



# Cremation Disposition

# The Terminology

- Cremains
- Scattering of cremated remains
- Burial of cremated remains
- Burial of full body
- Cemetery burial
- Conservation burial
- Memorial forest burial





# The Cremation Process

Incomplete, leaves 7 – 10+ lbs. of pulverized bone

Burns fossil fuels (natural gas) 2-3 hours at 1900° F

Releases mercury, nitrous oxide, and particulate matter into air and water *(Britain study 16%, Minnesota study 14%)*

Radiopharmaceutical contamination *(Journal of the American Medical Association, 2.26.19)*

Produces 139 lb. of CO<sub>2</sub> per cremation = 1.74B lbs. US emissions annually

Released 25,000 metric tons of carbon in 2017

Releases 250 lbs. of carbon per person *(25 lbs. for green burial)*

Final product = calcium phosphate and sodium *(200 – 2000x what plants can tolerate)* with an extremely high pH *(11.8)*





# The Science

- High pH level and excessive sodium content of cremated remains prevents them from releasing nutrients.
- Cremation prevents sequestration and contributing to the probiotic potential of elements through decomposition of:
  - 25 million kg of carbon
  - 4.3 million kg of nitrogen
  - 1.3 million kg of phosphorus
  - 540,000 kg of potassium
- No amount of soil will naturally offset these levels, so plants will grow around areas with cremated remains.

*Dr. David O. Carter, Director and Professor of Forensic Sciences and Assistant Dean of Natural Sciences and Mathematics at Chaminade University of Honolulu ; Bob Jenkins, CEO, Let Your Love Grow cremated remains amendment*





# The Burial Process Done Right

- Mix with a proven pH amendment, give it time to neutralize
- Encase in wool
- Bury at 18" depth with stone buffers between remains and tree roots
- Avoid scattering on top of fragile flora
- Avoid burying under or near tree or shrub roots





# Questions Land Trusts Need Answered First

Does the soil science meet your land trust's environmental requirements and goals?

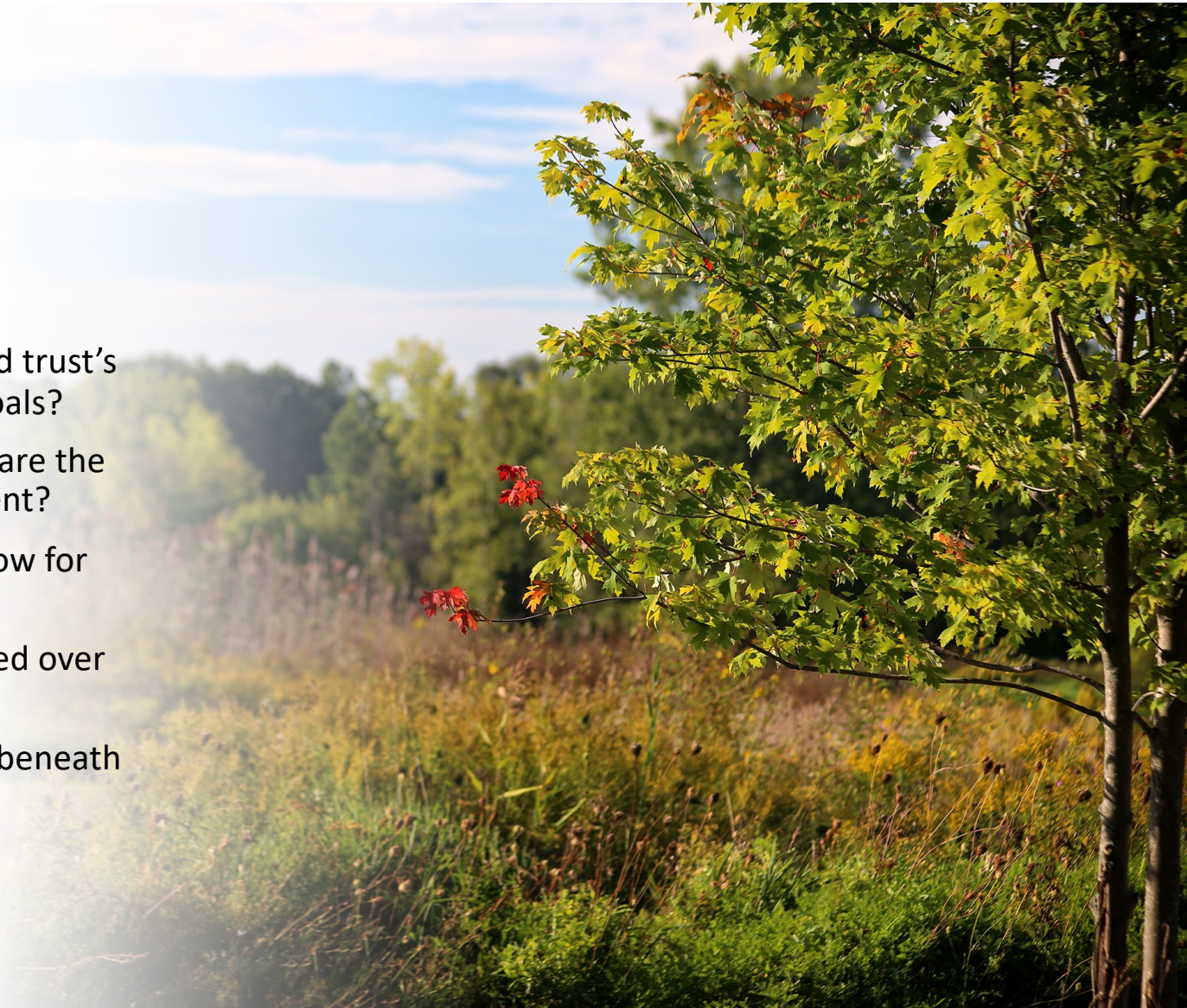
Does the entity use and will they share the profile of their mitigating amendment?

What containers does the entity allow for burial?

Are the remains going to be scattered over roots and flora?

Are the remains going to be buried beneath or amidst existing root systems?

How will visitation be managed?





# Things to Watch For

Are the company's holdings transparent and easily accessible?

Is the property protected as a cemetery even if not required by law?

Does the deed reflect an intention that the land will be protected in perpetuity?

Does the deed or other instrument include identified conservation-worthy attributes?

Is the conservation entity active or is it a corporation in name only?

What is the assessed value of the property at initial sale, and has it changed since purchase?

Is there a syndicate concern with the operating company?

Are the prices for burial commensurate with licensed cemeteries in the area?





Established  
Green Cemeteries  
are experiencing

**30%+/-**

requests for cremation  
burial or scattering





## 3 Top Resources and Further Reads

- The Environmental Impact and Potential Human Health Effects of Cremation  
[https://www.greenburialcouncil.org/environmental\\_impact\\_cremation.html](https://www.greenburialcouncil.org/environmental_impact_cremation.html)
- Bob Jenkins of Let Your Love Grow Green Burial Council Blog post April 2019 <https://www.greenburialcouncil.org/blog/archives/04-2019>
- Disposition Statistics regarding cremation  
[https://www.greenburialcouncil.org/media\\_packet.html](https://www.greenburialcouncil.org/media_packet.html)





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