

Natural Burial Regulations for West Cemetery Shutesbury MA

Approved June 7, 2017, Revised September 23, 2023

1. An area to the left (East) of the main driveway will be designated for natural burials including lots 256 to 261, 272 to 277, and 287 to 292. Each lot consists of eight grave sites. This provides a total of 144 Green Burial grave sites.
2. This area has had an abbreviated soil evaluation conducted by a Massachusetts DEP Certified Soil Evaluator and has been approved by the Shutesbury Board of Health.
3. Bodies must be buried such that they are no deeper than four feet from the ground surface yet must maintain a minimum of two (2) feet of soil between the body and the surface. At least two (2) feet of naturally occurring permeable soil must be present between the bottom of the excavation and the Estimated Seasonal High Water Table (ESHWT) as determined by the abbreviated soil evaluation.
4. Bodies can be placed in a shroud or decomposable coffin. No more than two cremation burials will be allowed on top of an existing green burial.
5. The use of embalming fluids and other preservatives is prohibited.
6. A licensed Funeral Director shall oversee all natural burials to ensure that all Massachusetts Regulations pertaining to the handling and transportation of bodies are followed.
7. Pesticides or weed killers shall not be used in this area.
8. Corner markers and headstone placement shall conform to existing cemetery policy.