

Albany Rural Cemetery is now offering green burials. From preparing a body to burying it in a natural setting, the green burial movement is attempting to make death more environmentally friendly and, in some ways, not far from the way burials were in the past.

The environment is helped by the reduction of carbon emissions in the air and toxic chemicals in the grounds. Grave sites are planted with wildflowers for the benefit of birds, bees, and butterflies.

Our Green Burial area is in a quiet, secluded area of Section 131, in the western portion of the Cemetery near Sections 129 and 130 on our maps. Get an updated map showing Section 131 from the office or our website at www.albanyruralcemetery.org



About Us

Incorporated in 1841, Albany Rural Cemetery is one of the oldest and grandest examples of the rural cemetery movement in America. More than a place of burial, the cemetery offers visitors historical, architectural, and sculptural monuments and memorials among a setting of natural beauty with streams, waterfalls, meadows, and a wide variety of tree species. The cemetery is a haven for bird watchers, walkers, runners, cyclists and dog walkers. A popular destination is the burial site of President Chester Arthur among many memorials to fallen soldiers, military leaders, and prominent, local dignitaries.

Albany Rural Cemetery

GREEN BURIAL

Contact us

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Rules & Regulations

- No vaults or other containers of non-biodegradable material may be used. Acceptable materials include untreated softwood, wicker, cardboard, and bamboo.
- Shrouds must be of plant materials such as cotton, linen, or muslin.
- Containers and shrouds may be decorated with water-based paint.
- The use of non-toxic embalming chemicals is permitted but requires confirmation of their use by a funeral home director before burial.
- No artificial ornamentation is allowed such as flags, plastic or cloth flowers, urns, vases, or cairns.
- Artificial body parts may be interred.
- Grave markers are optional. If used, markers must be of unpolished stone indigenous to a 500-mile radius of the cemetery. Stones must be flat and may not exceed 216 square inches and measure no larger than 16" x 12" x 4". All markers must be approved by ARC Staff.

“You belong among
the wildflowers.”

-Tom Petty



Green Burial Services

What is a Green Burial?

- The term describes post-death care, from death to burial, using only **natural** means with full body interment directly in the ground without the typical concrete vault.
- It requires that no embalming is used or the use only of **non-toxic** preservation techniques (green embalming) and use of all organic, biodegradable materials with minimal carbon footprints at the gravesite.

Why Green Burial?

- Environment-friendly burial option.
- More natural and serene burial setting.
- Foster and preserve our environment.
- Commitment to environmental **stewardship**.

Environmental Benefits

- Green caskets are made of **biodegradable** material such as plain softwood, wicker, or cardboard; shrouds of cotton, linen, or muslin may be used in conjunction with a casket or by themselves.
- No pesticides or herbicides are permitted.
- **Preservation** and enhancement of nature.
- Limited mowing is allowed to delineate rows and clear pathways.

