



natural burial

restore nature
and preserve
land...forever

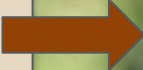
The background of the slide is a photograph of a forest. The top half shows the canopy of trees with yellow and green leaves. The bottom half shows a path covered in a thick layer of fallen yellow leaves, with tree trunks visible on either side.

Today


- What's natural burial
- Common questions
- Why people like it
- Around Ontario
- Approval process

What's natural burial?

Above ground:

- The land is restored and protected in its natural eco-habitat
 - Tombstones are replaced with either a small local stone, or a communal marker
- 

Below ground:

- The body is buried in a biodegradable casket or shroud
 - The grave depth is 3 to 4 feet deep
 - The body isn't embalmed
 - There's no vault
- 

Natural burial is:

Not a new idea.

Not an engineered process.

Still practiced today



Commonly asked questions

Will natural burial poison the water?

- No. In general, pathogens die when we do.
- There's no carrier to transmit them
- For eons people have been buried this way with no ill effects.
- Regardless, the government has extra safeguards and there must be one metre between the body and the water table.

Will scavengers dig out the bodies?

- We're too much work.
- Buried three - four feet below the surface, they would rather find other food.
- As well, our bodies are below the smell line.
- In the US, where there are lots of natural burials, there are no instances of scavengers digging up graves.



More questions...

Are there winter burials?

- Burials are offered 52 weeks/year in Thunder Bay, and we're trying to make them available in southern Ontario.

Can people find their loved one's grave?

- Legally every cemetery must be able to locate each grave. GPS is often used.

Is natural burial affordable?

- Natural burial is less expensive than conventional burial, but usually more expensive than cremation.



Why people like natural burial

It's not just about being eco-friendly.

But also it's:

- Simpler
- Fastest and most beneficial integration of the body with nature
- A final resting place in nature consistent with many faiths and inclusive of many traditions
- Answers a spiritual need
- Part of the cycle of life
- Leaving a legacy
- Preserving a biodiverse greenspace
- A nice place to visit
- Not harmful, climate friendly

“

This is a gift I can give future generations - JFC

“

I'm a gardener. What else is there to say? - CR

“

I don't even have words for how meaningful and deep it is for me.

It's a connection and a responsibility to the earth. There's humility and love in it. It would be my last commitment to our climate.

- JD

What about cremation?



- Over 70% of Ontarians opt for cremation
It appears to be the simplest option and most commonly offered, but it has a high carbon footprint.
 - Each cremation releases about 500 lbs of carbon into the atmosphere
 - If it doesn't have a special filter, it also emits nitrogen oxide, sulfur dioxide, dioxins and particulates
- It's harmful to the soil and plants:
- Cremains are too alkaline for the soil (pH of 11.8)
 - The sodium content of cremains is 200x - 2000x too high for tree and plant roots

Natural Burial Has Broad Appeal:

Across Parties

Would you ever consider a natural burial?

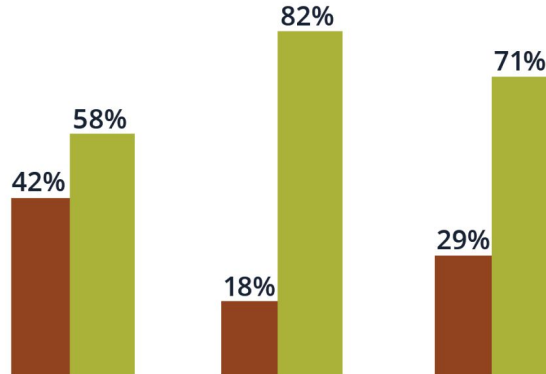
 **WOULD consider**

 **Would NOT consider**

Conservative

NDP

Liberal

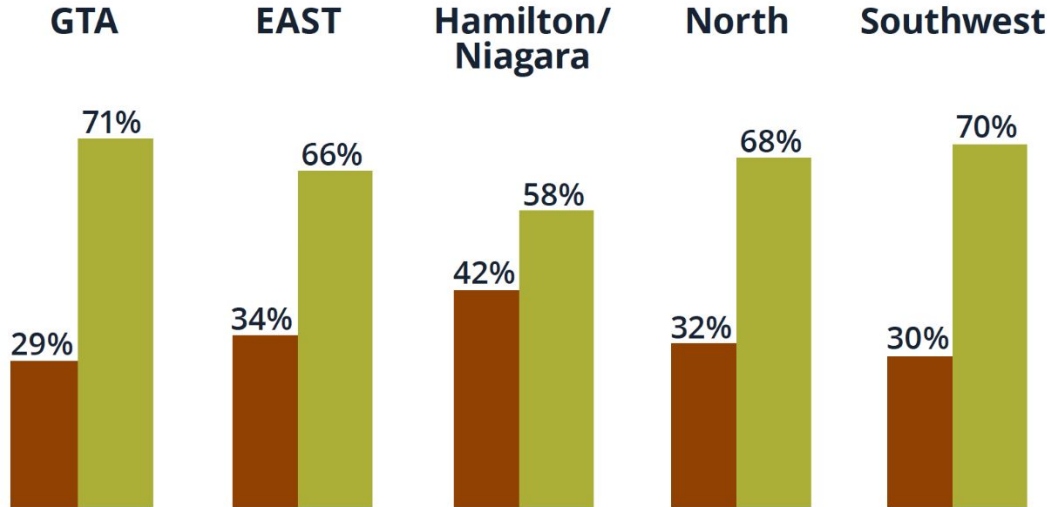
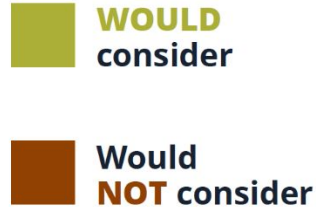


Natural Burial Association Poll via Angus Reid Online Forum, 1006 Ontarians, representative sample, 2022

Natural Burial Has Broad Appeal:

By Geography

Would you ever consider a natural burial?



Angus Reid survey for Natural Burial Association, 1006 participants, January 2022

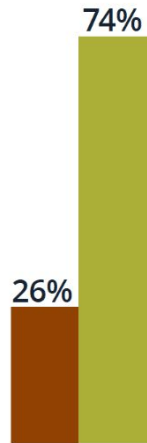
Natural Burial Has Broad Appeal:

By Age

Would you
ever consider a
natural burial?



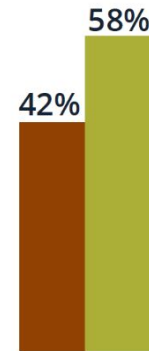
18-34



35-54



55+

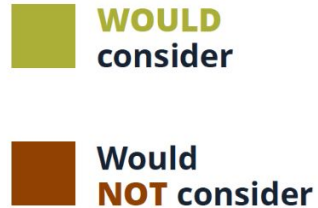


Angus Reid survey for Natural Burial Association, 1006 participants, January 2022

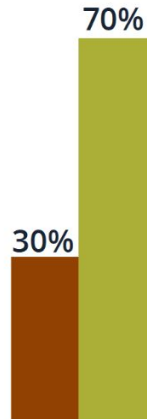
Natural Burial Has Broad Appeal:

By Gender

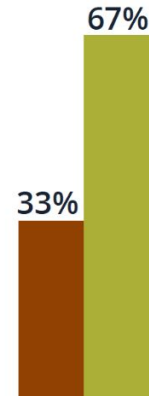
Would you
ever consider a
natural burial?



Male



Female



Angus Reid survey for Natural Burial Association,
1006 participants, January 2022

Ontario Hybrid Natural Burial Grounds



Willow's Rest
Niagara Falls

A creative two acre site with bee hives, butterfly pollinators, a bench carved from a fallen ash tree, and a communal marker sourced from the local quarry.



Glenwood Cemetery
Picton

Ontario's only woodland burial where you have a good chance of seeing a deer while visiting your loved ones.



Union Cemetery
Cobourg

A quarter acre running alongside Cobourg Creek, here they dig the graves and the invasive species by hand. The lot is now full.



Holstein Natural Burial
Ground , established
2022

Province wide

Visit www.NaturalBurialAssociation.ca/SitesInOntario

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Dedicated sites | Nogies Creek, Bobcaygeon Bob & Susan's organic farm, Sarnia |
| Gold standard Hybrids | Niagara Falls - Willow's Rest (Fairview Cemetery) Cobourg (Union Cemetery) Picton (Glenwood Cemetery) Holstein Cemetery Roseneath St. (James Cemetery) |
| Others | Jordan, Brampton, Pickering, Waterloo, Owen Sound |
| Coming soon(ish) | Perth (Elmwood Cemetery) Havelock Algonquin Highlands (St. Stephen's) Hamilton (Mt. Hamilton) Guelph (Woodlawn) The Blue Mountains (Clarksburg Union) |
| Advocacy Groups | Haliburton Highlands Green Burial Society, GB Kingston, GB Ottawa Valley, Sault Ste Marie, Chatham-Kent-Essex, Burlington, North Bruce Peninsula, Norfolk |

Approval Process

Municipal approval:

- Medical officer (hydrology studies may be required)

Bereavement Authority of Ontario.

Requirements may include, but aren't limited to:

- Municipal approval
- Landscape drawings, including map of plots
- Land survey
- Bylaws for the natural area

Landscaping

- Landscaping and costs involved prior to launch





Paisley Past and Possibilities



Restoring the natural eco-system

Tall grass prairie at Allen
Park
Example