

Pine Grove Cemetery Association
Procedures Regarding Green Burials

The Plan for Additional Burial Space and Burial Procedures adopted from time to time by Pine Grove Cemetery Association shall apply to green burials with full force and effect, except to the extent specifically abrogated or amended hereby.

A licensed funeral director shall oversee all green burials to ensure that all Massachusetts Regulations pertaining to the handling and transportation of bodies are followed.

Pine Grove Cemetery Association will work to accommodate the wishes of the family of the deceased with respect to burial procedure, but in the event of disagreement, the decision of the Burial Coordinator is final.

Subject to the approval of the Burial Coordinator, the family of the deceased may participate in the preparation of the grave and in the burial of the body.

Burial in a casket is not required, but any casket used must be of biodegradable material, such as pine or cardboard.

The body of the deceased shall be prepared in an environmentally friendly way; embalming or the use of other preservatives is not permitted. Any clothing or shroud used to cover the body is to be readily biodegradable. Non-degradable objects may not be buried with the body.

Bodies must be buried such that they are at one end of a grave, not deeper than four feet from the ground surface, yet must maintain a minimum of two feet of soil between the body and the ground surface. Graves may take several years to settle back to original ground level and may settle unevenly. Pine Grove Cemetery Association reserves the right to periodically re-mound or re-grade gravesites.

The capacity of any grave specified in the Plan for Additional Burial Space shall not be affected by the fact of a green burial. For determination of grave capacity, bodies buried without a casket are deemed to have been buried in a casket. For example, a standard burial plot may contain only a single body, and, if desired by the owner of a right to be buried in such plot, two urns.

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