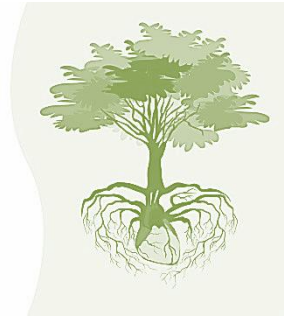


Scattering Ashes Policy



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Introduction

Leicester City Council's Parks Services has now introduced a policy into the scattering of human ashes within the River Soar and council owned parks and green spaces of Leicester. This is to ensure that the issue is managed for the mutual benefit of all users.

It is intended that this policy will cover the broad common issues, the content of this policy will be revised as necessary to meet changing circumstances and trends. The policy will be reviewed annually.

Objectives of the policy

The council is seeking to ensure that it is adopting a clear, measurable and sympathetic approach to the management of its facilities, which will take account of the sometimes contrasting needs of a variety of park users.

Any complaints relating to the implementation of the policy will be dealt with through the council's corporate complaints procedure.

General

- 1) All applications to scatter ashes in parks & green space should be completed on the official service request form and be signed by the applicant. Only applications from the next of kin or executor will be considered.
- 2) No memorials will be allowed on the site where ashes have been scattered, unless prior agreement has been given by the council and the next of kin or executor has purchased a bench, tree or shrub to be placed.
- 3) The council reserves the right to remove any memorials placed without the agreement of the council.
- 4) The council has also considered the issue of scattering pet ashes. This will also need the official service request form to be filled in by the pet owner.

Scattering of ashes on parks and green spaces

- 1) Ashes shall only be scattered in a location agreed in advance by the Parks Manager or his authorised officer, at a predetermined time, day and date in consultation with the next of kin or executor.
- 2) No flowers or similar memorials shall be permitted to mark the occasion on the site at any time.
- 3) The ashes are not allowed to be scattered in one solid mass on the ground and must be scattered evenly.
- 4) There could be times when access to any park or green space may be restricted so please bear this in mind when choosing a park or green spaces to scatter your loved one's ashes.

- 5) Leicester City Council reserves the right to develop on park and green spaces land in the future.
- 6) Care should be taken when scattering ashes, be aware of the direction of wind and proximity of family members and other park users.
- 7) Scattering of ashes is available Monday to Friday from 8am to 11am. A council officer will also attend and give advice if needed.
- 8) From the 01 January 2017 the fee for this service is £50. We will invoice you after the event direct to the address given on application.

Scattering of ashes on water

- 1) The Environment Agency asks that when scattering ashes in waterways that items such as coconuts, fruit, photographs and items in plastic bags are not thrown into the water, ie. only biodegradable items are placed in the water. Listed below are 3 key points from the Environment Agency.
 - a. The site you choose should not be near any buildings, people bathing or fishing.
 - b. Your site should be more than 1km upstream of any abstraction of water. You can check this by phoning your local Environment Agency office.
 - c. Ashes should be spread as close to the surface of the water as possible and you should avoid windy days so that ashes do not affect people living or working nearby.
- 2) After taking advice from the Environment Agency the City Council has identified an ideal site for the scattering of ashes into the River Soar upstream from a weir which allows the dispersal of ashes. It has good even access and a platform allowing easy access onto the water. The site is accessible from the towpath next to the Space Centre, (access from Wallingford Road, off Corporation Road) see attached plan. This is an open access location which can be used free of charge taking into account item 1 above without the requirement of booking, however if an Officer is required to support the scattering process this can be arranged as per the service request form and a fee will be charged.
- 3) Local Environment Agency office:

Trentside Offices
Scarrington Road
West Bridgford
Nottingham, NG2 5FA

Telephone 0370 8506506

Scattering of Ashes – Service Request Form

Name & address of person requesting service
(Only next of kin or executor may request this service)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

Postcode: _____

Tel: _____

Mobile: _____

Name of deceased: _____

Relationship to the deceased: _____

Park or green space requested for the scattering: _____

Date & time requested for scattering: _____

I have read and understood the scattering ashes policy provided by Leicester City Council.

Signed

Date

Please return form to Park House, Abbey Park, Abbey Park Road,
Leicester LE4 5AQ or parks@leicester.gov.uk



Leicester
City Council

Office use only

Approval granted YES/NO

Date _____

Approval signature: _____ Invoice Sent date: _____

Record where you scattered your ashes

Keep a record for future generations.

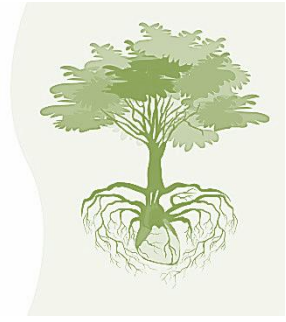
When you are doing something as symbolic as scattering a loved one's ashes, you think you will always remember the exact details, however, as this is often done in a time of extreme emotional stress, the details, and the memories can often become blurred. Keeping a record and putting it with your family certificates may be a good idea.

Things to record:

- **Where** – Be detailed, so for example, Knighton Park near the sensory garden.
- **What time of day** – When did you conduct your scattering eg. dawn, midday, sunset. If you're choosing a popular spot then sunset or sunrise will be less busy.
- **When** – The date – Any particular reason why you have chosen this date? A birthday or anniversary?
- **Why** – Why you've chosen to scatter there, Stories will be passed down through generations to come. So leave no one guessing why.
- **Who** – Who was there at this special occasion.
- **Details/Readings** – did everyone sprinkle some ashes? Did anyone say a few words? If so attach it to your record sheet.

Leicester City Council has attached a sheet to help you with this or you may want to design your own.

Scattering Ashes



Name:

Date:

Location:

Time of Day:

Why the location was chosen:

Who was present?

Notes:

- Music
- Readings

Planning your Service

Sometimes it's hard to know what to say on the day of scattering so we have included a couple of poems to give you a few ideas. It's good to have a think about words & readings to be said and then record them on your form so you will always remember what was said and be able to pass this information on to future generations.

Poems

She is gone

By David Harkins

*You can shed tears that she is gone
or you can smile because she has lived.*

*You can close your eyes and pray that she'll come back
or you can open your eyes and see all she's left.*

*Your heart can be empty because you can't see her
or you can be full of the love you shared.*

*You can turn your back on tomorrow and live yesterday
or you can be happy for tomorrow because of yesterday.*

*You can remember her and only that she's gone
or you can cherish her memory and let it live on.*

*You can cry and close your mind, be empty and turn your back
or you can do what she'd want: smile, open your eyes, love and go on.*

Miss Me But Let Me Go

*When I come to the end of the road,
and the sun has set for me
I want no rites in a gloom-filled room,
why cry for a soul set free?*

*Miss me a little but not too long
and not with your head bowed low.
Remember the love that we once shared
miss me but let me go.*

*For this is a journey that we all must take
and each must go alone
It's all a part of the Master's plan
a step on the road to home.*

*When you are lonely and sick at heart,
Go to the friends we know,
And bury your sorrow in doing good deeds,
Miss me, but let me go.*