Conservation Burial Cemetery

• Engaging in natural burial and land conservation
  • Land stewardship
  • Preserving biodiverse ecosystems, wildlife habitat
  • Community green space
• Aesthetically distinct from conventional cemeteries
Natural Burial

• What is buried
  • Materials that are readily biodegradable (no concrete, plastics, resins, metal, formaldehyde)

• Grounds maintenance
  • Might include habitat cultivation, invasive species mitigation (not turf maintenance)

• Community use
  • Recreation, access to green space
BURIAL OVERVIEW
**Angelus Memorial Park**
- est 1950s
- 31 acres
- Avg Cost: $10,000
- Private
- Plenty of plots available

**Anchorage Memorial Park**
- est 1915
- 22 acres
- Avg Cost: $2,500 (subsidized by taxes)
- Public
- Appx 160 plots taken each year and estimated 5 more years until capacity

**Alaska Natural Burial**
- est: 2023 (projected)
- 9 acres
- Avg Cost: $2,500
- Non-profit
- Proposed 300 burials per acre (2,880 burials).
Possible Future Home for Alaska Natural Burial

- Heritage Land Bank parcel 2-156 (9.6 acres)
- Off Golden View Drive, across from Moen Park
EXISTING CONDITIONS
SOILS

SOILS DESCRIPTION

“The Deception series consists of very deep, well drained soils formed in a thin mantle of ash influenced loess overlying friable to firm gravelly glacial till. Deception soils are on glacial till plains, and hills. Slopes range from 0 to 85 percent. The mean annual temperature is about 35 degrees F. and the mean annual precipitation is about 18 inches.” (National Cooperative Soil Survey//USDA)
### SOILS LOG

#### HOLE NO. 2

**LOCATION:** Golden View St. @ E. 8th St.
**DATE:** 12/19/95
**BY:** D. W. Rutten
**DEPT:** WATER TABLE

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#### HOLE NO. 3

**LOCATION:** Golden View St. @ E. 8th St.
**DATE:** 12/19/95
**BY:** D. W. Rutten
**DEPT:** WATER TABLE

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**COMMENTS:** Some gravel in this area, all terminated in large cobbles.
VEGETATION DESCRIPTION

Native plant species includes paper birch, white spruce, quaking aspen, bluejoint grass, alders, devals club, spirea, dogwood, and bluebells.

Invasive Species found on site include dandelion (AKEPIC* ranking 58) and orange hawksweed (AKEPIC ranking 79).

*Alaska Exotic Plants Information Clearinghouse (AKEPIC)
Common Questions

• Will natural burial pollute the soil or groundwater?
  • No -- Conventional cemeteries have been identified as a source of pollutants: leachate from casket materials, pesticide and fertilizer runoff (n/a for Alaska Natural Burial)
  • The microorganisms involved in decomposition are not pathogenic
Common Questions

Will the Muni be fiscally responsible for operations or ongoing maintenance?

• No -- Alaska Natural Burial, a non-profit organization, will be responsible for development, operations, and ongoing maintenance expenses.
• Perpetual care & maintenance fund established from “day one” to maintain the property beyond its lifespan as an active cemetery.
Common Questions

How does this align with Regional, District, & Neighborhood Planning?

- Anchorage Comprehensive Plan
- Hillside District Plan
- Pottery Valley Land Use Analysis
- Anchorage Wetlands Management Plan
- Rabbit Creek Community Council (6/9/22)

Though housing is a priority within MOA, Parcel 2-156 is unsuitable for high-density residential development.

Planning consensus: trails, parks, recreational areas are important community assets.

Value in maintaining the area’s rural character, preserving established vegetation and access to open space.
Alaska Natural Burial’s vision for disposition of parcel 2-156...

• HLB to establish & maintain a conservation easement for parcel

• Dispose parcel (lease vs sale) to Alaska Natural Burial

• Alaska Natural Burial, during the active operational lifespan of the cemetery, will be building a perpetual care & maintenance fund (preventing the Muni from incurring future maintenance expenses)
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