

COMMISSION ACTION

NCPC File No. 7060



THE NATIONAL MALL NATIONAL MALL PLAN

Washington, DC

Submitted by the National Park Service

December 2, 2010

Commission Action Requested

Approval of the National Mall Plan, pursuant to 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1) and (d).

Commission Action

The Commission:

Approves the National Mall Plan, as shown on NCPC Map File No. 1.41(78.00)43205.

Notes that:

- The National Mall Plan is based on the Preferred Alternative presented and analyzed in the National Park Service's Final Environmental Impact Statement, Record of Decision, and Section 106 Programmatic Agreement.
- Additional compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and the National Historic Preservation Act will be required for the development and implementation of many of the National Mall Plan's proposed projects, and that the siting and design of individual projects are subject to the Commission's review and approval.

Commends the National Park Service for:

- Completing a well-considered plan that balances the equally important requirements for stewardship of the natural and cultural resources of the National Mall's symbolic, historic landscape and for the encouragement and accommodation of public access and use.
- Meeting the planning and management objectives for the National Mall within Washington's broader planning context, and for complementing and reinforcing the Monumental Core Framework Plan, which protects the historic landscape of the National Mall by extending some of its qualities to adjacent areas and by creating linkages with the National Mall.

- Conducting extensive public outreach and consultation during the development of the Plan.

Supports the major goals of the National Mall Plan, including:

- Conservation of the National Mall's nationally significant natural resources through the use of best practices for the improvement and protection of the turf lawn and trees, including management of the intensity, duration, and location of special events.
- Development of a visitor transportation system for the National Mall that offers optional interpretation, is well-linked with transit service, and has a coordinated fare structure.
- Improvements in the appearance, number, and variety of visitor amenities and services through the redevelopment of appropriate sites with multi-purpose facilities dispersed throughout the National Mall.
- Improvements to the National Mall as a civic stage to include the redevelopment of the Capitol Reflecting Pool as Union Square, with a comprehensive, high-caliber landscape plan that will connect the National Mall and the U.S. Capitol, and the continuation of the National Mall as a civic venue for the expression of First Amendment rights.
- Provision of universal access throughout the National Mall.
- Expansion and separation of the bicycle path system for recreation and circulation and pedestrian safety, and the rehabilitation of athletic fields to increase capacity, flexibility, and durability.
- Development of new or improved infrastructure so that the National Mall becomes a model of sustainable urban park development and management.

Notes further that the National Park Service, in the development of the Final Environmental Impact Statement and National Mall Plan, has responded to the Commission's March 4, 2010 comments and recommendations on the draft National Mall Plan.

Deborah B. Young
Secretary to the National Capital Planning Commission