

Title:	Scattering of cremated remains in Alberta
Number:	
Program Name:	Alberta Environment and Parks
Effective Date:	September 1, 2019
This document was updated on:	
ISBN No.	
Disclaimer:	

The scattering of cremated remains in Alberta, on lands regulated by the province of Alberta (public land) including within public waters, is not prohibited under provincial laws and regulations governing these areas, including the *Public Lands Act*, the *Public Lands Administrative Regulation*, the *Water Act* and the *Water Regulations*.

The process of scattering cremated remains in these locations should consider the impact to the public and the environment. Alberta Environment and Parks recommends the following guidance:

1. Cremated remains should be completely pulverized prior to scattering. No ferrous or non-ferrous metal products, metal identification disk, teeth, bone fragments or remnants recognizable as human remains should be visible.
2. Cremated remains should be fully dispersed such that no obvious remnants of scattering remain.
3. Only biodegradable vessels may be used when scattering cremated remains. No other container, urn, or ancillary objects including but not limited to markers, plants, or decorations, may be deposited with the scattered remains. This requirement reduces the potential for unintended distribution of invasive objects or species into the environment.
4. Cremated remains should be scattered to avoid developed areas or high public activity areas.
5. Cremated remains should be scattered to avoid the depositing of high concentrations in one location.
6. If a ceremony is to take place, it should not impede the enjoyment of others in a public setting.
7. Care should be taken to ensure that cremated remains are not scattered near drinking water intakes or recreational water activities, such as swimming areas.

Where distribution of cremated remains on vacant public land is undertaken according to this Guide, no permission is required. If distribution will occur on public land under disposition, permission for access to this land through the disposition holder should be sought.

There may be additional requirements in areas of Alberta regulated by Alberta Parks and Protected Areas. Please contact Alberta Parks for information on permits, group size restrictions and other requirements for Special Events.

This Guide does not replace any requirements that may be required by federal or municipal laws.

Original signed by: Travis Ripley, Executive Director
Fish and Wildlife Policy Branch, Environment and Parks

Date: September 1, 2019