

NATIONAL MALL PLAN: SUMMARY

ENRICHING OUR AMERICAN EXPERIENCE
ENVISIONING A NEW FUTURE



FOR MORE THAN 200 YEARS THE NATIONAL MALL HAS SYMBOLIZED OUR NATION AND ITS DEMOCRATIC VALUES, WHICH HAVE INSPIRED THE WORLD. THE NATIONAL MALL — THE GREAT SWATH OF GREEN IN THE MIDDLE OF OUR CAPITAL CITY AND STRETCHING FROM THE FOOT OF THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL TO THE POTOMAC RIVER — IS THE PREMIER CIVIC AND SYMBOLIC SPACE IN OUR NATION. “WE THE PEOPLE” COME HERE TO DEMONSTRATE OUR RIGHTS AND CELEBRATE OUR FREEDOMS, OUR HISTORY AND CULTURE, OUR UNITY AND DIVERSITY, AND OUR WAY OF LIFE.

This historic open space with its planned vistas will continue to provide an inspiring setting for national memorials, many of them symbols of our democracy. It also provides a visual connection between the branches of government, and a backdrop for government buildings and the great cultural institutions of our nation.

The National Mall will be respectfully rehabilitated and refurbished so that very high levels of use will be perpetuated. The needs of all visitors and users will be met in an attractive, convenient, high-quality, energy-efficient, and sustainable manner.

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ACKNOWLEDGMENT

The *National Mall Plan* presents a vision about the kinds of resource conditions, visitor experiences, and facilities that will best fulfill the purposes of the National Mall in Washington, D.C. The National Mall stretches west from the U.S. Capitol to the Potomac River, and north from the Thomas Jefferson Memorial to Constitution Avenue. Nearly 30,000 Americans and others provided ideas, statements of concern, and helpful comments during the preparation of the plan. The National Park Service appreciates all of the comments and considered them as the plan was developed.

While the National Mall is under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service, multiple governmental agencies and organizations have jurisdiction over lands and roads within and adjacent to the National Mall, including the Architect of the Capitol, the National Gallery of Art, the Smithsonian Institution, the Department of Agriculture, the General Services Administration, the District of Columbia, and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority. In addition, the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, the National Capital Planning Commission, the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation, and the D.C. Historic Preservation Office have consultation, planning, review, and in some cases approval authority for issues related to planning, historic preservation, commemorative works, and design.

All of these agencies and organizations, as well as the public, have cooperated with the National Park Service in the development of this plan for the National Mall. The implementation of the approved plan will require an ongoing exchange of ideas, goals, best practices, advice, and concerns.

This document is a summary of the *Final National Mall Plan / Environmental Impact Statement*, which has been approved by National Capital Regional Director Margaret G. O'Dell. To obtain a copy of the final plan and the record of decision, visit www.nps.gov/nationalmallplan.

The Trust for the National Mall is the official nonprofit fundraising partner of the National Park Service and is dedicated to restoring and improving the National Mall. The Trust was formed with the commitment and vision to help preserve the National Mall, a public space that evokes the pride and patriotism of a people. The Trust believes that the National Mall — America's Front Yard — should reflect our country's values and be maintained to the highest standards. Simply put, the goal is to make the National Mall the best park in the world. The Trust will support the implementation of the *National Mall Plan*, aid in providing educational opportunities and connecting visitors to the National Mall's rich history, and sponsor design competitions (see www.nationalmall.org).

This illustration shows a revitalized National Mall respectfully rehabilitated and refurbished as an enduring symbol of our country, our nation's front yard, and its democratic stage.



THE NATIONAL MALL — OUR EVOLVING NATIONAL LANDSCAPE

IN 1791 GEORGE WASHINGTON SELECTED PIERRE L'ENFANT TO DESIGN A CAPITAL CITY FOR THE NEW NATION. L'ENFANT ENVISIONED A GRAND AND MONUMENTAL OPEN SPACE WITH GREAT WESTWARD LOOKING VISTAS, A CITY ORGANIZED AROUND KEY BUILDING LOCATIONS, A GRAND CENTRAL SPACE, FUTURE COMMEMORATIVE SITES, AND THE STREET SYSTEM. THE LEGISLATIVE AND EXECUTIVE BRANCHES OF GOVERNMENT WOULD BE LINKED BY A GREAT VISUAL CROSS-AXIS, AND AT THE POINT WHERE THE VISUAL LINKS CROSSED, AN EQUESTRIAN STATUE OF GEORGE WASHINGTON WOULD BE ERECTED.

The basic concepts of L'Enfant's design were carried out, although his proposed equestrian statue was replaced with the giant obelisk. When work finally began in the 1840s on the Washington Monument, designers had to move it away from the exact intersection of the axes due to unstable soils. The new location, however, turned out to have an unexpected benefit since a slightly off-center focal point allowed for longer east-west and north-south views when the tidal flats were filled in the late 1800s, providing an opportunity to expand the National Mall.

A little more than a century after the L'Enfant plan, another signature plan was prepared by the U.S. Senate's Park Commission in 1901–02. Known as the McMillan plan, this plan redefined the building and landscape character of the National Mall and gave it a cultural focus. The Lincoln Memorial, the Ulysses S. Grant Memorial, and the Thomas Jefferson Memorial were all direct results of the McMillan plan. While some elements of the plan were either not implemented or were modified over the next 50 years, the McMillan plan indelibly changed the heart of the nation's capital city.

To celebrate the nation's Bicentennial in 1976, plans were begun in the 1960s and 1970s by the design firm of Skidmore, Owings and Merrill to transform the National Mall into a pedestrian-oriented, celebratory space. Union Square was redesigned with a large reflecting pool, the Constitution Gardens were built to celebrate the founding of our country, temporary Department of Defense facilities were finally removed, and some roads crossing the Mall were placed in tunnels, although people objected to the visual impact of tunnel portals and plans to tunnel all of the roads were stopped.

The changes in the 1970s served as an impetus for the construction of several new memorials over the next 20 years, including the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the Korean War Veterans Memorial, and the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial. By the late 1990s the public recognized that the National Mall was a finite space that could no longer accommodate all the memorials and monuments that were proposed. The National Capital Planning Commission responded in 1997 with the third major plan for the nation's capital — *Extending the Legacy*, which called for protecting the National Mall from overdevelopment and recentering the city on the U.S. Capitol, with future growth and redevelopment opportunities radiating out from the Capitol.

The George Mason Memorial and the World War II Memorial were completed early in the 21st century. In 2003 Congress declared the National Mall to be a completed work of civic art and defined a reserve area as the core of the great cross-axis of the National Mall. Congress also prohibited the siting of new commemorative works and visitor centers in the Reserve, while accommodating several projects already underway.

In 2005 Congress directed the National Park Service to prepare a plan for the National Mall to ensure its long-term protection. The planning effort was publicly initiated in November 2006, and the *National Mall Plan* was completed in September 2010 (see www.nps.gov/nationalmallplan).

WHAT IS SIGNIFICANT ABOUT THE NATIONAL MALL?

Planning for the *National Mall Plan* began by agreeing on both the purpose and significance of the National Mall.

The National Mall is a uniquely **symbolic space** in the heart of our nation’s capital:

- It is the home to the enduring symbols of our country — an inspiring setting for memorials, the backdrop for the executive and legislative branches of our government, and a visual connection between the branches of our government.
- Its monuments, memorials, statues, and other commemorative works honor important personages, historical events, and the ideals of democracy. As a result, it offers emotional and intellectual connections that affect our national perceptions, consciousness, and identity.
- It is a designed landscape that provides extraordinary vistas to symbols of our nation.



The National Mall is our nation's **front yard**:

- Visitors of every race, nationality, and faith come to the National Mall to celebrate, commemorate, demonstrate, or recreate.
- It is a national landscape, and its history and appearance have been enriched by gifts to the United States from other countries.
- It is the center of our nation's cultural heritage, surrounded by many of the country's most significant educational and cultural institutions. Portions of West Potomac Park will forever be a public park for the recreation and enjoyment of the people.

The National Mall is our country's **democratic stage**:

- It is a stage for national events and a preeminent national civic space for public gatherings because "it is here that the constitutional rights of speech and peaceful assembly find their fullest expression."
- It is an inclusive and open environment where we celebrate our national identity and important events.

WHAT PROBLEMS DOES THE PLAN ADDRESS?

As one of the earliest public spaces in our nation, the National Mall has undergone many changes over the last two centuries, and its facilities and infrastructure are no longer able to accommodate uses that were never contemplated by earlier designers. Aging facilities, some from the 1800s, have exceeded their life expectancy and require extensive renewal and repair. When the National Mall planning effort began in 2006, deferred maintenance for needed repairs — not improvements to meet visitor needs — totaled more than \$450 million.

- As a symbolic space, the National Mall is one of the most highly photographed areas of our nation, and it needs to be attractive. Compacted soils, dead grass, and missing trees are not acceptable; and vistas planned in 1791 are visually marred by temporary structures during events.
- As our nation's front yard, the National Mall should be easily accessible for all people and should have better connections to the city and transportation networks. Pedestrian walks are currently deteriorated, too narrow for use levels, or inaccessible for visitors with disabilities. They may also lack amenities such as seating. Generally facilities are too small for current levels of use, and they are not well-dispersed or convenient. Recreation field conditions need to be improved. Tens of millions of gallons of treated water stagnate in pools that have no recirculation systems, resulting in poor water quality.
- As our democratic stage, the National Mall needs to be able to accommodate huge numbers of people flexibly, efficiently, and sustainably and to be able to recover quickly from a great many activities — from First Amendment demonstrations, national celebrations, and special events attended by hundreds of thousands of visitors, to tours by school groups, military veterans, and foreign visitors, to individual opportunities for general enjoyment and recreation.

WHAT OBJECTIVES WILL THE PLAN ACHIEVE?

The *National Mall Plan* sets out 30 objectives. These objectives relate to topics such as cultural and natural resource protection; access and circulation; visitor information, education, and enjoyment; visitor amenities; health, public safety, and security; and park operations. Key objectives include the following:

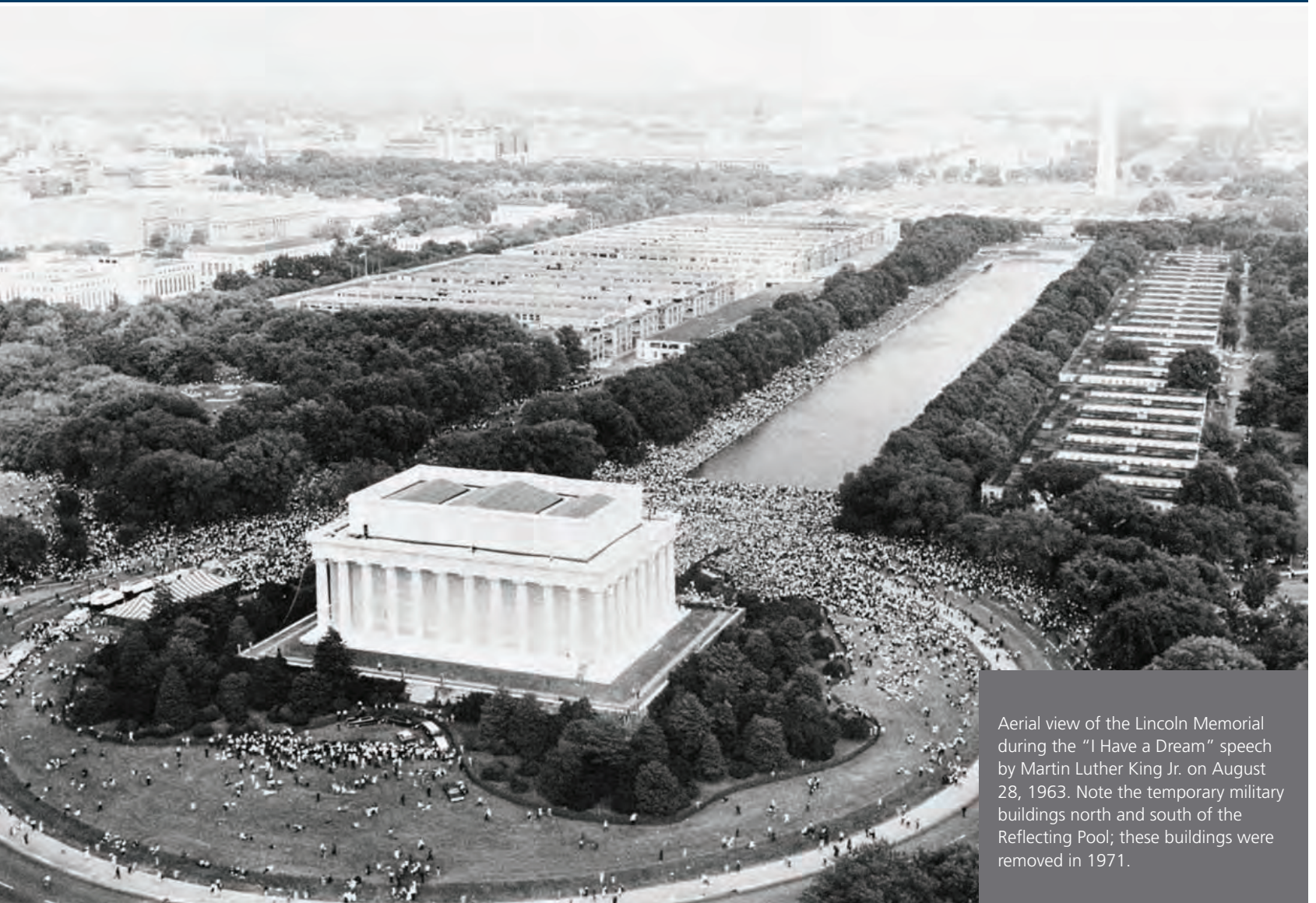
- Monuments, memorials, and their settings are preserved and protected.
- Primary east-west and several north-south vistas on the National Mall are improved and perpetuated.
- Historic plans for the National Mall are respected. Resources are managed compatibly with the intent of the historic plans.
- Conditions of natural resources, such as water, turf, trees/vegetation, and soils, are improved to be part of a sustainable urban ecosystem.
- The National Mall remains a venue for First Amendment demonstrations and national celebrations.
- Special events are managed to sustain the health of park resources, to balance the desires of all users, and to ensure a safe environment. No one's enjoyment of the National Mall is unacceptably compromised by others, now or in the future.
- To fulfill its symbolic and civic importance, the National Mall is a role model of inclusiveness and universal design for all citizens.
- The National Mall provides the quintessential American experience where visitors can
 - feel welcome
 - fully understand the importance of this preeminent civic area for First Amendment rights
 - learn about our core values as a nation by making an educational, emotional, inspirational, or patriotic connection to the memorials that commemorate our history and the physical design that reflects our democratic form of government
 - appreciate the beauty of the National Mall during the day, at night, and year-round
- Facilities are of high quality and reflect a compatible and enduring character, thus creating a sense of place that reinforces the civic, historic, and symbolic role of the National Mall to our nation.
- The National Mall is a role model in sustainable urban park development, resource protection, and management, focusing on six areas: requirements and policy, resource health, water use, circulation, facilities, and park operations.

All of the objectives are contained in the *Final National Mall Plan / Environmental Impact Statement* on the website at www.nps.gov/nationalmallplan, including an assessment of how well the plan will meet the objectives.

“WHAT GIVES ME HOPE IS WHAT I SEE WHEN I LOOK OUT ACROSS THIS MALL. FOR IN THESE MONUMENTS ARE CHISELED THOSE UNLIKELY STORIES THAT AFFIRM OUR UNYIELDING FAITH — A FAITH THAT ANYTHING IS POSSIBLE IN AMERICA. RISING BEFORE US STANDS A MEMORIAL TO A MAN WHO LED A SMALL BAND OF FARMERS AND SHOPKEEPERS IN REVOLUTION AGAINST THE ARMY OF AN EMPIRE, ALL FOR THE SAKE OF AN IDEA.

ON THE GROUND BELOW IS A TRIBUTE TO A GENERATION THAT WITHSTOOD WAR AND DEPRESSION — MEN AND WOMEN LIKE MY GRANDPARENTS WHO TOILED ON BOMBER ASSEMBLY LINES AND MARCHED ACROSS EUROPE TO FREE THE WORLD FROM TYRANNY’S GRASP. DIRECTLY IN FRONT OF US IS A POOL THAT STILL REFLECTS THE DREAM OF A KING, AND THE GLORY OF A PEOPLE WHO MARCHED AND BLED SO THAT THEIR CHILDREN MIGHT BE JUDGED BY THEIR CHARACTER’S CONTENT. AND BEHIND ME, WATCHING OVER THE UNION HE SAVED, SITS THE MAN WHO IN SO MANY WAYS MADE THIS DAY POSSIBLE.”

President-elect Barack Obama at the “We Are One” Concert, January 18, 2009



Aerial view of the Lincoln Memorial during the “I Have a Dream” speech by Martin Luther King Jr. on August 28, 1963. Note the temporary military buildings north and south of the Reflecting Pool; these buildings were removed in 1971.

KEY ELEMENTS OF THE NATIONAL MALL PLAN

WHAT WILL THE NATIONAL MALL PLAN DO?

THE PLAN PROPOSES TO RESPECTFULLY REHABILITATE AND REFURBISH THE NATIONAL MALL SO THAT VERY HIGH LEVELS OF USE CAN BE PERPETUATED. THE NEEDS OF ALL VISITORS AND USERS WILL BE MET IN AN ATTRACTIVE, CONVENIENT, HIGH-QUALITY, ENERGY-EFFICIENT, AND SUSTAINABLE MANNER. THE PLAN WILL ACHIEVE THE FOLLOWING ACTIONS:

- Prepare the National Mall for the high levels and types of use it receives; develop flexible, multipurpose venues at key locations; and provide utility connections for stages, tents, and other activities.
- Better meet the needs of visitors of all ages and ability levels, including tourists and local recreation users, groups and individuals, and visitors who speak English as well as languages from around the world.
- Meet recreation needs, including surfaces for jogging and walking; provide separate bicycle lanes or trails; upgrade fields for softball, soccer, kickball, and other active sports; and improve conditions for passive recreation like picnicking and walking.
- Improve the appearance and health of soils, vegetation, and the overall landscape; improve water quality and stormwater management; and enhance ways for the National Mall to play a stronger role in providing a healthy and well-functioning urban ecosystem.
- Provide convenient and appropriately sized visitor facilities.
 - Improve basic services such as restrooms, water, information, and refreshment locations, with conveniently located seating and facilities.
 - Provide spaces designed for cultural activities, and for capturing iconic photographic images.
 - Achieve the highest standards of accessibility and universal design.
 - Provide areas where groups can meet, find shelter, sit, gather for educational programs, or eat without impacting other visitors.
- Improve circulation and amenities for pedestrians, bicyclists, and other visitors.
- Design new facilities for efficient maintenance; incorporate the most sustainable approaches into designs (maximize LEED ratings and meet the goals of the Sustainable Sites Initiative™); improve operational access to all areas; reduce use of potable water; achieve and maintain the highest standards in recycling and waste management; use special skills teams (e.g., for turf and irrigation systems, water features, and events management); and improve monitoring and adaptive management.

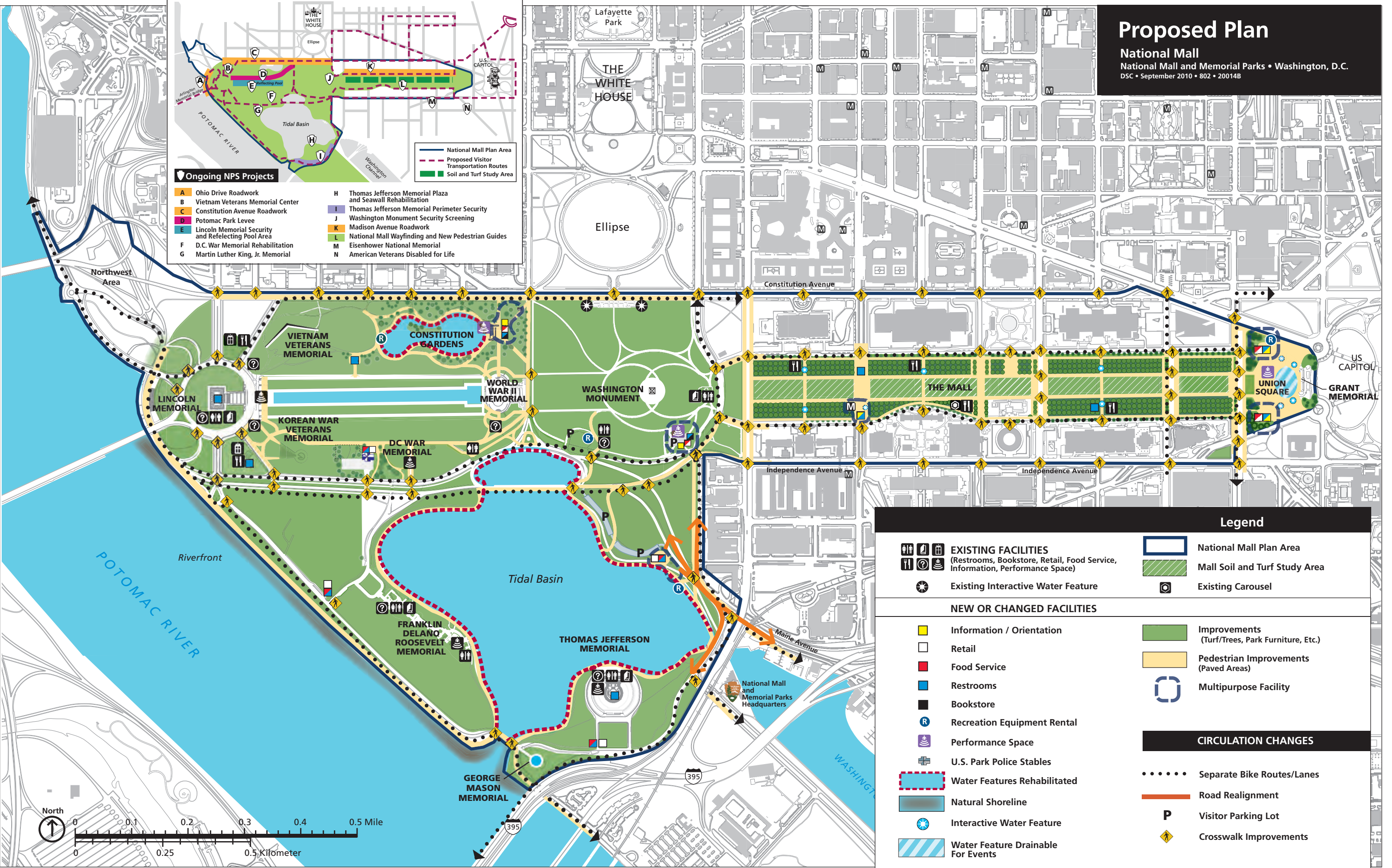
Proposed Plan

National Mall
National Mall and Memorial Parks • Washington, D.C.
DSC • September 2010 • 802 • 20014B

Ongoing NPS Projects

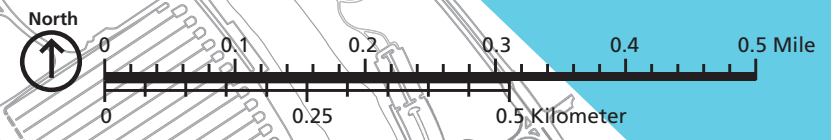
A Ohio Drive Roadwork	H Thomas Jefferson Memorial Plaza and Seawall Rehabilitation
B Vietnam Veterans Memorial Center	I Thomas Jefferson Memorial Perimeter Security
C Constitution Avenue Roadwork	J Washington Monument Security Screening
D Potomac Park Levee	K Madison Avenue Roadwork
E Lincoln Memorial Security and Refecting Pool Area	L National Mall Wayfinding and New Pedestrian Guides
F D.C. War Memorial Rehabilitation	M Eisenhower National Memorial
G Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial	N American Veterans Disabled for Life

National Mall Plan Area
Proposed Visitor Transportation Routes
Soil and Turf Study Area



Legend

	EXISTING FACILITIES (Restrooms, Bookstore, Retail, Food Service, Information, Performance Space)		National Mall Plan Area
	Existing Interactive Water Feature		Mall Soil and Turf Study Area
	Existing Interactive Water Feature		Existing Carousel
NEW OR CHANGED FACILITIES			
	Information / Orientation		Improvements (Turf/Trees, Park Furniture, Etc.)
	Retail		Pedestrian Improvements (Paved Areas)
	Food Service		Multipurpose Facility
	Restrooms		Performance Space
	Bookstore		U.S. Park Police Stables
	Recreation Equipment Rental		Water Features Rehabilitated
	Performance Space		Natural Shoreline
	U.S. Park Police Stables		Interactive Water Feature
	Water Features Rehabilitated		Water Feature Drainable For Events
	Natural Shoreline	CIRCULATION CHANGES	
	Interactive Water Feature		Separate Bike Routes/Lanes
	Water Feature Drainable For Events		Road Realignment
			Visitor Parking Lot
			Crosswalk Improvements



Illustrations show Union Square as a flexible, year-round destination, with amenities for visitors.





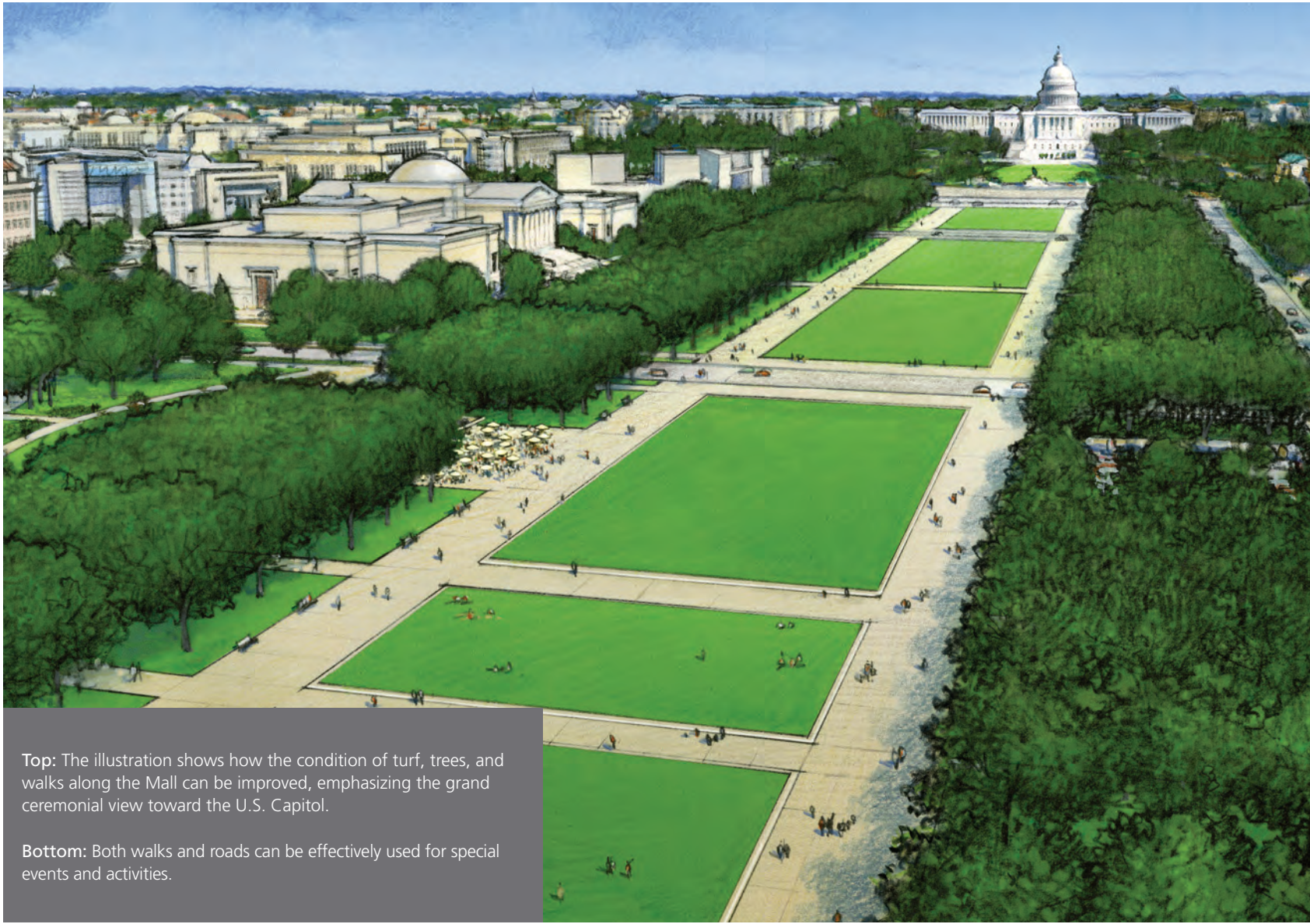
AREAS THAT WILL BE RESPECTFULLY REFURBISHED AND REHABILITATED

UNION SQUARE

THE ULYSSES S. GRANT MEMORIAL, ONE OF THE FIVE PRESIDENTIAL MEMORIALS ON THE NATIONAL MALL, WILL BE THE FOCAL POINT OF A SYMMETRICAL AND FORMALLY LAID OUT CIVIC SQUARE BASED ON HISTORIC PRECEDENTS. THIS HIGHLY SYMBOLIC FOREGROUND TO THE U.S. CAPITOL WILL BE REDESIGNED AS AN ATTRACTIVE FLEXIBLE STAGE FOR DEMOCRACY THAT CAN ACCOMMODATE MORE PEOPLE AND DIVERT USE FROM THE MALL. IT WILL BE A POPULAR, ACTIVE, AND DIGNIFIED DAY AND EVENING DESTINATION THAT IS EASILY TRANSFORMED INTO A LARGER VENUE FOR FIRST AMENDMENT DEMONSTRATIONS, NATIONAL CELEBRATIONS, AND EVENTS. A SMALLER REFLECTING POOL OR INTERACTIVE WATER FEATURES, HIGHLIGHTING SUSTAINABLE WATER MANAGEMENT PRACTICES, WILL BE CONSIDERED TO MAKE THE SPACE MORE SUITED TO VARIOUS USES AND REDUCE WATER USE. THE SOUND OF WATER WILL BE USED TO MUFFLE THE NOISE OF URBAN TRAFFIC.

Grade changes will be eliminated to improve pedestrian access and circulation for all. Union Square will include flexible, indoor/outdoor, multipurpose facilities with shaded spaces and seating from which to enjoy views of the Grant Memorial and the U.S. Capitol, along with outdoor exhibits or displays. High-capacity restrooms will be designed so that more stalls can be opened during high-use periods, and nearby drinking water and recreation equipment rentals will be provided. The redesigned area will also consider connections to adjacent Capitol complex grounds and transitions with the National Mall. The Union Square redesign is intended to fulfill the McMillan plan goal of connecting the U.S. Capitol grounds with the National Mall, as well as providing more convenient and flexible land use at the foot of the west side of the Capitol.

A design competition for Union Square is proposed because of its high visibility and potential for transforming use and reducing impacts on the Mall. The competition will be sponsored by the Trust for the National Mall, with cooperatively developed criteria and involvement by the U.S. Department of the Interior and the National Park Service, together with representatives from Congress, the Architect of the Capitol and other Capitol complex stakeholders, the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, and the National Capital Planning Commission.



Top: The illustration shows how the condition of turf, trees, and walks along the Mall can be improved, emphasizing the grand ceremonial view toward the U.S. Capitol.

Bottom: Both walks and roads can be effectively used for special events and activities.





THE MALL

THE MALL (3RD TO 14TH STREETS) WILL REMAIN AN EXTREMELY POPULAR VENUE FOR DEMONSTRATIONS, SPECIAL EVENTS, CULTURAL ACTIVITIES, AND OTHER CIVIC EVENTS. THE HISTORIC DESIGNED PROMENADE WEST OF THE U.S. CAPITOL WILL BE HIGHLIGHTED. THE EXPANSIVE GREEN LAWNS (THE FORMAL FRENCH *TAPIS VERTE* OR GREEN CARPET) ARE BORDERED BY FORMAL ROWS OF AMERICAN ELM TREES THAT FRAME VIEWS TO AND FROM THE CAPITOL — A FUNDAMENTAL CONCEPT OF THE MCMILLAN PLAN. THE MALL IS BORDERED BY THE MUSEUMS OF THE NATIONAL GALLERY OF ART AND THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION, AS WELL AS THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE’S WHITTEN BUILDING.

This highly visible historic landscape will be respectfully renovated to improve conditions and the appearance of turf and trees and to sustainably accommodate high-use levels, including First Amendment demonstrations, national celebrations, cultural programs, and special events, as well as passive recreation and informal play. Events will be managed more sustainably, and the visual clutter of temporary facilities will be reduced. A welcome plaza near the Metro station in front of the Smithsonian Castle will orient visitors to the National Mall and inform them about opportunities. Also, the National Mall will be added to the station name. High-quality visitor amenities and facilities, spaces designed for events, and new paving will increase visitor enjoyment and conveniently meet various needs in a manner that is sensitive to the National Mall’s historic context. The National Park Service will encourage partnerships between all visitor destinations along the Mall to best serve visitor needs.



The welcome plaza at 12th Street will become a hub for orientation and access to the National Mall as visitors emerge from the Metro station.

As shown in this conceptual plan view, additional amenities at food service locations, such as chairs and tables with umbrellas, along with shaded and group seating, will make these areas more comfortable for visitors.





WASHINGTON MONUMENT AND GROUNDS

THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT, ONE OF THE FIVE PRESIDENTIAL MEMORIALS ON THE NATIONAL MALL, WILL CONTINUE TO BE A HISTORIC CHARACTER-DEFINING FEATURE AND THE VISUAL ORIENTATION POINT FOR WASHINGTON, D.C. THE RECENTLY RENOVATED AND AWARD-WINNING LANDSCAPE DESIGN OF THE GROUNDS WILL CONTINUE TO SEE HIGH VOLUMES OF USE, INCLUDING LARGE DEMONSTRATIONS AND SPECIAL EVENTS, BUT INFRASTRUCTURE WILL BE PROVIDED TO MAKE THEM MORE SUSTAINABLE. THE 2003 LANDSCAPE PLAN WILL BE UPDATED AND COMPLETED.

In an area with stunning views of the monument, a high-quality multipurpose facility will replace the Sylvan Theater and nearby restrooms. The architecturally unique indoor/outdoor visitor services facility will provide food service, retail, restrooms, staff office space, and flexible performance space better oriented to the hillside seating. The nearby Survey Lodge area will be adapted to provide recreation equipment rentals, public restrooms, and a central service location for people with disabilities.

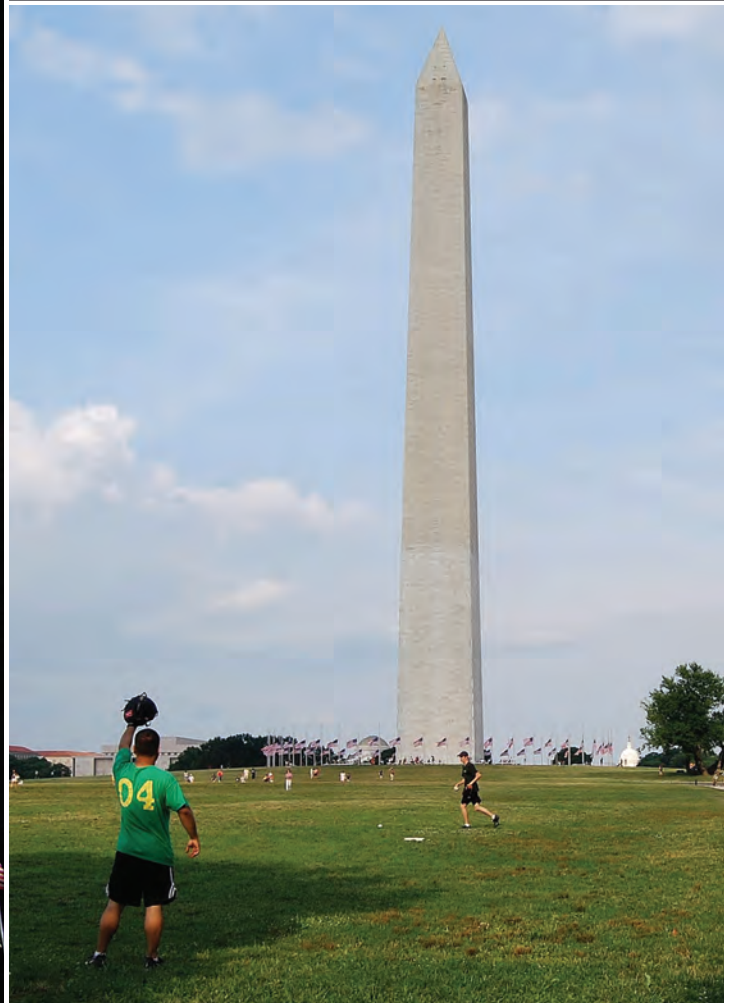


Top left: The Washington Monument is the heart of the National Mall, as well as Washington, D.C. The simplicity of the award-winning landscape design around the monument emphasizes the importance of north-south and east-west views.

Top right: People come here day and night to celebrate, commemorate, demonstrate, and recreate.

Bottom left: It will be easier for First Amendment demonstrations, national celebrations, and permitted events to be held on the Washington Monument grounds.

Bottom right: The Sylvan Theater will be replaced by a multipurpose facility in a wooded area below street level, with inspiring views of the monument.





CONSTITUTION GARDENS

DEVELOPED FOR THE 1976 BICENTENNIAL, CONSTITUTION GARDENS WAS INTENDED TO PROVIDE A PASTORAL SETTING FOR PASSIVE RECREATION AND EVENT USE. IT IS THE SITE OF THE MEMORIAL TO THE 56 SIGNERS OF THE DECLARATION OF INDEPENDENCE, WHICH IS LOCATED ON AN ISLAND IN THE LAKE. THIS AREA WILL CONTINUE TO ACCOMMODATE SMALLER SCALE DEMONSTRATIONS AND SPECIAL EVENTS. CONSTITUTION GARDENS WILL BE A RESTFUL, MULTIPURPOSE VISITOR DESTINATION, WITH OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENTERTAINMENT, ENJOYMENT, AND RECREATION. THE AREA WILL BE A PLEASANT PLACE FOR VISITORS TO RELAX AS THEY TOUR THE NATIONAL MALL.

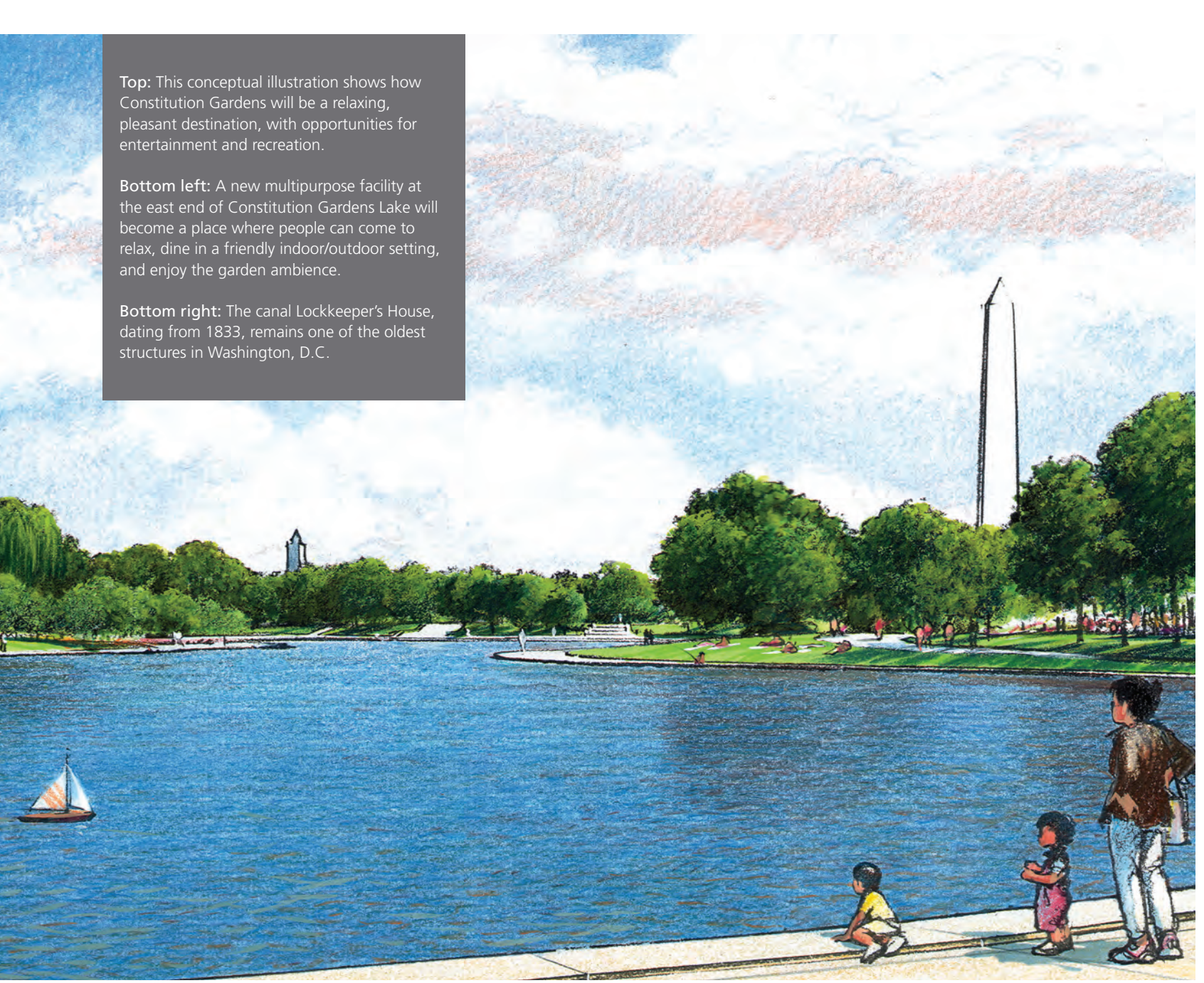
Present conditions will be improved, poor soils will be amended, and the pedestrian circulation system will be upgraded with coordinated paving and improved operational access. The concrete lined lake will be reconstructed to be self-sustaining, using a nonpotable water source for filling, and it could be part of the stormwater retention strategy to control urban drainage flooding.

An architecturally unique, multipurpose visitor facility, including food service, retail, and restrooms, will be developed at the east end of the lake and coordinated with the Potomac Park levee and plans for the canal Lockkeeper's House. The canal Lockkeeper's House may be relocated away from the corner of 17th Street and Constitution Avenue NW and adaptively reused. A flexible performance space, stage, or gazebo in or near the east end of the lake will take advantage of the nearby rolling terrain to accommodate an audience of several thousand; care will be taken to ensure that program sound levels will respect the contemplative ambience at nearby memorials. Existing restrooms will be replaced, and the concession facility may be used as a hub for informal recreation and play opportunities, such as model boat rentals.

Top: This conceptual illustration shows how Constitution Gardens will be a relaxing, pleasant destination, with opportunities for entertainment and recreation.

Bottom left: A new multipurpose facility at the east end of Constitution Gardens Lake will become a place where people can come to relax, dine in a friendly indoor/outdoor setting, and enjoy the garden ambiance.

Bottom right: The canal Lockkeeper's House, dating from 1833, remains one of the oldest structures in Washington, D.C.





Millions of visitors come to the Tidal Basin to enjoy its beauty, especially during the annual National Cherry Blossom Festival. The area offers opportunities for visitors to enjoy views of the superlative landscape, the Thomas Jefferson Memorial, and the Washington Monument from walkways and from boats.



TIDAL BASIN

THE TIDAL BASIN AREA IS THE BEAUTIFUL INFORMAL SETTING FOR THE THOMAS JEFFERSON AND FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT MEMORIALS, AS WELL AS THOUSANDS OF CHERRY TREES THAT WERE ORIGINALLY A GIFT FROM JAPAN. THE MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. MEMORIAL IS CURRENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION ON THE NORTHWEST SIDE OF THE BASIN. THE TIDAL BASIN PROVIDES SPECTACULAR VIEWS AND REFLECTIONS OF THE THOMAS JEFFERSON MEMORIAL AND THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT. THE TIDAL BASIN AREA WILL CONTINUE TO BE USED FOR DEMONSTRATIONS, NATIONAL CELEBRATIONS SUCH AS THE NATIONAL CHERRY BLOSSOM FESTIVAL, AND OTHER PERMITTED EVENTS.

A stronger connection with the National Mall and a sense of arrival at the Tidal Basin will be achieved by redesigning and separating pedestrian, bicycle, and vehicular circulation. The highest quality recreational experiences (strolling/sightseeing, bicycling, and boating) will be enhanced by separated circulation systems, high-quality paving, additional seating, and more pedestrian stopping points or viewpoints. The Tidal Basin seawalls will be rebuilt above tidewater, and wider pedestrian walks will be constructed. New pedestrian lighting will provide for safe visits but not detract from the evening ambience of nearby memorials.

The refreshment stand on the east side of the basin will be replaced and designed to provide a pleasant interlude for sitting and enjoying views, including springtime cherry blossoms; and restrooms will be provided. The recreation equipment rental facility will be replaced. Additional boating choices, such as rowboat and kayak rentals, will be provided, and an excursion boat could allow water access and views for all visitors.



The plan proposes to improve and widen the walkways around the Tidal Basin, and to add seating and pedestrian lighting.

The Lincoln Memorial, at the western end of the National Mall, is associated not only with the contributions of our 16th president, but also the rights of all citizens.





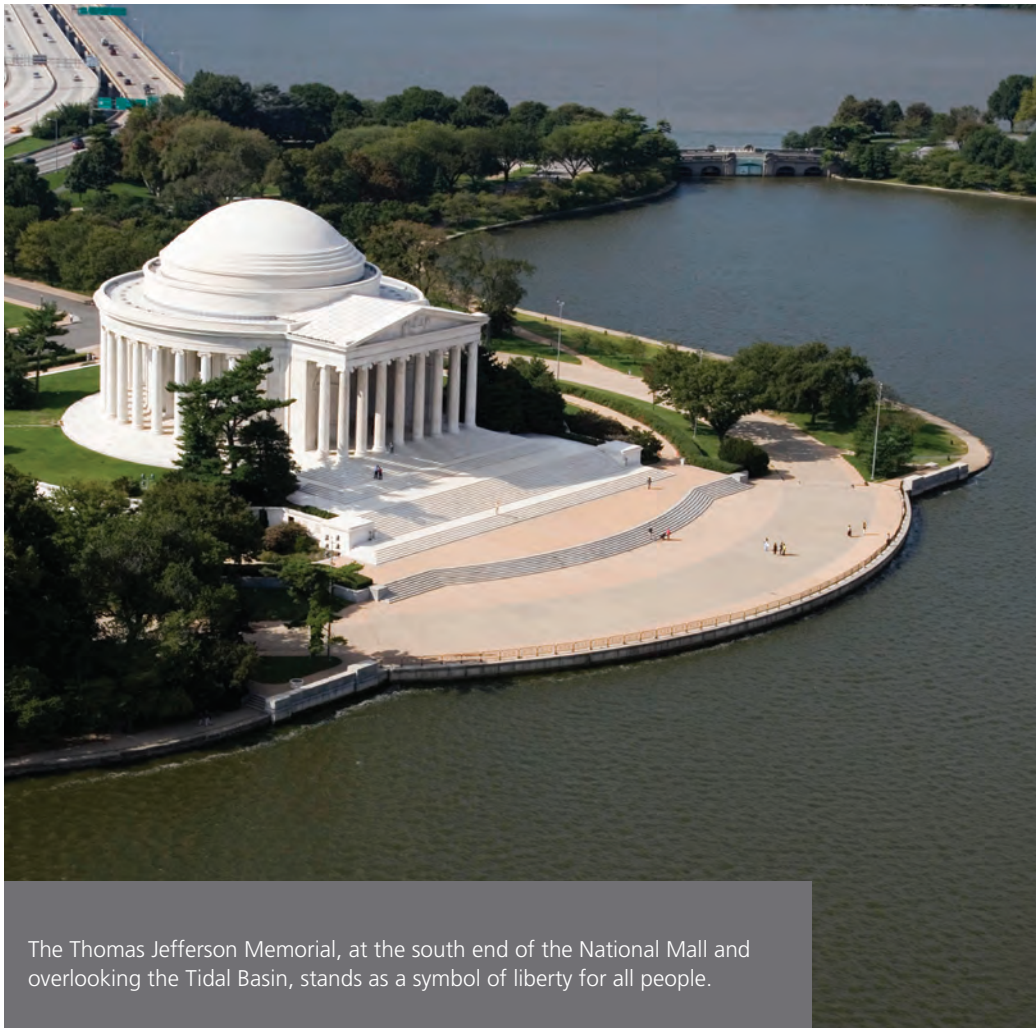
LINCOLN MEMORIAL AND GROUNDS

THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL, ONE OF THE FIVE PRESIDENTIAL MEMORIALS ON THE NATIONAL MALL, WILL CONTINUE TO BE A HISTORIC CHARACTER-DEFINING FEATURE AND THE VISUAL WESTERN TERMINUS OF THE NATIONAL MALL. THE MEMORIAL WILL REMAIN A HIGHLY VISITED AREA THAT IS ALSO ASSOCIATED WITH CIVIL RIGHTS HISTORY, AS WELL AS THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF OUR 16TH PRESIDENT.

Ongoing work will improve access, circulation, and the condition of the Reflecting Pool. Exhibits will be updated, restrooms within the memorial will be expanded, and an architecturally compatible restroom facility will be provided near the south food service area.

The Watergate area north of Arlington Memorial Bridge includes historic features (stone-faced river walls and the Constitution Avenue belvedere) along with recreation areas (volleyball courts and softball fields). The condition of recreation areas will be improved, and a small restroom with drinking water will be provided. Public parking spaces (approximately 70) along Parkway Drive will be retained.

The northwest corner of the National Mall also serves as a major vehicular gateway to the city, as well as the National Mall, from Virginia and Maryland. Access to the Potomac River Freeway, I-66, Ohio Drive, and Rock Creek Parkway are prominent parts of the road network, which is scheduled to be redesigned and simplified by other entities. These actions will improve pedestrian access between the Lincoln Memorial area and the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts.



The Thomas Jefferson Memorial, at the south end of the National Mall and overlooking the Tidal Basin, stands as a symbol of liberty for all people.



THOMAS JEFFERSON MEMORIAL AND GROUNDS

ONE OF THE FIVE PRESIDENTIAL MEMORIALS ON THE NATIONAL MALL, THE THOMAS JEFFERSON MEMORIAL WILL CONTINUE TO BE A HISTORIC, CHARACTER-DEFINING FEATURE AND THE VISUAL SOUTHERN TERMINUS FOR THE NATIONAL MALL.

The former parking area south of the memorial will be redesigned for demonstrations and special events, and utility connections will be provided. The tour bus drop-off will be redesigned for better pedestrian circulation. New bicycle lanes or trails will provide improved and safer access near the memorial and to the I-395 bridges. The refreshment stand south of the memorial will be replaced and relocated, with restrooms added.

FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT MEMORIAL



ONE OF THE FIVE PRESIDENTIAL MEMORIALS ON THE NATIONAL MALL, THE FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT MEMORIAL WILL CONTINUE TO TELL IMPORTANT STORIES OF MID-20TH CENTURY HISTORY — THE GREAT DEPRESSION, THE ROOSEVELT PRESIDENTIAL LEGACY, AND WORLD WAR II.

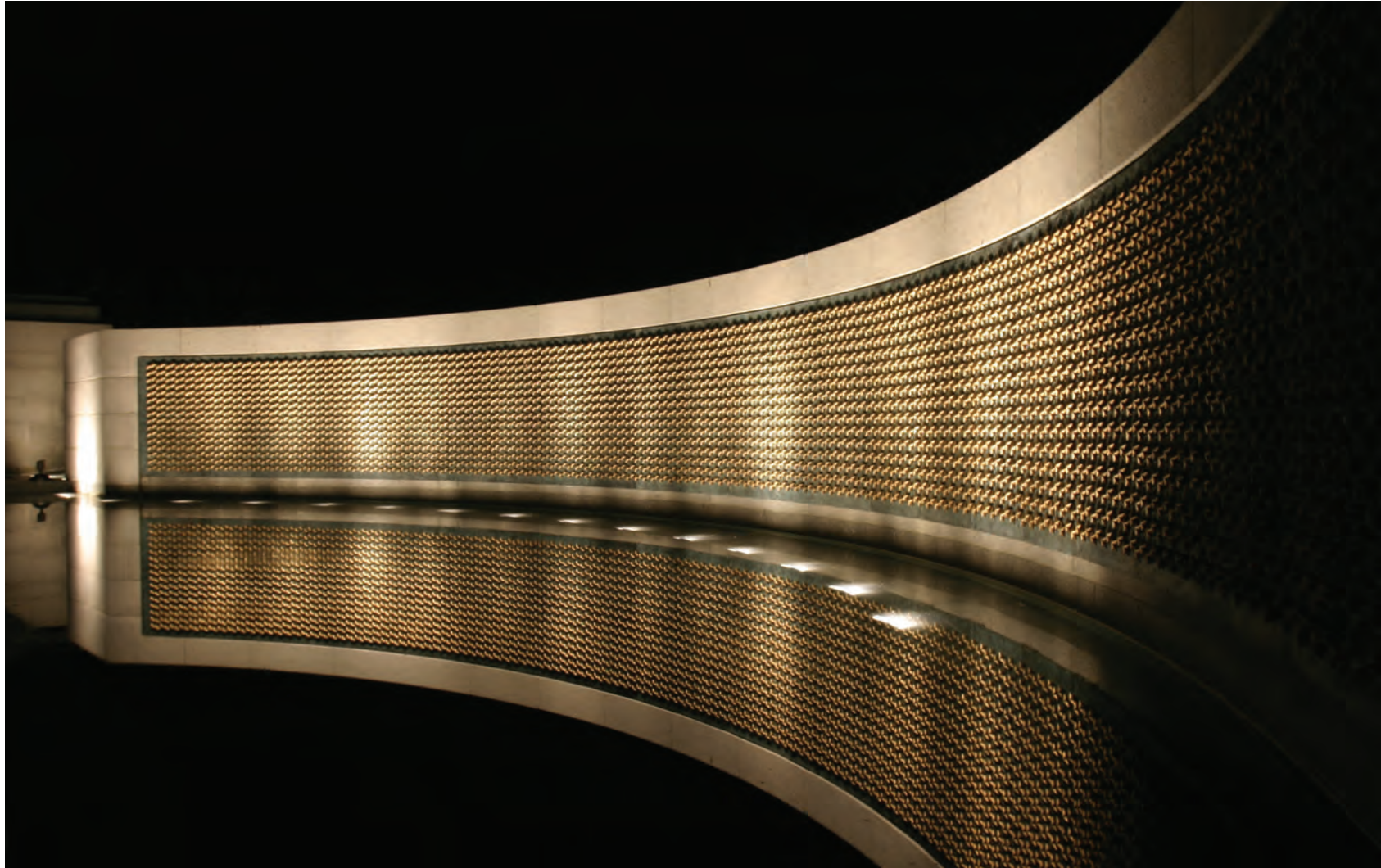
26

A comprehensive condition assessment of the memorial, including visitor use patterns, will be undertaken. Room 4 will be used for educational programs. A small food service and restroom facility, which would also be convenient to the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial, may be provided if warranted by demand. The condition of recreation fields west of the memorial will be improved.

Bronze sculptures and quotations at the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial are used to characterize each of his four terms as president. The memorial's quotations have inspired generations of Americans, and the ideals and values they represent will continue to do so for generations to come.

THEY (WHO) SEEK TO ESTABLISH SYSTEMS OF GOVERNMENT BASED ON THE REGIMENTATION OF ALL HUMAN BEINGS BY A HANDFUL OF INDIVIDUAL RULERS... CALL THIS A NEW ORDER. IT IS NOT NEW AND IT IS NOT ORDER.





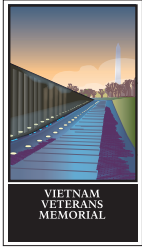


WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL

THE WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL HONORS THOSE AT HOME AND ABROAD WHOSE UNITED SACRIFICES HELPED RESTORE FREEDOM TO MILLIONS.

The World War II Memorial was built at the end of the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool and incorporated the historic Rainbow Pool.

No major changes are proposed at the World War II Memorial, but improvements to group access and support facilities will continue to be explored.

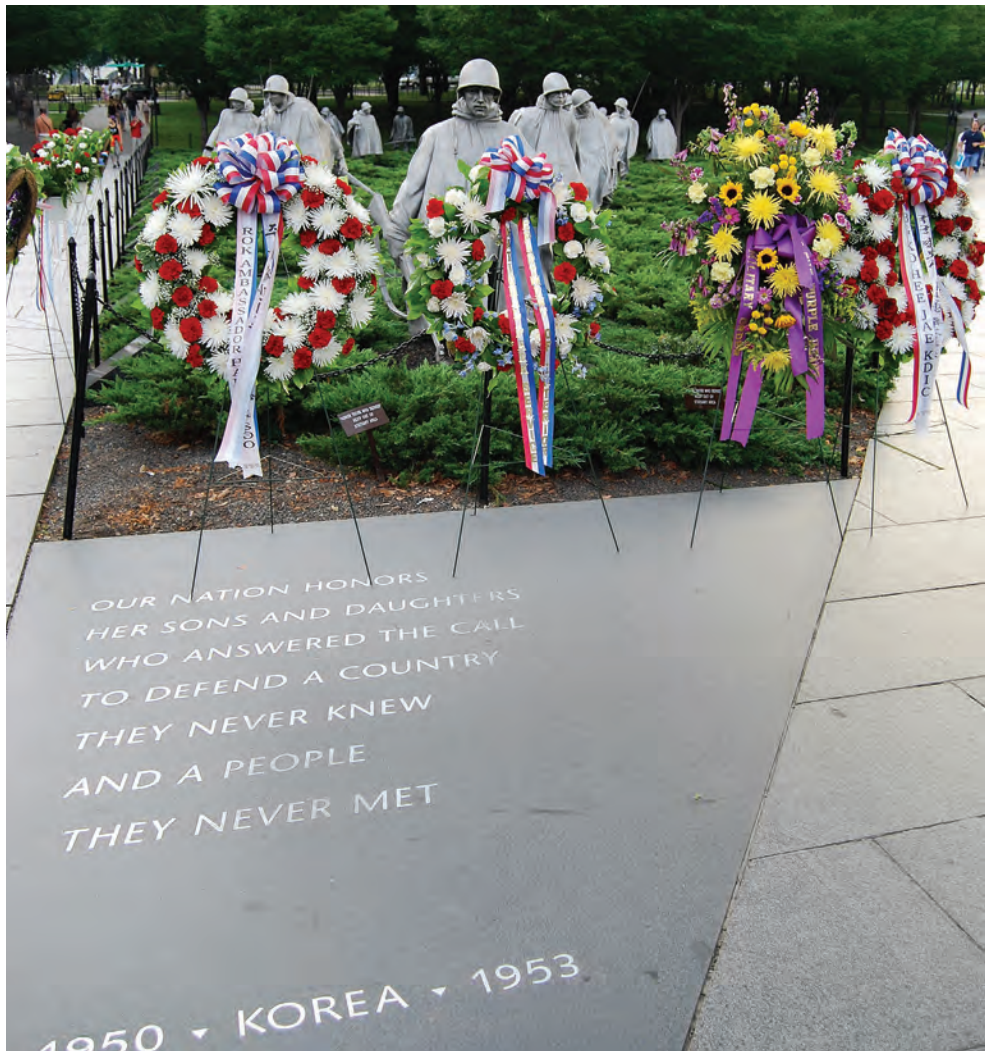


VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL

THIS GROUNDBREAKING MEMORIAL HAS BECOME A PLACE OF HEALING, WHERE OUR NATION HONORS COURAGE, SACRIFICE, AND DEVOTION TO DUTY AND COUNTRY BY ITS VIETNAM VETERANS.

Circulation patterns and seating will be explored following the construction of the underground Vietnam Veterans Memorial Center.







KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL

THE KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL REMINDS US THAT "FREEDOM IS NOT FREE" AND THAT MANY COUNTRIES UNITED TO HELP A NATION ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE WORLD PROTECT ITSELF.

Access on the west side of the Korean War Veterans Memorial will be widened to better accommodate changing use patterns.



FROM THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WHO SERVED



D.C. WAR MEMORIAL / ASH WOODS

WORLD WAR I MARKED THE FIRST TIME THE UNITED STATES SENT SOLDIERS OVERSEAS TO FIGHT FOR DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES. THE WORLD WAR I MEMORIAL HONORS THE RESIDENTS OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA WHO SERVED IN THE WAR.

The D.C. War Memorial is being rehabilitated and will continue to be used for small events.

The Ash Woods road will primarily be for pedestrian use. The condition of the JFK hockey fields will be improved and the geometric edges softened with tree plantings.

The Ash Woods restroom facility will be replaced and relocated closer to the stables; and if warranted by higher visitation, a refreshment stand could be provided in the same area. The U.S. Park Police stables will be rebuilt to be compatible with the historic character and quality of the National Mall, with primary access from Independence Avenue. Visibility of the horses will be part of the visitor experience, and a wayside will provide information about the history of the U.S. Park Police.



GEORGE MASON MEMORIAL

GEORGE MASON IS HONORED AS THE FATHER OF THE VIRGINIA BILL OF RIGHTS, PRECURSOR TO THE BILL OF RIGHTS IN THE U.S. CONSTITUTION.

The memorial to this Founding Father emphasizes the rights of citizens in a democracy and is built around a historic water feature. Perennial gardens will be renovated, and the fountain will be rehabilitated to improve water quality.



WEST POTOMAC PARK RIVERFRONT

ONE OF THE PURPOSES OF THE NATIONAL MALL IS TO PROVIDE FOR THE RECREATION AND ENJOYMENT OF THE PEOPLE. OPPORTUNITIES WILL BE IMPROVED FOR ACTIVE SPORTS, BICYCLE RIDING, WALKING, FISHING, AND ENJOYING THE PEACEFUL SETTING. THE RIVERFRONT WILL BE PART OF A CONTINUOUS RECREATIONAL EXPERIENCE ALONG THE WASHINGTON WATERFRONT.

Stretching south from the John Ericsson Memorial to the I-395 corridor, the West Potomac Park Riverfront includes the First Airmail Flight plaque, cherry trees, walks, views, and parking. A continuous Washington waterfront trail system connects Georgetown to Anacostia through the National Mall. Current construction on Ohio Drive near Arlington Memorial Bridge will improve pedestrian and bicycle experiences.

Where feasible, a sustainable, vegetated shoreline will be established; in other areas stone-faced river walls that can withstand the tidal fluctuation will be constructed. Space for seating, fishing, and enjoyment of the river or perhaps nodes for water taxi service or the launching of small, hand-carried watercraft (such as canoes or kayaks) will be provided. A system of separate bicycle lanes and river walkways will be developed along Ohio Drive, and visitor parking areas may be reconfigured for more efficient use, but similar parking levels will remain.



PLAN IMPLEMENTATION AND CONTRIBUTORS

PLAN IMPLEMENTATION

THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE WILL IMPLEMENT THE *NATIONAL MALL PLAN* TOGETHER WITH ITS OFFICIAL NONPROFIT FUNDRAISING PARTNER, THE TRUST FOR THE NATIONAL MALL.

PLAN CONTRIBUTORS

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Photographs for the plan were contributed by staff of the National Mall and Memorial Parks, the National Capital Region, and the Public Affairs Office. Carol Highsmith also provided photographs.

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Ruth Eitel, NPS Planning — Visual Information Specialist, prepared the *National Mall Plan* maps and graphic images.

Guy and Diane Schum of Schum & Associates, consultants to the Trust for the National Mall, provided document design and layout.

Greg Sorensen, Senior Technical Writer/Editor, URS Group, Inc., served as the plan's writer/editor and provided some existing condition photographs.

Susan Spain, NPS National Mall Plan Project Executive, oversaw all facets of planning for the National Mall.





As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering sound use of our land and water resources; protecting our fish, wildlife, and biological diversity; preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places; and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to ensure that their development is in the best interests of all our people by encouraging stewardship and citizen participation in their care. The department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

National Mall and Memorial Parks • Washington, D.C.

OUR AMERICAN SYMBOL. OUR FRONT YARD. OUR DEMOCRATIC STAGE.

