

Powell River Regional Cemetery

Green Burial Overview

Philosophy

Green Burial is a statement of personal values for those who seek to minimize their impact on the environment, and is an alternative to conventional burial.

Green Burial is an environmentally sensitive practice where the body is returned to the earth to decompose naturally and contribute to new life.

While we encourage working with a funeral service provider or death doula to ensure the protection of the integrity of our Green Burial section, there are many resources available to assist the family through the process of handling the entire process at home. This includes post-death care, funeral options, and the legally necessary paperwork. A great preliminary source is the Canadian Integrative Network for Death Education and Alternatives (CINDEA) at <http://cindea.ca>

Graves

Human remains must be prepared for burial without embalming and must be clothed or wrapped in garments made of **approved** natural, fully biodegradable fabric. Care must be taken to ensure that no metal, plastic, or implanted medical devices (such as joint replacements or pacemakers) are still present. Remains are then buried in an **approved**, fully biodegradable casket or alternate container made from sustainable wood, wicker, recycled cardboard, or natural fibre, ie: burial shroud. Full information on acceptable woods, glues, etc. can be obtained from the Cemetery Administrator.

The grave will be opened as per normal practice, but the soil will remain beside the grave during the interment service.

The interment of cremated remains is not permitted in green burial graves.

A permanent record of the person interred including plot location is kept as required by law.

Participation in the Burial Process

Families are encouraged to have a graveside service and can participate in the entire graveside committal process. This includes the filling of the grave if desired.

Memorialization

There are 2 options for memorialization:

- A small plaque with simple inscription can be installed on Communal Monument Stones located in the Green Burial Section.

or:

- One 12" x 8" marker is permitted on each grave.

Plantings

Plantings in the Green Burial Section are done according to an established plan. Trees, shrubs, wildflowers, and groundcovers used are typical of native species found in the area. Planting is done seasonally. Following the burial there may be a period of up to one year where there will be nothing planted on the grave (this will allow for settling, etc.). Not all graves will have a tree planted on it. Where possible families will be given a choice as to plant type and may be given the opportunity to assist with planting.

Visitor Access

Cemetery visiting hours are 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. daily.

Access to the Green Burial Section will be along a walking pathway.

Families and visitors are discouraged from seeking out individual graves. This limitation is in place to protect trees, shrubs, and other plant material.

Families will have the opportunity to purchase a memorial bench to be installed in the Section at locations identified in the Landscape Plan.