

MEMORIAL PARK: GRASS VALLEY'S GREATEST ASSET

At noon on November 11, 1921, bells tolled throughout the City of Grass Valley as over two thousand residents and visitors gathered to attend the opening of Memorial Park. Presided over by Jim Tyrrell, Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce, the ceremony celebrated an unprecedented act of community philanthropy and collaboration that transformed an abandoned pear orchard into a park that would come to be known as the city's greatest asset. The park honored the community's some 450 World War I service members and memorialized its war dead, provided residents with opportunities for recreation and community gatherings and created a destination for automobile tourism. Completed in just under a year, the park was built through the financial generosity, time, and talents of countless volunteers from all walks of life and social positions. No city funds or taxes were used. Visitors arriving at the park found a lushly planted memorial grove to honor the war dead, picnic grounds, a spacious pool with changing rooms, tennis courts, a children's playground, a creek stocked with trout, a baseball diamond, a community building, and a travel campground with cottages. Inspired by the park's centennial in 2021 the City of Grass Valley's Historical Commission initiated the creation of this Centennial Courtyard to tell the story of the community's collective act of remembrance and renewal that built Memorial Park. Still enjoyed today by residents and visitors alike, the ever-evolving park keeps alive the motto of the 1921 building campaign, In Memory of the Past, We Build for the Future.



GRASS VALLEY
A PLACE TO LIVE AND THRIVE

Landmark Registered by Nevada County
2024 - NEV 24-0
Monument dedicated 2024 by the
Nevada County Historical Landmarks Commission
In cooperation with the City of Grass Valley



1851