

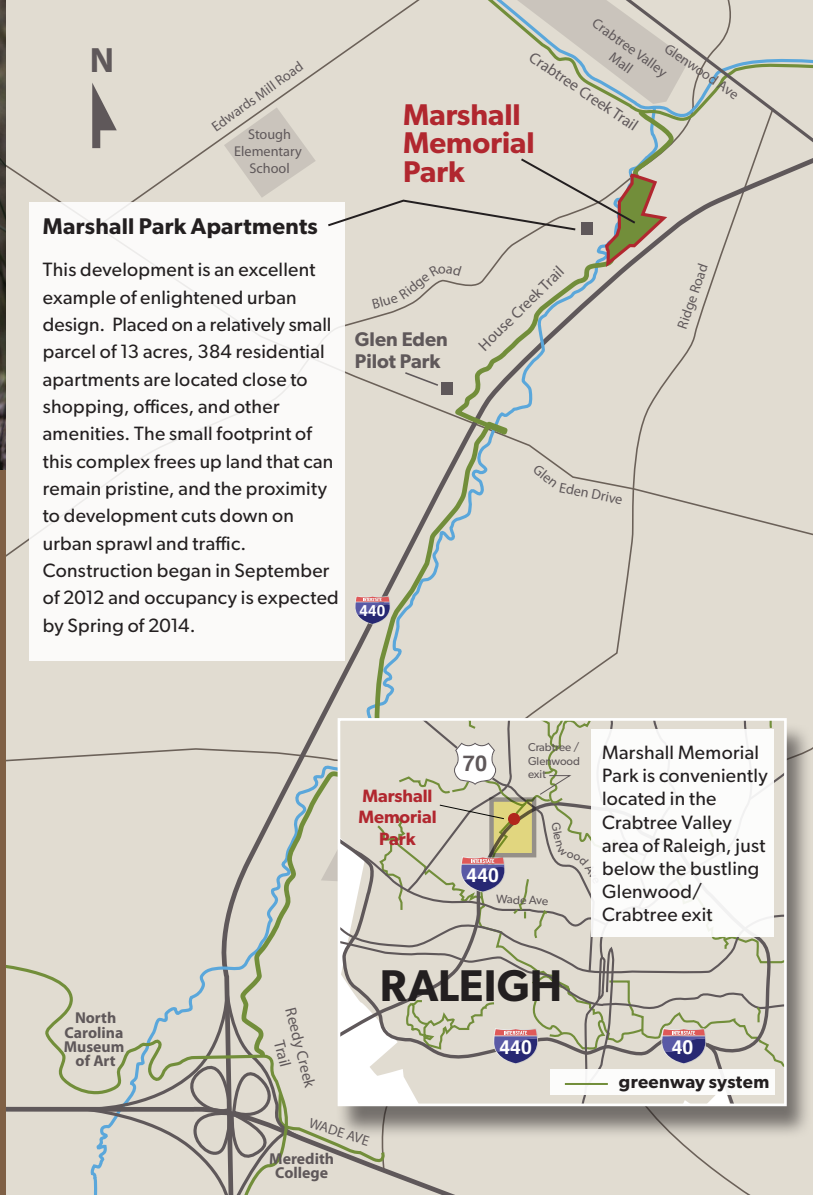
# MARSHALL MEMORIAL PARK



Taking the time for a relaxing walk or vigorous jog alongside a pristine stream is like a present to ourselves. Getting outside early in the morning before our busy schedules propel us through the day, or winding down a challenging day with a bike ride after work—these also are gifts we can give ourselves.

In the heart of Raleigh, nestled along picturesque House Creek, you'll find Marshall Park, which was a gift to Raleigh from long time resident and real estate developer, George F. "Rick" Marshall. Marshall gave the land, and the design and construction of the park, in honor of his father, Lt. Col. George F. Marshall, a decorated veteran of World War II.

Adjacent to a monument describing the military history of a real life hero, you'll find carefully placed granite paths that lead you through the surrounding woods, and inviting benches to rest upon beside the stream. At Marshall Park, you'll find a place to reflect and renew.



## LAND HISTORY

Rick Marshall donated much of the land along House Creek Trail to the City of Raleigh. The four land gifts, including 7 parcels, totaled nearly 12 acres. The House Creek Trail, completed in the summer of 2012, brings Raleigh's total greenway mileage up to 78.

Like much of the greenway system, the House Creek trail follows an existing waterway and is located in a floodplain. These conditions factored into the conception and design of Marshall Park. Architect Larry Zucchini, of JDavis Architects, helped Marshall make his vision for the Park a reality.



*"Marshall Park is dedicated to one soldier, but in a larger sense it commemorates the entire generation that fought and won World War II. For five years, the free world pulled together as it had never done before, and has not done since. This is the reason freedom endures today."*

*Military dead and missing included 416 thousand from the United States, 383 thousand from the United Kingdom, 45 thousand from Canada, and 39 thousand from Australia. Those that stayed home and supported the war effort were equally important. Because of the unified military and civilian sacrifice, democracy achieved victory over dictatorship.*

*Perhaps of equal importance, the United States extended a helping hand to former enemies, including Germany and Japan. Doing so facilitated their recovery and created long term alliances.*

*It is because of these accomplishments that we now live in prosperity and relative security.*

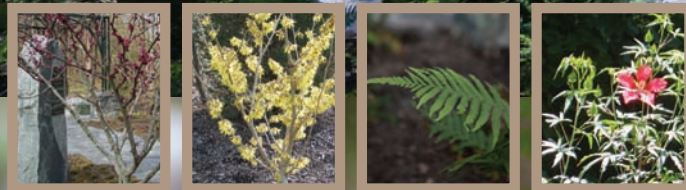
*We owe an enormous debt of gratitude to those who served and fought in that war, and should never forget it. We must ensure that their memory lives on in the minds of succeeding generations."*

Rick Marshall



The pergola invokes a classic sensibility and the heavy trellis creates a strong, yet inviting public space. Looking up, the trellis frames a mesmerizing view of the sky. Early morning and late afternoon shadows cast by the design mimic the shapes from the surrounding forest.

The pavers for the path, the slabs cut and processed for the benches, and a special rough granite monolith shaped for the monument were imported from upstate New York, and placed on site using a crane. Marshall Park contains about 20 tons of dark granite, chosen to set a tone of permanence.



## Native plant and tree species chosen for Marshall Park

native ferns and rushes	barren strawberries	sweetpire	trident maple
sweet pepperbush	red buckeye	red cedar	beech
hibiscus	swamp azalea	indigo	coneflower
tulip poplar	black gum	witch alder	may apple
bluestem	sedge	winterberry	goldenrod
	red twig dogwood	zenobia	dwarf crested iris
		beautyberry	

Botanical markers displaying scientific and common names of the plants and trees provide another level of education and enjoyment to park users.

## LANDSCAPING

The landscape design approach includes native plants and trees already found in the woods and along the stream near the greenway, and brings them into the managed landscape of Marshall Park. Native riparian species, selected for color, foliage and form, and arranged in clusters and naturalized patterns, echo the surrounding environment. Plants chosen are able to withstand the disturbances found in a floodplain environment, as well as greenway maintenance.



Rick Marshall donated Marshall Park to the City of Raleigh in honor of his father, Lt. Col. George Frederick Marshall. In 1942, when Rick was two years old, Colonel Marshall was killed in the invasion of Oran in northern Africa. Rick's grief-stricken 26-year-old mother, Dahlis Marshall, wrote a letter pleading for details about Colonel Marshall's tragic death. The letter eventually made its way to Leo Disher, a United Press War Correspondant, who accompanied Marshall and his troop. Mr. Disher had suffered numerous bullet and shrapnel wounds while covering the attack. He was recovering in a hospital in England when he received the letter from Mrs. Marshall. Leo Disher remembered Marshall well, commenting in one report that *"[he] was lean and bronzed, almost too young for the Colonel's insignia on his shoulders, but he spoke with a crisp authority that made me forget he was only 31."*

The exchange of letters between Mrs. Marshall and Leo Disher portray both the horrors and heroics of World War II.

*"When in time our two little boys are old enough to be told, they will be very proud and I should so like to be able to answer all their questions."*

EXCERPT FROM A LETTER FROM  
MRS. DAHLIS MARSHALL

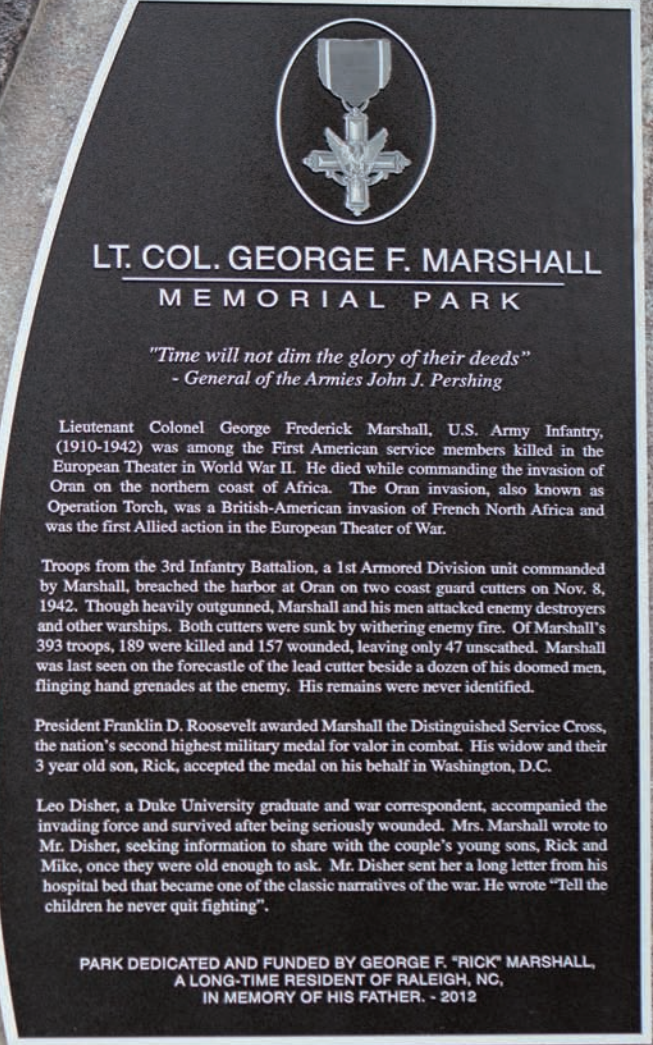
*"Yes, Mrs. Marshall they will be very proud, and you can tell them he was a slim, straight silhouette against the red flashes of the guns. You can tell them that when he gave the order to throw the grenades—to attack a war ship with hand grenades—his voice was calm above the chatter of the machine gun under his arm."*

*You can tell your sons, Mrs. Marshall, that their father kept stabbing back until the last while the flames of our burning ship broke around him and shells tore away pieces of the bridge where he stood...striking back against guns so close it almost seemed we could touch them."*

*You need never fear the boys' questions, Mrs. Marshall. You can tell them their father tackled a job of greatest importance to the success of our armies and that he never quit fighting against impossible odds, and that he never struck the ship's colors."*

*I hope this letter may help a little. But it is wrong for you to say you are asking a great deal of me. You are one of whom a great deal was asked and proudly given. You and a great many others at home."*

EXCERPT FROM A WESTERN  
UNION TELEGRAM FROM  
LEO DISHER



**LT. COL. GEORGE F. MARSHALL** was born in Jacksonville, Florida, November 22, 1910. He attended the United States Military Academy at West Point, graduating June 12, 1935. After serving in several capacities in the United States and overseas, he was stationed at Ft. Benning, Georgia. It was there that his two sons, George Frederick "Rick" and Michael Playfair, were born. In mid-1942, Marshall was transferred to Northern Ireland and promoted to the grade of lieutenant colonel in his capacity as Battalion Commander of the 3rd Battalion, 6th Armored Infantry, 1st Armored Division. Lt. Col. George F. Marshall was killed in action on November 8, 1942, while commanding his battalion during a raid on the Port of Oran, Algeria. He was posthumously awarded the Distinguished Service Cross.

connection  
honor

remembrance

tribute

renewal

respite

Raleigh's greenway system is a thin green ribbon threading through our city and its surroundings. It connects diverse neighborhoods, winding its way through wetlands and precious tracts of protected land. Some sections pass through forests and woods where you can listen for the call of a Carolina wren, and maybe even spy a blue heron. Some sections open up to the urban landscape of a growing and vibrant city, with the sound of cars on the beltline as fellow citizens go about their busy lives. Marshall Park is found in the Crabtree Valley area, just outside one of Raleigh's busiest intersections. It is located within easy walking distance for thousands of residents, and even more who pass by while out on a walk, or a run, or a ride.

Marshall Park is a small place that sits quietly in a large and sometimes loud city. It's a purposeful place. The moving words on the historic monument remind us to remember, and the beckoning structures along the stream remind us to stop and reflect. It's a fitting tribute to all.

Marshall Memorial Park  
House Creek Greenway  
Raleigh, NC 27612

City of Raleigh Parks and Recreation Department  
919.831.6833  
parks.raleighnc.gov



**MARSHALL MEMORIAL PARK**

*dedicated to Lieutenant Colonel George F. Marshall  
Killed in action, Oran Harbor, North Africa, World War II*