

Living Memorials Project

USDA Forest Service
Northeastern Area
State and Private Forestry



Description: In response to events of September 11, 2001 the Living Memorials Project creates lasting, living memorials to the victims of terrorism, for their families, their communities, and the Nation. The USDA Forest Service provides funding, technical assistance, and new tools to invoke the resonating power of trees and their life affirming symbolism, creating healthier landscapes and communities.

Key Issues:

- The Living Memorials Project, through the Urban and Community Forestry Program, reflects agency commitment to the people and the land by convening States, communities, and organizations in ways that will have enduring social and environmental benefits.
- The Living Memorials Project continues through 2004 in partnership with the Urban Resources Institute, including new project grants, continued technical assistance, and ongoing research.

Accomplishments:

- In FY2002, awarded cost-share grants for the design and development of 34 community projects in the New York City metropolitan area, southwestern Pennsylvania, Washington, DC, and Virginia.
- Leveraged over \$10 million in project funds from local and national partners.
- Established a network of more than 1,500 people actively involved in project planning, implementation, and ongoing maintenance.
- Planted more than 5000 trees and reclaimed vacant and neglected lands in 50% of the projects.
- Created a project web site (www.livingmemorialsproject.net) and developed National Registry of Living Memorials. The ever-expanding registry now tracks over 150 projects in 28 states and 4 countries. More than 4,600 people are directly involved in these projects.
- Recognized by Forest Service Chief for excellence in technology transfer, delivering best practices in community participation, project planning, healing design, tree planting, care and maintenance. The web site has been accessed more than 100,000 times since April 21, 2002.
- In FY 2003, formed new collaborations with nonprofit organizations and universities that will benefit participating communities by providing design services and developing training and technical assistance opportunities for students in landscape architecture design studios from City College of New York, Cornell University, and Virginia Tech University.
- Funded the Urban Resources Initiative of New Haven to support new Living Memorials Projects that highlight community resilience, celebrate life, and build connections with families and the community at large. These final projects will run through CY 2005 to close out the initiative.

Budget History:

Living Memorials Project (\$ Thousands)				
	FY 2001	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004
Totals	\$0	\$1,500	\$1,500	\$0

Kathryn Maloney, Director
11 Campus Blvd., Suite 200
Newtown Square, PA 19073
610-557-4103 (4177-FAX)
kmaloney@fs.fed.us
<http://na.fs.fed.us>

Robin Morgan, Asst. Director
11 Campus Blvd., Suite 200
Newtown Square, PA 19073
610-557-4124 (4136-FAX)
rmorgan@fs.fed.us

Phillip Rodbell Project Manager
11 Campus Blvd., Suite 200
Newtown Square, PA 19073
610-557-4133 (4136-FAX)
prodbell@fs.fed.us

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