

Bluestem

COMMUNITY · CONSERVATION · CEMETERY

2026 BURIAL COSTS AND FEES

Arranging for burial at Bluestem is very different from purchasing a burial plot in a conventional cemetery. Choosing Bluestem as a final place of rest means committing to the permanent protection of its 87 acre nature preserve, with quiet areas for reflection, a trail network for mindful recreation, ongoing grassland restoration, and a community-supported conservation cemetery for natural burial.

Burial reservations can be made **at-need** or **for the future**. Individuals choose between **natural burial** (full body) or **ash burial** (cremated or aquamated remains) and between **grassland** or **woodland** areas.

BREAKDOWN OF COSTS

Every individual choosing to be buried at Bluestem purchases a burial right in one of the open areas for burial. They are accompanied by Bluestem staff in selecting and reserving a plot. At the time of burial, every individual then pays a burial fee. Total burial costs are divided into two parts:

1. A Burial Right secures the right to be buried at Bluestem. It is *paid at the time of reserving a plot*. It covers: reservation of the plot of choice, contribution to cemetery operations, contribution to the Perpetual Care Fund, cemetery recordkeeping, and an optional (unengraved) gravestone.
2. A Burial Fee is an additional fee *paid at the time of burial*. It covers: burial site preparation, opening and closing the grave, staff support with logistics, up to three hours of staff support for a weekday burial, use of Bluestem's natural sanctuaries, wildflowers, grasses, or other natural materials for decorating the grave, gravemarker and GPS coordinates.

TOTAL COSTS

	Natural Burial	Ash Burial	Restoration Burial <i>offered at-need only grasslands only</i>
Burial Rights	\$4000 - grasslands \$4500 - woodlands	\$1700	\$3000
Burial Fees	\$1300 - grasslands \$1500 - woodlands	\$650	\$1000
Total Cost of Burial per individual	\$5300 - grasslands \$6000 - woodlands	\$2350	\$4000

These burial costs and fees are valid through 12/31/2026. Burial costs and fees are reviewed annually by Bluestem Community's Council of Stewards and are subject to change.

POSSIBLE ADDITIONAL SERVICES AND FEES

Depending on capacity, Bluestem may be able to offer additional options and services such as weekend services and pet burial as listed on back. Additional fees apply. Please contact Bluestem staff at reservations@bluestemcemetery.org or (919) 451-9236 for more information.

Pet Burial additional fees begin at \$500

Arrangements can be made for natural pet burial within an owner's paid plot, if the selected plot has capacity. Pet burial fees are determined by number of pets and weight.

Restoration Burial \$4000 total / one natural burial

Restoration burial is an economical alternative offered only for at-need, natural burial in the grasslands. Plots are selected by Bluestem staff and are reduced in size. Plots are designed so that the surrounding grassland habitat only has to be disturbed once, allowing for more complete restoration of the field over time. Restoration burial is not available for future plot reservations, ash burial, or woodland burial.

Woodland Edge Burial additional cost of \$2000 per plot

Woodland Edge plots are located on the border of the Woodland burial areas, overlooking the fields. These are limited sites and require an added cost of \$2000 (for a natural burial plot) or \$1000 (for an ash burial plot). This amount is then allocated to the Bluestem Community Fund in addition to regular burial costs to reserve these plots.

After-Hours Burial Services additional fee of \$500 / service

Burial services are regularly held on weekdays before 4:00PM. For services on weekends, holidays, or evenings, an additional fee applies.

Extended Burial Services additional fee of \$100 / hour

Staff and volunteer support is provided by Bluestem for up to three hours for a regular service, inclusive of sanctuary use and burial. For services over 3 hours, additional fees apply.

Memorial Services additional fees begin at \$300 / service

To arrange a memorial service in addition to or separate from a burial service, fees are determined according to number of guests. After-hours or Extended Service fees are additional to these if applicable.

For 25 guests or fewer	\$300
Up to 75 guests	\$500
More than 75 guests	\$850

Staff Assistance with Gravestone Transportation additional fee of \$100

Bluestem provides the gravestone, but engraving is the family's responsibility. Staff can transport gravestones to and/or from the engraver (Durham Marble Works in Durham) for an additional fee.