FLIGHT 93 NATIONAL MEMORIAL

“A common field one day. A field of honor forever.”
Site Plan; Flight 93 National Memorial

1. Field of Honor (the Bowl)
2. Sacred Ground (plaza & parking area)
3. The Portal, Overlook and Visitor Center
4. Ring Road
5. Entrance Road
6. Tower of Voices

This view shows the full extent of the 2,200 acre park.

To the north, entry occurs at Route 30 with a memorial feature, the Tower of Voices (6).

The approach road (5) crosses through mining areas to arrive where the flight path crossed the large, circular-shaped landform called the Bowl (1). In the memorial design, the bowl becomes the Field of Honor. A visitor center will be framed by two walls where the plane initially crossed into the Bowl (3).

A road provides access (4) around the Bowl to the impact site, which has become known as the Sacred Ground (2).

Perimeter properties will provide viewshed protection and buffer the memorial from abrupt commercial uses.
The centerpiece of the memorial landscape is the landform known as the Bowl.

The memorial design frames the Bowl, as a Field of Honor, with trees circling the entire bowl in a national gesture of embrace that orients visitors toward the Sacred Ground.

During the first phase of construction to be completed by September 11, 2011, the bowl will be graded, and the ring road will be built, taking visitors down to the sacred ground.

Visitors will encounter multiple landscape experiences as they drive around the Bowl on their way to its focus, the Sacred Ground.
The Sacred Ground, the final resting place of the passengers and crew, will also be part of the first phase of memorial construction to be built by September 11, 2011. Visitors will be able to approach the edge of the crash site, but not enter. That will still be reserved for families.

Set against a backdrop of hemlock trees that absorbed the impact of the crash, the Sacred Ground will be planted in wildflowers that will bloom from Spring through Fall.

On one of the walls the names of the 40 heroes will be inscribed on a band of white stone. September 11, 2001 will be inscribed on the other wall.

SACRED GROUND
A ceremonial gateway for family members will occur along the flight path between two walls, depicting the very location where the heroes of Flight 93 fought and overcame the terrorists. The demarcation of the flight path, honors the actions of the passengers and crew.

SACRED GROUND
During the second phase of construction, the entry portals and visitor center will be constructed.

Large memorial walls will frame the sky where the plane flew overhead as the passengers and crew bravely fought their winning battle to not have the plane continue to DC.

Here, visitors will enter along the flight path and get their first view of the expanse of the Bowl and the crash site below. Between these memorial walls will be the park’s interpretive center, the visitor facility.

ENTRY PORTAL
Embracing the Field of Honor will be a tree-lined walkway on a raised earth form, built at the same time as the portal walls and visitor center.

This “allee” will be flanked by 40 memorial groves comprised of 40 trees, one grove for each of the 40 heroes.

40 MEMORIAL GROVES
At the western edge of the Field of Honor is an area overlooking the Sacred Ground.

This area offers some site history, from mining operations to the forensics investigation following the crash.

A trail through this area and planted trees will allow visitors to return to the entrance while experiencing where the families were first brought after the crash. This part of the memorial will also be built at the same time as the portal walls and the visitor center.

WESTERN OUTLOOK
Finally, the Tower of Voices will be built in future years. The Tower serves as a landmark from the highway, marking the gateway to the park.

Set among rings of pine trees, the tower houses 40 wind chimes that present through sound a living memory of the passengers and crewmembers. The last memory of many was through their voices on calls from Flight 93, and of the rushing wind.
Timeless in simplicity and beauty, like its landscape, both stark and serene, the Memorial should be quiet in reverence, yet powerful in form, a place both solemn and uplifting.

It should instill pride, and humility. The Memorial should offer intimate experience, yet be heroic in scale. Its strong framework should be open to natural change and allow freedom of personal interpretation.

We want to restore life here, to heal the land, and nourish our souls. In this place, a scrap yard will become a gateway and a strip mine will grow into a flowering meadow.

But more than restoring health, the Memorial should be radiant, in loving memory of the passengers and crew who gave their lives on Flight 93.