

# What does “conservation burial” mean for the land and for people?



The goals of conservation burial are myriad.

It seeks to set aside intrinsically valuable land for nature’s sake and our own. To restore land that has been subject to man’s misuse to one of balance and abundance. To maximize opportunities to engage authentically with nature at a profound moment in the lives of those who have experienced loss — and the list goes on.

To say that natural burial is simply interment in the ground without toxic chemicals, caskets of metal and rainforest wood, and cement vaults is both accurate and simplistic at the same time.

Conservation burial, at its core, is about the creation and support of multidimensional social and ecological spaces that sustain us as they sustain the planet and all who dwell on it.

For those seeking to expand protected lands through conservation burial, leaving a legacy for future generations is a key motivator. Equally important to those poised to receive the benefits of protected space is the promise of enhanced connection of human and natural communities.

What does conservation burial hope to achieve?

**Community. Connection. Sustainability. By design.**

Conservation cemeteries are a vehicle for transformative experiences that include direct participation before and during a funeral. But their connection to the lives of mourners and neighbors do not end with the final spade of earth...







**“Nature helps ease the pain and grants a sense of peace not easily found.”**

a conservation burial family member



Conservation burial grounds bring all the joys and many of the activities we already associate with nature and wildlife reserves. Of course, families return to the land already made precious to them by the presence of a loved one, joining one another for weddings and baptisms. Communities also come together for bird-watching walks and hikes through quiet backcountry lands, for picnic days and to learn about the woods and ponds, meadows and prairies preserved by the cemetery and its partners.

Environmental stewardship is at the heart of every natural burial ground. Most consider it an essential element of their mission to help their neighbors understand how individual end-of-life decisions can heal the earth — one thoughtful, meaningful burial at a time.

## How the Conservation Burial Alliance helps

The Conservation Burial Alliance is a collaborative of conservation burial grounds and invested allies that fosters the conservation and sustainable management of land with natural burial for the benefit of people and the planet. Such burials are a viable strategy for conserving intrinsically valuable land and restoring depleted landscapes, while also improving ecological health and promoting sustainable climate change mitigation. As advocates, we seek to provide social and ecological spaces that sustain us and sustain the planet by protecting land with conservation value.

Led by a volunteer board, the Alliance works to facilitate wide public understanding of conservation burial. Our website offers information for people interested in choosing natural burial, from how to find a cemetery and select a site to holding a meaningful, memorable graveside service.

It also provides resources that address two essential partners: the land trusts and conservancies that are considering whether to expand their missions to include a conservation cemetery, and the people who seek land to establish a natural burial ground in their community. The Alliance believes that by sharing the mission of protecting the land and promoting healthy ecosystems, the resulting relationship can benefit everyone.



To learn more about conservation burial and how to locate and engage with a natural burial cemetery in your area, visit [ConservationBurialAlliance.org](https://ConservationBurialAlliance.org), or email us at [info@ConservationBurialAlliance.org](mailto:info@ConservationBurialAlliance.org).