

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

## Thomas Jefferson Memorial

### History

1897 — Potomac Park was created.

1902 — The McMillan Plan created a special location for an unnamed memorial.

1912 — The country received a gift of Japanese cherry trees from the Mayor of Tokyo.

1925 — Swimming was banned.

1934 — Thomas Jefferson Memorial Commission was established. The irregular shape of the Tidal Basin and the cherry trees would be retained, which created the informal setting for the memorial.

1943 — Memorial was dedicated by Franklin D. Roosevelt.

1947 — The plaster statue was replaced by bronze after World War II.

1951 — Roadway and sidewalk settlement resulted in the plaza structural work; the circular road and public parking were removed, resulting in the plaza north of the memorial in 1969.

1998 — The lower level of the memorial, including the exhibits, shop, bookstore, restrooms, and staff space was rehabilitated.

Through the next decade, planting updates and replacements continued.

2011 — Seawall settlement at the plaza was repaired through the American Recovery and Revitalization Act.