



# Foundation Document Overview

## Lyndon Baines Johnson Memorial Grove on the Potomac

District of Columbia



### Contact Information

For more information about the *George Washington Memorial Parkway Foundation Document*, contact: [GWMP\\_superintendent@nps.gov](mailto:GWMP_superintendent@nps.gov) or (703)289-2500 or write to:

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## Purpose



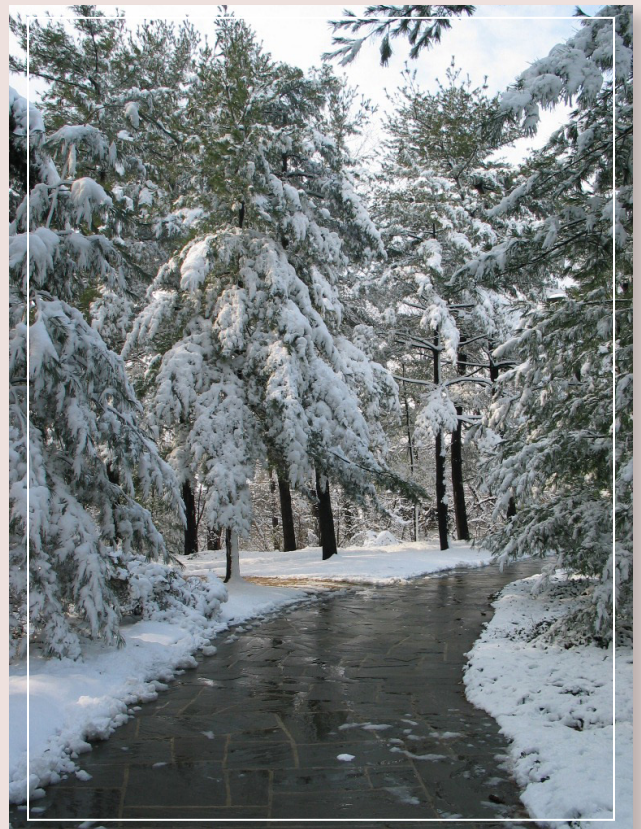
*The purpose of LYNDON BAINES JOHNSON MEMORIAL GROVE ON THE POTOMAC is to serve as a living memorial landscape that honors Lyndon Baines Johnson, the 36th president of the United States.*



## Significance

Significance statements express why Lyndon Baines Johnson Memorial Grove on the Potomac resources and values are important enough to merit national park unit designation. Statements of significance describe why an area is important within a global, national, regional, and systemwide context. These statements are linked to the purpose of the park unit, and are supported by data, research, and consensus. Significance statements describe the distinctive nature of the park and inform management decisions, focusing efforts on preserving and protecting the most important resources and values of the park unit.

- Situated in Lady Bird Johnson Park, the Lyndon Baines Johnson Memorial Grove serves as a contemplative designed landscape where visitors can experience panoramic views of the monuments in Washington, D.C., from a favorite viewpoint of President and Mrs. Johnson.
- Located within the grove, the memorial plaza, with a monolith of sunset red granite as its focal point, is the only monument in Washington, D.C., honoring the legacy of President Lyndon Baines Johnson.





## Fundamental Resources and Values

Fundamental resources and values are those features, systems, processes, experiences, stories, scenes, sounds, smells, or other attributes determined to merit primary consideration during planning and management processes because they are essential to achieving the purpose of the park and maintaining its significance.

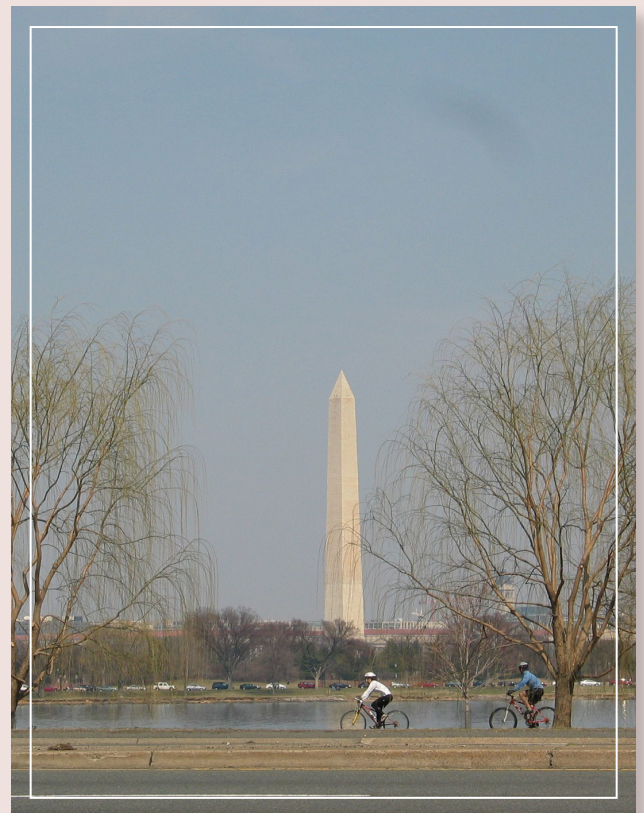
- **The Memorial Landscape.** Designed by renowned landscape architect, M. Meade Palmer, the Lyndon Baines Johnson Memorial Grove is a living memorial to President Johnson, who valued nature in his personal life and supported environmental protection in his presidency. The centerpiece of the memorial landscape is a large, 19-foot-tall piece of granite. Azaleas, flowering shrubs, and spring flowers create a space to reflect on Johnson's presidency while enjoying the beauty of the designed memorial landscape. Pathways help visitors navigate the site while understanding its dynamic role as a memorial.
- **View of Washington, D.C.** The view across the Potomac River of monuments on the National Mall and in Washington, D.C., is a fundamental part of the overall design of the memorial and its layout. Located on Columbia Island in Lady Bird Johnson Park, the memorial location was chosen by Lady Bird Johnson because it was a favorite stopping point for President Johnson and for her, from which they enjoyed the panoramic views of the city on their way back into Washington, D.C.



## Interpretive Themes

Interpretive themes are often described as the key stories or concepts that visitors should understand after visiting a park—they define the most important ideas or concepts communicated to visitors about a park unit. Themes are derived from—and should reflect—park purpose, significance, resources, and values. The set of interpretive themes is complete when it provides the structure necessary for park staff to develop opportunities for visitors to explore and relate to all of the park significances and fundamental resources and values.

- **Presidential Memorial.** Lyndon Baines Johnson Memorial Grove honors our 36th president's contributions to the environment, education, civil rights, and his presidency.
- **Lady Bird Johnson.** Lyndon Baines Johnson Memorial Grove is the focal point of Lady Bird Johnson Park, which honors the conservation and beautification legacy of our former first lady.
- **Design and Landscape of the Memorial.** The physical design of the memorial was innovatively planned to emphasize the location of the grove on an island.



## Description

Lyndon Baines Johnson Memorial Grove on the Potomac was established by Congress on December 28, 1973, through Public Law 93-211. The memorial is intended to honor President Lyndon B. Johnson and recognize his achievements in preserving the nation's environment, as well as his love of the land. It was privately funded and planned, but was dedicated to the public as a unit of the National Park Service, serving as a place where people can enjoy the pleasures and beauties of nature along with scenic views of the capital and many of its great monuments.

The 17-acre site is located in Lady Bird Johnson Park on Columbia Island, an island in the Potomac River, and consists of two primary areas. The first area is commemorative in nature, consisting of a granite monolith surrounded by a winding network of walks and trails. The second is a grass meadow that provides a tranquil refuge for reflection and rejuvenation. The site is a living memorial with several species of flora including white pines, dogwood trees, azaleas, and rhododendron. Thousands of perennials and spring bulbs also bloom in season and rustic benches are scattered through the grove.

