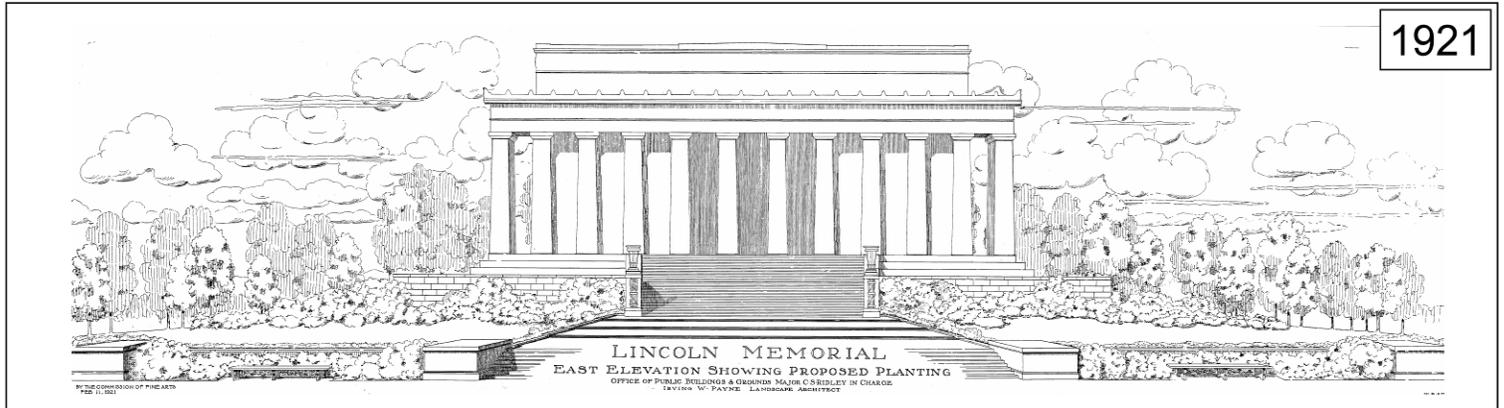


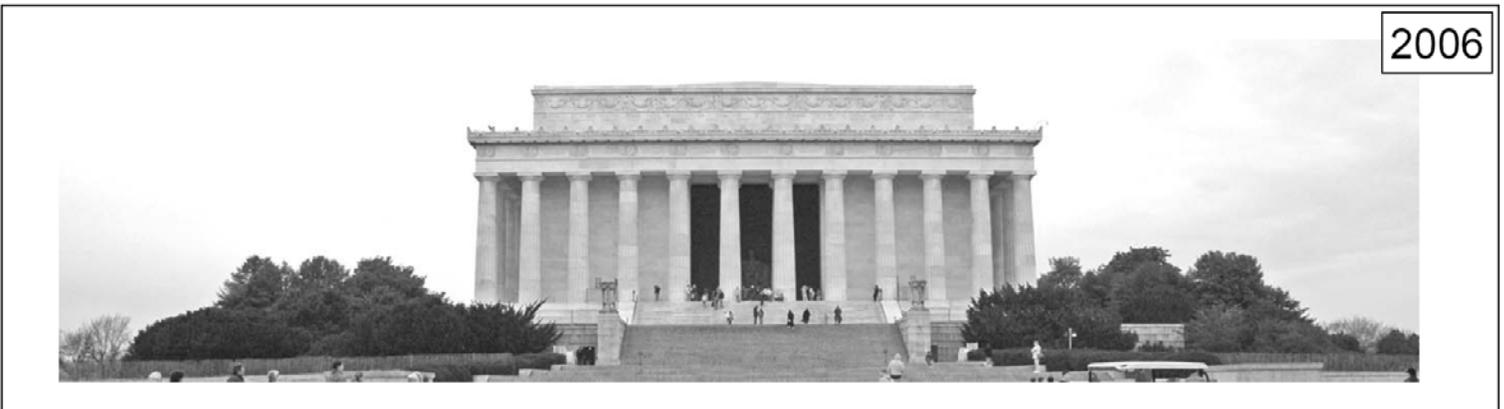


Maintaining the Landscape



Project Description

The National Park Service is rehabilitating the landscape of the Lincoln Memorial. The purpose of the 2009 rehabilitation is to re-establish the overall character of the landscape as originally designed and approved. Plans called for the trees and shrubs to be arranged in such a way as to “soften the heavy horizontal lines” of the memorial and provide an overall appearance “of solidity and rugged strength.” The landscape rehabilitation will preserve the character of the setting and allow the National Park Service to continue landscape maintenance for decades to come.



Existing Conditions

The number of plants, heights of plants, views of the memorial through the plant material and the perceived relation of the memorial to the ground has changed considerably over time. In the eighty years since the landscape was installed, trees and shrubs have grown well beyond the height intended. The landscape design provided for several important views of the memorial and

some of these have become obscured by dense foliage.

Proposed Rehabilitation

The project will implement many of the design guidelines addressed in the 1999 Lincoln Memorial Grounds Cultural Landscape Report in regards to spatial organization, views, vistas and vegetation. In 2005, a team of National Park Service cultural resource specialists, landscape architects, and horticulturalists began developing the rehabilitation strategy. As a first step, the plant species, dimensions, and health were recorded and mapped digitally. This map was then compared to the approved planting plans for the Lincoln Memorial of 1921-1932. By comparing the historic plan and existing conditions, the team used modern GIS technology to evaluate the effect of various

rehabilitation scenarios with the goal of re-establishing the original design intent.

The rehabilitation will re-open primary east-west views of the memorial from Virginia and the National Mall, as well as north-south views along 23rd Street. Work on the east façade landscaping will re-establish the views of the memorial’s terrace wall. Removing overgrown plant material from the memorial will also protect the foundation from excess moisture and debris.

For more information, view the full Cultural Landscape Report in the Management section of the Lincoln Memorial website: www.nps.gov/linc.

