What is a Green Burial?

Eliminates the use of:

- Toxic chemical embalming
- Metal or exotic wood caskets
- Concrete, fiberglass or plastic vaults

Contemporary burial practices

- Use pesticides, herbicides that endanger workers
- Uses fertilizers that enter the water table, endanger health
- Requires concrete vaults for ease of lawn maintenance
- Allows embalming fluids that endanger embalmers
- Is reaching capacity even in rural areas

The environmental impact of funerals in standard lawn cemetery:

- Cemeteries take up and estimated 1 million acres of land in the US

Buried within them:

- Over 800,000 gallons of formaldehyde annually
- 115 millions tons of casket steel
- 2.3 billion tons of concrete
- Casket wood equivalent to 4 million acres of forest

Eco costs of cremation:

- Uses fossil fuels 2-3 hours at 1700-1900 degrees F
- Releases mercury and other elements into air & water
- Byproduct emissions of nitrogen oxide, dioxins, particulates - contributes to a cied rain
- Radiopharmaceutical contamination
- 25,000 metric tons carbon in 2017; 250 lbs per person
- Final product- calcium phosphate and sodium with an extremely high pH (11.8) - 200-2000 times what plants can tolerate

https://www.greenburialcouncil.org/
https://prudencememorialpark.com/