

## From Yoga to Movie Nights: How Cemeteries Are Trying to Attract the Living

*These cemeteries around the country are more public space than burial ground*

By [Jennifer Billock](#) | smithsonian.com | March 22, 2018

### Valley of the Temples; Kaneohe, Hawaii



Byodo-In Temple in the Valley of the Temples. (Hawaii Tourism Authority, Chuck Painter)

This cemetery is also a 240-acre park with a zen garden, worship temples, meditation areas and a koi pond. The [Byodo-In Temple](#) is here, as well—a state landmark that hosts weddings and has been in multiple TV shows. It's meant to commemorate when the first Japanese immigrants came to Hawaii. Most events at [Valley of the Temples](#) are held at Byodo-In; recent happenings have included a book signing, a photography exhibit, an art demonstration and jewelry workshops and displays.