Caring for the people's ground: Limitless Lawns at the North Carolina State Capitol

Limitless Lawns has worked on the grounds of the 1840 State Capitol in Union Square, Raleigh, more than once: laying new big-roll sod in June 2024, and in November 2026, during America's 250th year, breaking out old paving and excavating a lawn panel in front of the portico. This paper sets out the work, the landmark it was done on, and why the year mattered.



The State Capitol's portico with the excavated lawn panel in front, 16 November 2026.

THE PROJECT IN ONE TABLE

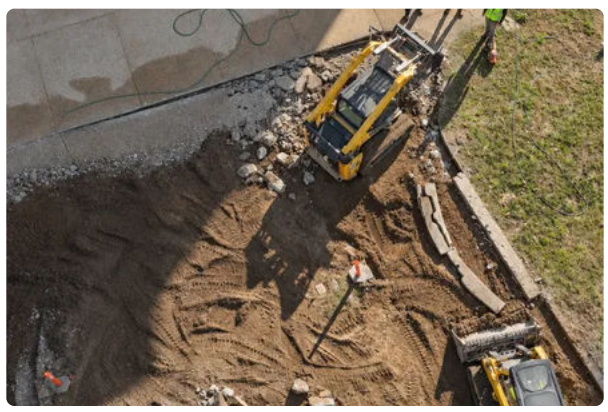
SITE	North Carolina State Capitol, Union Square, Raleigh. A National Historic Landmark since 6 November 1973, administered by the Division of State Historic Sites, NC Department of Natural and Cultural Resources.
CONTRACTOR	Limitless Lawns, Inc., Angier, North Carolina.
JUNE 2024	New big-roll sod laid in front of the Capitol.
NOVEMBER 2026	Old paving and curb in front of the portico broken out and hauled away, and the panel excavated and graded, from beginning to end.
CONTEXT	NC Historic Sites noted the Capitol grounds under construction for sidewalk repairs in 2026.
RECORD	Aerial video of 24 June 2024 and ground-level video of the sod installation; aerial photographs and video of 16 November 2026.
THE YEAR	2026, the 250th year of American independence. North Carolina's commemoration, America 250 NC, held its July Fourth "Capitol 250" festival on these grounds.

TWO JOBS, TWO YEARS APART

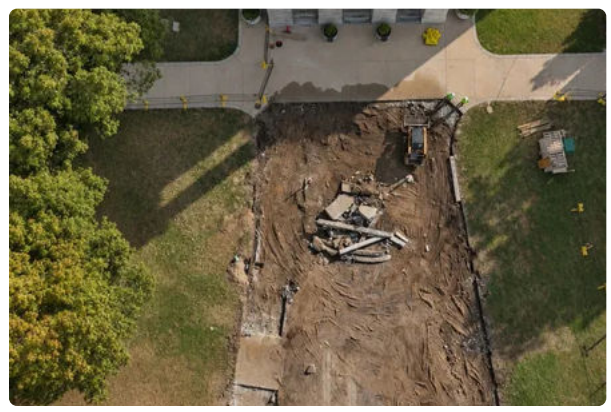
In June 2024 the crew laid new big-roll sod in front of the Capitol, by machine, so the seams are few and the lawn is usable quickly. In November 2026 the work began by removing what was there: old concrete paving and stone curb in front of the portico were broken out with compact track loaders, loaded and hauled off site, and the panel was excavated and graded to meet the existing walks and steps.



The Capitol in Union Square, with the work area on its lawn.



Old paving and curb being broken out beside the portico.



The panel excavated to grade, leading to the portico.



Spoil loaded into a dump truck standing on timber mats.



Track loaders and crew breaking out paving at the portico.



Big-roll sod being laid in front of the Capitol, the 2024 sod job.

WORKING ON A LANDMARK

- **Protect what stays.** Timber mats carry the machines and the truck, so the lawn and roots around the work are not rutted.
- **Keep the work contained.** The panel is fenced and coned off from the rest of the square.
- **Match the old.** The new grade has to meet the existing walks, curbs and steps of an 1840 building, so it is set carefully against them.
- **Finish with a lawn.** Big-roll sod gives finished turf as soon as it is laid, rather than a season of waiting for seed.

> Captions describe what is visible in Limitless Lawns' own photographs and video. Dates come from the cameras' own records. Aerial photography was flown with the owner's consent.

A CAPITOL BUILT AFTER A FIRE

North Carolina's first State House was occupied in 1794, enlarged by William Nichols in the 1820s, and burned in 1831; the fire destroyed Antonio Canova's statue of George Washington.

Its replacement was built between 1833 and 1840. William Nichols Jr. drew the first plans; Ithiel Town and Alexander Jackson Davis set the Greek Revival design in 1833, and David Paton saw it through from 1835. The walls are gneiss from a state quarry about a mile and a half southeast, hauled on the horse-drawn Experimental Railroad. The building was completed in 1840 for $532,682.34, and enslaved men were rented out to work on it.

The General Assembly met here until 1963. The Capitol became a National Historic Landmark on 6 November 1973 and still holds the Governor's office.

UNION SQUARE

William Christmas surveyed Raleigh in 1792 as a one-square-mile grid, modelled on William Penn's plan of Philadelphia, with Union Square at its center. The Capitol stands on that six-acre square of lawns, walks, trees and monuments.

FIRST IN FREEDOM, 250 YEARS ON

On 12 April 1776 delegates at Halifax unanimously adopted the Halifax Resolves, which made North Carolina the first colony to officially sanction independence. The original returned to the state in 2026 for display at Halifax.

America 250 NC, led by the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources, is the state's commemoration of the nation's 250th year. On 4 July 2026 it held "Capitol 250: North Carolina Freedom Fest" on the Capitol building and grounds.

The grounds of a capitol belong to everyone who walks them. Keeping them is quiet work, and in this year of all years we are proud to have done it.



The Capitol from above, with downtown Raleigh beyond, 16 November 2026.

METHOD

Every historical statement in this paper comes from the public sources below, read on 21 November 2026. Project statements are Limitless Lawns' own. Photographs and video are Limitless Lawns' record of the work; captions describe what is visible in them and nothing more.

SOURCES

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ABOUT LIMITLESS LAWNS

Limitless Lawns, Inc. is a North Carolina corporation based in Angier. Owned by brothers Jamison and Jared Shea, it clears, grades, builds and keeps the outdoor spaces of communities, businesses and homes across the Triangle: lot clearing, rough and fine grading, backfill, erosion control, development and builder landscape installation, monumentation, patios and retaining walls, custom home landscapes and grounds maintenance.

> **Talk to us about a project.** Call (919) 414-2255 or visit limitlesslawncare.com. Estimates are free.

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