

GREEN BURIALS

1. Green Burial is defined as “A way of caring for the dead with minimal environmental impact that aids in the conservation of natural resources, reduction of carbon emissions, protection of worker health, and the restoration and/or preservation of habitat.” (As defined by Green Burial Council Glossary). Green burial is an alternative to customary burial practices, where the deceased is buried directly into the ground in a wicker or similar container after being cleansed and prepared by a funeral director.
2. Interment using Green Burial must be supervised by a licensed funeral director and coordinated with the pastor.
3. Since conventional embalming is not used, interment typically occurs 36 to 48 hours after death. Families need to be aware of the accelerated pace as compared to standard funerals. No embalmed bodies are allowed in the green burial area. Exceptions for natural embalming fluid may be granted by the pastor.
4. The requirement for a hardened vault is waived for green burials. **However, a biodegradable rigid container such as a wicker or cardboard casket, is required.** The wicker or cardboard casket is necessary to accommodate lowering devices at the gravesites.
5. Lot prices and interment fees are the same as standard graves.
6. The natural burial area is to accommodate full-body interments only. Cremated remains are not allowed in this area because cremation is not considered to be in line with the natural or “green” intent of the area.
7. No additional right of interment is allowed. Only one interment per burial plot in the green burial area.
8. Lots in the green burial area are allocated on a “next available” basis. There is no choice of plot as they are distributed sequentially. Plots will never be reused or recycled.
9. Plots guarantee a burial space only and are not “property”. They cannot be resold to another individual. A purchased space which is not used can be returned to the Cemetery for refund minus an administrative fee.
10. No disinterments are possible unless required by court order.
11. No marker is permitted on individual graves. One marker for the entire green burial section will record the names of the interred.
12. The green burial area will have reduced mowing and landscaping requirements. A less manicured and natural appearance is to be expected and is at the sole discretion of the pastor.

13. Markers, memorials, plaques, mementos, or objects of any kind cannot be left in the green burial area. Plantings of any kind are also prohibited. Cemetery staff may remove any item at their discretion. Natural flowers left at the gravesite at the time of service will be allowed to remain for a few days.
14. Decedents should be clothed in natural materials (cotton, linen, wool, leather) to the extent practical in keeping with the green aspect of the area.
15. Those contemplating green burial must recognize the solemnity of the Cemetery and respect the Catholic nature of the space. No ceremonies, rituals, or acts contrary to Catholic tradition or canon law are allowed.
16. Any questions regarding green burial should be directed to the pastor and Catholic Funeral Rites, to include the Rite of Committal or Interment, are under the authority of the Bishop of the Diocese of Scranton.
17. Persons requesting a green burial space must sign a copy of these regulations to acknowledge having read and understood these regulations.