

A Living Legacy at Leopold's Preserve

Blooming redbuds serve as a solemn reminder of courage and sacrifice.

Springtime at Leopold's Preserve, a 380-acre nature conservancy in Haymarket, means a burst of color from wildflowers, shrubs, and trees. It's hard not to stop along the trails and take in every delicate trout lily, rue anemone, and dogwood blossom. But one area of the Preserve abounds with pink and red blooms that hold a deeper meaning.

As part of the development of the Villages of Piedmont at Leopold's Preserve, Equinox Investments, LLC chose to participate in the Pilot 2 launch of the nationally significant Living Legacy Project. This project, regarded as one of the most important initiatives of the Journey Through Hallowed Ground (JTHG) Partnership, seeks to commemorate soldiers who were killed in the American Civil War by planting 620,000 trees in their honor. Equinox planted 71 trees on the property's frontage along Route 15, honoring the memory of 71 individual soldiers. This frontage is now part of Leopold's Preserve and is maintained by the White House Farm Foundation - the nonprofit environmental organization which manages the Preserve.

In accordance with the JTHG's Master Landscape Plan, the planting utilized "red" trees – redbud, red maple, and red oak – to symbolize the soldiers' courage and bravery. Surrounding landscape elements, including red twig dogwood and winterberry, ensure that natural red hues are present on the frontage through every season, serving as a constant reminder of the sacrifice made by 71 soldiers among 620,000.

This marriage of native landscaping and solemn commemoration aligns perfectly with the White House Farm Foundation's mission, helping to enrich visitors to the Preserve – and the entire JTHG National Heritage Area – with knowledge of natural systems and local history.

The JTHG continues to make progress towards their ambitious goal, with more than 2,100 trees planted along the National Scenic Byway from Gettysburg to Monticello since the Living Legacy Project's inception in 2011. The White House Farm Foundation is honored that Leopold's Preserve has been a part of this unique initiative from the start, and hopes to see its continued success in the years to come. You can view the Living Legacy Landscape at Leopold's Preserve from the walking trail along the west side of Route 15, accessible from the Leopold's Loop trail. To learn more about the JTHG, visit www.hallowedground.org.



This portion of the Landscape features winterberry, redbud, and red oak.