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The future site of RHCC is a 40-acre property bounded by Lake Talquin State Forest on two sides, with Lake Talquin and a steephead ravine on the other two. This woodland rests atop the sandy bluff of an ancient shoreline and is rich in native pines and majestic hardwoods.

# Key Progress Updates

- Hired Florida Environmental and Land Services Inc and Torreya Engineering to prepare the Natural Features Inventory, site plan, and stormwater management permits required by Leon County and the Northwest Florida Water Management District
- Hired green burial consultant Jeff Hodes to assist in developing policies and procedures, financial management plan, and cemetery plot master plan
- Filed to register RHCC as an exempt cemetery with the Florida Division of Funeral, Cemetery, and Consumer Services
- Secured Directors and Officers Insurance and General Liability Insurance
- Gopher tortoise survey completed by State of Florida registered gopher tortoise permit agent
- Vetted access easement with Florida Division of State Lands

## Natural Features Inventory

Since the inception of RHCC, one of our goals has been to become certified by the [Green Burial Council](#) by meeting standards that apply to full-body burial of human remains in a cemetery. Certification recognizes cemeteries committed to sustainable practices and the preservation of land through environmentally responsible burial. One of the key requirements for certification by the [Green Burial Council](#) is to complete a Natural Features Inventory (NFI). Completion of an NFI is also the key to obtaining authorization from Leon County to develop the cemetery.

Requirements include: describing the vegetative communities and animals on the property, identifying protected trees, wetlands, flood hazard areas, listed species habitats, and steep slopes. We also must complete a cultural resources assessment to determine the need for an archaeological field survey.

Due to the technical complexity of the required surveying and documentation, the Board has engaged contractors to prepare the NFI as well as work with us to negotiate the easements and conservation plans with the county. Preliminary works has already begun to reveal the biodiversity and splendor of our cemetery ecosystem.

## Initial Plant Survey

Karen Rose, owner of *Native Florida Connections, LLC*, prepared an initial plant survey, and identified 82 species

of vascular plants including one listed species (meaning it is endangered or threatened under state or federal legislation). She estimated that some of the huge trees in the ravine (swamp chestnut oaks and tulip poplars) may be 200 to 300 years old. She also identified an American hornbeam and three American basswoods that are close to state champion size. There are very few invasive species on the land and they can be easily removed.



## Gopher Tortoises

The RHCC Board hired a state-certified gopher tortoise permit agent to conduct a required survey of gopher tortoise burrows. They found five abandoned burrows, 12 armadillo holes, one active burrow. There is very little forage available in the area surrounding this tunnel. We might want to open the canopy near this active burrow as a first course of action in order to free up the seed bank and make more forage available. The RHCC will follow state rules to protect the active burrow.

## Communications & Community

In the newest blog article, Rose Kelley touches on information that comes from the fifth module of the online Green Burial Masterclass for natural burial cemetery operators regarding major issues in communications. This module highlights RHCC's need for additional volunteers or professionals in the area of web design, marketing, graphic design, landscaping, and policy development to name a few.

BLOG POSTS

Do you or someone you know have interest in contributing to the RHCC as a Communications Volunteer? We are actively seeking a Social Media Volunteer. Please email [Contact@RedHillsCommunityCemetery.com](mailto:Contact@RedHillsCommunityCemetery.com) with questions or interest!

We had a great time sharing information at the Leon County Sustainability Summit this past weekend, and are excited to present at Westminister Oaks on June 11th!

If you are a part of, or have a connection to, an organization or group you think would

be interested in learning about the RHCC, please let us know!  
[Contact@RedHillsCommunityCemetery.com](mailto:Contact@RedHillsCommunityCemetery.com)

## Take a Tour!



Interested in checking out the land for yourself? Take a tour!  
Currently, property tours comprise bushwhacking through the woodland. We have found relatively easy routes to enable visitors to see the highlights and get a good sense for the ecosystem that will host our natural burial cemetery.

[TOUR SIGN UP](#)

[PROPERTY PHOTOS](#)

## Not a Member Yet?

The members of RHCC share a common interest in natural

Becoming a member now meaningfully contributes to the foundation and development

burial and environmental stewardship. If you share in that common interest, become a member now.

of the RHCC, while ensuring your legacy will be one of conservation and connection to the land.

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Building a community cemetery takes a COMMUNITY, thank you for your support and involvement. [Contact@RedHillsCommunityCemetery.com](mailto:Contact@RedHillsCommunityCemetery.com) if you have any questions.

By subscribing to this newsletter, opting to become a paid member, or helping to volunteer *you* are part of the RHCC community.



[contact@RedHillsCommunityCemetery.com](mailto:contact@RedHillsCommunityCemetery.com)

More information and FAQs: [www.RedHillsCommunityCemetery.com](http://www.RedHillsCommunityCemetery.com)

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