



A mighty oak tree in all of its autumn splendor on the grounds of Hills of Rest Cemetery.

Is Green Burial an option at Hills of Rest Cemetery?



Hills of Rest Cemetery
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What is Green Burial?

The purpose of green burial is to reduce toxins, waste, and carbon emissions that have been associated with conventional end-of-life rituals; and to bring conservation organizations together with cemetery operators, funeral establishments, and cremation companies to create burial programs that facilitate the restoration, acquisition and stewardship of natural areas.

Does Hills of Rest Cemetery allow Green Burial and how are the guidelines established?

Hills of Rest Cemetery follows the guidelines established by the Green Burial Council and will provide green burial of human remains in any plotted grave space within the cemetery.

Since 2005, the Green Burial Council has been working to make burial sustainable for the planet, meaningful for the families, and economically viable for the provider.

What guidelines have to be met for a Green Burial?

1. The facility (Hills of Rest Cemetery) must allow for burial that does not require the use of a burial vault.
2. Decedents are not to have been embalmed with toxic chemicals.
3. Burial containers (caskets) are limited to those made from materials that are nontoxic, biodegradable and must not contain metal or plastics.

How can a family that wants Green Burial and Hills of Rest Cemetery be assured that all of the guidelines are met?

The South Dakota Funeral Service Licensee in charge of arrangements for a green burial must certify that items 2 and 3 listed above are fulfilled. In the case where no funeral service licensee is utilized, the next of kin shall make such designation.

Can a person be buried in just a shroud?

Burial of a decedent in a shroud only is not allowed except for religious reasons. Decedents to be buried in only a shroud must be placed in the grave by the decedent's family or members of the religious community as is their custom. Funeral home staff and cemetery personnel will not physically handle the body. Otherwise, decedents to be buried in a shroud will be placed in a rigid burial container as described in the guidelines stated above.

Are there additional costs associated with Green Burial at Hills of Rest Cemetery?

Because of the known extra care a green burial gravesite will need in the

future; Hills of Rest will assess a one-time Green Burial Right over and above the basic costs of the grave and interment fee. This Green Burial Right, like the other costs incurred to make an interment, will be due prior to the time of interment.

Will Hills of Rest Cemetery allow two Green Burials in one grave space?

Hills of Rest Cemetery will inter two sets of human remains into the same grave space, providing the cost of the Second Right of Interment is paid. This right of second interment is also available for green burials. As in traditional burial, to make two interments in the same grave, the second right has to be established before the first interment occurs.

As described above, the Green Burial Right will apply for each interment and will be due prior to the time of interment.



Hills of Rest Cemetery further strives to have less of an impact on the environment by only using 100% biodegradable nontoxic fertilizer on the grounds of the entire cemetery.

All other rules associated with an interment at Hills of Rest Cemetery will apply and not be modified including, but not limited to, rules pertaining to the marking of a grave or the placement of flowers at a grave.