

**Green Burial Council**  
**Tips from the Pros on Operating a Successful Cemetery**  
*Adopted January 2020*

| Operating Tips |  |
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| 1.             | Consider pricing to include a range of affordable options and that meets the needs of any funding plan that supports land conservation and community activities.   |
| 2.             | Maintain healthy ongoing relationships with key community figures, including land trust representatives, local officials, professionals, community groups.   |
| 3.             | Design infrastructure to maximize comfort, convenience, and safety for workers and visitors while minimizing potential damaging impact to the land (parking lots, bathrooms, visitor center, chapel, etc.)   |
| 4.             | Develop a plan for siting trails, boardwalks, bridges, and graves that reduces negative impact on existing sensitive vegetation and takes into account water run-off, wildlife corridors, multiple access, or other considerations.  |
| 5.             | Develop a plan for managing visitation with traffic safety and protocols, both at the graveside ceremony and afterwards, including the identification of sensitive areas with signage, and separating off places of potential danger to the visiting public. Define visitor capacity and maintain records to establish patterns for future planning needs. |
| 6.             | Create a standard waiver to be signed by visitors at the entrance that indemnifies your cemetery from liability for accidents, incidents, Acts of God, etc.  |
| 7.             | Publish a <i>Family and Funeral Director's Guide</i> that outlines required paperwork, procedures, and protocols from arrival to exit of the cemetery grounds, including proper body preparation, procession, lowering, mourning gallery protocol, ceremonial expectations, etc.   |
| 8.             | Publicly post a list of scheduled activities encouraged in the cemetery, such as educational presentations and lectures, guided nature walks, community events, and social events such as baptisms, weddings, etc.   |
| 9.             | Design a <i>Succession Plan</i> that details guiding principles that will ensure long-term success.  |