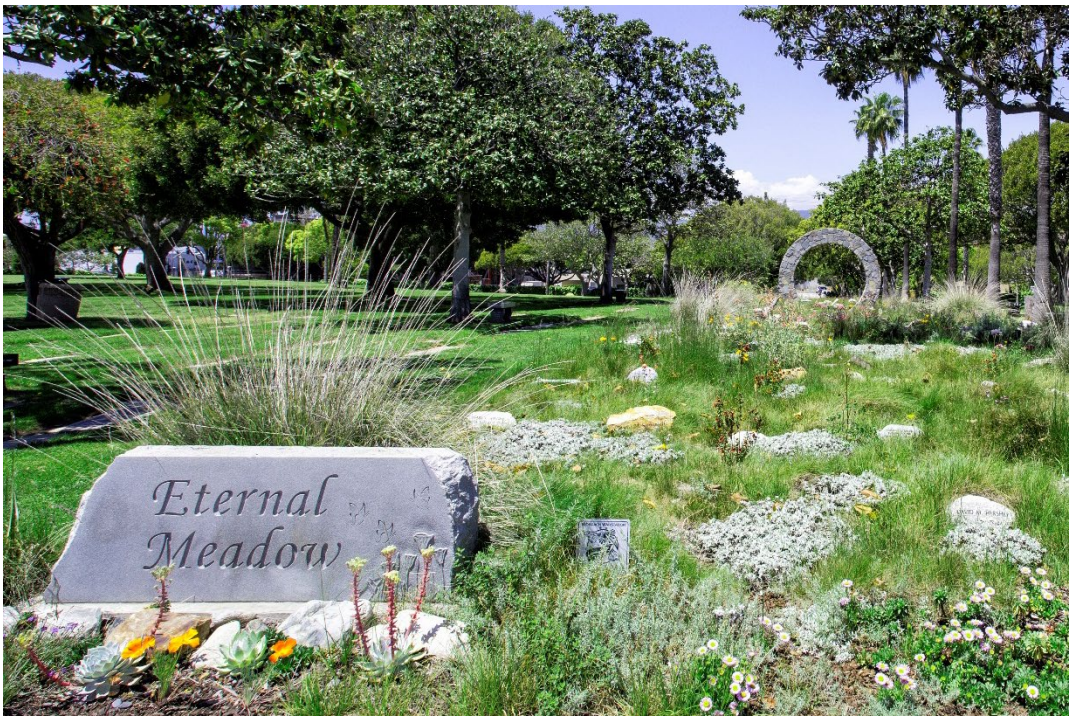
GREEN-NATURAL BURIAL
AT CITY OF SANTA MONICA WOODLAWN CEMETERY, MAUSOLEUM & MORTUARY (FD #2101)



As a hybrid cemetery, Woodlawn Cemetery, Mausoleum & Mortuary provides both traditional and green-natural burial plots. We have one section of the Cemetery that is devoted exclusively to green-natural burial called Eternal Meadow which contains single green-natural plots for caskets or shrouded interments and green cremation graves.

Green cremation graves can accommodate up to two interments of cremated remains in biodegradable urns. As green cremation graves allow for two sets of cremated remains, they allow for side-by-side interments.

Single green-natural burial plots can accommodate only one casketed or shrouded body. Because there are no vaults, there are no double/stacked green-natural burial plots to ensure that those laid to rest in the plot are not disturbed. Green-natural burial plots are also larger to ensure those at risk are not disturbed when neighboring interments occur. Side-by-side plots for caskets are not sold in Eternal Meadow as burials are performed sequentially due to the Meadow's unique landscape maintenance needs and to also ensure we do not go back over existing interments and risk disturbing those at rest. Decedents can be interred in simple wood or wicker caskets or burial shrouds only. In addition, single green-natural burial plots can be purchased for the interment of cremated remains, allowing for multiple loved ones to be placed in one plot. Up to four cremated remains in biodegradable urns can be placed in a single green-natural burial plot for caskets, in addition to the casketed or shrouded burial. The casket burial, however, must be first. Or the single green burial plot can be used for up to four cremated remains in biodegradable urns, without a casketed or shrouded burial.

It is our intent to keep Eternal Meadow exclusively green (free of concrete, metals, and embalming fluid containing toxic substances like formaldehyde). Traditional headstones are not allowed there, as they contain cement borders. Natural boulders are the only style of headstone/markers allowed in Eternal Meadow. Only one boulder marker is permitted on green cremation graves. Only two boulder markers are permitted on single green-natural burial plots. Please keep this mind when inscribing boulder markers if planning to inter more than one loved one in a purchased grave so that you leave room for additional names. While Woodlawn is prohibited from recommending any marker companies, a list of those in the area that produce these types of boulder-markers can be provided to assist clients in their search for a company. Engraved benches placed alongside Eternal Meadow under a tree is another option for memorializing Loved Ones interred there.

There are no flower vases at grave sites in keeping with the Meadow's natural setting. Fresh cut flower bouquets laid at the headstone or at the head of the grave are allowed. Planting plants/flowers, removing Cemetery plants, potted plants, and digging for any reason are all prohibited. Grave site decoration is only allowed at posted times during the year, regardless of whether the plot is green/natural or traditional. This information can be obtained from the Woodlawn office.

At Woodlawn, only the property cost and the one-time maintenance fee (the endowment care) can be prepaid at Woodlawn. The endowment care must be paid at the same time as the property purchase. Associated interment costs such as the open/close, graveside setup of equipment, etc. and all mortuary services fees can only be paid for at the time of passing at Woodlawn. Mortuary services involve the storage, care and preparation of the body, which begins with transporting the decedent from the place of death. Mortuary services also include all funeral arrangements, filing of the death certificate and disposition (burial) permit, and cremation services.

The current cost of a single green burial plot for casketed or shrouded interments $17,885.16 plus the endowment care (one-time maintenance fee) of $6,259.80 for a total of $24,144.96. As mentioned, only the property cost and endowment care can be pre-paid. Associated costs for the casketed or shrouded interments is currently approximately $3,570.48; these services can only be paid for at the time of passing at Woodlawn.

The current cost of a green cremation grave is $13,029.52 plus the endowment care (one-time maintenance fee) of $4,560.33 for a total of $17,589.85. Associated costs for the interment of cremated remains in a green cremation grave is currently approximately $2,510.01; these services can only be paid for at the time of passing at Woodlawn. Please note that the City of Santa Monica re-assesses pricing for all City services including property and services at Woodlawn annually and typically results in slight price increases each July 1.

Feel free to contact our office if you have additional questions or if you would like to schedule an appointment to tour Eternal Meadow or other cemetery properties with a cemetery representative.

The City of Santa Monica
Woodlawn Cemetery, Mausoleum & Mortuary (FD #2101)
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