

What Families Value Most

Every family's story is unique, but many choose Serenity Ridge because it provides a more meaningful, healing, and peaceful way to honor the life of someone they love.

When families reflect on their experience, several themes consistently arise:

- ✓ The peace and beauty of a natural setting.
- ✓ Knowing they are helping protect the environment.
- ✓ Having a special place to return for reflection and remembrance.
- ✓ The opportunity to craft a meaningful and personal farewell.



For many, the greatest comfort comes from knowing their loved one's final resting place is part of a living, protected landscape.

Rather than simply marking the end of a life, natural burial becomes part of an ongoing story of renewal—preserving forests, wetlands, wildlife habitat, and open space for generations to come.

A natural burial is more than a final resting place. It is a meaningful farewell, a lasting legacy, and a beautiful way to celebrate a life well lived.

Learn More About Natural Burial

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Finding Meaning in Natural Burial



Finding Comfort

A Return to Nature

Many families find comfort in knowing their loved one's body will naturally return to the earth, enriching the soil, supporting new plant life, and helping preserve the landscape for future generations. Rather than resisting nature, natural burial embraces life's continuous cycle, offering many people a profound sense of peace.

Embracing Life's Natural Cycle

Unlike conventional burial, natural burial does not use embalming chemicals, concrete burial vaults, or metal caskets. Instead, the body is allowed to return naturally to the earth.

The burial itself also reflects this philosophy. Graves are typically 3½ to 4 feet deep so they remain within the oxygen-rich layer of the soil, where natural decomposition occurs most effectively. Organic materials such as hay, straw, or wood chips are placed beneath and above the casket or shroud to encourage healthy soil biology and support the natural return of the body to the earth.

Many families say that understanding this natural process brings a greater sense of acceptance and peace during their grief.



A Peaceful Place to Return

Located within a 177-acre nature preserve, Serenity Ridge offers families much more than a burial site. It provides a beautiful place to visit, reflect, and maintain an ongoing connection with their loved one.

Family and friends are welcome to return throughout the year to walk the preserve's hiking trails, observe birds and wildlife, enjoy stargazing, or even volunteer by watering young trees or removing invasive plants.

Families find comfort in watching the nature preserve grow and flourish through the seasons.



Honoring a Life

A More Personal Farewell
Every life is unique, and every farewell should be too.

Families have the freedom to create ceremonies that reflect their loved one's beliefs, personality, and values. Whether incorporating favorite music, meaningful readings, spiritual traditions, or quiet moments of reflection, ceremonies become deeply personal expressions of love.

Natural burial also invites family and friends to become active participants in the farewell. Many families choose to:

- ✔ Decorate a biodegradable casket or burial shroud
- ✔ Carry their loved one to the gravesite
- ✔ Help fill the grave with soil
- ✔ Place flowers or natural tributes at the gravesite

Families often describe these shared experiences as healing, memorable, and an important part of the grieving process.

Staying Connected

Natural burial ceremonies bring families and friends together in meaningful ways. Sharing memories, participating in the burial, and gathering outdoors creates opportunities for deeper connection and mutual support. Many families leave feeling not only closer to their loved one, but also closer to one another.



Leaving a Living Legacy



For many families, one of the greatest sources of comfort is knowing their loved one's final resting place contributes to something lasting.



A portion of every burial fee supports the ongoing protection and restoration of the Serenity Ridge Nature Preserve and Arboretum, helping preserve forests, wetlands, meadows, and wildlife habitat.



For individuals who loved hiking, gardening, conservation, farming, birdwatching, or simply spending time outdoors, natural burial becomes a final expression of the values they lived by.



Instead of rows of granite monuments, Serenity Ridge remains a thriving natural landscape. Native wildflowers bloom, forests mature, wildlife flourishes, and future generations benefit from protected open space.



Many families come to see the preserve itself as the memorial—a living landscape that continues to grow and change, reflecting the enduring impact of the life it honors.