



## 400 W. North Water St.

In 1915, the city of New London built a boat landing and small park in this area. On the suggestion of newspaper editor, Charles Carr, the city named it after Lucius Taft. Mr. Taft

was one of the first people of European

descent to settle in the area. The city laid the park out with a center area and two angled paths leading to the dock steps. Shrubbery and flowerbeds ornamented the four spaces created.

In 1922, the city purchased the empty lot to the east for an expansion. In 1927, they added a war memorial monument. The Grand Army of the Republic, Women's Relief Corps, and various unnamed donors contributed to the monument fund. The Oshkosh stone cutting firm of Burr and Pugh

made the monument from gray granite quarried in Georgia. It came in three sections from Oshkosh on two large trucks. The obelisk was just over twelve feet tall with a two-foot-high pedestal. Five of the seven remaining Civil War (1861-1865) veterans from the area attended the dedication ceremony on Sep. 4, 1927. Other veterans from the Spanish-American War (1898) and World War I

(1917-1918) also attended the ceremony.



In 2015, the New London Veterans Memorial Foundation started a plan to redesign the park and memorial. Within a few years, they installed a new wall memorial with over 1,100 names of veterans. The park redesign included moving the original memorial and placing a bronze eagle on top of the obelisk. They also installed new paths and plantings. The Wolf River Art League painted a Veterans Memorial mural on the wall of the neighboring business.