

COMMISSION ACTION

NCPC File No. 7060



THE NATIONAL MALL DRAFT NATIONAL MALL PLAN

The National Mall
Washington, DC

Submitted by the National Park Service

March 4, 2010

Commission Action Requested

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

Commission Action

The Commission:

Comments favorably on the draft National Mall Plan as a well-considered plan that balances equally important requirements for this nationally preeminent public place: the stewardship of the natural and cultural resources of the symbolic, historic landscape; and the encouragement and accommodation of public access and use; as shown on NCPC Map File No. 1.41(00.00)42987.

Commends the National Park Service for meeting the planning and management objectives for the National Mall within the broader planning context of Washington, 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.

Supports:

- Conservation of the National Mall's nationally significant natural resources through the implementation of best practices for the improvement and long-term 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 and that 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.
- Provision of full accessibility throughout the National Mall.
- Expansion and separation of the bicycle path system for recreation and circulation, and the rehabilitation of athletic fields to increase capacity, flexibility, and durability.
- Development of new infrastructure so that the National Mall becomes a sustainable urban park.

Recommends that the National Park Service, in the development of the final National Mall Plan:

- Add and update the maps and analysis with the projects now in development by the National Park Service, including the Martin Luther King, Jr, Memorial, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Visitors Center, the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool Rehabilitation, and the Potomac Park Levee.
- Prioritize short-term and long-term projects to support progress in the implementation of the Plan.
- Incorporate findings of the current National Mall Turf Study to support the proposed protection of vegetation that defines the historic plan and vistas of the National Mall.
- Amplify the discussion of objectives and strategies for improving sustainable resource management and for meeting the requirements and goals of Executive Order 13514, Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy, and Economic Performance.

Further recommends that the National Park Service:

- Resume planning and development of the proposed visitor transportation system with its partners.
- Implement the 2003 Olin landscape plan for the Washington Monument Grounds, revising it as warranted in concert with the Smithsonian Institution's development of the National Museum of African American History and Culture and with other anticipated development on the Grounds.

Deborah B. Young
Secretary to the National Capital Planning Commission