

Natural Burial Guide



Natural or 'green burial' is a return to those traditions that provide a simple, less wasteful, and non-toxic means of dedicating one's physical form back to the earth.



Environmentally Friendly

Each year traditional burials use millions of feet of wood, millions of gallons of embalming fluids, reinforced concrete, copper, bronze, and steel.* Serenity Ridge offers a way to nurture the environment rather than impact it.



Affordability

By eliminating embalming, vaults, and elaborate caskets, natural burial simplifies the process and reduces unnecessary expenses. Families can focus on meaningful remembrance without the financial burden often associated with traditional funeral services. The result is a dignified, transparent, and cost-conscious option.



Choice

Natural burial restores personal choice. Whether selecting a biodegradable casket or shroud, planning a spiritual or non-denominational gathering, or participating more directly in the process, families have the flexibility to create a farewell that reflects their values and connection to nature.

	Green Burial	Cremation	Traditional Burial
Service	Yes	Yes	Yes
Embalming	Yes & No - Enigma, a non toxic plant based product is accepted by the Green Burial Council.	No	Yes & No - Formaldehyde toxic and carcinogenic to people who work with it.
Casket	Yes	Yes & No	Yes
Toxic to the Environment	No - Aerobic decomposition, Oxygen helps with breakdown; <i>Only biodegradable products used.</i>	Yes - release of toxic chemicals into the environment- see below.	Yes - Metals other materials with chemicals buried in an anaerobic condition although less so if lawn crypt or mausoleum.
Grave liners	No	Yes- Most cemeteries require.	Yes - An extra expense for the family in order to maintain uniformity at the conventional grave yard.
Memorials	Yes - Simple, fieldstone memorials, flat to the ground.	Yes & No - Can be anything from a small memorial to a large headstone or with scattering or burial at sea-nothing.	Yes - can be very expensive to the family for polished stone memorials.
Flowers	Yes- Free at the cemetery as part of the interment fee at Serenity Ridge.	Yes - Depending upon the family.	Yes - Can be very costly.

What We Offer

At Serenity Ridge, we offer thoughtfully designed amenities and services that help preserve and protect the land for future generations to experience and enjoy.

- * Natural rolling preserve, with walking trails and forests
- * Flat fieldstone, headstones-free as part of the interment fee
- * Fresh flowers, provided free at the burial ceremony
- * Fields of wildflowers which can be picked at any time to place on graves
- * Bird watchers sanctuary
- * An active Apiary

Families may choose to honor their loved one by planting a tree, shrub, or flowering plant as a living memorial. These can be selected at the time of interment or at a later date.

Certified by the Green Burial Council



The Green Burial Council is the national certifying body for green burial standards for natural cemeteries in the United States. By these standards, a natural burial ground requires the adoption of protocols that are energy- conserving, minimize waste, and do not allow the use of toxic chemicals. Everything used for burial is renewable. Serenity Ridge has been certified by the Green Burial Council.

