



Hillside Cemetery

over 130
Years
of tradition & service

Hillside Cemetery

our History

The original Hillside Cemetery is located in Kin Coulee Park and was an eight-acre site incorporated by the Church of England in 1892.

In 1945, the site was turned over to the City of Medicine Hat, with the last interment taking place in 1947.

This location is no longer active and is maintained as a green space by the Parks and Recreation department.

St. John's Presbyterian Church in Medicine Hat owned a 40-acre parcel of land, and during 1908 to 1909, the Church released 20 of those acres to the City of Medicine Hat. In April 1914, they released the remaining 20 acres.

This was to become Hillside Cemetery as we know it today, located at the intersection of Gershaw Drive and 10 Avenue SW.

The first burial at the 10 Avenue site was of Cecil Hargrave on November 7, 1886.



INTERMENT OPTIONS

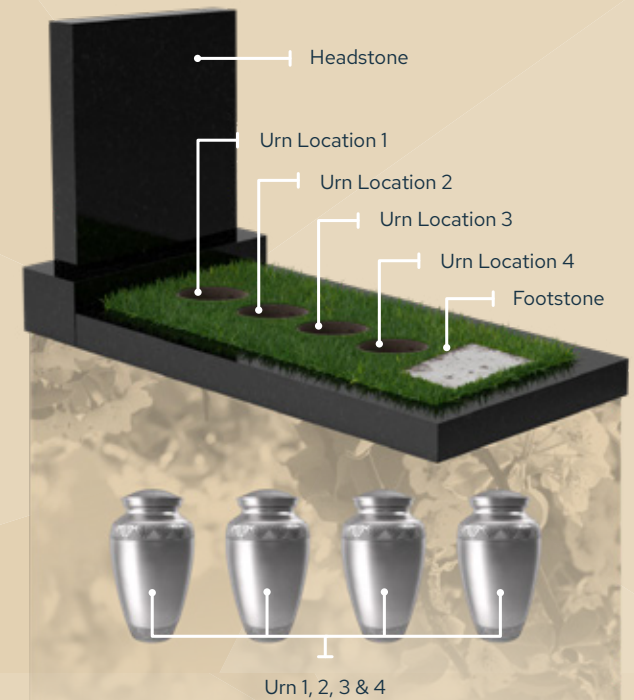
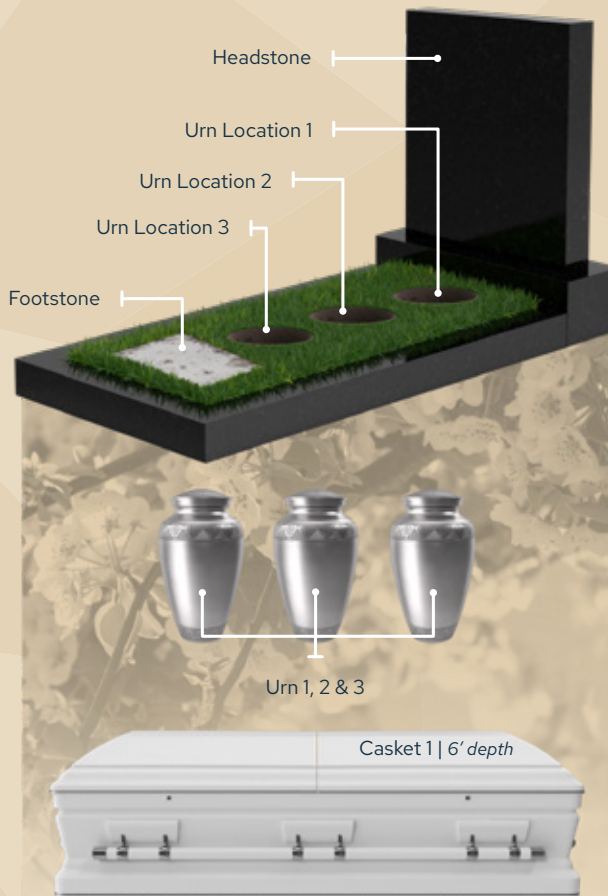
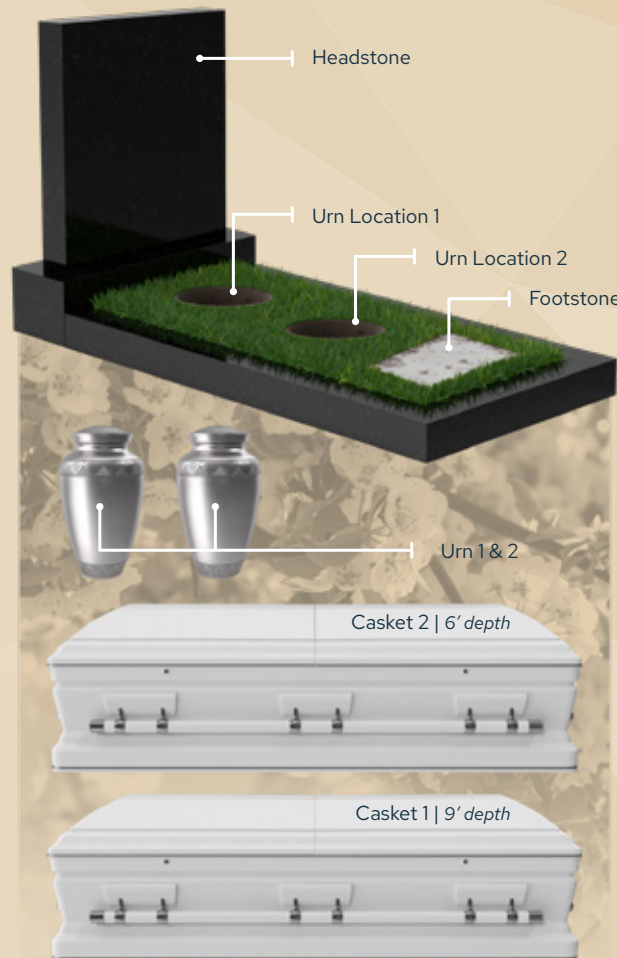
Full Size Lot

A full size lot can hold up to four remains and allows for casket burials at single depth (6') and double depth (9') and/or cremation burials.

These lots can have upright or flat monuments (within regulations).

Flowerbeds are permitted in these lots only and installed by cemetery staff.

There can be up to four human remains in a full size lot, up to a maximum of two casket burials, with one being double depth. (i.e. two caskets and two urns; one casket and three urns; zero caskets and four urns).



INTERMENT OPTIONS

Cremation Garden

COLUMBARIUM

An above ground granite structure featuring numerous alcoves or niches (small recessed spaces) designed to hold the urns containing cremated human remains. A niche can hold up to two sets of cremains, and a family niche can hold up to four sets of cremains. Each niche has a locked metal security door and a granite faceplate cover. The granite cover can be engraved with the deceased's name, date of birth and death, as well as a small epitaph.

Engraving is not undertaken by Hillside Cemetery and is therefore not included in the cost.



FAMILY VESSEL

A stand-alone granite structure that allows for multiple family members to be placed together. Each vessel can hold up to 14 sets of co-mingled human cremains.



SCATTERING GARDEN

A designated place where the family and friends of the deceased can arrange to spread the cremated remains of their loved one. A bronze plaque can be purchased as a memorial.

This is the only place ashes can be scattered at Hillside Cemetery.



In-Ground Cremation Area

Hillside Cemetery has an area in the centre of the cemetery designated for cremation burials, in which up to two urns can be placed in a 3' x 3' lot. This area allows for flat monuments only.



INTERMENT EXPECTATIONS

Casket Burials

- Grave is prepared at standard or double depth
- Four chairs
- Greens and boards
- Safety straps
- Lowering device
- Grave liner (fiberglass, concrete box or vault)

Once the family has departed, Hillside Cemetery staff will lower the casket and backfill the grave, complete with top soil and grass seed, or reinstall sod.

In-Ground Cremation

- Grave is prepared with an opening that is either 12" or 24" wide (depending on size of container being interred)
- Four chairs
- Green board cover

The funeral home or family are expected to place the cremated remains vessel into the cremation hole. After the family has departed, Hillside Cemetery staff will then backfill the cremation hole, complete with top soil and grass seed, or reinstall sod.

Columbaria

- Four chairs
- Plaque and security door removed from niche and placed on a stand
- Step ladder for interments in niches up high

The funeral home or family are expected to place the cremated remains vessel into the niche. After the family has departed, Hillside Cemetery staff will arrive and place security door and plaque back onto niche.

Scattering Garden

- Four chairs
- Scattering garden mulch is parted

The funeral home or family are expected to scatter the cremains over mulch-free area. After the family has departed, Hillside Cemetery staff will arrive and rake in the cremains with the soil and re-establish the mulch.



Family Vessel

- Four chairs
- Table
- Funnel
- Removed Family Vessel lid

The funeral home or family are expected to pour the cremated remains into the family vessel. After the family has departed, Hillside Cemetery staff will arrive and re-secure the family vessel lid.



ADDITIONAL OFF SITE SERVICES

Memorial Benches

A commemorative plaque on a memorial bench provides an opportunity for individuals and families to remember a loved one, celebrate a birth or anniversary, or to honour other individual's personal and/or professional contributions to the community.

The City administers and supports the municipal memorial bench program. This program allows for private commemorations on memorial benches in public parks. Not all areas of Hillside Cemetery are able to accept memorial benches, and approval of installation is required upon application.

Arboretum

The City of Medicine Hat has a Memorial Arboretum which is located at the corner of Factory Street and South Railway Street SE. The Arboretum is a special site where trees are planted to memorialize the loss of a loved one, a birth, an anniversary, or a special occasion.

Contributors are invited to participate in the annual tree planting ceremony. A plaque is provided for each contributor to place on the plaque wall.



RULES AND REGULATIONS

Hillside Cemetery is governed by Bylaw No. 3121

Commemorative Items

Commemorative items are prohibited on the turf from April 1 to October 31 and are never allowed on columbarium niches, vessels, scattering gardens, trees, or benches. This includes stickers, artificial flowers, and stuffed articles. Glass items like vases, solar lights, or jars are never permitted in the cemetery.

Temporary grave markers are removed 12 months after interment.

Any commemorative items found on the turf or in non-designated areas will be respectfully removed and stored near the cemetery office.

Items in approved flowerbeds will not be disturbed.

Wildlife

Deer and other wildlife frequent the cemetery and often cause damage to markers and commemorative items, and will eat fresh flowers. If they feel threatened, deer also tend to be aggressive. The cemetery is not responsible for any damage caused by wildlife.

Flowerbeds

Flowerbed regulations are in place to ensure flowerbeds are consistent and meet specifications. Flowerbeds are installed by cemetery staff, and include a hard plastic edging and soil amendments.

If you wish to have a flowerbed installed in front of a monument, please contact the cemetery office. Any flowerbeds not installed by cemetery staff will be removed. Mulch must be soft material; no rocks are permitted.

Cemetery staff will not be responsible for upkeep of flowerbeds.

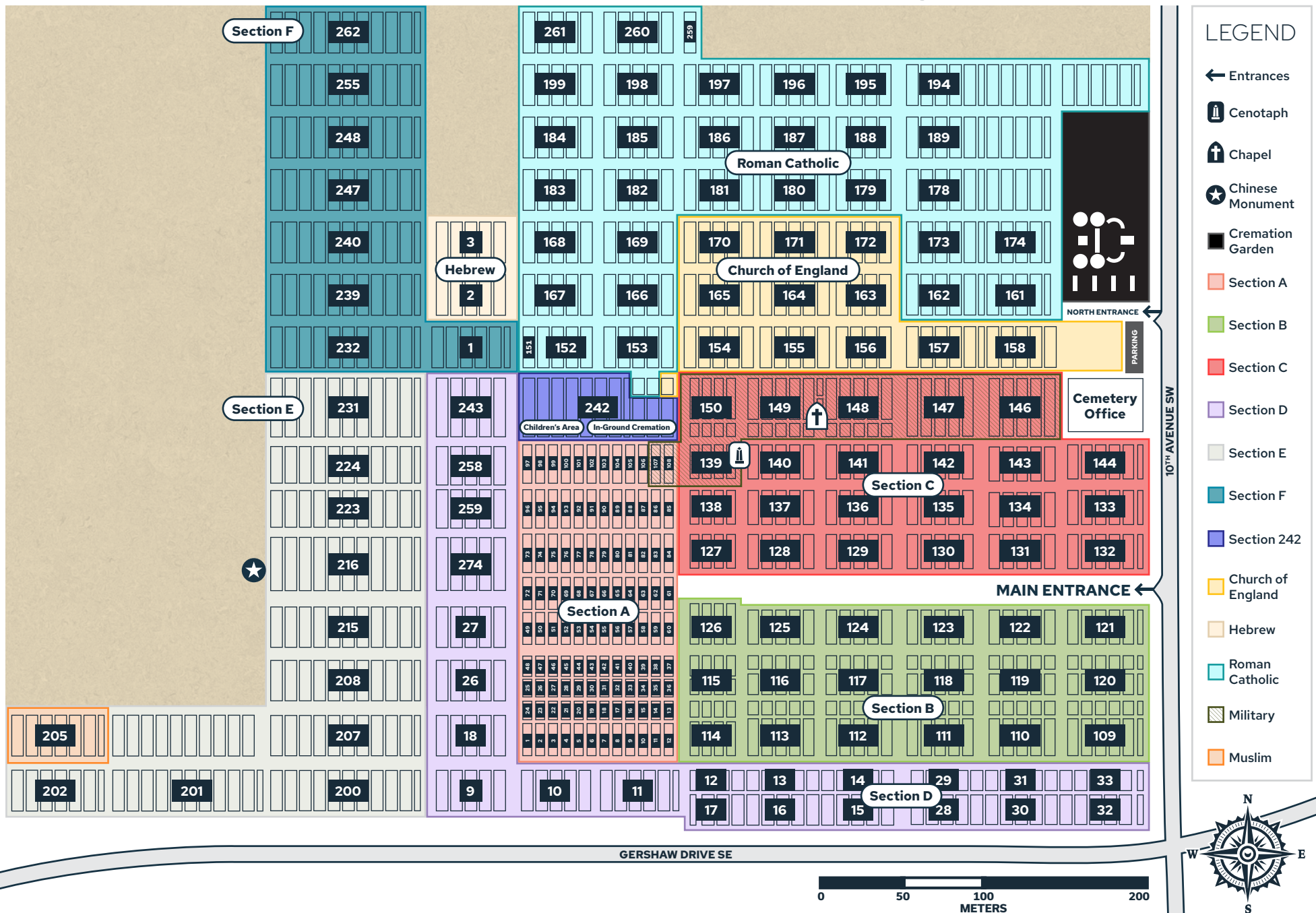
Monuments

A full list of monument regulations can be found on the City website by visiting medicinehat.ca/hillside



Hillside Cemetery

City of Medicine Hat



F A Q

How can I find where someone is buried?

Please check out our online database at medicinehat.ca/hillside or scan the QR code below.



This database is ongoing and subject to change. Due to the cemetery's age, historic records may be incomplete or inaccurate. Hillside Cemetery does not guarantee the accuracy of information in our online database.

What are interment rights?

Interment rights for a lot or niche give the rights holder the right to say who can be interred or disinterred, as well as the right to memorialization. The land remains the property and responsibility of the cemetery.

Do I have to use a funeral home?

If you choose to arrange a burial without the assistance of a funeral home, please contact our office as early as possible so we can walk you through our requirements. You will also be required to apply for a Burial Permit through the Government of Alberta, as required by law.

How much notice is needed to have a burial or open a grave?

We require all applicable documents to be completed and provided a minimum of two full business days in advance of the intended interment date. This allows us to help you get all the proper documents and arrangements in place in time for the burial to occur.

Why is a vault or liner required?

These structures stop the grave from sinking, and stops the weight of the earth from damaging the interred casket or urn.

Do you allow for disinterment?

A disinterment can be done upon request, but requires a permit from the Province of Alberta. To learn more about the process for disinterment, visit alberta.ca/permit-exhume-body or scan the QR code below.



Can someone else in my family use the grave/niche I purchased?

Yes, but conditions apply. Please contact the cemetery administrator for assistance.

When will the grave have grass again?

Lots will have grass seeded after they have settled. Typically this happens each spring and fall.

Do you offer payment plans and how can I pay?

If you are unable to pay the full amount, you will be charged an interest at a rate of 1.5% per month (18% per year) on all amounts unpaid after 30 days from the date of the purchaser's signature. You can pay in person at the Hillside Cemetery office, at City Hall, or with your bank.

What are green burials and do you allow them?

At this time we do not allow green burials in Hillside Cemetery. Green burials are a growing burial offering seen in many municipalities, designed to reduce environmental impact and ensure a legacy of protecting the land, with an emphasis on sustainability and simplicity.

FAQ

What's the difference between a 'plot' and a 'lot'?

A **lot** is a single grave site which has been designated for interment of human remains or cremated human remains.

A **plot** contains a group of four to six **lots**. There are only a few areas on the cemetery with plots, and the remaining areas are outfitted only with lots.

Do you allow pet burials?

Hillside Cemetery does not currently accommodate pet burials.

Why isn't the ground level in the cemetery?

In years past, burials occurred without the use of grave liners. Over time, burial materials disintegrate, and each year spring and summer rains cause settling of the ground around lots. New soil is added to level older lots whenever significant settling is seen to be a safety hazard.

Can I clean an old monument?

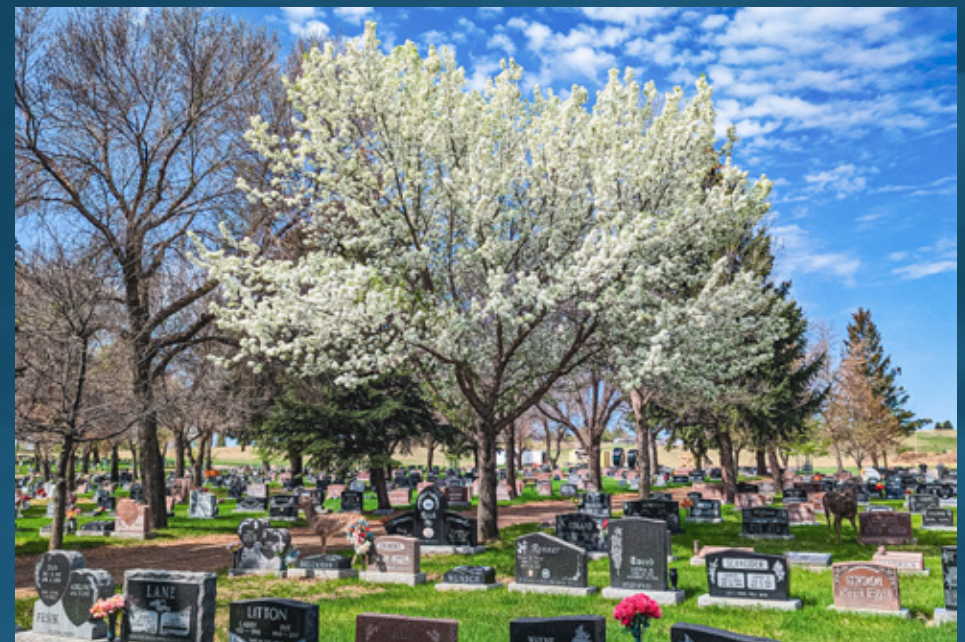
Headstones and footstones are private property and are under the purview of the rights holder. Any additions, alterations, or potential damage causing activities must be approved by the rights holder.

What is perpetual care?

Perpetual care is a fund put together to help maintain cemetery grounds, graves, crypts, mausoleums, or other parts of the cemetery. A percentage of the sale price is directed towards the perpetual care fund, which helps ensure the cemetery remains clean, well-maintained and secure.

What is a cremation garden?

The cremation garden at Hillside Cemetery is a designated area that provides a variety of options for both above ground and in-ground interments of cremated human remains.



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Hillside Cemetery



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Medicine Hat, AB
T1A 1J1



403-529-8387



cemetery@medicinehat.ca



medicinehat.ca/hillside



OPERATIONAL HOURS

Monday to Friday
8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.
(closed weekends and holidays)

OFFICE HOURS

By appointment only

GATE/VISITING HOURS

The gates are open 24 hours per day,
7 days a week



Medicine Hat