



Meeting with a Funeral Director

You may find a range of attitudes toward Foxfield Preserve and natural (green) burial among funeral directors. You will be best served by a funeral director who shares your enthusiasm for natural burial in a nature preserve.

If you want a nature preserve as your final resting place, you should carefully select a provider and review the information below with them. Encourage the provider to contact Foxfield Preserve with any questions.

If you have not already purchased a space at Foxfield Preserve, you may need to be firm with the funeral director that you wish to have a natural burial at Foxfield Preserve. Foxfield Preserve is in full compliance with all laws and regulations. It is legal to transport bodies across state lines.

Information/Items to Review

- Any good provider can accommodate your wishes, without presenting roadblocks to natural burial. Foxfield Preserve has worked with many funeral directors to provide natural burials. Foxfield Preserve's website has a listing of providers certified by the Green Burial Council.
- The family has the right to view the body. If a public viewing is important to you, discuss it with your provider in advance. No law requires embalming. However many funeral homes require some form of temporary preservation for a public viewing or a funeral with the body present. Options include:
 - Refrigeration—most funeral homes either have refrigeration or access to refrigeration.
 - Nontoxic embalming chemicals are available and effective.
 - The most progressive funeral homes provide even more alternatives.
- Foxfield Preserve requires biodegradable caskets, shrouds, or urns: wood, cardboard or natural fiber cloth. These can be acquired overnight if the funeral home does not have them in stock.
 - For wood, Foxfield Preserve prefers unfinished/unpainted wood. Metal nails, screws, and other fasteners are acceptable to Foxfield Preserve.
 - Cardboard “minimum containers” (as they are referred to in the funeral service) normally used for cremation are not suitable for burial without reinforcement. The container holding the body must be sturdy and have handles for carrying the deceased to the gravesite. It should fully support the weight of the body. Many burials at Foxfield have been in stronger cardboard containers.
 - Burial shrouds must fully support the body and be made of natural fibers.
- Foxfield Preserve requests that bodies be dressed in natural fibers.
- Artificial joints, implanted medical devices, plastic buttons, and similar items are biologically inert and are acceptable at Foxfield Preserve.
- People who attend a graveside ceremony at Foxfield Preserve should be advised to avoid high heels and to be prepared to walk a short distance in a nature preserve.
- Each site at Foxfield Preserve can accommodate one full casket and one cremation interment or two cremation interments. Memorial stones are optional; only one marker per site is permitted.

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