

Going Down Green



What is a natural burial?

Natural burial, or green burial, is the act of burying the body as naturally as possible in the earth. It is the most eco-friendly manner of caring for our dead.

Below ground, the un-embalmed body is placed in a biodegradable casket or shroud and buried without a vault so decomposition can occur. Above ground, the land is restored to its natural habitat, and individual tombstones are replaced with a communal marker.

Worldwide, natural burials are growing in popularity. There are now over 330 natural burial sites in the UK over 240 in North America.

Why people love the idea:

Your final act is giving back to the earth.

With green burial, your body naturally decomposes, allowing the nutrients from your body to contribute to the earth's renewal.

Your final resting place is among nature.

Imagine a beautiful Ontario meadow or a luscious woodlot. In the summer wildlife thrives and in the winter, the snow brings calm. This image brings immense comfort to those who would like to rest in nature, and for their family and friends who can visit in this serene setting.

A natural burial does not pollute.

It's apparent how polluting conventional burial is, with the hardwood and metal caskets, vaults and bodies embalmed using the toxic formaldehyde. But many don't know that cremation is not eco-friendly either. A cremation retort operates at 760 to 1150 degrees Celsius for one to three hours and releases 400 kilograms of carbon into the atmosphere.

A natural burial embraces a traditional approach.

Remove the embalming fluid, ornate casket, and concrete, or cremation, and you're left with a burial closer to what our grandparents' grandparents would have considered the norm, and some faiths still practice today.

Your presence in the ground protects the land forever.

Once a body is buried, it is essentially acting as a permanent security guard, ensuring that no one can build on that habitat.



Natural burials and funerals

Whether it be big or small, religious or secular, a ceremony is absolutely compatible with green burials.

A service may be held before or after the burial, at a place of worship, funeral home, family home, or even outdoors at the burial site. Because embalming is not compatible with natural burials, the burial will preferably be held within a few days following the death. There are circumstances that may require a longer delay between the death and burial and there are facilities where the body may rest in a cool environment until burial.

Costs

Most natural burial sites try to keep the price as low as possible, in an effort to make this environmentally friendly option accessible to everyone.

The cemetery will typically offer eco-friendly burial containers, like shrouds or biodegradable caskets. Because these options are less ornate than conventional caskets, they are less expensive. Natural burial is usually more expensive than cremation, but people find value in this incremental expense because of the good they are doing for the planet.

Other common questions

No worries: diseases don't leach into the soil, water isn't poisoned, and animals have no interest in us.

Cemeteries in Ontario are highly regulated and approved by a medical officer. It's perfectly legal and safe for everyone.

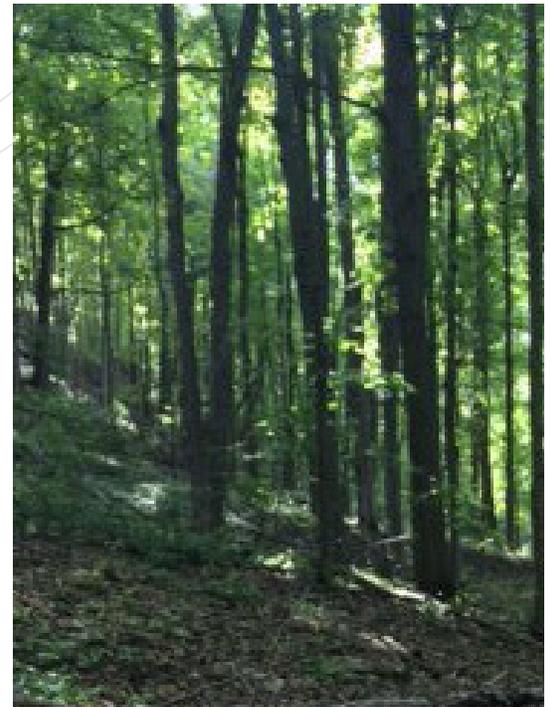
Tell your family

If you are interested in green burial, the most important step is to share your wishes with your family or friends.

It can be a difficult conversation, but your family will be glad to know that they are fulfilling your wishes. Get in touch with the natural burial ground that appeals to you.

Natural burial in Picton

Alongside Picton's pioneer cemetery, Glenwood Cemetery, is a peaceful woodlot that has been created for natural burials. The sun pokes through the trees, deers call it home, and periwinkle brings purple hues in the spring.



Glenwood Cemetery

Please get in touch if you would like to visit our natural space. We'd be happy to answer any questions.

Helma Oonk, Manager
Info@GlenwoodCemetery.ca
613 476-3511

The Natural Burial Association is a volunteer run non-profit helping communities across Ontario create natural burial grounds. We are motivated to take care of our planet, and offer nature lovers an option at death that aligns with their values.

www.naturalburialassociation.ca

FOLLOW US:

-  naturalburialassociation
-  naturalburialassociation
-  @NaturalBurialAs

