



The first nature preserve cemetery in central Ohio

Kokosing Nature Preserve is a conservation burial ground located in the picturesque countryside of Gambier, Ohio. Established by the Philander Chase Conservancy, Kenyon College's land trust, the preserve offers a natural burial option on twenty-three acres of native prairie and woodlands.

Questions about Kokosing Nature Preserve

WHAT IS NATURAL BURIAL?

Natural burial (sometimes call green burial) emphasizes simplicity and a return to nature. The body is placed in a biodegradable coffin or shroud and is interred without the use of embalming fluid or a concrete burial vault. Over time, the gravesite returns to its undisturbed state, covered in prairie grasses and wildflowers, surrounded by trees and rolling farmland.

IS NATURAL BURIAL A NEW CONCEPT?

No. Natural burial is the way most people have been buried throughout the ages. The use of concrete vaults and embalming are relatively new concepts, becoming popular during the Civil War. Natural burial is a re-emerging movement nationally and worldwide. The nation's first conservation burial ground, Ramsey Creek Preserve in South Carolina, opened in 1998. The natural burial movement does not oppose interment of any kind, but offers a traditional, environmentally sound alternative for those who are interested.

IS NATURAL BURIAL LEGAL?

Yes. Vaults are not required by law. Embalming is only required under rare circumstances, with a few states requiring it if a body is transported by common carrier or will not be buried within a certain amount of time. Kokosing Nature Preserve is registered with the State of Ohio, and has fulfilled all requirements for the establishment of a perpetual care trust fund.





HOW ARE GRAVES MARKED?

A natural, engraved stone may be placed flat at the gravesite, but this is not required. Families may wish to plant wildflowers from an approved list of native species, and approved native species of trees may also be planted at some burial plots.

CAN CREMATED REMAINS BE BURIED OR SCATTERED?

Yes. Kokosing Nature Preserve accepts cremated remains for burial or scattering. Interment rights can be purchased for the purpose of burying or

scattering cremated remains within a specific plot. The preserve also features designated areas for scattering throughout the property. A permanent record of the scattering location is maintained.

HOW WILL THE CEMETERY BE MAINTAINED?

Kokosing Nature Preserve is first and foremost a nature preserve. Most of the property is planted with native prairie grasses and wildflowers and will not be mowed in the same manner as a conventional cemetery. Mowed paths provide access to all areas of the nature preserve. If needed for a burial, a temporary path will be mowed to provide direct access to the burial plot. Designated areas will be maintained as mowed lawn space. Restoration techniques to improve the health of the prairie will include periodic prairie burns. A permanent endowment fund provides for future care and maintenance of the property.

IS KOKOSING NATURE PRESERVE OPEN TO ALL?

Yes. Kokosing Nature Preserve offers a park-like setting for all to enjoy. Anyone who is interested in being interred at the preserve may purchase interment rights in advance or at the time of need. Kokosing Nature Preserve is non-sectarian and committed to all principles of non-discrimination.

Location

Kokosing Nature Preserve is located in central Knox County, approximately fifty miles northeast of Columbus, at 10620 Quarry Chapel Road, Gambier, Ohio 43022. The preserve is approximately one mile northeast of the Village of Gambier and the campus of Kenyon College.

For more information

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