

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

Lincoln Memorial and Reflecting Pool

History

The Lincoln Monument Association was established in 1867 to build a memorial to the slain president.

In 1902 the McMillan Plan called for a memorial to Lincoln at the west end of the National Mall fronted by a cruciform-shaped reflecting pool.

The memorial was constructed between 1913 and its dedication in 1922.

The 2,029-foot long by 163-foot wide Reflecting Pool was built from 1922-1923 after the dedication of the Lincoln Memorial. Rainbow Pool, now part of the World War II Memorial, was part of the original Reflecting Pool project.

Extensive tree planting in the 1930s and 40s included rows of elms.

In 1953, a continuous road was opened around the memorial.

Following September 11, 2001, security elements were installed around the Lincoln Memorial, and the circular road was closed to traffic.

Design for a multi-year pool restoration project began in 2009 and will be completed in 2012.

In 2006 the National Park Service began the process of planning for the National Mall, addressing issues of wear and tear associated with the park's 25 million annual visits. Using the principles of the Sustainable Sites Initiative™ (SITES™), diverse projects within the National Mall Plan include the restoration of compacted soils and deteriorated lawns, as well as broad improvements to the hydrology; pedestrian, car, and bus circulation; visitor facilities; and pedestrian signage on the National Mall. The plan was approved in 2010 and implementation is underway.