



## THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CIVIC REALM

Washington's defining features are its iconic open space system and cultural institutions that embodies our country's democratic ideals of freedom and openness. To extend the civic qualities of the National Mall and adjoining cultural uses into the Study Area and create new cultural destinations, it is important to provide a variety of connected public spaces and educational and cultural facilities. These spaces and facilities should offer interesting and stimulating places for personal enrichment, large gatherings and national events, daily en-counters, as well as places to rest and rejuvenate. It is important to place, configure, and treat these public spaces and civic buildings and the relationship between them in a way that respects their public nature and civic character.

## THE AREA TODAY

### STUDY AREA OPEN SPACE AND CULTURAL FACILITIES

Although directly adjacent to the National Mall and several Smithsonian Institution facilities, there are no cultural or educational facilities in the Study Area and the public space is disjointed and not well defined. Public space is defined as the network of building yards, setbacks, plazas, and parks. The existing parks and plazas comprise 14.3 acres within the Study Area. Three of these sites are listed in the top 20 prime candidate sites for future memorials or museums identified in NCP's Memorials and Museums Master Plan. The site located at the intersection of Independence and Maryland Avenues is the location for the proposed Dwight D. Eisenhower National Memorial. However, sponsors of other national cultural facilities have passed over both Banneker Park and Reservation 113 despite their close proximity to the National Mall because of the area's current isolated conditions, inadequate public-realm, and poor visitation potential.

- 1 6.5 ac. - Banneker Park (Reservation 719)
  - 1a Banneker Overlook
- 2 4.0 ac. - Eisenhower Memorial
- 3 1.4 ac. - Reservation 113
- 4 1.4 ac. - L'Enfant Plaza
- 5 1.0 ac. - HUD Plaza
- 6 0.7 ac - Earth Day Park
- 7 0.2 ac - Reservation 115