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Cleveland Has an 'Outdoor' Museum?



by [Matthew MacDonald](#) |

Contributor | February 1, 2016



Yes, yes they do. It's a cemetery but the world at large considers it a museum. Stay with me, please.

I first experienced [Lake View Cemetery](#) when I was on the cusp of my 20s. A wrong turn trying to get to Coventry Village introduced me to the vastness that the cemetery afforded. What also struck me on this first visit was the fact that this cemetery was erected at a point in time when people wanted to pay serious tribute to their loved ones. Considered "Cleveland's Outdoor Museum and Arboretum" and located in the University Circle Area, Lake View was established in 1869 and has often been heralded as a horticultural and architectural giant. The trees and shrubbery provide an endless green. Peppered in the pauses between the horticulture are tombstones, crypts, and personal monuments. I'm serious: there are well over a dozen Kubrick-ian obelisks that punctuate the rolling hills.

Fun fact: the last time I visited the cemetery was with my wife. When we had lived on that side of town, we had

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made it a regular occurrence to walk through the cemetery a couple of times a month. As we were exploring, we decided to take a break on one of the benches that bordered Wade Pond. The pond was always an attraction for ducks and other wildlife. On this particular visit, I had noticed a white, swan-like, waterfowl. I knew then that it wasn't a swan but I still remarked on it to my wife and how nice it looked. Then we both watched it. After a while of it, 'not moving' at all, we went in for a closer examination only to find that it was a 'fake fowl'. Lake View Cemetery played us.

Lake View Cemetery is so expansive that it borders on disorientating. To this day I often loose sight of the fact that I'm walking cemetery grounds.

Related fact: Lakeview Cemetery is also the final resting place of President James Garfield, Elliot Ness, and Harvey Pekar.

Lakview Cemetery is located at 12316 Euclid Ave. Cleveland, Ohio 44106-4393 and is open Monday through Sunday 7:00 am to 7:00 pm

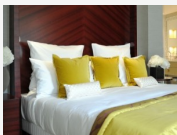
Matthew MacDonald is a freelance writer currently residing in Northwest Florida. There hasn't been a 'writing hat' he hasn't worn.



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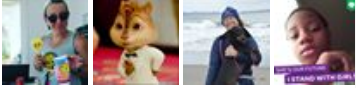
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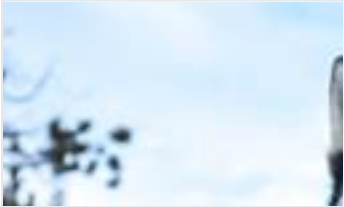
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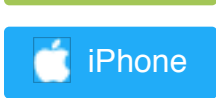
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