

living memorials

www.livingmemorialproject.net/mem_projects

project

national registry of living memorial projects

The USDA Forest Service Northeastern Research Station has worked in partnership with the Living Memorials Project to conduct an ongoing, open and participatory social and site assessment of public spaces that have been created, used or enhanced in memory of the tragic events of September 11, 2001.

hypothesis: community-based projects which are linked initially to trauma and/or loss are embedded with social meaning shaped by local identity, values, and traditions but affected by regional networks and more global events. Projects that have the greatest potential to re-knit social cohesion are those which help re-establish a locus of control and neighborhood efficacy. Projects that are imbued with an ecological approach in process, design, and maintenance have even higher potentials of fostering open systems essential for building trust and cooperation. In some cases, the memorials themselves were either left unfinished, unmarked or still evolving.

methods: created a national registry which serves as an on-line inventory of sites and social meanings. To date, over 500 Living Memorials have been located in every state in the nation. Researchers Erika Svendsen and Lindsay Campbell went into the field to interview 100 community groups using social ecology methods of patterned discourse, observations, photo-narrative, and mapping.

One of the most basic findings was that after September 11, communities needed space. Space to create. Space to teach. Space to restore. These **social motivations** formed the basis of patterned human responses observed throughout the nation. A **site typology** emerged adhering to specific forms and functions, that often reflected a variance in attitudes, beliefs and social networks. The functions of these memorial projects are affected by the **site location**, along with the memorial message and ongoing public use.

site typology

forest

- Average size: 41 acres*
- Nonhuman dominated
- Preserved by social preferences as well as biophysical functions
- Large site in relation to surrounding community open space
- Feeling of wilderness



Sterling Forest Project: Tuxedo, NY

park

- Average size: 3.7 acres*
- Municipally operated, planned, and designed
- Design can change over time
- Size can vary, depends on population
- Always passive recreation, sometimes interactive recreation



Prospect Park Sept. 11 Memorial Grove: Brooklyn, NY

viewshed



Grove of Healing: Jersey City, NJ

event related



Legacy Groves of Somerset County: Somerset, PA

site location

Project leads were asked: "Why was this particular site selected?" Memorials were created all over the nation in places of social meaning, both connected to Sept. 11 and to everyday community life.

community garden

- Average size: 1.9 acres*
- Community maintained
- Interactive and small
- Local, ongoing design, planning, and use
- Change happens seasonally
- Deliberate revision of abandoned / vacant space



Trees for Life and Unity Project: Bronx, NY

gathering



Hanson Family Memorial near Town Hall: Groton, MA

public



Angels' Circle: Staten Island, NY

town center

- Average size: .9 acre*
- Proximity to civic or workplace institutions
- Often near other memorials
- Often project-driven, designed, planned, finished,
- Often on a small site located on larger, functionally unrelated grounds
- Municipally maintained



American Patriot Garden: Clarkstown, NY

to beautify / to restore



Memorial of Remembrance: Stirling, NJ

to create

to create / to express



The Sunflower Project: New York, NY

sacredness

Project leads were asked: "Do you consider your site to be a sacred space? If so, why?" A pattern of stewardship motivations relating to the desire to leave a legacy emerged from the diversity of responses.

to teach / to connect



Leckie Elementary Memorial: Washington, D.C.

to gain control



Boston College Memorial Labyrinth: Boston, MA

found space

- Average size: .22 acre*
- Often very small
- Deliberate revision of planned space
- Previously undermanaged landscape / feeling of wilderness
- Often driven, designed, and planned by an individual or a small informal group
- Property jurisdiction is unknown or unapparent



Tribute Park: Rockaways, NY

*Average sizes based on year one research only.

