

# Bluestem

## CEMETERY RULES AND GUIDELINES

*Revised 7/19/23*

Bluestem is open 365 days/year from dawn to dusk. It is closed at dusk, and no one should be on the preserve after daylight hours, unless granted express permission by Bluestem staff.

The conservation cemetery is where people and pets are simply returned to the earth, naturally in biodegradable unfinished materials. All burials must follow green burial principles of no embalming, no metals, steel, or plastics, and no vaults.

Ash scattering is not permitted at Bluestem. Ash burials occur directly in the earth. Urns are not buried. Prior to interment, ashes are removed from the urn and amended with an organic compound to reduce their salinity. The amending process can be performed by staff or by the family as part of their graveside ritual.

Gravesites at Bluestem are natural spaces within restored grasslands and woodlands, that alter over time and seasons. No framing of graves is permitted. If stones, or logs, or other natural materials are assembled on gravesites, they will be removed. Gravestones can be cleared of leaf, tree or plant matter, but the gravesite itself is to remain untended and natural. Bluestem staff may tend to the graves as they settle, or they may remove invasives from the site.

Only plantings supplied by staff and that support Bluestem's ecological diversity are permitted on the gravesite or on the property.

After burial, staff may replant gravesites with native plants and seed appropriate to the grave location and seasonal timing. Families are invited to participate in these experiences.

Bluestem's trail network is designed with respect for the ecological values on the property. It is managed for privacy, sustainability, and utility. No cutting of trees, moving of existing rocks or boulders, or building of throughways to gravesites is permitted.

Headstones are not required. Gravestones are modest and lie flat to the ground. No outside stone material may be used. For individuals desiring a gravestone, Bluestem provides a selection of stone from which individuals can choose. Engraving of the stone occurs offsite and is arranged by the individual/family.

Every grave is marked with the resident's name and dates on an aluminum grave marker. You may find these aluminum markers in the fields and woodlands, as they also designate a reserved burial plot. Gravemarkers are recorded by GPS coordinates. No non-decomposable materials are permitted inside the grave or on gravesites.

Flower arrangements placed in the grave must be all natural and devoid of styling materials. Any nonbiodegradable materials left at a site or on the property will be removed by staff.

Visitors are permitted to pick wildflowers from the fields to place on gravesites.

For a comprehensive list of guidelines and rules, please see [www.bluestemcemetery.org](http://www.bluestemcemetery.org). Burial plots are purchased by appointment only. Contact Bluestem staff at [info@bluestemcemetery.org](mailto:info@bluestemcemetery.org).

# Bluestem

Bluestem is currently building a list of native plants that support the cemetery's land restoration and stewardship plans. In the future families will be invited to make selections from this list in honor of their loved ones.

On an annual basis, Bluestem will manage the native species of the grasslands and portions of the woodlands with controlled burns and some mechanical mowing. These prescribed fire events play a critical role in controlling invasive species and encouraging key grassland species. They do not negatively impact graves or gravestones.

Bicycles must be parked at the bike rack at the front gate. No mountain biking or ATV riding is allowed.

No horses are allowed on the preserve, unless by express permission.

Certain areas of the property are off limits due to ongoing restoration. Please do not trespass on neighboring properties.

Dogs must be leashed at all times and must be cleaned up after.

Camping and bonfires are not permitted at Bluestem, unless by express permission.