



# Conservation Burial: A Legacy of Conservation for Generations to Come

**At Jefferson Land Trust**, our mission is to work with the community to preserve open space, working lands, and habitat forever. Since 1989, we've used innovative ways to protect and restore ecologically sensitive lands, benefiting wildlife and people alike.

In 2021, recognizing growing community interest in natural and environmentally friendly end-of-life options, Jefferson Land Trust began exploring the feasibility of a conservation burial initiative in our region. Conservation burial combines green burial practices with

land conservation and ecological restoration on properties managed as conservation burial grounds and/or memorial forests.

In 2022, to bring this vision to life, we established **Olympic Wildlands Burial Grounds LLC (OWBG)**. This wholly owned subsidiary, managed by a dedicated board of volunteer community members, is focused on developing and caring for conservation burial properties that align with the Land Trust's values of preservation, restoration, and community benefit.



## A Place of Peace and Purpose

Our vision is to create conservation burial grounds that are serene places where:

- **Winding trails** meander through meadows, wetlands, and quiet forests, inviting visitors to walk, birdwatch, and find moments of reflection.
- **Unmarked grave sites**, nestled among native plants, become part of the natural environment, blending seamlessly into the land over time.
- **Small, quiet burial services** take place, honoring loved ones in an intimate and peaceful setting.
- Visitors experience **a refuge for wildlife and people alike** – a sanctuary that embodies the harmony between life, memory, and nature.
- **Active stewardship** by staff managers and volunteers restores disturbed land to optimal ecological function and creates a welcoming place for visitors.

Our conservation burial grounds will serve as more than final resting places. They will be living landscapes that embody the conservation values cherished by so many in our community. Every burial will contribute to ecological restoration and the enduring protection of local land.

Eventually, OWBG also aims to establish one or more memorial forest for the scattering of ashes, which may or may not be at the same site as the conservation burial grounds.

**Questions?** Please contact Erik Kingfisher, Director of Stewardship and Resilience, via email at [ekingfisher@saveland.org](mailto:ekingfisher@saveland.org) or by phone at 360.379.9501 ext 103.

**Ask Us to Share.** If you'd like us to share information about this proposed initiative with your community group, please contact Ric Brewer, Events and Community Engagement Manager via email at [rbrewer@saveland.org](mailto:rbrewer@saveland.org) or by phone at 360.379.9501 ext 113.



*Photo by John Gussman.*

## Conservation Burial: A Lasting Legacy

Conservation burial offers the opportunity to continue the environmental values we held dear in life. By choosing green burial in a perpetually protected landscape, we can leave a legacy of land restoration and conservation for future generations to enjoy and treasure.

OWBG's work will help meet a community need and help Jefferson Land Trust restore land that has been disturbed – improving its ecological condition over time, and caring for it forever. The proceeds from conservation burials will be used to restore and maintain burial ground and memorial forest properties and to advance future conservation work across Jefferson County.

Together, we can transform the way we care for our land – and for one another – through this inspiring initiative.

## About Jefferson Land Trust

Jefferson Land Trust is a local, nonprofit land conservation organization dedicated to preserving the rural character and iconic landscapes of Jefferson County. In partnership with the community, the Land Trust has helped protect almost 18,500 acres of vital farmland, forestland, and fish and wildlife habitat. Learn more at [www.saveland.org](http://www.saveland.org).

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