



Glendale Memorial Nature Preserve, INC.

297 Railroad Avenue, Defuniak Springs, FL 32433

Office: 850-859-2141 Fawn Cell: 850-842-1876

Green Burial Planning Packet

When it's your time to go, go green.

Welcome

First, please accept our gratitude for considering Glendale Memorial Nature Preserve for your family's arrangements. Planning end-of-life care can feel overwhelming, especially during times of grief. This packet is designed to guide you step-by-step through the process of arranging a green burial at GMNP.

We are here to support you.

What Is Green Burial?

Green burial is a natural return to the earth. It eliminates:

- Embalming chemicals
- Concrete vaults
- Metal caskets

Instead, biodegradable shrouds or caskets are used, allowing the body to naturally return to the soil and support healthy ecosystems.

At GMNP, every burial supports conservation of native Florida habitats.

What Makes GMNP Different?

- 350-acre protected nature preserve
- 80% permanently undeveloped land
- No vault requirements
- No embalming
- Family-led participation encouraged
- On-site recycled metal grave markers included
- We are a 501(c)(13) Non-profit conservation Cemetery. All funds received are invested into the care of the preserve.



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Step-by-Step Planning Guide

Step 1: Immediate Arrangements

If a death has occurred:

1. Obtain legal pronouncement of death. This can be done by a physician, coroner, medical examiner, or hospice nurse, who can make the initial legal pronouncement.
2. Secure the body in refrigeration. Florida law requires that a body be embalmed, buried, or refrigerated within 24 hours after death. If having a home funeral refrigeration can be achieved by placing the body on icepacks and changing them out as often as needed, dry ice blocks work best for this.
3. Contact GMNP as soon as possible to coordinate timing of burial.

Step 2: Required Documentation

The following are required before burial:

- Death Certificate (filed through funeral home or by the family with the state)
- Burial Transit Permit
- GMNP Burial Authorization Form

If you are unsure how to obtain these documents, call us, we will be happy to help guide you.

Step 3: Choose Your Burial Options

You will decide:

- Shroud or biodegradable casket
- Marker inscription details
- Service or gathering plans
- Participation level (family lowering, funeral home involvement, filling, etc.)



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Step 4: Schedule the Burial

We will coordinate with you:

- Plot location
- Opening and closing of grave
- Marker placement
- Pavilion access if needed

Pricing Overview

Whole Body Green Burial at GMNP: \$1,800

Included:

- Burial plot
- Opening and closing of grave
- On-site handcrafted grave marker
- No vault
- No embalming
- No viewing fees

Optional Biodegradable Caskets: \$500 – \$800

Families may work directly with GMNP or through a funeral home. We are happy to collaborate with local providers.

Family Participation

At GMNP, families may choose to:

- Help lower the body
- Participate in filling the grave
- Conduct their own ceremony
- Invite clergy or celebrants



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Pre-Planning

Pre-planning reduces stress on loved ones and ensures your wishes are honored. At GMNP we do not sell or offer Pre-Need services. However, we can help assist you in pre-planning your arrangements and allow you to reserve a spot for free.

You may:

- Reserve a plot in advance for free (markers and maps do cost extra)
- Document burial preferences
- Inform family of your intentions

Frequently Asked Questions

Is embalming required?

No. We prohibit the use of embalming chemicals in any burial at GMNP.

Can we use our own biodegradable casket or shroud?

Yes, as long as it meets natural material guidelines.

Can we hold a service on site?

Yes. Access to the Chapel Pavilion is available for many uses.

Can we host a home funeral?

Yes. Florida law does not require families to hire a funeral home or licensed funeral director. The next of kin has the legal right to care for their loved one after death, including washing, dressing, holding vigil, and transporting the body, as long as all state regulations are followed.

At Glendale Memorial Nature Preserve, burial is an act of conservation.

We want your body.

We don't mean to rush you.

For questions or guidance at any stage, please call us. We are honored to serve families seeking natural and meaningful alternatives.