



NATURAL PATH SANCTUARY

Burial Right Purchase Procedure & Optional Purchases



How to Purchase a Burial Right (Burial Plot) in Natural Path Sanctuary Cemetery

1. **Legacy Donation (must be paid in full before proceeding to step 2).** Fill out Legacy Donation paperwork. Make a Legacy Donation of at least \$3,000 (per person) to the non-profit Farley Center. Can be made as a pledge and paid in installments.

Make donation check(s) out to Farley Center. After this is paid in full:

2. Fill out Burial Right Purchase Agreement and purchase:
 - a. Full Body burial right: \$1,500 or
 - b. Cremains burial right: \$1,000 (\$500 to be used for a carbon offset)

The Burial Right can also be paid in installments. It must be paid in full before burial. **Make burial right check(s) out to Natural Path Sanctuary**

Contact us if you would like to donate or pay with something other than a check.

Additional Options for Purchase from Natural Path Sanctuary (at time of burial):

These fees are incurred at time of burial and may be subject to change.

- ☐ Casket Burial: \$200
- ☐ Saturday or Sunday Burial: \$300



Legacy Donation/Pledge Agreement

Donation Checks must be made out to Farley Center

Donor Information:

Name: _____ e-mail _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____ Phone _____

☐ Donation made on behalf of _____ (if this person is different from donor).

IN RECOGNITION OF THE NEED to support the mission and the goals of the Farley Center, and in consideration of the gift of others, I hereby subscribe and agree to pay a Legacy Donation to the Linda & Gene Farley Center for Peace, Justice, and Sustainability, Inc. to support its work in the total sum of: _____ Dollars (\$_____) to be paid in check or securities. A donation of \$3,000 or more is considered a Legacy level donation.

I understand that this donation entitles me to voluntarily purchase a burial right for a full body burial or cremains placement in the Natural Path Sanctuary, a natural burial ground. If I choose to purchase a burial right at a later date, the price of the burial right will be what is in effect at the time the burial right is purchased.

Donation payment plan:

- ☐ Full payment
- ☐ 12-month payment plan with an initial \$250 payment and 11 subsequent \$250 monthly payments
- ☐ 24-month payment plan with an initial \$125 payment and 23 subsequent \$125 monthly payments
- ☐ 30-month payment plan with an initial \$100 payment and 29 subsequent \$100 monthly payments
- ☐ Other _____

Pledge due date is hereby set as _____ Amount received \$ _____

It is understood that the Legacy Donation/Pledge is a voluntary and non-refundable charitable contribution. No goods or services were provided to you in whole or in part. You should consult with your tax advisor if you wish to claim a deduction of your gift as a charitable contribution.

Donor Signature

Date

Signature of Farley Center Representative

Date

Burial Right Purchase Agreement

Please make check out to: Natural Path Sanctuary



Purchaser Information:

Name: _____ e-mail _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____ Phone _____

Burial Right purchased for the following person: _____

As a Legacy level donor to the Linda & Gene Farley Center for Peace, Justice and Sustainability, I have chosen to exercise my right to purchase a burial right in the Natural Path Sanctuary, a natural burial ground located at the Farley Center. I further understand that the current price of the burial right in the year 2024 is below, and I choose:

- ☐ Full body burial: \$1,500 (Includes burial lot, opening and closing of the grave, maintenance of records, and other services. Casket burials and weekend burials will incur an additional fee at time of burial.)
- ☐ Cremains burial or scattering: \$1,000 (Includes same services as full body burial plus investment in carbon offsets.)

The Burial Right Holder shall have the right to use said space for burial **only when the total payment has been received** and arrangements are made with the Natural Path Sanctuary coordinator for the date and time of burial, unless written permission to do otherwise is granted by the NPS coordinator.

- ☐ Full payment received in the amount of: \$ _____ OR
- ☐ Payment plan arrangement: (10 monthly payments of \$150 or \$100) Amount Received: \$ _____

NOTICE TO PURCHASER: (1) Do not sign this form before you read it or if it contains any applicable blank spaces. (2) You are entitled to an exact copy of the purchase agreement form you sign. The Purchaser further acknowledges that he or she has carefully read and fully understands the terms of this agreement, and that he or she hereby acknowledges receipt of an exact copy of this form.

I agree to abide by the attached Conditions of Agreement and the Rules and Regulations of Natural Path Sanctuary.

Purchaser Signature

Date

Signature of Natural Path Sanctuary Representative

Date

.....
ASSIGNED BURIAL RIGHT LOCATION - FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

- | | | |
|----|--|-----------------------------|
| A. | Block _____ Lot _____ for full body burial | Orientation of lot: N/S E/W |
| B. | Block _____ Lot _____ for cremains burial | Orientation of lot: N/S E/W |
| C. | Section _____ for scattering of cremains | |



Received by _____

Rules and Regulations for a Natural Burial

The Natural Path Sanctuary is pleased that you are joining us in creating a legacy of care and respect for the earth through choosing a natural burial. We recognize that death is not always easy to accept, whether anticipated or unanticipated, and all involved with the Natural Path Sanctuary hope that you will find healing in the practice of a natural-life sustaining burial.

The Natural Path Sanctuary is committed to family and community friendly burials with as minimal of an impact on the environment as possible. It is our desire to preserve the natural beauty of the land in life and in death.

Embalming:

Given the toxic nature of traditional embalming fluid, and methods of disposing of bodily fluids, no embalming of **any kind** is allowed. This includes "green" embalming fluid. Funeral directors and morticians need to be instructed not to use embalming fluids, but rather to use alternatives such as refrigeration or dry ice.

Outer Burial containers and liners:

Vaults and similar outer containers are inconsistent with green burial and are not permitted at the Natural Path Sanctuary.

Biodegradable containers and coverings:

All burials shall be made in **biodegradable** containers such as shrouds, blankets, bare wood caskets, urns, and approved cremation grade cardboard boxes. Shrouds, blankets or drapes are preferred because they require less disruption of the root systems where the burial takes place. Shrouds or other cloth containers may be of any natural, biodegradable fiber.

Caskets can be made only with wood that is **not naturally decay resistant** (i.e. cedar, black locust, redwood, etc.). No finishes (oil, lacquers, polyurethane, etc.) of **any** kind will be allowed. All casket liners, if applicable, must be of **ONLY** natural fiber, biodegradable material. No metal of any kind may be used to decorate the casket. Screws, nails or other fasteners must be plain steel (stainless and galvanized are not allowed). Containers shall be constructed of sufficient strength to support the weight of an adult body. A list of possible sources for purchasing biodegradable containers and coverings is available upon request. **All containers must be pre-approved. Clothing and other items to be buried must also comply with these specifications.**

Cremated Remains:

We do accept cremated remains (cremains); however, we ask that the energy demand of cremation be considered in your decision making when comparing burial vs. cremation. All urns or other containers must be biodegradable, with no finishes. Urns must be approved by NPS staff. Cremains will be documented and recorded in the same manner as any burial.

Grave Markers:

In keeping with the understanding that the grave sites will return to their natural state, many families will choose not to have a grave marker. Some families may choose a simple log or flat field stone as a marker. An engraved permanent wood or stone marker is also allowable. All stones must be **“shaped by nature”** (no cutting, grinding, shaping, polishing, etc.), and must be installed flush to the ground so that only the top surface is exposed. Markers must meet the established size limitation of a maximum of 216 sq. inches and be no more than 24 inches in any dimension. No paints, stains or other highlights can be used on markers. All marker costs are the family’s responsibility, and may be purchased from the Farley Center. **All markers must receive prior approval of the Natural Path Sanctuary staff. Contact NPS staff before creating or purchasing a marker to make sure that it complies with the cemetery’s regulations.** An electronic record and map of the exact burial site is maintained at the Natural Path Sanctuary office. Families can access the computerized map and records kept at the Natural Path Sanctuary office.

Planting of Flowers, plants, shrubs and trees:

Flowers, decorative plants, shrubs and trees may not be planted at the cemetery without first securing the cemetery’s permission. Permission will only be granted for **species native to this part of Wisconsin from a list provided by the Natural Path Sanctuary**, within the limits of the existing flora. Because invasive organisms (i.e. seeds and **jumping worm**) may be present in the soil of the root ball, **only plants purchased from an NPS approved nursery or bare root planting will be allowed. Trees and shrubs that are planted at the family’s request require a \$750 maintenance fee.** Generally, the plant growth on the grave site will return to its natural state.

Floral Tributes and Decorations:

In keeping with preserving the natural environment, floral tributes and other objects must be removed after the completion of burial services. Biodegradable religious identifiers may be buried with the individual’s body. Religious and other information may be kept in the Center’s computer system that keeps a record of the individuals buried here.

Benches:

Benches may not be placed in the cemetery without first securing the cemetery’s permission. Permission will only be granted for benches that meet our requirements. A placement fee of \$500 is required. Please call or email for details.

Size of Memorial gathering:

Due to conditions established by the Town of Springdale, attendance is limited to a 20 vehicle parking limit. No parking is allowed along Spring Rose Road or the entrance right of way.

We hope that these regulations are seen as reasonable. They are based on our mutual desire that people buried here will be a part of the natural path of life and death buried amongst the trees and the plants, contributing to the sustainability of the nature preserve.



CONDITIONS OF AGREEMENT

Burial Rights Holder _____

This Agreement is subject to provisions of the Bylaws of the Natural Path Sanctuary, and Chapter 157 and Subchapter 440.90, et. seq., Wisconsin Statutes and regulations thereunder, as amended. The Linda and Gene Farley Center for Peace, Justice, and Sustainability, Inc. (Farley Center) is the sole member of the Natural Path Sanctuary. The Natural Path Sanctuary is a nature preserve cemetery.

RULES AND REGULATIONS. The Burial Rights Holder shall comply at all times with rules and regulations now or hereafter made and promulgated for operation, care, and control of the cemetery. (Attached).

A. BURIAL RIGHTS TRANSFERS. Burial Rights Holder owns the burial rights to one or more single burial lot and/or cremains placement identified herein. In the event that geologic and natural conditions make burial impracticable in the lot(s) identified herein, in agreement with the Burial Rights Holder, the Natural Path Sanctuary reserves the right to transfer the burial rights to another lot comparable to the single lot identified herein

- The Burial Rights Holder may exchange the designated lot for another at the Natural Path Sanctuary without additional fees. The Burial Rights Holder may return the burial lot described in this Agreement to the Natural Path Sanctuary at any time before a burial takes place; however, only the purchase price of the burial right at the time of this Agreement, less an administrative fee of 15% of burial right price, can be refunded. All documents pertaining to the original Burial Rights Agreement must be returned to the Natural Path Sanctuary office.
- Burial rights may not be sold on a secondary market, with the limited exception that a Burial Rights Holder or their representative may transfer a previously obtained burial lot to another family member, subject to the terms and conditions of this contract.

B. BURIAL RIGHTS SERVICE. Only the Burial Rights Holder or his or her personal representative or executor can state who is to be buried in a lot.

- Friends and family of the Burial Rights Holder, may choose to assist in the digging of the grave (weather and ground conditions permitting). Caution is advised given that tree roots and rocky soil can make hand-digging a grave difficult and time-consuming work.

For full body burials, the State of Wisconsin form "Report for Final Disposition of a Human Corpse and Out-of-State Burial Transit Permit", must be received prior to a burial.

- Generally, only one full burial per lot is allowed. Additional burials, extra depth or double depth burials are permitted in exceptional circumstances when required by the customs or religion of the Burial Rights Holder and his or her community. Special arrangements need to be made with cemetery staff regarding this prior to any burials. Additional fees will apply.
- Shrouds or biodegradable fabric body covers are preferred. Caskets, if used, are required to be made of an easily biodegradable material or wood that has not been treated with preservatives. Burial vaults are not permitted. Bodies may not be embalmed.

C. **PERPETUAL CARE/COURSE OF NATURE.** The Natural Path Sanctuary will, as required by State Law § 157.11(9g)(c), Wis. Stats (2009-2010), deposit fifteen percent (15%) of the cost of each burial lot in an irrevocable trust account for the perpetual upkeep of the Sanctuary. It is understood that Nature will be permitted to take its course in the Sanctuary and the burial grounds will not be landscaped, cultivated, or maintained except to maintain trails and paths and to assure safety. The Burial Rights Holder understands that over time his or her burial lot and all burial lots may become overgrown with trees, bushes, and other plants that Nature provides.

D. **BENEFIT OF DONATION.** The Farley Center, where the Natural Path Sanctuary is located, has established a Legacy level donation as requirement for the right to purchase a burial lot in the Natural Path Sanctuary. The level of donation to the Farley Center and its corresponding benefit is subject to change without notice; this agreement is subject to the benefit schedule on the date of the contract and must be paid in full prior to purchasing a burial right, unless otherwise indicated.

E. **OPERATION OF PROPERTY.** Burial Rights Holder expressly acknowledges that nothing in this Agreement contained shall be deemed or interpreted to restrict the rights of the Natural Path Sanctuary with respect to the unfettered continued operation of cemetery property. The Natural Path Sanctuary in consultation with the Farley Center is to have full and absolute authority to operate, manage, and control its property.

F. **LIMITATION OF LIABILITY.** In no event shall the Natural Path Sanctuary be liable to Burial Rights Holder for a greater amount of money than that paid by Burial Rights Holder hereunder.

G. **IMMEDIATE USE.** The Burial Rights Holder shall have the right to use said space for burial at any time hereafter, provided the total payment has been given in full and arrangements are made with the Natural Path Sanctuary managers for the date and time of burial, unless written permission to do otherwise is granted by the Natural Path Sanctuary facilitator.

H. **NON-SECTARIAN.** The Burial Rights Holder hereby acknowledges that he or she has carefully read and fully understands the terms of this agreement and that he or she fully understands that no person will be denied the designation of a grave space because of race, religion (or absence thereof), national origin, disability, sex or gender preference.

I. **NO WAIVER OF BREACH.** Acceptance of overdue payments or the waiver of any breach of term, conditions or provision of this Contract by the Natural Path Sanctuary shall not constitute a waiver of any subsequent breach.

J. **NATURAL PATH SANCTUARY'S RIGHTS.** It is understood that the Natural Path Sanctuary's failure to exercise its rights, as provided herein upon the occasion of the Burial Rights Holder's default shall not constitute a waiver of the Natural Path Sanctuary's rights as set out herein, which shall be considered as continuing.

K. **AGREEMENT BINDING.** It is intended that this document shall, upon acceptance by the Natural Path Sanctuary, become the Agreement between the parties and shall be binding upon the heirs, executors, administrators, successors, and assigns of the parties hereto.

L. **CONTAINS ALL COVENANTS.** This Agreement contains all of the covenants between the parties and no agent or representative of either party has authority to modify, add to or change any of the terms or conditions herein set forth, nor the terms or conditions of any receipt issued for payments. BURIAL RIGHTS HOLDER CERTIFIES THAT NO ORAL OR WRITTEN STATEMENTS, PROMISES, PRESENTATIONS OR GUARANTEES OTHER THAN THOSE CONTAINED HEREIN HAVE BEEN MADE.

INQUIRIES. All inquiries or concerns should be received in person at the Natural Path Sanctuary office, located at 2299 Spring Rose Road, Verona, WI 53593, by calling 608-845-8724 Monday through Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and leaving a message, or by email to nps@farleycenter.org.

Frequently Asked Questions about Natural Burial

1) What is a natural burial? (also referred to as a “green burial” or “conservation burial”)

This is how everyone was buried throughout most of human history. Modern burial techniques with steel or bronze coffins and concrete vaults are actually quite modern. Aside from the Egyptian pharaohs, embalming only became common around the time of the Civil War.

In a natural burial, a person is laid to rest wrapped in a shroud or in a biodegradable container such as a natural wooden casket, or even cardboard box. They are not embalmed. (B)

2) What’s wrong with embalming?

Embalming fluid is primarily comprised of the carcinogenic chemical formaldehyde, which has been proven to pose health risks in funeral homes. A study by the National Cancer Institute released in late 2009 revealed that funeral directors have a much higher incidence of myeloid leukemia. The sanitation and preservation of a corpse can almost always take place without the use of chemicals, as is done in just about every nation in the world – with the exception of the US, Canada, and a half-dozen other countries. (A)

3) Doesn’t embalming prevent disease?

Infected bodies can remain a potential source of infection for a short time after death whether embalmed or not, but as is the case with infected live patients, transmission requires direct contact with infectious tissue or body fluids, which requires usual safe handling steps with or without embalming. Pathogens (with a few rare exceptions) depend upon living tissues. They are parasites. When the body dies, the pathogens die as well. The soil flora can deal with these pathogens. Contrary to popular belief, embalming is not required by law. (D)

4) Does cremation create a lot of pollution?

Cremation uses far fewer resources than typical disposition options, but it certainly has an environmental impact. Cremation burns fossil fuels, and some older cremation facilities can use significantly more energy compared to newer ones. Mercury is also emitted when a person with dental amalgam fillings is cremated. (A)

5) Will animals disturb the body?

No, the body is buried 3-4 feet deep, depending on the soil composition at the cemetery. This depth ensures that remains are both undisturbed and return quickly to nature.

6) How is a natural/green/conservation cemetery maintained?

Most state laws require that a percentage of a burial plot’s sales price goes into a permanent endowment for the care of the space. (Wisconsin requires 15%) The endowment is used to maintain the land. A natural cemetery requires very little maintenance compared to a lawn-type or conventional cemetery, avoiding use of fossil fuels and carbon dioxide emissions that occur with frequent lawn mowing. Concrete vaults are not used in a natural burial which are only useful for maintaining a level surface so that it can be easily mowed. In comparison, in a natural burial ground the vegetation is allowed to grow naturally. Some green cemeteries implement land management procedures, reforesting land or restoring prairie. Care is taken to nurture indigenous growth only. (C)

Sources: A. Green Burial Council; B. Foxfield Preserve at The Nature Center; C. Trust for Natural Legacies; D. Pan American Health Organization