

natural burial

ASSOCIATION

Where to Establish Your Natural Burial Ground Considerations:

Vision

It could be a little oasis, even an acre or less, that gives people the opportunity for a natural burial. If that acre is beside protected land, it will feel like one's final rest is in nature.

If the goal is to create a natural burial park, an entity with thousands of plots (approx 350 plots/acre for a conservation burial ground), trails, and infrastructure, it could be fifteen acres or more. So much depends on the surroundings.

Location

Is a local cemetery operator assuming responsibility for this new natural burial ground or is it licensed to a new cemetery operator? If it's partnering with an existing cemetery operator, proximity to that operator is key.

Proximity to an urban centre so this option is available to many people for both the burial and visits.

Proximity to a funeral home and/or transfer service with storage is beneficial.

The site must be accessible by road.

The burial area must be setback from bodies of water and approximate 30 metres from a potable water source such as a well.

Zoning varies by municipality. An open-minded council is advantageous.

Terrain

Land can be hilly or flat. Plots are possible on an incline/decline, as long as a backhoe can traverse the land (assuming graves aren't dug manually).

Meadow and woodlot is acceptable for burial, bedrock is not.

Most soil types are suitable, such as thick clay, sandy loam. Very rocky land poses a challenge.

Wetlands are not permissible. Ontario requires that bodies are buried at least .6 metres below the surface. The water table must be significantly lower. Municipalities may request hydro-geological surveys.

