximum of 10 people are present, and no formal service is held.
- 5) Those people scattering ashes must note the direction of wind and proximity of other park users to ensure no disturbance to other people.
- 6) Ashes should not be scattered in one solid mass on the ground but must be scattered evenly over a wider area.
- 7) No temporary or permanent memorials will be allowed on the site where ashes have been scattered. This includes leaving floral tributes or similar.
- 8) Richmond upon Thames Council reserves the right to remove any memorials placed without express permission.
- 9) Richmond upon Thames Council reserves the right to re-landscape any area of parks and open spaces land in the future.
- 10) Burial/ Interment of Ashes is not permitted.

N.B

- This guidance also applies to the scattering of pet ashes.
- There might be times when access to any park or green space is restricted, so this is to be considered when choosing a site to scatter ashes.
- The Royal Parks in the borough are not included in this and their policy does not allow ashes to be scattered. More information can be found here:
https://www.royalparks.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0019/41806/ashes_in_the_parks.pdf

Record where you scattered your ashes

Making a record and keeping it with family certificates may be a good idea. This is something that can be kept for future generations. Something like the template below you might like to consider.

Name:

Date:

Time:

Location:

Why was this location chosen?