

Find Providers.

Green Cemeteries in the United States

Currently there are around six green cemeteries in the United States. In England there are over 200. As Americans learn more about green funerals/burials, we expect to see thousands of green cemeteries develop. This is just the beginning.

States with active or proposed green cemeteries include:

[California](#)
[Colorado](#)
[Florida](#)
[Maine](#)
[New Mexico](#)
[New York](#)
[South Carolina](#)
[Texas](#)
[Washington](#)
[Wisconsin](#)

California - [Forever Fernwood](#)
www.ForeverFernwood.com

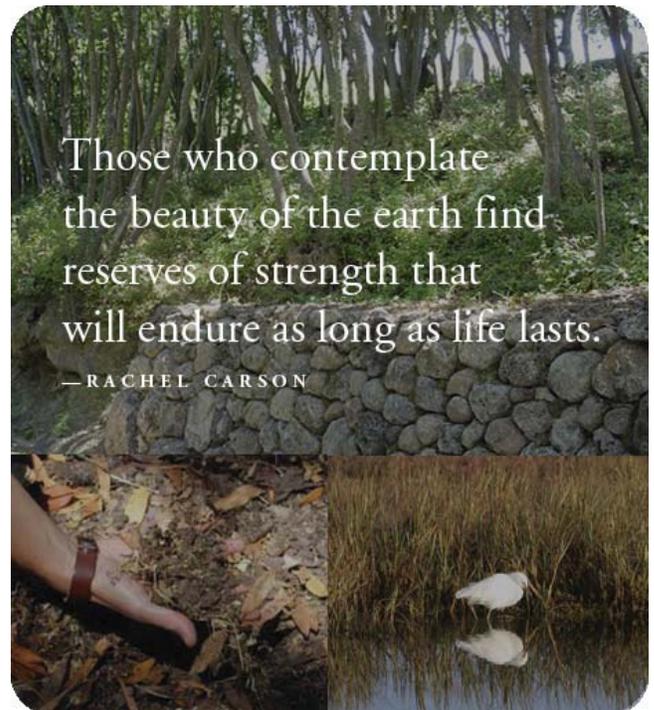
info@foreverfernwood.com

Forever Enterprises
301 Tennessee Valley Road
Mill Valley, CA 94941

(415) 383-7100

"Natural burial at Fernwood uses no toxic embalming fluids, no vault, and only a biodegradable casket or a burial shroud. Natural rocks, wildflowers, shrubs and trees serve as markers and each grave is locatable via Global Positioning System (GPS) coordinates.

The land stewardship and restoration program at Fernwood is integrated with cemetery and burial ritual. Each tree, flower, songbird, boulder and butterfly becomes a memorial to a loved one and a hope for the future." - Forever Fernwood Website



Colorado - [Prairie Wilderness Cemetery](#) (proposed cemetery)

www.PrairieWildernessCemetery.org

Icorazoncoit@earthlink.net

Prairie Wilderness Cemeteries
Attn: Laina Corazon Coit
P.O. Box 181018
Denver, CO 80218



"This is a grassroots effort to increase the wilderness area in the United States by combining nature restoration and preservation with low impact burial."

MISSION

To establish a low cost, low impact cemetery with natural landscaping.

To establish a wildlife refuge by raising money through selling burial rights in a low cost, low impact cemetery.

NEED

As humans, many of us start thinking beyond family to the legacy we will leave behind. The question; "what can I do to make the world a better place?" is sometimes surprising by its urgency. For many millions of Americans, the world to help is the natural one.

A conventional cemetery contributes tons to land and water pollution.

Wildlife habitat is being replaced by many other uses, resulting in less land available to maintain healthy ecosystems. Migratory species as well as local ones suffer from the lack of resources.

OBJECTIVES

The union of a cemetery and wildlife refuge will protect the land, flora and fauna as long as it is a cemetery, and will eventually recreate a complete ecosystem. Prairie Wilderness Cemeteries will enable people to solve a practical problem, what to do with their bodies when they are done with them, while also satisfying the need to leave a legacy. After the first cemetery is opened, more will follow, smaller ones, larger ones, hopefully some contiguous to each other or to national grasslands or other conservation lands. Eventually, there will be a Nature Center, Memorial Wall, Museum, and Memory Hall. The Nature Center will sell guided horseback tours, have exhibits and movies explaining the prairie ecosystem, a designated walking trail, and sign up new members. The Memorial Wall, Museum and Memory Hall will provide places for personal remembrances in lieu of gravestones. Last, but not least, of our objectives is to stimulate the economy of the areas Prairie Wilderness Cemeteries locates in through tourism and jobs for nearby residents."

- The Prairie Wilderness Website

Florida- [Glendale Memorial Nature Preserve](#)

www.GlendaleNaturePreserve.org

info@GlendaleNaturePreserve.org

Glendale Memorial Nature Preserve
297 Railroad Ave.
DeFuniak Springs, FL 32433



(850) 859-2141

Our goal is to enhance, protect, and preserve a valuable area of distinctive beauty, provide affordable, environmentally sensible burial options, and to encourage a return to sane, older, traditional approaches to burial.

Here are a few of the advantages which we offer:
Spacious burial and cremation repository sites, banning of expensive vaults and toxic embalming chemicals, and insistence that caskets be made of wood or other biodegradable materials. We can also assist in locating such affordable caskets (costing as low as a few hundred dollars rather than thousands), or cremation urns made of



wood or clay. You can also use shrouds woven from cotton or wool, or you can even use a favorite blanket or quilt. Appropriate markers can be uncut natural stone, or a native tree, shrub, or flower. Any or all the above ensure that the burial site itself becomes a living memorial and a testament to your personal values.

While we do not direct funerals, we will be happy to work with you or your family if you want to bury your loved one yourselves. We can also work with your mortician regarding arrangements and requirements for burial in the preserve. If your family or mortician is uncomfortable working with a traditional burial, we can help you find a consultant to assist you. You may also scatter ashes at Glendale Memorial Nature Preserve, or bury beloved pets in your family plot.

Eighty percent -- the best and wildest part of Glendale's 350 acres, located in Florida's panhandle area -- will remain forever wild and free of development. Only trails and boardwalks have been added to allow you access to burial sites or to explore the natural beauty of the longleaf pine-wiregrass ecosystem. In other words, Glendale Memorial Nature Preserve's purpose is to maintain a natural setting for those who love the Earth, choose to continue their stewardship of nature beyond their life-time, and who seek an alternative to current burial practices.

Glendale Nature Preserve Inc. is a tax exempt (I.R.S. 501 (c) (13) non-profit organization chartered in 2002. Because we care deeply about saving land, we set aside 25 percent of gross receipts for preserve restoration, perpetual stewardship, and other conservation activities. We also help promote memorial preserves in other regions of the country, and are affiliated with Memorial Ecosystems.



Maine - [Cedar Brook Burial Ground](http://GreenCemetery.blogspot.com)

<http://GreenCemetery.blogspot.com>

Cedar Brook Burial Ground
175 Boothby Road
Limington, ME 04049

Peter McHugh (207) 637-2085.

"Peter McHugh rides his
all-terrain vehicle across the

2.1 acres of 150-acre property he has recently devoted to creating Maine's first green cemetery.

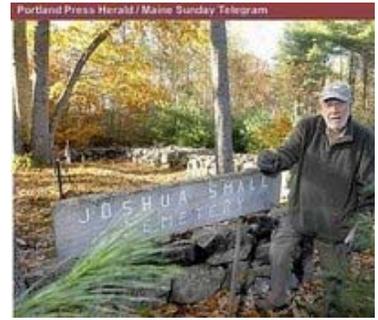
He points out prospective locations for burial sites -- little spaces of cleared land marked only by brown fallen leaves amidst a forest of mostly bare trees. . . .

Maine law allows small family graveyards no larger than a quarter-acre without the need for a permit, as long as no bodies are buried within 25 rods (413 feet) from the nearest land used for public recreation or potable water source. However, some years ago, McHugh decided he wanted to create a cemetery that gives others the option to be buried in a more natural fashion than otherwise available.



"I wanted to give people the option to be buried in the way they prefer," McHugh says. "If they prefer a more environmentally friendly, less costly method of burial, then they should have that option."

The town of Limington has no local ordinances regarding the development of commercial cemeteries, so McHugh needed only to apply to the state. In September, McHugh registered his cemetery – named the Cedar Brook Burial Ground after a local topographical feature – with the Department of Health and Human Services. McHugh says it took only about 10 days after the submission of his application to receive notice of his registration as a cemetery. . . .



McHugh allows customers to choose their own space in his cemetery, and to mark the spot with any local stone, which he says he will allow to be engraved. He says he will allow unlimited visitations by anyone interested. . . .

"Last year 22,500 cemeteries across the US buried 827,060 gallons of embalming fluid, 104,272 tons of steel, 2,700 tons of copper and bronze, 30-plus million board feet of hardwoods and 1.6 million tons of concrete," Christensen says. "In purely ecological terms, how we bury our dead is unsustainable."

Mark Harris, author of the book "Grave Matters," an examination of alternative methods of burial, said green cemeteries are becoming more popular in America because they are easier on the environment. . . .

Green burials can also help save a different kind of green – the kind found in people's wallets.

"Between charges for embalming, a metal casket, a vault, a headstone, the cemetery charges for a plot and the opening and closing of a grave, and the fee for perpetual care and maintenance of the gravesite, funeral costs today can easily run \$10,000 or more," Harris said. "Green burials, in contrast, run in the low thousands of dollars, and can be less depending on personal choices. So the cost differential is huge."

McHugh says saving on funeral costs is a significant factor in choosing a green burial ground.

"It's a simpler, less costly way to bury your loved one," McHugh says. "Traditional funerals can get very expensive. I wanted to give people another option."

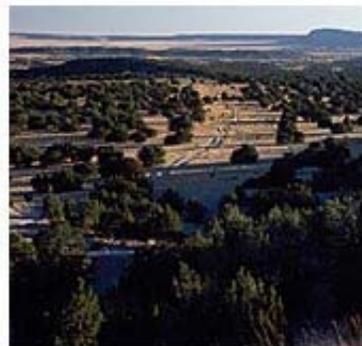
McHugh prices his plots at \$800 apiece, or \$1200 per couple, with pet burials at no extra charge. For New Englanders, McHugh's Cedar Brook Burial Ground is the first, and currently only option for a green burial, though another green cemetery will soon be opening in Orrington. . . ." - portions of an article by Cliff White, Staff Writer, Gorham Westbrook Gazette, November 16, 2007

New Mexico - [The Commonweal Conservancy](http://www.Commonweal Conservancy.org)
www.Commonweal Conservancy.org

The Commonweal Conservancy
117 N. Guadalupe Street
Suite C
Santa Fe, NM 87501

(505) 982-0071

"The Galisteo Basin Preserve is a 12,800-acre conservation development project located 15 miles southeast of Santa Fe, New Mexico, in the central Galisteo Basin. An area of exceptionally fragile and ecologically significant land and water resources, the Galisteo Basin is internationally celebrated for its spectacular scenic, cultural, and wildlife habitat values. Commonweal Conservancy is spearheading the initiative."



New York - [Greenspring Natural Cemetery](#)

www.NaturalBurial.org

info@naturalburial.org

Greenspring Natural Cemetery
293 Irish Hill Road
Newfield, NY 14867-9784

Mary Woodsen (607) 272-4034
Joel Rabinowitz (607) 898-5113
Susan Thomas (607) 639-6613

Greensprings Is...
an idea

that you can give in death, as you do in life, for the people and things you love Through natural burial at Greensprings, you create a legacy of enduring stewardship and renewal... A legacy that provides a place of peace and beauty for generations to come.

a place

one-hundred acres of rolling hilltop meadows south of Cayuga Lake in New York's lovely Finger Lakes region. Greensprings on Irish Hill is bounded by 4,000-acre Arnot Forest and 4,000-acre Newfield State Forest.

a difference

Greensprings offers a sustainable and beautiful alternative to conventional cemeteries. It is a place of meadows and woodlands, where you may choose native trees and shrubs for planting on your gravesite, helping to restore the land to its natural state and providing shelter and food for wildlife.



South Carolina - [Ramsey Creek Nature Preserve](#)

www.MemorialEcosystems.com

Kimberly@MemorialEcosystems.com

Ramsey Creek Nature Preserve
111 West Main Street
Westminster, SC 29693

(864) 647-7798

Memorial Ecosystems Inc. opened Ramsey Creek preserve in 1998, the first "green cemetery" in the United States. The preserve was formed to harness the



MEMORIAL ECOSYSTEMS
The Leaders in Conservation Burial



funeral industry for land protection and restoration, to fund non-profits, education, the arts and scientific research, and to provide a less expensive and more meaningful burial option.

Our award-winning company aspires to protect, restore and permanently endow one million acres of wild-lands over the coming decades. More than merely financing protection, the inherently spiritual nature of our endeavor means that we can foster closer ties between human communities and the natural communities that they depend on.



Our main focus is to develop multi-functional memorial nature preserves that we create with the cooperation and assistance of non-profit organizations. Through becoming members of the preserve during life, and choosing burial in the preserve after, our clients leave a permanent legacy for their families, their communities and the natural world. We are committed to being the leaders in environmentally and socially responsible death care.



Texas - [The Ethician Family Cemetery.](#)

www.EthicianFamilyCemetery.org

info@ethicianfamilycemetery.org



An 81 acre wilderness of ancient oaks, hickories, and pines has been donated to The Universal Ethician Church to serve as a traditional family burial ground, where earthly remains are naturally returned to nurture the earth. Although the Ethician Family Cemetery is the third natural burial park in the United States, it is the first that has been divided into family plots of up to 1/3 acre each. It is also the largest natural burial ground in the United States.

Modern urban cemeteries may have as many as 3,000 graves per acre in sterile, toxic environments where embalmed bodies are sequestered in bronze, steel, or copper caskets or concrete vaults where they are kept from returning to the earth as God and nature intended.

Modern American families spend many thousands of dollars for elaborate burials, wasting money that could have been used to send grandchildren to college, pay for health care for elderly family members, or for charitable causes.

The spiritual philosophy of the Ethician Church is to follow the Biblical concept of "dust to dust" which demands natural burial in God's wilderness, and thus protects, preserves and enriches a part of Creation.

A pickled body encased in steel, bronze, copper and concrete is not in accordance with Biblical and Ethician principles.

"And the Lord God formed mankind of the dust of the ground, and breathed into their nostrils the breath of life, and they became living beings."
(Genesis 2:7)

"Till you return to the ground,
For out of it you were taken;
For dust you are,
And to dust you shall return."
(Genesis 3:19)



Washington- Mother Rest Sacred Grove (proposed)

mrsgrrove@premier1.net

Gaian Life Church
Gwen Wittwer
P.O. Box 3713
Blaine, WA 98231

Wisconsin (Midwest Region) - [Trust for Natural Legacies, Inc.](#)

www.NaturalLegacies.org

Trust for Natural Legacies, Inc.
222 S. Hamilton Street, Suite #1
Madison, WI 53703

Trust for Natural Legacies, Inc. is a non-profit land trust that preserves and restores natural areas by owning, operating and promoting nature preserves throughout the Midwest . We are committed to offering ecologically-sensitive programs on our nature preserves that provide public opportunities for recreation, education, scientific research and limited natural burial. These programs are critical to our mission, because they result in related environmental benefits to the community and generate long-term, multi-generational public attachment to and involvement in the nature preserves. By fostering strong, long-term family and community attachments to the nature preserves, these programs ensure that our preserves are socially, legally, spiritually and financially-sustainable.

TNL is currently looking for land for its first conservation cemetery.

Some of our preferred criteria include:

40-100 acres of land

within 30 minute drive of Madison, Wisconsin

prairie, wetland, woods, or other native habitats

If you own or know of some land you think would be suitable for a natural burial site,

please contact Mark Dahlby at 608-628-3594.