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Forest Service Funding Supplies Trees for Pentagon Memorial



There are 90 paperbark maple trees planted throughout the memorial. US Forest Service photo by Leslie Weldon. Click to enlarge.

Working with non-profit partner American Forests, the Forest Service has given \$250,000 to the Pentagon Memorial Fund to supply trees, soil and other amendments for Washington's newest monument, the Pentagon Memorial.

Similar to one of the Forest Service's Living Memorials projects, the Pentagon Memorial is on schedule for completion and dedication on September 11 of this year.

It will feature 184 cantilevered benches arranged by age lines that represent each victim who lost their life that day. Each bench is engraved on the end with the name of one of the 184 people who died on board Flight 77 or in the Pentagon that day.

The benches for the 59 victims on board the plane are arranged so that someone reading the name on the end of the bench will face the sky where the plane came from. The 125 benches for the victims inside the Pentagon face the opposite direction, so someone reading the name will look up and see the south facade of the Pentagon, where the jet hit.

The tree species, paperbark maple, was chosen by the Memorial design team. There are 90 trees planted throughout the memorial. They are very high quality and were picked for their adherence to nursery standards; all are similar in size and shape.

The trees, now eight to 12 feet tall, will grow to 30 feet with large canopies of red foliage in the fall. The amendments provided by the funding include special soil that will help the maples thrive.

The Pentagon Memorial is being built on a 1.9 acre parcel of land adjacent to the Pentagon and within view of the impact zone where American Airlines Flight 77 crashed into the building during the attacks of September 11, 2001.

It will cost \$22 million to construct and an endowment of \$10 million will be created to maintain the Memorial forever. It will be open to the public September 12.

For more information about the Pentagon Memorial, [click here>>>](#).

For more information about American Forests, [click here>>>](#).

For information on Living Memorials [click here>>>](#).



The focus of the memorial are the 184 cantilevered benches built over a pools of lighted water. US Forest Service photo by Leslie Weldon. Click to enlarge.