

U.S. FOREST SERVICE

Living Memorials Project Summary



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www.livingmemorialsproject.net

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INTRODUCTION

WHAT IS THE LIVING MEMORIALS PROJECT?

The Living Memorials Project of the U.S. Forest Service supports a network of people and sacred places dedicated to those who lost their lives and to the heroes of Sept 11, 2001 (9/11).

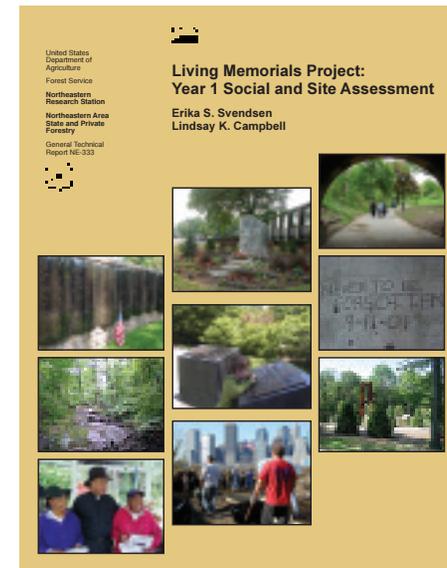
The gardens and parks established through this project with congressional support have helped restore hope and foster healing in family, friends, and neighbors. They have also served as models or catalysts for many of other projects, small and large, throughout the nation and world wide.

The online tools and resources have been tapped more than a million times, to help project planners, designers, residents, and investors become engaged

in local initiatives. These materials have transcended 9/11 to motivate and educate readers to create green spaces that draw in the visitor, engage them in subtle ways, triggering memories and feelings that leave them stronger and more resilient, proud, and forward-looking.

This is the power of the landscape: Trees, water, stone and pathways that guide and embrace the traveler, slowing him or her to the point of reflection.

We encourage you to visit these living memorials, and more: Create your own. Visit us at www.livingmemorialsproject.net



HOW | WHY PROJECTS WERE SELECTED

Through its Urban and Community Forestry Program, the U.S. Forest Service had the ready authorities and skills necessary to develop unique place-making tools and opportunities. Early in 2002 and again in 2003, with Congressional support of \$3 million, the Forest Service reached out to an established network of state and local officials and nonprofit organizations.

The Forest Service pulled together a team of researchers, planners, designers, landscape architects and foresters to advise and support the work of the applicants, resulting in a unique federal response and commitment to local success. Partners in program delivery, including the Urban Resources Initiative in New Haven, CT, came forward quickly to support the initiative.

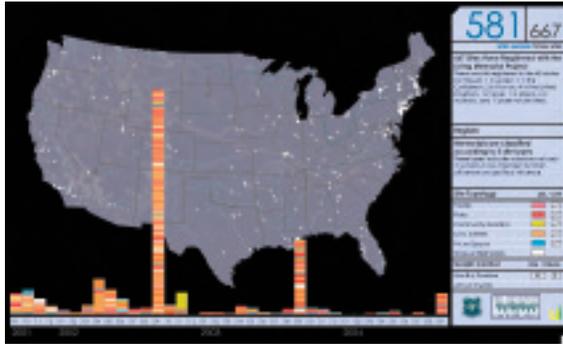
The specific call was for project ideas and local partners seeking to use the resonating power of trees to bring people together and create lasting, living memorials to the victims of terrorism, their families, communities, and the nation.

Projects selected for funding were those that had strong community commitment and involvement, were centrally located and visible, and had a symbolic connection to the events of 9/11 surrounding New York City, Somerset County, PA, and Arlington, VA.

TOOLS AND ASSISTANCE TO COMMUNITIES

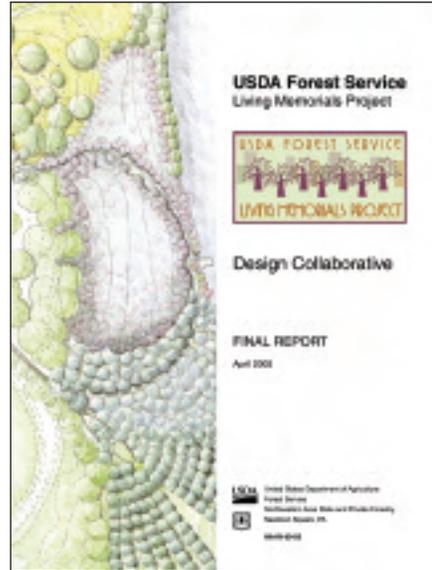
1. LMP WEBSITE | The Living Memorials Project website combines an “About” section, the National Registry, and a “Toolbox” section. The toolbox was created to be a first stop on the web for information related to living memorials. It combines the expertise of the U.S. Forest Service and consultants in the fields of landscape design, placemaking, ethnobotany, and social science, with the examples and lessons learned from our Living Memorial partner projects. It is organized around the principles of People, Plants, Plan, and Place, in the belief that all of these elements are vital to the creation and continued thriving of a living memorial. In addition, the Power section offers a resource list for further research.
<http://www.livingmemorialsproject.net>

2. SOCIAL AND SITE ASSESSMENT | As part of the Living Memorials Project team, the scientists from the Forest Service’s Northern Research Station conducted an open and participatory social and site assessment of public spaces that have been created, used, or enhanced in memory of the tragic events of 9/11. Researchers interviewed 100 community groups using social ecology methods of observation, discursive analysis, and photo-narrative mapping. One of the findings was that after 9/11, communities needed space: space to create, space to teach, space to restore, space to create a locus of control. These social motivations formed the basis of patterned human responses observed throughout the nation. The social and site assessment improved the focus of the projects included in the second cycle of grants. The publication is available online at:
<http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/livingmemorials>



3. NATIONAL REGISTRY AND NATIONAL MAP | The Northern Research Station created a National Registry that serves as an online inventory of hundreds of community-based, living memorial sites. Using in-person social ecology research methods, supported by a multi-year local newspaper database search, the National Registry and map are the most comprehensive database of living memorials in existence. More than 700 memorials created from 2001-2004 are displayed on an online interactive National Map created in collaboration with the design firm, Urban-Interface. The Registry invites the public to share information about their projects and become part of the national map and registry. Projects, stories, and photographs are posted on the web and shared with others throughout the country.

<http://www.livingmemorialsproject.net/registry.asp>



4. DESIGN COLLABORATIVE | In the process of developing the Living Memorials Project, the Northeastern Area State and Private Forestry identified a unique educational opportunity for landscape architecture students, their institutions and recipient communities in need of memorial design support. The Design Collaborative matched projects, including Groundwork Yonkers Healing Trees Project, Open Road Park, and the Shaw EcoVillage, with future design professionals from graduate-level Landscape Architecture programs including City College of New York, Cornell University, and Virginia Tech, and provided students an opportunity to apply their skills in a professional public setting. The *Design Collaborative Final Report* provides detailed information for communities hoping to replicate the community design process.

http://www.livingmemorialsproject.net/DOWNLOADS/LM_DesCollab_Report.pdf



5. LAND-MARKINGS EXHIBITION | *Land-markings: 12 Journeys through 9/11 Living Memorials* is a multimedia exhibition that compresses 4 years of research data and analysis on more than 700 living memorials into 12 digitally authored journeys. Social science researchers, urban ecologists, designers, and architects collaborated in order to collect, analyze, and present this dispersed collective response to the tragedy of September 11, 2001. As a result, this interpretation presents memorials not only as mechanisms by which we mark events and individuals, but also interprets the function and spatial location of these remembrances, treating them as emergent forms that outline how we interact with our public landscapes. This exhibition was organized jointly by Parsons The New School For Design, The Tishman Environment and Design Center at The New School, and the Forest Service's Northern Research Station. It was installed at the National Park Service's Federal Hall National Memorial in New York, NY from October 6 to 27, 2006. The DVD and print catalog are available to the public. <http://www.nrs.fs.fed.us/livingmemorials>



American Patriot Garden

Site: Eisenhower Park, East Meadow, NY
 Project Lead: Nassau County Department of Parks, Recreation, and Museums,
www.nassaucountyny.gov/agencies/Parks/index.html

Site type: park

Memorial: memorial plaza with trees, flagpoles, and wall in the center of a 940-acre county park



An American Remembrance

Site: Manalapan Arboretum, Manalapan, NJ
 Project Lead: Manalapan Shade Tree Commission, www.twp.manalapan.nj.us

Site type: civic grounds

Memorial: 12 trees and a granite stone in a town arboretum



**A Celebration of Life—
Walkway of Remembrance**

Site: Gene Levy Park, Ramapo, NY
 Project Lead: Town of Ramapo

Site type: park

Memorial: 23 trees with plaques along a walking path in an active park



Clarkstown American Patriot Garden

Site: Street Community Center, Clarkstown, NY
 Project Lead: Clarkstown Department of Recreation and Parks

Site type: civic grounds

Memorial: Three new trees and plaques adjacent to other memorial trees in a promenade on the lawn of a community center



Cold Spring American Patriot Garden

Site: Mayor McConville Park, Cold Spring, NY
 Project Lead: Village of Cold Spring

Site type: park

Memorial: circle of trees and six benches surrounding a flagpole in a small park



Connecticut's 9-11 Living Memorial

Site: Sherwood Island State Park, Westport, CT
 Project Lead: Connecticut Office of Family Support, www.cthelps.state.ct.us

Site type: park

Memorial: four hackberry trees, pines, and cedars planted into the dunes, flowering shrubs and native grasses surrounding a low-lying granite memorial stone on a state park beach



Contemplative Garden

Site: Boston Public Garden, Boston, MA
 Project Lead: Massachusetts 9/11 Fund, www.massfund.org

Site type: park

Memorial: 5,000 sq ft area of the public garden enhanced with new trees, benches, plantings, and memorial stones



Garden of Healing

Site: Staten Island Botanical Garden (SIBG), Staten Island, NY
 Project Lead: Staten Island Botanical Garden, www.sibg.org

Site type: park

Memorial: woodland walk on the grounds of a botanical garden, connected by an existing allee of hornbeams to a small museum Tribute Center



Garden of Reflection

Site: Memorial Park, Yardley, PA
 Project Lead: Township of Lower Makefield, www.9-11memorialgarden.org

Site type: park

Memorial: 6 acres landscaped with more than 50 trees including cherries, pines, along with a stone walkway, flagpole, and a fountain on a 65 acre park site



Garrison School Memorial

Site: Garrison Elementary School, Garrison, NY
 Project Lead: Garrison Elementary School

Site type: park

Memorial: small memorial garden connected to an active, landscaped walkway surrounding school playing fields



Grove of Healing

Site: Sunset Park, Brooklyn, NY
 Project Lead: New York City Department of Parks and Recreation, www.nycgovparks.org

Site type: park

Memorial: grove of flowering trees, low plantings, and daffodils framing a view of the Manhattan skyline on a hillside corner of an urban park



G.R.A.C.E Memorial at Veterans Park

Site: Veterans Park, Glen Rock, NJ
 Project Lead: Glen Rock Assistance Council and Endowment (GRACE), www.glenrocknj.net

Site type: park

Memorial: over 20 new trees, shrubs, and groundcover planted, existing trees maintained, and deadwood removed around a built memorial of World Trade Center steel in a community Veterans Park



Grove of Healing

Site: Seaside Nature Park, Staten Island, NY
Project Lead: Turnaround Friends, Inc.
www.turnaroundfriends.org

Site Type: park

Memorial: 40 different trees planted in groves on a 2-acre site with winding paths in a neighborhood

Year 2 Project: 80 different trees planted in groves on a 2-acre site with winding paths in a neighborhood waterfront park



Healing Garden

Site: Intersection of Targee, Clove, and Narrows Road South, Staten Island, NY

Project Lead: Federated Garden Clubs of New York State,
www.gardenclubs-of-nys.org

Site type: found space

Memorial: "Patriot's Path" allee of redbuds; firefighters' memorial weeping cherry; 78 smoke trees; variety of shrub and flower plantings, on a traffic island



Highlands American Patriot Garden

Site: Highlands Police Department, Highlands, NY

Project Lead: Town of Highlands; Vision 2002, www.visiontownofhighlands.com

Site type: park

Memorial: new memorial garden and park along a pond and greenway



Grove of Remembrance

Site: Liberty State Park, Jersey City, NJ
Project Lead: New Jersey Tree Foundation,
www.newjerseytreefoundation.org

Site type: park

Memorial: 691 trees planted on a 10-acre site in a large urban park, with active and passive walkways leading to the Hudson River waterfront and view of the Manhattan skyline



Healing Trees

Site: Open Road Park, New York, NY
Project Lead: Open Road of New York,
www.openroadny.org

Site type: community garden

Memorial: 10 new tree plantings and landscape improvements from a community-created design in an urban community garden, 25 trees propagated for planting in other gardens and sites



Hoboken September 11 Memorial Tree Grove

Site: Pier A Park, Hoboken, NJ
Project Lead: City of Hoboken Department of Environmental Services,
www.hobokennj.org

Site type: park

Memorial: urban grove of ginkgo trees, granite benches, and glass memorial sculpture in a heavily used pier park



Harmony Grove Peace Walk and Labyrinth

Site: Brook Park, Bronx, NY
Project Lead: Friends of Brook Park,
www.friendsofbrookpark.org

Site type: community garden

Memorial: landscaped labyrinth in a community garden with youth programming



Healing Trees Project

Sites: Hudson River waterfront; St. John's Church; Yonkers Vark Street Firehouse, Yonkers, NY

Project Lead: Groundwork Yonkers,
www.groundworkyonkers.org

Site types: park, civic grounds, found space

Memorial: locust trees, shrubs, grasses, and three memorial stones inlaid into the ground at the waterfront; linear plantings of pines at the church site; single Liberty elm with a heart-shaped mulch bed at the firehouse site



Legacy Groves of Somerset County

Sites: multiple sites in Somerset County, PA: Volunteer Firefighters Training Center; Somerset County Vocational Technical School

Project Lead: Conemaugh Valley Conservancy,
www.conemaughvalleyconservancy.org

Site type: found space

Memorial: two groves of six sugar maple trees at the volunteer firefighter training center and an area school

Year 2 Project: 13 groves of six sugar maple trees of various sizes planted at sites of local significance by volunteers throughout Somerset County



Haverstraw American Patriot Garden

Site: Haverstraw Bay County Park, Rockland County, NY

Project Lead: Rockland County Executive/Legislature September 11th Response Committee,
www.co.rockland.ny.us

Site type: park

Memorial: waterfront memorial garden adjacent to a large sculpture and plaza in a new county park



Living Memorial Trail

Site: Lafayette Ave between Longfellow Rd. and Edgewater Rd., Bronx, NY
Project Lead: Greening for Breathing, www.ssbx.org

Site type: found space

Memorial: street trees and flower plantings on two urban blocks leading to a community-maintained park on the Bronx River



MacNeil Park 9-11 Viewshed Grove

Site: MacNeil Park, Queens, NY
Project Lead: New York City Department of Parks and Recreation, www.nycgovparks.org

Site type: park

Memorial: 43 white flowering trees planted at a street end, along a path, and in a promontory grove in a neighborhood park that is a viewshed to the World Trade Center site and was a gathering place on 9-11



Mahopac American Patriot Garden

Site: Chamber Park, Mahopac, NY
Project Lead: Mahopac Chamber of Commerce, www.mahopacchamber.com

Site type: park

Memorial: memorial garden in a new, small, waterfront municipal park



Marlboro Township Living Memorial

Site: Marlboro Township, NJ, municipal complex

Project Lead: Marlboro Township Memorial Committee, www.marlboro-nj.gov

Site Type: civic grounds

Memorial: circle of flowering dogwoods surrounding benches and a memorial fountain on the township municipal grounds



Memorial of Remembrance

Site: Shrine of St. Joseph, Long Hill, NJ
Project Lead: Shrine of St. Joseph, www.stshrine.org

Site type: forest

Memorial: white pines and a variety of low plantings reforesting and landscaping an area surrounding a memorial tower of WTC steel beams on the grounds of a Catholic shrine



Orangetown American Patriot Garden

Site: Orangetown, NY, town hall
Project Lead: Town of Orangetown, www.orangetown.com

Site type: civic grounds

Memorial: small plantings surrounding a carved memorial stone on town municipal grounds



Pentagon Memorial Park

Site: Pentagon Reservation, Arlington, VA

Project Lead: Pentagon Memorial Fund, <http://memorial.pentagon.mil/>

Site type: Park

Memorial: 100+ maple trees clustered in a field of 'memorial units'



Recovering Lost Ground

Site: Cottage Gardens housing development, Yonkers, NY

Project Lead: Groundwork Yonkers, www.groundworkyonkers.org

Site type: civic grounds

Memorial: 29 flowering cherry trees, community garden vegetable beds, rain garden, perennial flower beds, a "wave" mural, and a memorial mosaic on the grounds of a public housing project



Reflecting Absence:

The World Trade Center Memorial

Site: World Trade Center site, New York, NY

Project Lead: Lower Manhattan Development Corporation, www.wtcsitememorial.org

Site type: event specific

Memorial: 265,000 sq ft plaza with two three-acre voids at the building footprints with running water cascading over the edges, surrounded by 400 swamp white oak and sweetgum trees arranged in a random grove and a formal glade. The trees will be sited atop an underground memorial within the former foundations of the Twin Towers; FS funding was used to purchase memorial trees from affected areas of New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania.



Richard Cudina Memorial

Site: Memorial Park, Lebanon, NJ

Project Lead: Richard Cudina Memorial Committee, www.richardcudinamemorial.com

Site type: park

Memorial: plaza with built memorial of World Trade Center steel and seasonal plantings, connected to a contemplative woodland path



Russian Family Memorial

Site: Seaside Park, Brooklyn, NY

Project Lead: September 11 Family Group, www.september11familygroup.org

Site type: found space within existing parkland

Memorial: A Persian weeping willow was planted within a cluster of young and mature trees which include a Siberian elm and a sycamore.



Scarsdale American Legion Memorial Garden

Site: Scarsdale Memorial Garden, Scarsdale, NY
Project Lead: Scarsdale American Legion
Site type: civic grounds
Memorial: landscaped, walled garden with memorial plaques and trees



September 11 Memorial Grove

Site: Prospect Park, Brooklyn, NY
Project Lead: Prospect Park Alliance, www.prospectpark.org
Site type: park
Memorial: 50 trees and more than 30 shrubs planted in naturalistic groves with a stone marker within a large, urban park



Sterling Forest Project

Site: Arrow Lake-Sterling Forest, Orange County, NY
Project Lead: Orange County Land Trust, www.oclt.org
Site type: forest
Memorial: hundreds of white pines planted as a memorial forest restoration



Tree Planting in Highbridge Park to Honor the Victims of September 11th

Site: Highbridge Park, New York, NY
Project Lead: New York Restoration Project, www.nyrp.org
Site type: park
Memorial: groves of trees and landscaping planted by volunteers in four locations in an urban linear park



Trees for Life and Unity—Bronx

Sites: community gardens throughout Bronx, NY: Garden of Youth, Garden of Happiness, Tremont Community Garden, Daly Avenue Block Association Garden, and others
Project Lead: Green Guerillas, www.greenguerillas.org
Site type: community garden
Memorial: 40 trees planted and dedicated in 19 urban community gardens



Trees for Life and Unity: Brooklyn

Sites: community gardens throughout Brooklyn, NY: 64th Street Community Garden; Warren Street Community Garden; Jes Good Rewards; Green Gems Community Garden; Jordan Magic Garden; Bedford Avenue Block Association Garden; First Quincy Street Green Thumb Garden; Nicole's Place Garden; GREC Garden; CAUSA Festival Garden
Project Lead: Green Guerillas, www.greenguerillas.org
Site type: community garden
Memorial: single trees or groups of trees, generally flowering and/or fruit-bearing, planted in ten community gardens



Tribute Park

Site: 116th Street and Beach Channel Drive, Far Rockaway, NY
Project Lead: Rockaway Chamber of Commerce, www.rockawaychamberofcommerce.com
Site type: park
Memorial: new, interactive, waterfront tribute park



Washington D.C. September 11th Memorial Tree Grove Project—Kingman Island

Site: Kingman Island, Washington, D.C.
Project Lead: Green Spaces for D.C., www.greenspacesfordc.org
Site type: park
Memorial: island restoration with educational trail and memorial grove; eight neighborhood memorial groves



Washington D.C. September 11th Memorial Groves—Neighborhood Groves

Sites: neighborhood parks, school, and cemetery across 8 wards of Washington, D.C.
Project Lead: GreenSpaces for D.C.
Site types: park, civic grounds, found space
Memorial: trees, planting, and signage in eight neighborhood groves; island restoration with educational trail and memorial grove



WTC United Family Group Memorial

Site: Eagle Rock Reservation, West Orange, NJ
Project Lead: WTC United Family Group
Site type: park
Memorial: seven trees with plaques alongside a wall of names with views of Lower Manhattan

FOREST SERVICE RESPONSE

Immediately following the events of September 11, 2001, the Forest Service responded to the tragedy by sending more than 500 smoke jumpers, firefighters, GIS technicians and incident management specialists to New York City. Managing projects, coordinating teams, and assisting city and state efforts, the Forest Service drew on its 100-year history of battling fire and found relevancy in the urban environment at an extremely poignant time. This spirit remains embedded in the agency and staff along with the legacy of the Living Memorial Project.

The Living Memorials Project brings an important healing component to Forest Service response and restoration efforts around the country. Communities from the Gulf Coast to those affected by western forest fires have looked to parks and open spaces to commune, and memorialize traumatic events. The Forest Service Living Memorials Project attempted to amplify community actions after September 11, 2001 and to connect decentralized, yet common, threads of expression and hope.

WHAT'S NEXT

The Forest Service will continue to foster collaboration in the creation and enhancement of community spaces by bringing together citizens, students, organizations, institutions and the private sector through technical, grant and research opportunities. Members of the public interested in initiating Living Memorial projects in their own communities can receive guidance, technical resources, ideas and inspirations.

Please visit: <http://www.livingmemorialsproject.net> to learn more.





ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Photos provided through the
Living Memorials Project National Registry



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