

Dust to Dust Green Burial / Nature Reserve Cemetery, LLC

205 Nulty Crossing, PO Box 277, Swansea, SC 29160

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Thank you for your interest in Dust to Dust Green Burial / Nature Reserve Cemetery.

It is our hope that this informative packet will explain who we are and what we do.

If you have any questions, or if you would simply like to talk to one of us at Dust To Dust, please do not hesitate to call! We have your best interest at heart. We are here to serve you, enhance the environment, help with your plans, and save you and your family money.

Michael Bishop

Owner

Email: dust2dust@sc.rr.com

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“For you are dust, and to dust you shall return.”

Genesis 3:19b

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Frequently Asked Questions

How did your cemetery begin and who operates it?

My ex-wife and I were talking one night about what the other should do if something happened to one of us. After doing our research on cemeteries, we decided we wanted to be buried naturally on our family farm. The more we learned about the laws, the more we realized that people should be given the opportunity to have a simple burial. We worked to develop a green burial cemetery and officially opened on September 1, 2009. The cemetery is on my beautiful, family farm land and is paid for and double-zoned as a cemetery and nature reserve with an additional green burial deed restriction. My mom (Julia Bishop), my oldest son (Luke Bishop), my assistant (Holly Randolph), and myself (Michael Bishop), share the duties of running the business.

Where is Dust To Dust Cemetery?

We are located in Swansea, SC, approximately 20 miles south of Columbia. From Highway 321, take Highway 6 towards Pelion for 2 miles and turn left on Nulty Crossing. Look for the first gate on the left into the pasture. The cemetery is on the back side of the property. Please contact us to make an appointment to visit the site, as it is private property.

What is the cost comparison of a Dust to Dust burial vs. a traditional one?

We offer a \$1000 plot which includes opening/closing costs. Local transport is available for \$200 or less. Basic biodegradable caskets can be purchased locally, starting at \$300.

Dust to Dust:

\$1000 for an 8x10 plot
No opening/closing costs
No vault
No embalming
Grave marker is optional
Funeral director is optional
Casket is optional

Traditional:

\$2,000 for a 4x8 plot
\$800 for opening/closing costs
\$1,000 for vault
\$600 for embalming
\$500 for grave marker
\$3,500 for funeral director services
\$3,000 for casket

Explain the term “green burial”...

In a green burial, there is no concrete, steel or formaldehyde allowed. Because the land is “deed restricted,” it can only be used as a green burial cemetery. The land being zoned as a “nature reserve,” means it is set aside for eternity and protected. Dust to Dust is not a perpetual care cemetery. It is natural land, previously used as a farm. Biodegradable shrouds and caskets are allowed, as well as headstones of natural material.

Why choose a green burial?

It is a natural way to be laid to rest and it benefits the environment. Green burial is less expensive than a modern burial, and that keeps money in your family's pocket!

What if I want to be buried at Dust to Dust, but my family wants to hire a funeral director to run the service?

If your family chooses to use a funeral director, make sure they are aware that we do not allow embalmed bodies. Also, make sure they understand that only a biodegradable casket may be used. By law, you can purchase a casket from another source or build a casket yourself. The funeral home must allow you to do so and not charge you any type of fee associated with this. Your family will need to let the funeral director know where you plan to be buried. They can contact us and we will make burial arrangements with them. If your family hires a funeral director, the funeral director will be responsible for filing the death certificate.

What if my family chooses to handle the arrangements themselves and not use a funeral director?

1. A Burial-Removal-Transit Form (BRT), which allows the body to be transported by the person you designate, will be issued. You may want to contact your county coroner in advance if you have any questions about this process.
2. Next your family will need to contact the transporter of the body or they can transport the body themselves. The transporter and the cemetery will coordinate the burial plans along with the family.
3. Your family will need to decide whether or not to purchase a biodegradable casket or shroud.
4. Newspapers will need to be contacted to have an obituary printed, if desired. Your family will need to contact us regarding this, as deaths must be verified before obituaries can be printed. We recommend emailing us the obituary, as well as any pictures you would like to include, to be posted on our Facebook page at no cost.
5. Your family will need to submit a signed Dust to Dust Contract along with full payment, prior to the burial.
6. DHEC will need to be contacted to file a death certificate. This must be done within 5 days of the death. It costs \$12.00 for the first copy and \$3 for each additional copy. We also provide you with the "Non-Funeral Home Worksheet" form provided by DHEC. This, along with the BRT, will be taken at DHEC to file for the death certificate.
7. And finally, your family will need to decide the day and time of the burial. They will need to discuss whether to have a grave-side, family or church-led service, or simply a burial with a memorial to follow somewhere else. These are things you may want to discuss with your family ahead of time.

Can my pet be buried at Dust to Dust?

If you have already purchased a regular 8'x10' plot from us, your dog, cat or other small animal can be buried at Dust to Dust at no further cost to you. Plots (for owners who have not purchased a plot with us) can be purchased for your dog or cat for \$300 for a 5'x8' plot.

Is Financing Available?

Financing is available with us for as low as \$20.00 per month. If you would like to finance with us, you will need to include \$20.00 with your Dust to Dust Contract and then \$20.00 will be due by the same date each month for 49 additional months. Checks should be sent to Dust to Dust, PO Box 277, Swansea, SC 29160. Balance must be paid in full prior to using plot. Should account become 90 days late, contract is void and reimbursements will not be given. Dust to Dust will send quarterly statements showing your balance.

How can I get a Dust to Dust T-Shirt?

Once you have purchased a plot from us or made your first payment to us, we will send you your very own Dust to Dust T-shirt if requested. You will be able to proudly display your choice for your final resting. We will need to know your shirt size and the color of shirt you desire.

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Rules and Regulations (effective January 1, 2020)

1. No vaults will be allowed.
2. Purchase of headstone/ marker is the responsibility of the purchaser; it is not included in the price listed on the contract.
3. Marker type and content must be approved by cemetery prior to installing. Marker may not exceed 2'x3' and must be installed flush with the ground. No vertical headstone is allowed. No concrete, paint, polished rock or metal.
4. Plots may not be decorated with anything that is plastic, concrete, ceramic, tile, painted, stained, polished, metal, cut lumber, etc. All items used must be in a natural state except for engraved marker. Any items placed on plots which do not meet these rules will be removed and thrown away without notice.
5. Any item placed on a plot must not exceed 12" in height, excluding living plants. Any item taller than 12" must be approved by the cemetery.
6. Only biodegradable caskets may be used, but are not required.
7. Visitation is by appointment only.
8. This is not a perpetual care cemetery and no guarantees are made as to the maintenance of this property.
9. No bodies will be accepted which have been embalmed with toxic chemicals, like formaldehyde.
10. Cemetery must be notified 8 hours prior to burial to ensure ample time to open plot.
11. Plots are designated by the cemetery for burial. Purchaser does not get to pick his/her plot. If purchaser has more than one plot, adjacent plots will be reserved upon burial for other deed holders.
12. Plants may be used on plot, but must be approved prior to planting by the cemetery to ensure these plants are natural and noninvasive.
13. Purchase of plot secures the right to be buried within a plot. This does not give ownership of the land.
14. Cemetery will not buy back plots. Owner can resell plot, and we will redo paperwork for a \$50 transfer fee.
15. Cemetery will not be held responsible for stolen property, vandalism, or damage as a result of an act of God.
16. Opening/closing fees are prepaid with this contract.
17. The cemetery is part of a working farm. It is understood by the purchaser that animals, both wild and domesticated, may be present at times on the land.
18. If you choose to make monthly payments with Dust to Dust:
Balance will be paid in installments beginning with \$20 minimum included with this contract and \$20 minimum will be due by the same date until balance is paid in full. Checks will be sent to Dust to Dust, P.O. Box 277, Swansea, SC 29160. Balance must be paid in full prior to using plot. Cemetery will send quarterly statements showing balance. Should account become 90 days late, contract is void and reimbursements will not be given. Any charges upon cemetery resulting from insufficient funds will be reimbursed by purchaser.

* All rules and regulations are subject to change.

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2020 Contract

Please check all that apply:

- \$1000 for 8' x 10' plot, opening & closing
- \$300 for 32" x 30" cremation plot or a 5' x 8' pet plot.
- \$300 for graveside service (more than 2 people present at burial) amenities including tent, carpet, and chairs. These items are all contingent on weather and burial situations.

- Above items are paid in full
- Above items will be paid monthly (please refer to Rules and Regulations page for specifications concerning monthly payments)

Name of Purchaser: _____
Address: _____
City, State: _____
Zip Code: _____
Email: _____
Phone: _____
Alternate Phone: _____

If plot is **not** for purchaser, please list the name of the person the plot is intended for and your relationship to that person:

Name: _____
Relationship: _____

By signing this contract, you agree to the rules and regulations previously listed and state all information above is true and accurate. A copy of the signed contract will be sent to you. Contract is not valid unless signed and notary seal imprinted by a Dust to Dust representative below.

X

Signature of Purchaser Date of Signature

Contract is pre-pay and payments are currently being made.

X

Signature/Notary Seal of Dust to Dust Representative

Contract is paid in full.

X

Signature/Notary Seal of Dust to Dust Representative

For office use only: Plot #: _____ Date Buried: _____ Copy to Back-Up File Copy to Purchaser

Sync with: _____

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When the Family Acts as Funeral Director

If your family chooses not to hire a licensed funeral director, the family must act as the funeral director. Please remember that the following items are the responsibility of the family that acts as the funeral director.

1. Submit any obituary information to the newspaper if desired.
2. Arrange the mortuary transport.
3. Arrange the purchase of or building of the casket if desired.
4. Dress the body if desired.
5. Fill out and file the death certificate.

By signing below, you acknowledge that you understand your responsibility in undertaking this role as funeral director.

Printed Name of Family Member Acting as Funeral Director

Signature of Family Member Acting as Funeral Director

Date

Address: _____

City, State: _____

Zip Code: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Alternate Phone: _____

Office Use Only: Copy to Back-Up File Copy to Purchaser

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Final Resting Place Plans

Although no one really wants to think about the topic of death, you do your family a favor by planning ahead. The following information will help you organize your wishes for your final resting place. Included are things you may have already decided on and things you may not have thought of yet. We suggest you think about the information listed here, write down your wishes, and make sure a family member has a copy. If you have already made your arrangements and have them written down, make sure a family member knows where to find them.

My Full Name: _____

ORGAN DONATION:

- _____ I want to be an organ donor.
_____ I do not want to be an organ donor.

CREMATION OR BURIAL:

_____ I want to be cremated, not buried.

If cremated:

I want my ashes to be _____

_____.

_____ I want to be buried, not cremated.

If buried:

_____ I want a plot in a perpetual care cemetery (location) _____.

_____ I want a plot at a green burial facility (location) _____.

_____ I want to be buried on my own land.

_____ My land has been surveyed.

_____ My land does not have any deed restrictions.

_____ My land meets county requirements as a zoned cemetery.

_____ I want a casket.

_____ The monetary limit for my casket should be \$_____.

_____ Money is no object for my casket.

_____ I want a simple pine box casket. (Can be made for about \$300.)

_____ I do not want a casket. I would like to be buried in a shroud.

_____ I do not want a casket or a shroud. I would like to be buried in my clothes only.

_____ I want a grave marker. I would like it to say:

_____.

_____ The monetary limit for my grave marker should be \$_____.

_____ Money is no object for my grave marker.

_____ I do not want a grave marker.

FUNERAL SERVICE:

- I want a funeral service at (location) _____.
- The monetary limit for my funeral service should be \$_____.
- Money is no object for my funeral service.
- I want a funeral director hired to arrange my funeral service.
- I want my family to handle the arrangements for my funeral service.
- I want my pastor, priest, or minister, to perform my funeral service. *
- I want a framed photo of myself at my funeral service.

- I want a grave-side service at (location) _____.
- I want a funeral director hired to arrange my grave-side service.
- I want my family to handle the arrangements for my grave-side service.
- I want my pastor, priest, or minister to be at the grave-side service. *
- I want a framed photo of myself at my grave-side service.

- I want a memorial service (no body present) at (location) _____.
- I want a funeral director hired to perform my memorial service.
- I want my family to handle the arrangements for my memorial service.
- I want my pastor, priest, minister, to perform my memorial service. *
- I want a framed photo of myself at my memorial service

I do not want a service at all.

* Name of pastor, priest, or minister: _____

These are specific details I have about the service(s) I would like:

OBITUARY:

I would like to have an obituary and I understand this costs money.
The newspaper(s) I would like to have my obituary in is/are:

Things I would like to have included in my obituary:

Do not spend money on an obituary for me.

EMBALMING, OPEN-CLOSED, DRESSING, SPECIFICS:

- I want to be embalmed.
- I do not want to be embalmed.
- I want an open casket.
- I want my jaw closed.
- I want my eyes closed.
- I want my hair fixed.
- I want make-up applied.
- I want a closed casket.
- I would like to be dressed in a specific outfit. Please dress me in:

- I do not have a preference as to what clothing in which I am buried. My family can make that decision.

These are specific details or comments I have regarding embalming, open/closed casket, dressing, etc:

TRANSPORT:

- I want to be transported by a funeral home hearse.
- I want to be transported by a mortuary transport company.
- I want to be transported by: _____
- Individual named above has been made aware of this request.
- Individual named above understands that a Burial-Removal-Transit Form must be acquired prior to transport.
- Individual named above has adequate vehicle for transporting.

FURTHER THOUGHTS, COMMENTS AND IDEAS:

Please include anything here that you would like your family to know about your wishes.
