

The Landscape Architect's Guide to **WASHINGTON, D.C.**

DC War Memorial

History

In 1882 the Potomac Flats were drained, and in 1897 621 acres were reclaimed as swampland to become Potomac Park. By 1901, the park grew to nearly 700 acres with the addition of more land.

The 1902 McMillan Plan envisioned wooded areas within a more formal organization and commemorative locations lined up with the street grid.

In 1915 landscape architect C.E. Howard worked on planting plans.

In 1918 World War I ended with a call for local memorials to veterans and fallen soldiers; a polo grounds and a wood bandstand are constructed south of the Lincoln Reflecting Pool.

In 1919 Washington architect Frederick H. Brooke designed an open air circular Corinthian temple with a domed roof and stepped base to be within a designed landscape.

In 1924 the D.C. War Memorial was authorized.

In 1923 a series of memorial trees were planted by civic groups.

In 1930 landscape architect James L. Greenleaf recommended the memorial location and the avoidance of fancy planting and flower beds. Maj. Gen. Benjamin Franklin Cheatham designed a landscape on the 19th Street axis, with grass panels and walks on each side.

The dedication on November 11, 1931 featured a performance by the Marine Corps Band led by John Phillips Sousa.

In 1939 the memorial and grounds were rehabilitated. In 1940 50 benches were installed.

Through the American Recovery and Revitalization Act, the memorial and grounds were restored in 2011.