First Lady of Potomac Park: Nellie Taft

Helen “Nellie” Herron Taft’s dream of becoming First Lady propelled her husband William Howard Taft into running for the presidency. For her part, she was a lady of “firsts,” and was among the First Ladies to transform the role into the substantive one it is today. Her legacy is still evident in parts of the National Mall.

Born in Cincinnati, Ohio in 1861, and a graduate of Cincinnati College of Music, she married William Howard Taft in 1886. Nellie Taft distinguished herself as founder and president of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra Association. After the Spanish-American War, President William McKinley appointed William Taft Governor of the Philippine Islands, where he served from 1900 to 1903. There, Mrs. Taft distinguished herself as a public servant. The Tafts worked as a team, reversing discrimination against locals and establishing a policy of equality. She was a fan of Manila’s Luneta Park, a swampland transformed in 1820 into the Paseo de Luneta, a plaza in the form of a Roman circus or parade for riding and walking. Later, the Paseo de Luneta served as a fortification, of a Roman circus or parade for riding and walking. The Taft administration proceeded to transform this atmosphere, known as the “City Beautiful” movement, that Scidmore met Dr. David Fairchild. Fairchild, a prominent figure at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, began introducing Japanese flowering cherry trees to his estate in Chevy Chase, MD, just north of the city. In the closing of an Arbor Day ceremony in 1902, Dr. Fairchild called for a large number of these trees to be planted where the speedway around the Tidal Basin would be held annually to showcase the beautiful trees that were a gift from the city of Tokyo to our nation’s capital. This year marks the 100th anniversary of that gift. We’ll be offering a wide variety of special programs as part of the celebration.

The staff and volunteers of the National Mall are available to tell you about the park, answer your questions and help you make the most of your time here in America’s front yard. Enjoy your visit!
**Daily Programs**

**What:** Free site tours and interpretive talks

**Where:** Lincoln, Korean War Veterans, Vietnam Veterans, World War II, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Thomas Jefferson Memorials

**When:** Daily at 10:00 AM, 12:00 noon, 2:00 PM, 4:00 PM, 6:00 PM, and 8:00 PM. 10:00 PM.

**Special Programs**

**Saturday, April 14, 2012**

**24th Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup**

**Volunteer Service Activity**: 7:00 AM - 9:00 AM

Help keep the Potomac River clean from the Lincoln Memorial to the Inlet Bridge! Gloves and bags will be provided. The event ends prior to the Cherry Blossom Festival Parade. Location: Intersection of Ohio Drive SW and West Basin Drive SW. Contact: Edward Fleming (240) 375-5904.

**The Death of a President**

**Ranger Program**: 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM, 4:00 PM - 5:00 PM

Lincoln’s assassination changed the course of history, but not the way Booth intended. Hear about that tragic night and how Lincoln emerged as a president for the ages. Location: Lincoln Memorial. Contact: Heidi Dietze (202) 438-7033.

**Monday, April 16, 2012**

**The District Emancipation Act: An End and a Beginning**

**Ranger Program**: 2:00 PM - 3:00 PM

The 1862 District Emancipation Act represented a victory, a tragic end, and beginning recognition that military necessity must drive broader emancipation. Location: Lincoln Memorial Plaza. Contact: Bob Healy (202) 438-6314.

**George Mason, The Reluctant Statesman**

**Ranger Program**: 6:00 PM - 6:30 PM

Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness were among this forgotten thinker’s contributions to American law and society. Location: George Mason Memorial. Contact: Victor Pillow (202) 841-1774.

**Emancipation in the District: The Tide Turns**

**Ranger Program**: 6:00 PM - 6:45 PM

On April 16th 1862, Congress passed its first major act against the institution of slavery, emancipating slaves in the District of Columbia. Location: Lincoln Memorial. Contact: Jan Buerger (202) 497-1397.

**Tuesday, April 17, 2012**

**Bombardment of Fort Sumter**

**Ranger Program**: 1:00 PM - 1:45 PM

Learn how events at a fort in the middle of Charleston Harbor propelled the United States into Civil War. Location: Lincoln Memorial. Contact: Jeff Jones (202) 329-2238.

**Wednesday, April 18, 2012**

**From Mud Flats to Memorials in 200 Years**

**Walking Tour**: 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM, 5:00 - 7:00 PM

The land where our memorials now stand used to be mud flats. The transformation over 200 years is filled with more “oops” than you would think. Location: Washington Monument Bookstore. Contact: Mike Rose (202) 438-9667.

**John Paul Jones: Man of Action**

**Ranger Program**: 6:00 PM - 6:30 PM

John Paul Jones, an audacious captain, was the first US Navy commander to cause a foreign warship to strike its flag. In 1912, this brave man was honored with a memorial. Location: World War II Memorial. Contact: Matt Hornberger (202) 359-7080.

**Thursday, April 19, 2012**

**Recalling the Shot Heard around the World**

**Living History**: 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM

Meet rangers in 1776 attire to learn about the shot heard around the world at Lexington and Concord on April 19, 1775. Location: Washington Monument Lodge. Contact: Mike Rose (202) 438-9667.

**Friday, April 20, 2012**

**Culture Clash at the Lincoln Memorial: Nixon’s Nighttime Visit**

**Ranger Program**: 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM


**Saturday, April 21, 2012**

**Spring Bird Walk**

**Ranger Program**: 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM

Join National Park Service Rangers as we try to identify birds during this spring bird migration season. Binoculars are provided. Location: Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial. Contact: Robert Steele (202) 438-9574.

**The Death of a President**

**Bike Tour**: 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Lincoln’s assassination changed the course of history, but not the way Booth intended. Hear about that tragic night and how Lincoln emerged as a president for the ages. Bring your own bike, helmet, water and snacks. Location: Lincoln Memorial. Contact: Heidi Dietze (202) 438-7033.

**The National Mall: A Reflection of American Society**

**Walking Tour**: 2:00 PM - 3:30 PM

Trace the development of the National Mall as it evolved to meet the needs of American Society. Location: Washington Monument Lodge, 15th St. Contact: Robert Steele (202) 438-9574.

**Charles Sumner and the Push for Abolition**

**Ranger Program**: 3:00 PM - 3:45 PM

Massachusetts Senator Charles Sumner was a leading light of the Northern radical abolitionists. Learn how he contributed to the end of slavery. Location: Lincoln Memorial. Contact: Jan Buerger (202) 497-1397.

**The Bataan Death March**

**Ranger Program**: 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM

After the Philippines fell to the Japanese in April 1942, American soldiers had to endure the largest surrender in American history. Location: World War II Memorial. Contact: Paul O’Brien (202) 438-7086.

**Who Won the Civil War?**

**Walking Tour**: 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM

The North won the war militarily. But were all of the Union’s objectives for society accomplished? We are impacted by the outcome today! Location: Washington Monument Lodge. Contact: Lowell Fry (202) 438-9603.

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**Find Cherry Blossom Festival Programs including walks, talks, bike tours, and running tours for March 24 - April 15 on page 5!**
Sunday, April 22, 2012

**Unexplored Tales of the City**

Bike Tour, 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Have no doubts. Our history is filled with myths and half-truths, but in the end you will agree, true American History is far more fascinating than fictitious American History. Bring your own bike, helmet, water and snacks. Location: Thomas Jefferson Memorial. Contact: Richard Ayad (202) 438-3456.

**Civil Rights in Washington, D.C.**

Ranger Program, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM
What did the Civil Rights Movement look like in the Nation's Capital? Come and learn about some hometown heroes. Location: Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial. Contact: Susan Phlipott (202) 233-3520.

Monday, April 23, 2012

**Have We Learned Anything Yet? Remembering the Holocaust**

Ranger Program, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Are the horrors of the camps retreating into distant mental mists? Learn why we must ever thank WWII vets! Location: World War II Memorial. Contact: Lowell Fry (202) 438-9603.

**Sunday, April 29, 2012**

**Lincoln's Washington: Contraband Camps during the Civil War**

Bike Tour, 11:00 AM - 1:00 PM
The emergence of contraband camps during the Civil War transformed the Federal City both visually and philosophically. Bring your own bike, helmet, water and snacks. Location: Thomas Jefferson Memorial. Contact: Richard Ayad (202) 438-3456.

**Thursday, April 26, 2012**

**Lincoln's Second Inaugural & Lee's Surrender at Appomattox**

Ranger Program, 2:00 PM - 2:45 PM
Without Lincoln at the helm of the Union Army, the surrender at Appomattox Court House may have never happened. Location: Lincoln Memorial. Contact: Edward Fleming (240) 375-5904.

**Friday, April 27, 2012**

**Four Score and Four Years: From the Civil War to World War II**

Walking Tour, 6:00 PM - 8:00 PM
Visit the sites marking our top 3 deadly conflicts, and in comparing them, learn how they are interrelated. Location: Lincoln Memorial. Contact: Lowell Fry (202) 438-9603.

**Saturday, April 28, 2012**

**FDR's Wild Side**

Ranger Program, 10:00 AM - 11:30 AM
Join National Park Rangers as they explore the trees, birds, and other wildlife at the FDR Memorial. Location: Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial. Contact: Robert Steele (202) 438-9574.

**Off the Beaten Path**

Bike Tour, 11:00 AM - 2:00 PM
Visit and hear untold stories about out-of-the-way statues, urns, and fountains, but also learn the secrets that often linger in the shadows of the colossal icons and memorials. Bring your own bike, helmet, water and snacks. Location: Thomas Jefferson Memorial. Contact: Richard Ayad (202) 438-3456.

**Tuesday, April 24, 2012**

**Where in the Park are the Patriots?**

Patriots of the Civil War
**LIVING HISTORY, 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM**
Meet rangers in Civil War period clothing and learn about American Civil War life and times. Location: Lincoln Memorial. Contact: Mike Rose (202) 438-9667.

**Monday, April 30, 2012**

**George Washington takes Oath of Office, 1789 in New York City**

**LIVING HISTORY, 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM**
Meet rangers in late-18th century attire to learn about George Washington taking the oath of office at the helm of the Union Army. Contact: Richard Ayad (202) 438-3456.

**Wednesday, April 25, 2012**

**Pork Chop Hill**

Ranger Program, 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM
In the spring of 1953 the Chinese launched a large offensive against the United Nations in the Korean War. A movie was created about it. Location: Korean War Veterans Memorial. Contact: Paul O'Brien (202) 438-7066.

**Monday, April 30, 2012**

**George Mason, The Reluctant Statesman**

Ranger Program, 6:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Join National Park Rangers as we learn about George Mason taking the oath of office in New York City. Location: George Mason Memorial. Contact: Victor Pillow (202) 841-1774.

**George Washington at Appomattox**

Ranger Program, 2:00 PM - 2:45 PM
Join National Park Rangers as we explore the trees, birds, and other wildlife at the FDR Memorial. Location: Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial. Contact: Robert Steele (202) 438-9574.

**John Paul Jones: Man of Action**

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John Paul Jones, an audacious captain, was the first US Navy commander to cause a foreign warship to strike its flag. In 1912, this brave man was honored with a memorial. Location: World War II Memorial. Contact: Matt Hornberger (202) 359-7080.

**Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation**

Ranger Program, 3:00 PM - 3:45 PM
Lincoln's most famous act was his Emancipation Proclamation for U.S. slaves on January 1, 1863. Location: Lincoln Memorial. Contact: Jan Buerger (202) 497-1397.

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**Where in the Park are the Patriots?**

LIVING HISTORY, 11:00 AM - 4:00 PM
Meet rangers in colonial period clothing, learn about our Founding Fathers and Founding Mothers, and colonial life and times. Location: Thomas Jefferson Memorial. Contact: Victor Pillow (202) 841-1774.

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**Lincoln's Second Inaugural & Lee's Surrender at Appomattox**

Ranger Program, 2:00 PM - 2:45 PM
Without Lincoln at the helm of the Union Army, the surrender at Appomattox Court House may have never happened. Location: Lincoln Memorial. Contact: Edward Fleming (240) 375-5904.

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Ranger Program, 6:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Life, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Happiness were among this forgotten thinker's contributions to American law and society. Location: George Mason Memorial. Contact: Victor Pillow (202) 841-1774.

**Untold Stories of Stalin's Victims**

Ranger Program, 6:00 PM - 6:30 PM
Joseph Stalin's tyranny led to millions of deaths during his regime. This memorial represents Joseph Stalin's tyranny led to millions of deaths during his regime. This memorial represents...
Canada Goose

The National Mall’s blend of well-manicured grassy areas and open bodies of water provide ideal habitats for Canada geese. There is a good chance you’ll see a Canada goose eating, considering they can spend upwards of ten hours a day feeding on grass, berries, fish, and insects! Females, known as geese, and males, known as ganders, may live over 20 years and typically begin mating for life at the age of 3.

Keep wildlife wild! Although the National Mall and Memorial Parks is an urban park, Canada geese are wild and must be respected accordingly. Help National Mall and Memorial Parks protect Canada geese by observing them, and all wildlife, from a distance.

Did you Know?

- Canada geese nest in the same region every year. Look for them year round at Constitution Gardens, East Potomac Park, and the Tidal Basin!
- The iconic “flying V” formation aids communication and assists flight efficiency by cutting lines in the wind and creating an upward current.
- Goslings (baby geese) communicate with their mothers while in their egg.
- Canada geese are the second in size among North American waterfowl. Trumpeter swans are the largest.

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The following handful of years were very hard on the Japanese flowering cherry trees, for there was a full-scale rebellion by prominent ladies of Washington society who objected to the planning of the site for a new memorial to President Thomas Jefferson along the southern edge of the Tidal Basin. In November 1938, many of these ladies chained themselves to the cherry trees which were destined to be removed for the construction of the new memorial. The ladies eventually left the area, after showing their disdain for the removal of the 26-year-old trees. Eventually the “Cherry Tree Rebellion” as it came to be known, proved a victory for both sides. Advocates of the memorial saw the formal dedication take place on Thomas Jefferson’s 200th birthday, April 13, 1943, and beautifully framing the new structure were hundreds of newly planted, young cherry trees. The coming of World War II resulted in a handful of the cherry trees being vandalized after the attack on Pearl Harbor. A moratorium was placed on the annual springtime festivals for the duration of the war as well.

At the end of World War II relations between the United States and Japan again grew strong. As symbols of friendship, the two nations continued to give one another gifts. Clippings from Tidal Basin trees were sent back to Japan to help replenish groves of cherry trees which were diminished during the war. The nation of Japan bestowed upon the park in 1954 the gift of an ancient stone lantern, which is ceremonially lit at the beginning of each Cherry Blossom Festival. This gift marks the 100th anniversary of formal relations between the two nations. It stands in the grove of trees where the first one was planted in 1912, along the northwest edge of the Tidal Basin. Near the exit of the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial stands a decorative stone Japanese pagoda given as a gesture of goodwill in 1958. Pagodas are the dominant architecture in Japanese Shinto temples which honor those who have come before us.

Japanese flowering cherry trees surround the grounds of many of these sites, for the brief duration of their brilliant blossoms symbolize the brevity of life for the people of Japan. It is therefore quite fitting that these trees adorn the grounds upon which we as a nation have placed monuments and memorials to our forebears. In 1965, further gifts of 3,800 trees from Japan were planted on the grounds of the Washington Monument and elsewhere. Through the years, the reciprocal gifts of the two nations were tempered by the steady arrival of visitors every spring to witness the blooming of these magnificent trees. The sakura, as they are known to the people of Japan, bear deeply important symbolism that has drawn people together for generations. The cherry blossom is portrayed second only to the moon in Japanese art, and the amount of poems written about them is virtually limitless. The festival held every spring in Washington, D.C. is a clear indication of how the U.S. has blended facets of cultures from around the world into something truly unique, something American.
Welcome!

On this page, you will find information about events happening at National Mall and Memorial Parks during the National Cherry Blossom Festival. Information about other events happening throughout Washington, D.C. can be found on the National Cherry Blossom Festival website, www.nationalcherryblossomfestival.org.

This year marks the 100th anniversary of the gift of the flowering cherry trees on the National Mall!

The first 3,020 cherry trees were given to the City of Washington, D.C. by the City of Tokyo, Japan in 1912. Since then, the trees have been cultivated throughout the park, to include more than a dozen varieties to enjoy.

These beautiful, flowering trees have attracted millions of people to the National Mall over the years, and the National Cherry Blossom Festival has grown into a major event. This year’s National Cherry Blossom Festival is bigger than ever.

Enjoy this extraordinary celebration, and help us kick off the next 100 years of cherry blossoms in Washington, D.C.!

Ranger-Led Programs

Cherry Talks
Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial & Thomas Jefferson Memorial
11 a.m., 1 p.m., 3 p.m., 5 p.m. (Every Day)
Learn more about the history of the blossoms on these daily programs.

Lantern Walks
NPS Welcome Tent at Tidal Basin Welcome Area
8 p.m. - 10 p.m. (Wednesday, Saturday & Sunday)
Enjoy the memorials and blossoms at night. Bring your own flashlight.

Bike Tours
Thomas Jefferson Memorial
1 p.m. - 4 p.m. (Saturdays & Sundays)
Enjoy the cherry blossoms without all the traffic! Bring your own bike, helmet, and water.

Cherry Chit-Chat Runs
Washington Monument Lodge
8 a.m. - 9 a.m. (Saturdays)
Lace up your shoes and join a Park Ranger for a 3.5 mile run and learn about the blossoms.

Bloomin’ Jr. Ranger
Thomas Jefferson Memorial
Earn your Jr. Ranger Badge with hands-on activities!
10:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. (Saturdays & Sundays)
Special Ranger Activity
2 p.m. (Saturdays & Sundays)

Ranger Audio Tours
Dial (202) 747-3465 to learn more about the blossoms.

Services

Welcome and Information Tents
Tidal Basin Welcome Area
10 a.m. - 7 p.m. (Every Day)

Sylvan Theater (March 31 - April 15)
11 a.m. - 7 p.m. (Friday & Saturday)
11 a.m. - 6 p.m. (Sunday through Thursday)

Food Tents
Tidal Basin Welcome Area
10 a.m. - 5 p.m. (Every Day)

Souvenir/Bookstore Tents
Tidal Basin Welcome Area
10 a.m. - 7 p.m. (Every Day)

First Aid Tent
Tidal Basin Welcome Area
10 a.m. - 7 p.m. (Every Day)

Bloomin’ Jr. Ranger Tent
Thomas Jefferson Memorial
10:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. (Saturday & Sunday)

Bicycle Parking
BRING YOUR OWN LOCK!
Thomas Jefferson Memorial & Independence Avenue between 14th and 15th Streets

Paddles reminds us, “Please do not pick the blossoms,” and “Please do not climb the trees.”
William Taft Secretary of War in 1904, the Tafts returned to the United States via Japan, where they were feted like political celebrities. Stateside, Mrs. Taft read the McMillan Commission’s “city beautiful” plan for the capital, and discovered another niche. Commissioner Daniel Burnham traveled to Manila to see Luneta, and in 1906 a Luneta type plan materialized as West Potomac Park’s “Four Fountains” in a recently-established evergreen and rose nursery. By the 1920s, the “Four Fountains” sported Asian magnolias and forsythias, and by the 1930s, Japanese flowering cherry trees. Almost all was destroyed in the 1940s to make way for the new Potomac bridges. Fountain four, now in the George Mason Memorial, and the Cuban Friendship Urn remain, still surrounded by Asian plantings.

As First Lady from 1909 to 1913, Nellie Taft continued to be exceptional. She was the most-traveled First Lady to date. She was first to ride with her husband in the inaugural parade, establishing the precedent. She took command of White House domestic and social matters, establishing equal treatment of staff and entertaining a wider scope of visitors, to which she provided entertainment worthy of a nation. She arranged White House concerts, including at a new series of garden parties, featuring established and hot new virtuosi, performing classical, folk, popular and lyrical music. She added dramatic performances, including Shakespeare.

Within a month First Lady Taft had driven the first presidential auto to the new Potomac Park “Speedway,” which she promptly renamed Potomac Drive, returning in hours with a Paseo de Luneta type plan for a Potomac Park bandstand and a series of public concerts. She attended the first concert on April 17, 1909, sporting her signature Japanese geisha-style hairdo.

Nellie Taft shared an interest in Japanese culture with Eliza Scidmore, whom she had met in Japan. Scidmore was the only woman trustee of National Geographic, the author of seven books on Alaska and Asia, and a correspondent to the New York Times. When Scidmore pleaded for the beautification of Potomac Park with Japanese flowering cherry trees, Mrs. Taft immediately ordered Buildings and Grounds to buy all the cherry trees it could find in the country for that purpose. They located about 90 trees. Fortuitously, the noted Japanese chemist Tokicho Takamine and the Japanese Consul in New York, Midzuno, were both in town, heard of Nellie Taft’s plan, offered to buy her more trees in Japan, and suggested the Mayor of Tokyo gift them to the city. Mrs. Taft approved. Three weeks later, on May 17, 1909, Mrs. Taft suffered a stroke. Health issues continued to plague her for the rest of her tenure.

Nonetheless, in March 1912, when Tokyo’s gift of 3,000 trees arrived, she planted the first on the Tidal Basin, where a stone and plaque now mark the spot.

Now a consummate politician, Mrs. Taft got a $25,000 appropriation for further beautification of the park. However, the improvements were tempered with sadness. In 1912, she led the effort to raise a memorial there to the victims of the RMS Titanic disaster, which included one of the Tafts’ treasured aides, Archie Butt.

Nellie Taft’s “firsts” continued. In 1912 she became the first First Lady to initiate a Federal act, Executive Order 1498, for Bureau of Public Health inspections of executive branch buildings to secure sanitary and safe conditions for federal employees. In May 1912 she donated her inaugural gown to the Smithsonian, the founding jewel in its popular First Ladies exhibit. She was active until her death on May 22, 1943, when she became the first First Lady to be buried in Arlington Cemetery.

Despite her many “firsts,” of which these are just examples, the public will always remember Nellie Taft as the “First Lady of Potomac Park.” In 1987, the 75th anniversary of her planting of the first Tidal Basin cherry, there was a gathering at her grave. Another “first” woman, U.S. Supreme Court Associate Justice Sandra Day O’Connor, was among the speakers. O’Connor reflected, “Mrs. Taft’s dream became Washington’s most famous symbol of beauty.”
What's Happening with the Washington Monument?

The Washington Monument was damaged by a magnitude 5.8 earthquake on Aug. 23, 2011. The National Park Service and structural engineers performed a complete inspection of the historic structure and identified numerous types and locations of damage within the building: cracking, spalling, and displacement of stones, loose and missing mortar, and damage to components of the elevator and elevator shaft. For your safety, the Washington Monument and portions of the Washington Monument grounds are closed while the National Park Service works to repair the historic structure. $15 million are available for the repairs, half appropriated by Congress, and half donated by David Rubenstein.

For detailed information, photos, and videos, visit online at: www.nps.gov/wamo

Get a Bird's-Eye View of the City!

Climbing to 315 feet, the Old Post Office Tower is third in height among Washington, D.C.'s buildings. The National Park Service invites you to take a free elevator ride to the observation deck 270 feet above Pennsylvania Avenue for an awe-inspiring view of Washington, D.C.

Ranger Programs: Talks of the Tower on the Half-Hour

Daily at 10:30 a.m., 11:30 a.m., 3:30 p.m.

For more information about park programs at the Old Post Office Tower, check the program schedule on page 2 or call 202-606-8691.

Japanese Stone Lantern

Ranger Stacy Shannon

Japan's 200-year policy of isolationism ended on March 31, 1854 when representatives from Japan and United States Naval Commodore Matthew Perry signed a treaty in Edo, modern-day Tokyo, promoting trade between the two nations. Under orders from President Millard Fillmore, Perry travelled to Japan with an intimidating naval fleet - 1,600 men, a hundred cannon, and no diplomats - to urge apprehensive Japanese representatives to open ports to U.S. trade. Perry wrote to Tokugawa Shogun, "If you are still to disagree we would then take up arms.... However, one will realize the victory will naturally be ours and you shall by no means overcome us." Wary of Perry's intentions, Japan's harbor defenses were put on alert. Eventually the Japanese capitulated and signed the treaty. The treaty opened relations between the nations and ultimately improved Japan's economy.

On March 30, 1954, to commemorate the hundredth anniversary of the treaty, Japan presented the City of Washington, D.C. with a stone lantern. Over three hundred years old, and solid granite weighing over two tons, the lantern stands today. One of a set of twin sculptures, it once stood in a temple in Ueno Park famous for its cherry blossoms, and its twin stands there today. The annual lighting of the lantern by the Embassy of Japan's Cherry Blossom Princess signals the beginning of the Cherry Blossom Festival on the National Mall.

The Japanese Lantern is located on the Tidal Basin between the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial and the Kutz Bridge.

What's Happening with the Washington Monument?

Japanese Stone Lantern

Commodore Perry Meeting the Imperial Commissioners at Yokohama

Commodore Matthew Perry, photographed in 1853.

Structural engineer Emma Cardini inspect the Washington Monument's exterior, September 2011.

NPS staff collect and analyze broken pieces of stone on the monument's 500' observation level.

Most of the earthquake damage, like this spall, occurred in the upper 100 feet of the monument.

Discover a Monument

Ranger Stacy Shannon

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Winter Operating Hours:

Labor Day through Memorial Day

Monday through Saturday 9 a.m. - 4:45 p.m.
Sunday and Holidays 12 - 5:45 p.m.

www.nps.gov/opot
The Trust for the National Mall is the official non-profit partner of the National Park Service dedicated to restoring and improving the National Mall. For more information please visit:

www.nationalmall.org
Facebook.com/TheTrustfortheNationalMall
Email: information@nationalmall.org

In November of 2010, the Department of the Interior published the National Mall Plan, a visionary blueprint for the future of the National Mall. Less than one year later, the Trust, the official non-profit partner of the National Park Service, launched the National Mall Design Competition. The competition is for three key areas on the National Mall: Sylvan Theater on the Washington Monument Grounds, Constitution Gardens, and Union Square. The goal of the competition is to enhance the beauty, usefulness and sustainability of the National Mall for its 25 million annual visitors.

In Stage I of the competition, hundreds of designers from across the country submitted their portfolios. An esteemed jury of eight design professionals evaluated the submissions and selected 12 designers for each space to advance. In Stage II, lead designers assembled teams, each of which was interviewed by the jury; four teams per location were selected to advance. In the third and final stage, design teams prepared final design concepts. The final concepts will be on display starting April 9th at nationalmalldesign.org. Final designs will be judged for how well they respond to the vision for the National Mall as articulated by the Trust and the National Mall Plan; respect the historic landscape; provide environmental, functional and operational sustainability; create a welcoming and secure environment; and enhance the visitor experience.

The winning designs will be announced at the Trust’s 5th Anniversary Benefit Luncheon on Thursday, May 3rd. To learn more about the competition and the Trust, visit nationalmalldesign.org.

The new designs will bring beauty, energy-efficiency and sustainability as well as buildings and landscapes, including restaurants, performance space, educational resources, park ranger resources and restrooms. Since the National Mall has not been renovated in 36 years, the new designs will modernize the areas and provide public enjoyment for the large volume of people visiting the sites.

There are already a number of significant repair projects underway on the National Mall thanks to the partnership between the National Park Service and the Trust for the National Mall. However, there is still much work to be done to bring the National Mall back to its intended glory. Visit nationalmalldesign.org to learn how you can help.

The winning designs for the National Mall Design Competition will be the first step in making large-scale improvements to this iconic space. We hope you will visit nationalmalldesign.org to see the final concepts.

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There are 12 varieties of pink and white blossomed trees planted in the National Mall and Memorial Parks, however, the majority of the trees are Yoshino.

Eliza Scidmore returned in 1885 from a trip to Japan, and was amazed by the culture and trees. She worked for over 24 years with officials in Washington, D.C. to plant cherry trees along the Potomac.

Dr. David Fairchild from the U.S. Department of Agriculture planted the first cherry trees in Chevy Chase, MD in 1906. In 1909 Scidmore wrote to First Lady Helen Taft, who had once lived in Japan. Taft agreed with Scidmore, and helped to promote the idea of bringing the beautiful flowering trees to the city.

First Lady Taft and Viscountess Iwa Chinda ceremonially planted the first cherry trees on March 27, 1912. The stone lantern and the pagoda are also gifts from Japan, the lantern from Edo, and the pagoda from Yokohama.

This year we celebrate the 100 year anniversary of the gift from Tokyo, Japan of flowering cherry blossom trees, or Sakura, as the Japanese people call them.

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Plan Your Visit

Things to See

1. Lincoln Memorial
2. Vietnam Veterans Memorial
3. Korean War Veterans Memorial
4. World War II Memorial
5. Washington Monument
6. Old Post Office Tower
7. Thomas Jefferson Memorial
8. Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial
9. Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial

In all memorials:

- No smoking
- No food
- No drink

Things to Do

Ranger Programs and Tours

What: Free site tours and interpretive talks

Where: Lincoln, Korean War Veterans, Vietnam Veterans, World War II, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Thomas Jefferson Memorials

When: Daily at 10:00 a.m., 12:00, 2:00, 4:00, 6:00, 8:00, and 10:00 p.m.

Want more? Take your experience to the next level with our special programs! Locations, topics, types, and times vary. See page 2 for more information about these ranger programs.

Bookstores

Capture the moment, take home a book, and explore the ideas and values that make visiting National Mall and Memorial Parks such a stirring experience. Eastern National, a park partner, operates five bookstores:

- Washington Monument Lodge 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- Lincoln Memorial 9 a.m. - 8 p.m.
- Thomas Jefferson Memorial 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial 9 a.m. - 6 p.m.
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial 9 a.m. - 10 p.m.

Be Your Own Guide

National Mall App

Use the official National Mall App for Android and iPhone/iPad to plan your visit, navigate, learn about the memorials, search for programs, and more!

Concessions

Guest Services, Inc. manages all retail operations for National Mall and Memorial Parks including refreshment kiosks and gift stores throughout the park, plus seasonal paddle boat rentals.

Tidal Basin Paddle Boats
202-479-2426
www.tidalbasinpaddleboats.com

Cell Phone Tours

Dial from anywhere to listen to recorded programs on the following topics:

- Lincoln Memorial: (202) 747-3420
- First Amendment: (202) 595-0085
- Vietnam Veterans Memorial: (202) 595-0093
- Hispanic Heroes: (202) 595-1730
- Cherry Blossoms: (202) 747-3465

www.easternnational.org

www.guestservices.com

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