

# Bluestem

February 2022

Friends of Bluestem,

***Last week in the woods, we spotted the first [bobwhite quail](#) that we've seen at Bluestem!***

What a moment this was for us. After years of imagining a conservation cemetery where both people and habitat could be restored together, we saw the bobwhite as a symbol of hope, and hope is how we feel about Bluestem — hope that it becomes a place for everyone that puts caring for the land, the water, the wild things, and caring for each other at the forefront.

***Thanks to the generosity of so many of you, we can officially announce that the 87 acres in Cedar Grove has been purchased and will be stewarded into the future by [Bluestem Community](#)!***

We are humbled by this gift and by the responsibility we have in stewarding Bluestem. Knowing that you are as excited as we are about a less impactful burial option, makes us more determined than ever to ensure Bluestem is a place for everyone – for walking, grieving, resting, meditating, thinking, healing, simply finding refuge – before even considering it as a permanent place of rest.

As we begin building Bluestem's infrastructure, we have much to share.

We are awaiting final permitting and if all goes as planned, hope to **open Bluestem this summer. Until then, visits to Bluestem are by appointment only** while we work on reinforcing roadways, building parking areas, purchasing equipment, and building the systems for its operation. [Read more about this work](#) on our website.

**Bluestem Volunteer Opportunities and Group Tours begin in March.** We will add additional dates in April and May. Please find signup forms on our website:

[For Volunteers](#), find the sign up at the bottom of our Get Involved page.

[Group Walking Tours](#) find the sign up at the bottom of our Events page.

Further details will be sent directly to you after we receive your information.

**We are not currently selling burial plots.** We are still finalizing Bluestem's pricing and will announce our rates through the newsletter and on the website later this spring. Check out [Burial at Bluestem](#) for more information.

[Bluestem Conversations](#) are still held every Tuesday from 4-5pm on Zoom. These are opportunities to speak with us directly, ask questions, receive an update on the project, share experiences related to green burial. [Email us](#) for the zoom link.

Thank you for sharing Bluestem with your family and friends. Word of mouth is our greatest source of publicity. [Read more about Bluestem here.](#)

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Emerging from a long winter and looking forward to spring, we see this as a transformative time at Bluestem. So much has happened in the last few months because so many of you have joined us in helping to make Bluestem come alive. We are grateful for your support.

***And, collectively, we are at the very start of creating this natural healing place for our community.***

We are now beginning to restore the fields and woodlands, designing the trail network, purchasing equipment and materials, establishing burial pricing and operating systems for Bluestem. If you haven't yet donated to Bluestem we invite you to [make YOUR gift](#) so that we can open this special place to the public this summer.

One of the motivating principles that founded Bluestem is that it would be a place of respite, an alternative to the hustle and bustle of competitive life, and a place to seek solace and quiet in nature. We have also imagined Bluestem as a place of reconciliation with nature, where land is protected in perpetuity, wildlife is provided refuge, and people are buried naturally and simply in a setting that invites participation, and fosters rejuvenation and rest.

In this time when wars and rumors of wars echo in our ears and when we and our children turn our attention to the realities of climate change, we at Bluestem are engaging in what we believe to be an essential way forward - a return to alignment with nature on both sides of the grave.

We believe Bluestem is an important step toward transformation in our lives. We want to invite you to forward your values by supporting Bluestem. Your gift gets us one step closer to opening day and one step closer to *transforming how we care for one another naturally at the end of life.*

This is a very personal decision for all of us. We invite you to locate [Bluestem's wish list](#), select the commitment level that matches your passion for this good work, and [donate today](#). If you would like a Bluestem shopping list or if you can help "seed" Bluestem with a leadership gift, please reach out directly.

*We are so excited to be at this moment with all of you. Thank you for Building Bluestem with us.*  
Heidi + Jeff

PS. Bluestem donors who gave in 2021 will receive acknowledgments of their gifts in the next week. Thank you.

[UNSUBSCRIBE from this list here.](#)

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Heidi Hannapel  
(she, her, hers)  
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[Bluestem](#) - opening June 2022

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