

Green Burial Council

<http://greenburialcouncil.org>

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. And in that short period of time, we've emerged as the "gold standard" among consumers, land trusts, park service agencies as well the cemetery/funeral profession. How are we doing it?

- By developing a certification program that is bringing about a new ethic in deathcare rooted in transparency, accountability and ecological responsibility;
- By building out an international network of "approved providers" who are committed to reducing toxins, waste, and carbon emissions that have been associated with conventional end-of-life rituals; and
- By bringing 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

Ramsey Creek Preserve

<http://www.memorialecosystems.com>

Memorial Ecosystems Inc. opened Ramsey Creek preserve in 1998, the first "green cemetery" in the United States. The preserve was formed to harness the funeral industry for land protection and restoration, to fund non-profits, education, the arts and scientific research, and to provide a less expensive and more meaningful burial option.

Our award-winning company aspires to protect, restore and permanently endow one million acres of wild-lands over the coming decades. More than merely financing protection, the inherently spiritual nature of our endeavor means that we can foster closer ties between human communities and the natural communities that they depend on.

Our main focus is to develop multi-functional memorial nature preserves that we create with the cooperation and assistance of non-profit organizations. Through becoming members of the preserve during life, and choosing burial in the preserve after, our clients leave a permanent legacy for their families, their communities and the natural world. We are committed to being the leaders in environmentally and socially responsible death care.

Greensprings Natural Cemetery

<http://naturalburial.org>

An idea: that you can give in death, as you do in life, for the people and things you love
Through natural burial at Greensprings, you create a legacy of enduring stewardship and renewal... A legacy that provides a place of peace and beauty for generations to come.

A place: one-hundred acres of rolling hilltop meadows south of Cayuga Lake in New York's lovely Finger Lakes region. Greensprings on Irish Hill is bounded by 4,000-acre Arnot Forest and 4,000-acre Newfield State Forest.

A difference: Greensprings offers a sustainable and beautiful alternative to conventional cemeteries. It is a place of meadows and woodlands, where you may choose native trees and shrubs for planting on your gravesite, helping to restore the land to its natural state and providing shelter and food for wildlife.

The Funeral Consumers Alliance

<http://www.funerals.org>

The Funeral Consumers Alliance is a nonprofit organization dedicated to protecting a consumer's right to choose a meaningful, dignified, affordable funeral. To accomplish that goal, FCA:

- offers pamphlets and newsletters on funeral choices to increase public awareness of funeral options, including how to care for your own dead without using a funeral home

- monitors funeral industry trends and practices nationally and exposes abuses
- serves as a consumer advocate for legal and regulatory reform, giving advice on or lobbying for necessary changes locally, state-wide, or nationally
- serves as a credible source of information for media covering death and dying
- works with national organizations sharing similar concerns to expand families' choices and control over funeral options
- gives advice and guidance to local memorial and funeral planning societies
- refers people to local funeral planning societies and regulatory agencies
- helps 100 funeral planning societies stay in touch with each other and exchange ideas

The Funeral Consumers Alliance is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. To see a copy of our Form 990, which documents our income and expenditures to the IRS, please visit [Guidestar](#).

The Funeral Consumers Alliance of Eastern Massachusetts

<http://fcaemass.org>

FCAEM is an affiliate of the national Funeral Consumers Alliance serving the Greater Boston and Eastern Massachusetts regions.

Publications

Grave Matters: A Journey through the Modern Funeral Industry to a Natural Way of Burial by Mark Harris, Scribner, 2007

Caring for Your Own Dead: Your Final Act of Love - A complete guide for those making funeral arrangements with or without a funeral director by Lisa Carlson, Upper Access Books, 1998