

## **DIVISION OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

**August 28, 2000**

### **STAFF Directive 00-**

**TO:** Administrative Staff  
Section Chiefs  
District Superintendents  
Park Superintendents  
Program Managers

**FROM:** Philip K. McKnelly

**SUBJECT:** Policy for Burial Sites and Cemeteries

This staff directive is issued to establish the policy for burial site and cemetery management within the North Carolina State Parks System.

### **BURIAL SITES AND CEMETERIES**

Historic and prehistoric burial areas, whether or not formally plotted and enclosed as cemeteries, will be identified and protected as required by applicable North Carolina General Statutes (see attachments). They will not be disturbed or archeologically investigated unless threatened with destruction by park development, operational activities, or natural forces.

The North Carolina State Parks System will consult with native Americans and other individuals and groups linked by ties of kinship or culture to ethnically identifiable human remains when such remains may be disturbed or are encountered on park lands. Their preference for the treatment or disposition of such remains will be followed insofar as feasible. Decisions will be based on full consideration of alternatives, including project redesign to avoid disturbance, removal and reburial of remains with or without recordation or study, and removal of remains for study and retention in a museum collection. Re-interment at the same park may be permitted.

**Family Cemeteries.** Burial of family members in family cemeteries that have been acquired by the North Carolina State Park System in the establishment of parks will be permitted to the extent practicable, under special activity permit, until space allotted to the cemeteries has been filled.

**Other Burials and Scattering of Ashes.** Other burials or re-interments outside established cemeteries in parks will be prohibited. The scattering of human ashes from cremation may be permitted by a superintendent, under special activity permit policy and in accordance with GS 90-210-46 (see attachments).