



311 State Street
Springfield, MA 01105
Phone: 413.787.6740
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www.springfield-ma.gov

Green burial in Massachusetts

What is a Green Burial?

A **green burial** (also called a natural burial) is a way of laying someone to rest that **minimizes environmental impact** and allows the body to return naturally to the earth.

Green burial is **permitted under M.G.L. c. 114, §§ 34 and 45**, which require only that human remains be “decently buried” and that a **burial permit** be obtained before disposition.

A green burial typically involves:

- No embalming
- Use of a **biodegradable casket or burial shroud**
- No concrete vault or liner (where cemetery rules allow)

However, under M.G.L. c. 114, § 47, cemeteries may set their own requirements, which can limit fully “green” practices. Please reach out to your cemetery of choice and verify with them if they offer a green burial.



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Cemeteries That Offer Green Burial in The City of Springfield

Oak Grove Cemetery

413 739 2127

Monday-Sunday – 8AM-4PM

426 Bay Street, Springfield, Ma 01109

Hillcrest Park Cemetery, Crematory & Mausoleum

413 728 2311

Monday-Friday - 9AM- 1PM

Saturday-Sunday - Closed

895 Parker Street, Springfield, MA 01129