

Natural Burials

AT GREEN PARK CEMETERY

Dunedin's natural cemetery is a peaceful elevated location within Green Park Cemetery, overlooking the sea.

A natural burial returns the body to the earth as quickly as possible. Nothing is introduced to the environment that is not readily biodegradable and, over time, the area will be covered in regenerated bush. To achieve this, the body is not embalmed and is buried within the active soil layer. Caskets are made of untreated fibre or wood and non-toxic adhesives.

Plots for natural burials are larger than traditional plots, allowing room for memorial/tribute plantings to mature. To allow the bush to regenerate readily, only one casket is buried in each plot and plots are allocated adjacent to newly created ones.

A native plant marks each burial site rather than a permanent headstone, although a wooden marker will initially mark each plot. These become less visible as the bush regenerates. All graves will be identified by GPS co-ordinates, providing an approximate site map.

477 4000
www.dunedin.govt.nz



Artefacts buried with the body

All items that are buried with the body should be biodegradable so we discourage accessories and jewellery being placed in the casket.

Memorials

These take the form of a native tree or plant rather than a stone or other permanent headstone. Wooden markers are available to mark the plot initially

Plants

A list of native plants and trees suitable for the site is available and families are invited to make their selection from this list. Arrangements for the planting of memorials will be made after the burial at the best time of year to ensure healthy growth.

Disinterment

This is discouraged as uprooting the trees sets back the regeneration of the area. Also, there will be few remains left within a relatively short time and it is important to respect the wishes of the deceased.

Green Park Cemetery

Green Park Cemetery is located at 480 Brighton Road, Brighton.

For more information

Dunedin City Council
477 4000 | E: cemetery@dcc.govt.nz
www.dunedin.govt.nz/naturalburials

In remembrance of their loved ones, families can choose a native tree or shrub from the selection shown to be planted at the natural burial site.



Cabbage tree
cordyline australis

Tree fuschia
fuchsia excortica

Broadleaf
griselinia littoralis



Totara
podocarpus totara

Matai
prumnopitys taxifolia

Kowhai
sophora microphylla



Mountain lacebark
hoheria angustifolia

Whiteywood
melicytus ramiflorus

Southern rata
metrosideros umbellata



Coprosma
coprosma crassifolia

Red matipo
myrsine australis

Tree daisy
olearia avicenniifolia



Lemonwood
pittosporum eugenoides

Kohuhu
pittosporum tenuifolium

Ribbonwood
plagianthus regius



Fragrant tree daisy
olearia fragrantissima

Lancewood
pseudopanax crassifolius

Silver fern
cyathea dealbata