



At The Wilderness Center

"THE CLEAREST WAY INTO THE UNIVERSE
IS THROUGH A FOREST WILDERNESS."

- John Muir

A Nature Preserve Cemetery



FOXFIELD

P R E S E R V E

AS NATURE INTENDED

Imagine literally giving yourself back to the planet earth with a method that has been in use for thousands of years...

ENVIRONMENTALLY SOUND

Imagine being part of the natural cycle...

SOMETHING MEANINGFUL

Imagine loved ones walking beautiful trails as they visit a final resting place in a nature preserve...

“...FOR DUST YOU ARE, AND TO DUST YOU WILL RETURN.”
- Genesis 3:19 (NIV)



WHAT IS A NATURE PRESERVE CEMETERY?

At **Foxfield Preserve**, we accomplish many goals. We provide an economical, environmentally friendly alternative to modern burial, as fewer resources are used in natural burial. As a nature preserve, we also return services to the community and the earth in the form of wildlife habitat, a clean watershed, clean air, and walking trails.

Over time **Foxfield Preserve** will become a beautiful nature preserve with tall forests and beautiful prairie meadows.

Foxfield Preserve is a nonprofit cemetery under the Internal Revenue Service code 501(c)(13). It is operated by The Wilderness Center (TWC), a nonprofit organization operating under Internal Revenue Service code 501(c)(3).

Basic Questions

Q. What is a nature preserve cemetery?

A. A nature preserve cemetery is a place where nature dominates. Instead of a lawn, the land is maintained as forest and prairie. Nature trails provide access to the site, but nature dominates that landscape.

At **Foxfield Preserve**, naturalists are restoring the land to a more natural condition by planting native prairie meadows and reforesting hillsides. Natural burials are in keeping with nature and natural cycles.

Q. What kind of burials will you have there?

A. **Foxfield Preserve** will have only natural burials – the manner in which everyone was buried throughout most of human history. A person is laid to rest in a biodegradable container such as a shroud, blanket, or a wooden or cardboard casket. They are not embalmed. By allowing natural cycles, this is a form of burial.

Q. Is a natural burial legal?

A. Yes. What you may think is law is probably the rules of individual cemeteries or assumptions based on common, modern practice. For example, there is no law that a vault must be used, but many cemeteries require one to make maintenance easier and allow a greater density of graves. The low density at **Foxfield Preserve** allows nature to dominate.

Q. Doesn't embalming permanently preserve a body and prevent the spread of disease?

A. No to both. Embalming only slows decomposition. The chemicals used preserve a body for a relatively short period of time. As for diseases, with a few rare exceptions, they depend on living tissues. As parasites, they die when their host body dies.

Q. How will the cemetery be maintained?

A. Remember **Foxfield Preserve** is a **Nature Preserve** first, so there will be very little maintenance compared to a lawn-type cemetery. We will maintain the trails in the same manner that existing Wilderness Center trails are maintained. It will look like forest and prairie. It will not look like a lawn. Naturalists are using restoration ecology techniques to restore the land.

Q. What services do you offer?

A. **Foxfield Preserve** is a final resting place and not a funeral home. However, we understand your needs and will try to cooperate as much as possible. Please keep these guidelines in mind:

Funeral Services – Arrangements for funeral services are best handled by professionals or the family. Memorial services held on site are welcome although facilities are limited.

Cremation – **Foxfield Preserve** is for natural full-body interment. However, we do accept cremation remains. Some parts of the preserve are limited to interment of cremation remains. If you simply wish to scatter ashes, there will be a cost for record keeping.

Grave Markers – Modest grave markers are permitted, but are considered optional. Marker standards are designed in keeping with the nature preserve concept.

Dispelling Common Myths

Q. Won't wild animals dig up the grave? Doesn't burial have to be "six feet under?"

A. Animals digging up gravesites is a myth. Few cemeteries actually dig six feet down for graves. Proper burial depth allows the remains to be undisturbed, but not so deep that the return to nature is delayed.

Q. Don't bodies have to be embalmed for open coffin funerals or for transportation?

A. No. Many funeral homes can preserve bodies with refrigeration. Dry ice is acceptable for transportation in all but a few states. Please discuss this with your funeral director. They know how to prepare an unembalmed body for open coffin viewing.

Q. What about water resources?

A. A nature preserve cemetery will actually improve water quality. Natural land produces cleaner water than urban, suburban, or agricultural run-off.

Other Important Matters

Q. How does the cost of burial at Foxfield Preserve compare with a modern funeral?

A. In most cases it saves money as many of the expenses of a modern burial disappear. These expenses include vaults, metal caskets, and embalming.

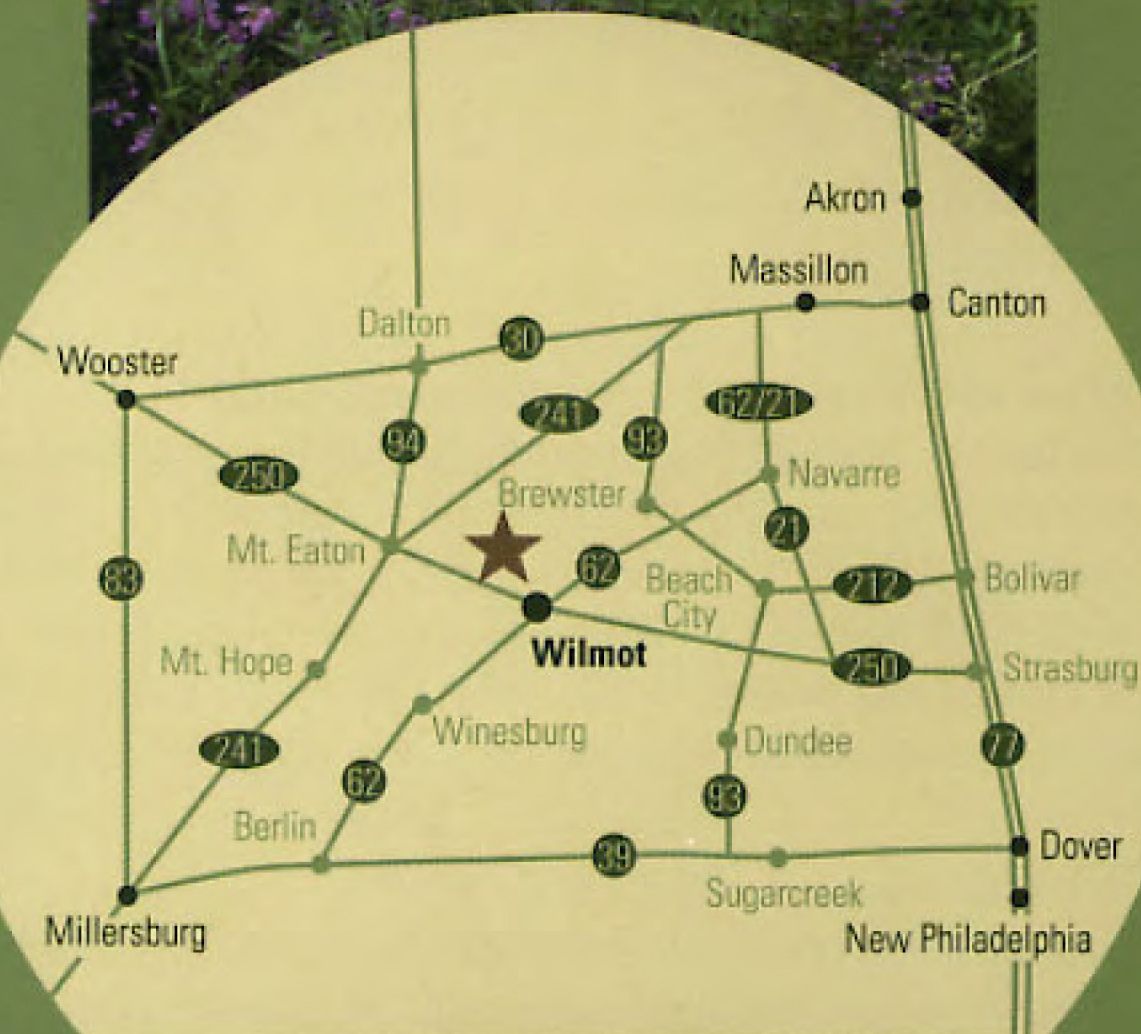
Q. What kind of legacy will burial at Foxfield Preserve create?

A. Your final resting place will support wildlife, the environment, and nature education – not to mention the example that you will set for others by arranging for a natural and environmentally friendly burial.



FOXFIELD
P R E S E R V E

A Nature Preserve Cemetery
at The Wilderness Center



The Wilderness Center is one mile west
of Wilmot, just north of Hwy. 250

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