

Great River, located on 150 acres in Mosier Oregon, has three areas of focus:

- Natural Burial
- Outdoor Education
- Nature Conservation

All photos taken at Great River by various artists including Steve Labadie and Melanie McCloskey

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GREAT RIVER
WHERE PEOPLE AND NATURE CONNECT



A cemetery that embraces life

The vision is to provide a cemetery that encompasses the full circle of life, not just the point of passing

- Great River is designed to provide a natural, peaceful resting place for the deceased, and solace for those who grieve
- Great River is also a place that is interesting and edifying for the living.
- Providing outdoor education as well as burials connects the circle, the deceased are not isolated, and death is not segregated, it is part of life.



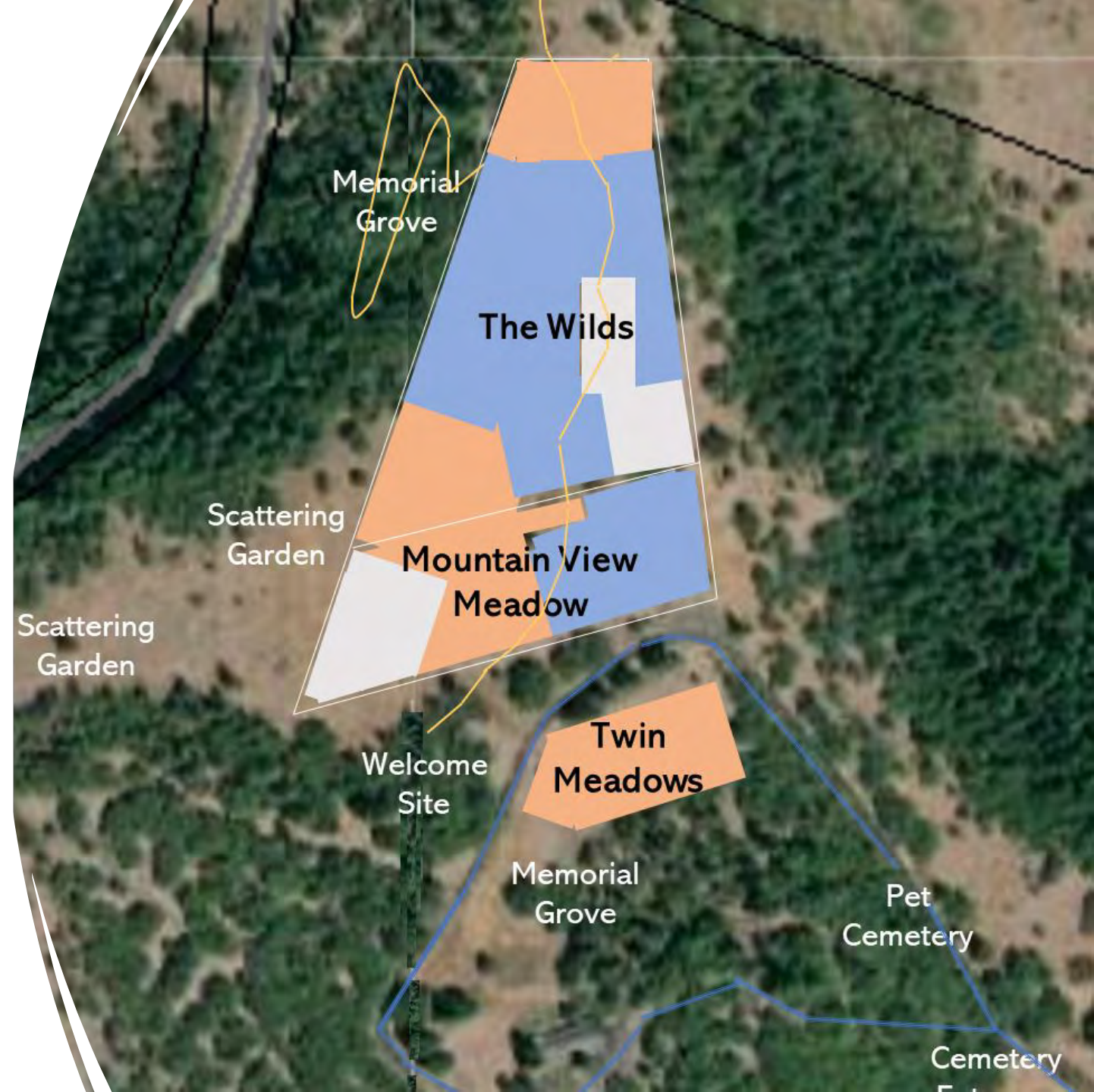
A diverse natural setting

- Rolling hills, scenic ridges, deep canyons
- Wildflower meadows, oak savannas and conifer forests
- Home to a wide variety of wild animals
- Enjoyable for family and friends to visit



Great River Natural Burial

- The cemetery portion of Great River is 55 acres
- Plots for full body burial are 10 feet X 13 feet
- Plots for cremains can be smaller
- Headstones are optional
- Trees can be memorialized



Reclamation and restoration

- Most of Great River was burned in a wildfire in 2020 so we are replanting and using lumber from burned trees to rebuild from the fire
- Parts of Great River were an RV Park and we are working to remove the previous development and restore the land to its natural environment



History of natural burial

In natural burial bodies are buried without embalming or metal caskets. This is the traditional method, dating back to ancient times.

In this country the initiative to preserve bodies after burial began during the civil war, with the need to transport soldier's bodies before burial.

The modern movement for natural burial began in the 1990's and has grown as more people evaluated their relationship to the earth and how choices at death affect the environment.

Many peoples around the globe, including Jewish and Muslim people, have always been buried in this way.



DEATH BED OF LINCOLN

What is natural burial?

Uses only biodegradable materials, e.g., no concrete, plastic, fiberglass, or metal

No embalming, the intent is for the body to decompose into nutritional natural elements

Limited use of electric or gas powered equipment such as mowers

No pesticides or herbicides





What is natural burial?

Bodies are buried in the active soil layer, 3-4' deep, in a biodegradable casket or shroud.

This allows for natural decomposition and supports the complex web of healthy soil.

Cemeteries are left in their natural state, with minimal landscaping. Memorial stones are optional.

Natural burial cemeteries often allow planting trees or other vegetation in memory of the deceased.

Natural burial offers a simpler and more sustainable approach providing a closer connection to nature.

What is natural burial?

Caskets or shrouds and burial clothing made from biodegradable materials



Open casket viewing is possible with natural burial



Military honors may be part of the ceremony



What is natural burial?



This casket was made
from trees that burned
in the 2020 wildfire

Why choose natural burial?

Environmentally Friendly: biodegradable materials and burial density limits allow a more sustainable and eco-friendly approach.

Simplicity: There is less focus on elaborate caskets, vaults, and other costly funeral expenses. This can make the process less stressful and more affordable for families.

Connection to Nature: a natural setting with meadows, forests and fields can provide comfort and solace during a difficult time.

Cultural or Spiritual Beliefs: For some people, natural burial aligns with beliefs, returning to earth or honoring the cycle of life and death.

Participation: Natural Burials often permit involvement in the process, from building a casket to opening and closing the grave.





Funeral service may be conducted entirely in nature, family and friends often participate

Natural surroundings can enable a private, deeply personal experience



Gravesites quickly return to nature



Gravesite one year after burial

Gravesites two years after burial

Gravesite one year after burial

Great River

A place that helps the living, honors the dead, and conserves the natural beauty of the land

Great River Natural Burial is an Endowment Care Facility licensed by the Oregon Mortuary and Cemetery Board

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