



THE FOWWOS NEWS

Newsletter of *FRIENDS OF WEST WINDSOR OPEN SPACE*

SPECIAL 9/11 MEMORIAL ISSUE • DECEMBER 2001

The Times, Wednesday, November 21, 2001

Ground broken on 9/11 memorial Dedicated to West Windsor residents

By **KAREN AYRES**
Staff Writer

WEST WINDSOR — Township officials yesterday broke ground on a memorial dedicated to six township residents who died in the Sept. 11 [World Trade Center] terrorist attack.

The memorial, located in the Ron Rogers Arboretum on the corner of Clarksville Road and Route 571, is in remembrance of residents Jeffrey Chairnoff, Michael Cunningham, Edward Pykon, and John Ryan as well as David Suarez and Patrick Murphy, who grew up in West Windsor.

"The memorial is intended to remember those who left their homes that day in September and never came back," said Harley Pickens, chairman of the Arboretum Committee.

The memorial will contain twin

reflecting pools connected by a stream, which will be covered by a small wooden bridge. Several waterfalls and small boulders will also fill the site.

"People will be able to enjoy it and remember our losses and our strength," said Alison Miller, Township Council president. "It seemed to us after the tragedy of Sept. 11 that our contemplative garden was a beautiful spot to have a memorial."

Three construction companies are donating their services to help complete the \$35,000 project. Friends of West Windsor Open Space [FOWWOS], a nonprofit group, is soliciting donations to fund the rest of the project.

West Windsor resident Patrick Boyle, who attended the ground breaking ceremony with his wife and children, donated \$5000 to

the project. "We know neighbors that were lost," said Mr. Boyle, who worked in New York City for more than 20 years. "We just thought it was nice to have a tribute to them around here."

About 100 trees from Maurice Hawk Elementary School [that were planted as part of a nursery project several years ago] will be

moved to the site in the spring.

Pickens said he hopes to hold a dedication ceremony in April once the memorial is complete. [Artist's plans for the memorial are on display at the Princeton Junction Post Office, McCaffrey's, Fleet Bank, and other locations around West Windsor.]



As West Windsor officials prepare to break ground on a memorial to be dedicated to victims of the September terrorist attack, Rhea Rogers helps her daughter, Gwendolyn Malowany, explore the rocks that will become part of the memorial.

THE EVOLUTION OF AN IDEA

A few days after the attack on the World Trade Center it became clear that a number of West Windsor residents had lost their lives. Township Council president Alison Miller then asked several members of the Ron Rogers Arboretum Committee what they thought of the idea of establishing a memorial to those local victims, and of locating that memorial at the arboretum. The reaction was very positive, and a meeting of the committee was called to discuss ideas for the memorial.

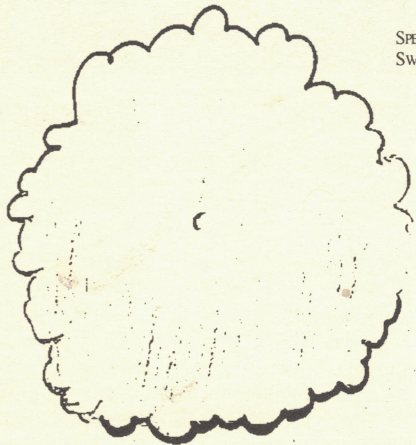
The first concept given serious consideration expressed a city theme of stone sculpture at ground level, with a symbolic portrayal of the scene near "ground zero." Shortly thereafter, however, FOWWOS vice president Helen Rancan suggested that a preferable design might be a more contemplative and abstract one in which the natural attributes of the arboretum

surroundings were highlighted. Helen proposed that a shallow pond be created that was integrated into the landscape near Canoe Brook as it passes along the edge of the arboretum. This idea was enthusiastically embraced by the committee, and Dan Dobromilsky—Township Landscape Architect—offered to develop a design based on this theme. The present design featuring side-by-side pools with a footbridge spanning their junction was the result.

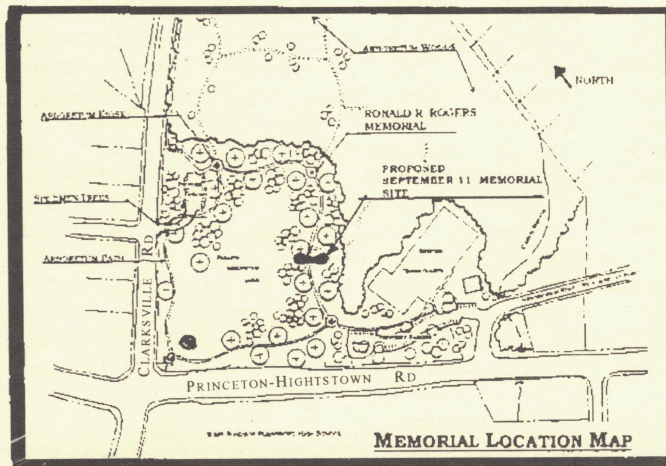
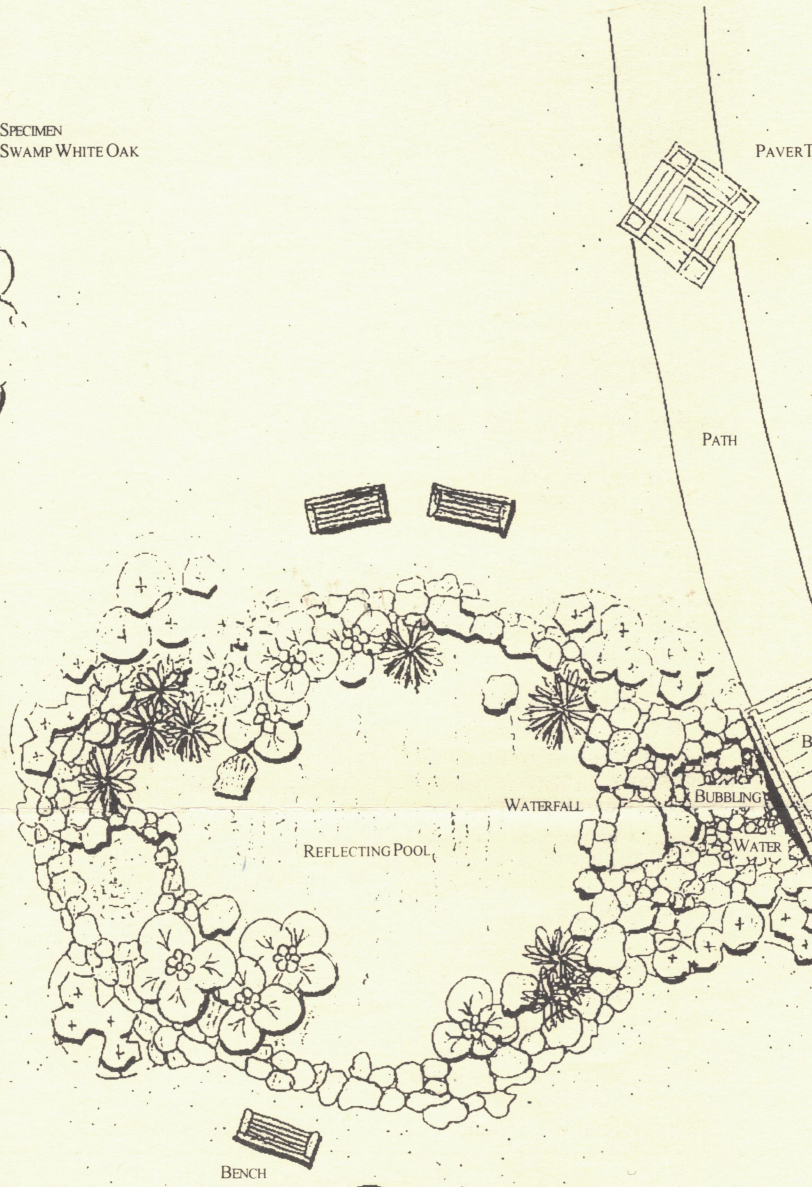
As shown on the plan, the footbridge is integrated into the existing arboretum path that connects the diamonds of stone blocks and engraved pavers. Special paver sections next to the bridge will bear the names of those local residents lost in the attack. Other victims with close ties to West Windsor will be memorialized in nearby paver groupings. Plantings and rock formations surrounding the pools together with benches for restful contemplation complete the installation. ☺

See the September 11 Memorial displays at the West Windsor Post Office and Library





SPECIMEN
SWAMP WHITE OAK

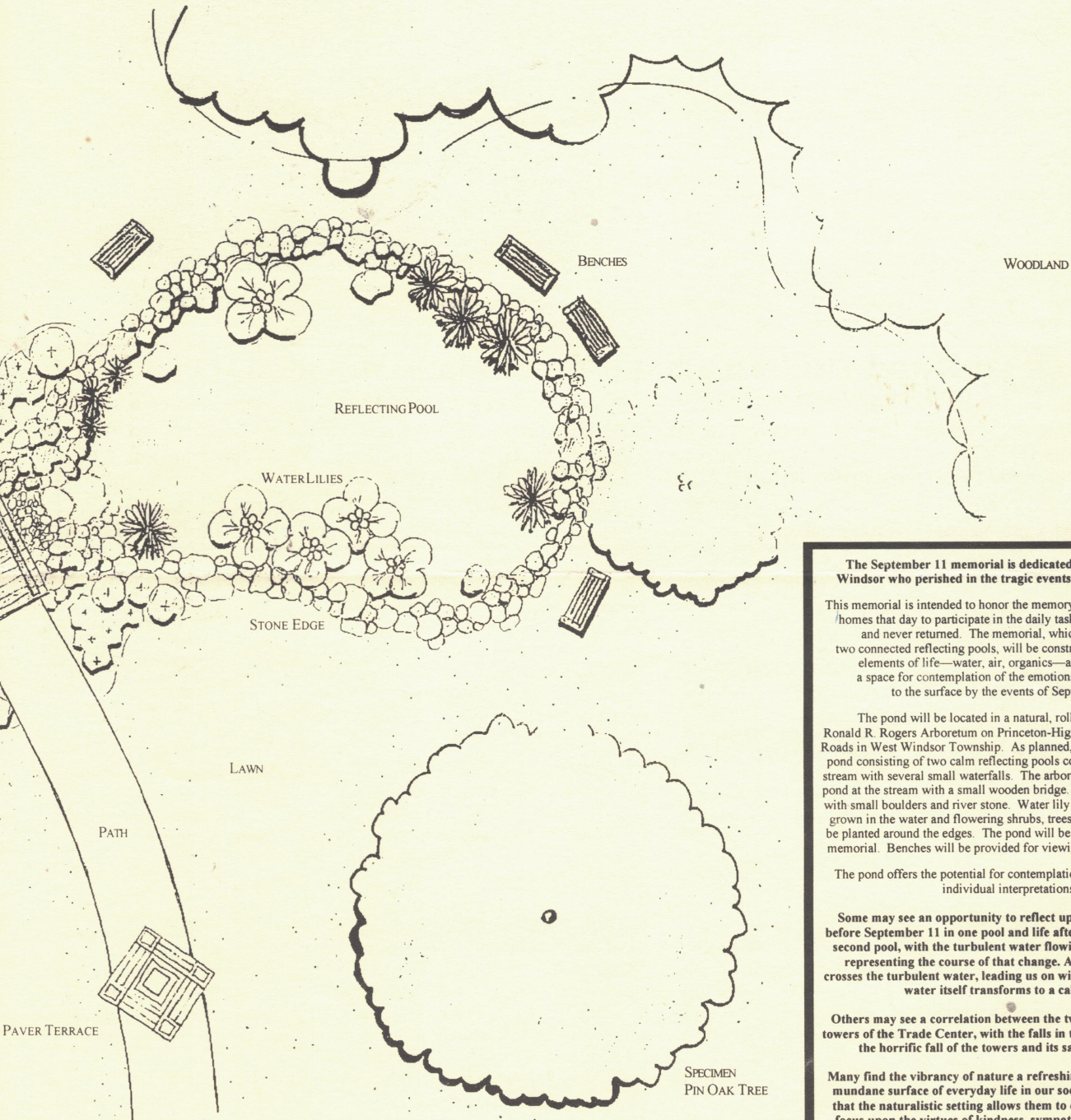


NEW GROVE TREES

THE
WEST WINDSOR SEPTEMBER 11 MEMORIAL REFLECTING POND

AT THE RONALD R. ROGERS ARBORETUM ----- PRINCETON HIGHTSTOWN ROAD AND CLARKSVILLE ROAD

SCALE 1/4" = 1'-0" ----- **SKETCH CONCEPT PLAN** ----- SEPTEMBER, 2001



The September 11 memorial is dedicated to people of West Windsor who perished in the tragic events of that day in 2001.

This memorial is intended to honor the memory of those who left their homes that day to participate in the daily tasks of our free society and never returned. The memorial, which will consist of two connected reflecting pools, will be constructed of the essential elements of life—water, air, organics—and is designed as a space for contemplation of the emotions that are brought to the surface by the events of September 11.

The pond will be located in a natural, rolling hollow at the Ronald R. Rogers Arboretum on Princeton-Hightstown and Clarksville Roads in West Windsor Township. As planned, the concept envisions a pond consisting of two calm reflecting pools connected by a turbulent stream with several small waterfalls. The arboretum path will cross the pond at the stream with a small wooden bridge. The pools will be lined with small boulders and river stone. Water lily and pond plants will be grown in the water and flowering shrubs, trees and ground cover will be planted around the edges. The pond will be a living, ever changing memorial. Benches will be provided for viewing and quiet reflection.

The pond offers the potential for contemplation of a broad range of individual interpretations.

Some may see an opportunity to reflect upon the nature of life before September 11 in one pool and life after September 11 in the second pool, with the turbulent water flowing between the pools representing the course of that change. A bridge in the path crosses the turbulent water, leading us on with our lives, just as the water itself transforms to a calm pool.

Others may see a correlation between the two ponds and the two towers of the Trade Center, with the falls in the center representing the horrific fall of the towers and its sad consequences.

Many find the vibrancy of nature a refreshing counterpoint to the mundane surface of everyday life in our society. Some may find that the naturalistic setting allows them to clear their minds and focus upon the virtues of kindness, sympathy, camaraderie and community spirit brought forth by this time.

The memorial is not intended to evoke a singular interpretation or symbolic meaning. Instead it is hoped that this pond will enable visitors to feel the many emotions brought forth by this tragic day, to honor the memory of those who lost their lives, and to take with them a broadened perspective.

This memorial is made possible by the Arboretum Committee of the Friends of West Windsor Open Space, the families and friends of those who were lost, and the community of West Windsor Township.

HAWK NURSERY TREES DONATED TO MEMORIAL

Some of the trees now growing in the Hawk Tree Nursery behind the main building of the Maurice Hawk School will be moved next spring to the 9/11 Memorial site. These trees were planted with the intention that they be moved to other locations once they reached appropriate size. About two-thirds of the trees will be moved, leaving about 50 at the nursery for future replanting on the school property. The following story about the planting appeared in the *News Eagle* on May 21, 1999. &

West Windsor, Arbor Day 1999

Arbor Day 1999 at Maurice Hawk Elementary School found students beginning a long-term reforestation project which will benefit future students and the community. More than 150 hardwood seedlings were planted by students of the seven kindergarten classes in a specially prepared tree nursery area at the school.

According to teacher Debra Kaufman, the 2-3 foot seedlings were provided by the National

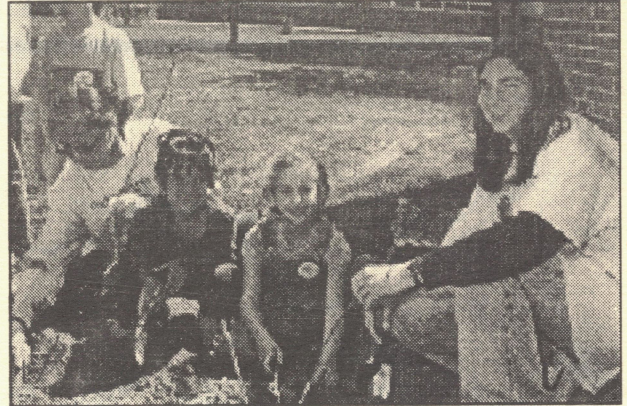
Tree Trust of New Jersey funded by a grant from the National Tree Trust. School staff and parent volunteers prepared a special area in the inner courtyard of the school. Site selection and planting techniques were provided under the guidance of Drew Schoenholtz of Green Scene Landscaping on Village Road West in West Windsor. Each student in the seven classes took turns planting a tree.

Assisting the students and teachers were volunteers Frances

Ianacone, Lisa Overstreet, Eva Szewczyk, Gretchen Jaeckel, Sandy McClenahan, Mary Mendes, Kim Pecora, Drew Schoenholtz, Holly Slepman, Bernadine Williams, Kathryn Williams, Yiping Song-Yang, Beth Christel, Mrs. McIntyre, Mrs. Wallack,

Anne Mandel, Debbie Degnan and Sue Carnegie.

Now known as the "Hawk Tree Nursery," the seedlings will be tended to by future classes until they reach a size when they can be safely transplanted to locations around the Hawk School grounds.



Pictured above (l-r): Parent volunteer Yiping Song-Yang, Jenna Modi, Elizabeth Williams, and Sandy McLenahan, a WW-P High School North Senior in the "Youth Teaches Youth" program.

YOUR CONTRIBUTION WILL MAKE THIS MEMORIAL A REALITY

Checks should be made payable to "FOWWOS," marked "September 11 fund," and sent to the address below. Your tax-deductible gift may also qualify for your company's EMPLOYEE GIFT MATCHING PROGRAM. FOWWOS is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization. If your employer participates in the Tri-

State UNITED WAY gift matching program or a self-administered one, contact your Human Resources Matching Gift Coordinator. Your contribution will make this Memorial a reality. For further information contact: FOWWOS Treasurer, P.O. Box 73, West Windsor, NJ 08550. Telephone (609) 799-2218.



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