

# ALTERNATIVES

DRAFT  
NATIONAL MALL PLAN /  
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT  
THE NATIONAL MALL





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# **ALTERNATIVES**

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# OVERVIEW OF ALTERNATIVES

This part of the *Draft Environmental Impact Statement* presents the alternatives that are being considered for the long-term management of the National Mall. This overview section summarizes the process that was used to develop the alternatives, the range of alternatives being considered, and some of the best practices that were considered as the alternatives were developed. The overview is followed by a description of the conservation zones that are being proposed for the plan. The zones define desired resource and visitor experience conditions, along with the appropriate uses and facilities and user capacities.

The next section describes actions common to all alternatives, followed by the highlights of each alternative presented in narrative form. Actions that were considered but dismissed are discussed beginning on page 125. The alternatives are then compared in terms of conceptual costs (beginning on page 132) and how well they would meet the goals of the National Environmental Policy Act (beginning on page 133) and plan objectives (Table 6, page 140). Table 7, beginning on page 150, presents all of the actions for each alternative in detail, allowing readers to directly compare what actions would take place under each alternative. Finally, a summary of impacts is presented in Table 8 (page 244) so readers can compare the level of impact under each alternative; this summary is based on the detailed impact analysis in the “Environmental Consequences.”

## DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVES

The National Park Service develops alternatives with input from several sources, including public comments, internal scoping, cooperating agency workshops, and cultural resource consultations in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act. The process is a two-way exchange of ideas with the public, cooperating agencies, and others, and it ultimately leads to the development of the agency’s preferred alternative.

The planning process began with an understanding and affirmation of the National Mall’s purpose and significance, along with planning

constraints or mandates, and NPS *Management Policies 2006*. Through internal scoping the National Park Service continually identified and revisited planning issues that would need to be addressed. Internal scoping also included discussions and workshops with other federal and local agencies that cooperate in planning. Studies of best practices were undertaken to examine how others successfully deal with similar issues or what is considered today’s “state of the art” in pertinent topics.

## Public Involvement and Preliminary Alternatives

Public participation and public comments were solicited through newsletters, public meetings, and on the park’s planning website ([www.nps.gov/nationalmallplan/](http://www.nps.gov/nationalmallplan/)). Reports, newsletters, and background information were made available on the website.

Three public meeting periods with multiple meetings were held during (1) scoping, (2) the development of alternatives, and (3) when a preliminary preferred alternative was announced. The National Park Service has met and made presentations to a number of citizen, civic, and educational groups and organizations.

Newsletter 1 (fall 2006) was a public scoping newsletter, which asked the public to identify what is important about the National Mall and what actions they think need to be taken to address issues and concerns. Newsletter 2 (summer 2007) summarized the resulting public scoping comments. Newsletter 3 (fall 2007) presented a range of preliminary alternatives that were based on public ideas. Readers were asked to identify which ideas they thought should be incorporated into a preferred alternative and why.

## Using Choosing by Advantages to Develop a Preliminary Preferred Alternative

The planning team worked with park staff and cooperating agencies to refine all of the preliminary alternatives, and the Choosing by Advan-

tages process was used to compare, rate, and rank the advantages of alternative actions. This process looked at how well each alternative would address the following factors (in order of ranking importance, not the importance of resources):

1. providing enjoyable visitor experiences (providing a quality American experience)
2. improving natural resources
3. improving the ability to host national celebrations, First Amendment demonstrations, and special events
4. improving health and safety
5. protecting cultural resources (cultural resources must be protected; there was little difference among the alternatives in how this would be done so this factor did not rank as high)
6. improving park operations
7. providing other benefits

As a result of this process, the preferred alternative was developed, which included some new ideas as well as ideas from the preliminary alternatives presented in newsletter 3. Once the actions were identified, the comparable costs of the alternatives were considered (see page 132). The goal in developing the preferred alternative was to maximize the advantages to the public, as well as the National Park Service, and to provide an appropriate level of quality, while minimizing the costs. The preliminary preferred alternative was presented for public comment in newsletter 4 in spring 2009, providing another opportunity for public involvement before this *Draft Environmental Impact Statement* was issued.

Public and agency involvement in the development of the alternatives is further discussed under “Consultation and Coordination,” beginning on page 543. Because of interest and concern about the National Mall’s cultural resources, consultation under section 106 of National Historic Preservation Act began when the range of alternatives was developed, much earlier than the preferred alternative stage, which is the usual time for consultations.

## Range of Alternatives Considered in this Document

Some actions are common to all alternatives. Actions already authorized by Congress for the National Mall would continue. First Amendment demonstrations would continue to be fully accommodated, along with national celebrations and permitted special events. Other actions that would be taken under all alternatives include certain actions relating to historic and natural resources; access and circulation; visitor information, orientation, and enjoyment; visitor amenities; health, public safety, and security; and park operations.

The five alternatives that are being considered for the protection, use, and management of the National Mall are described in the following order:

- *No-Action Alternative* — This alternative describes current conditions and the continuation of current management. It establishes the baseline to compare all the other alternatives.
- *Preferred Alternative* — The preferred alternative is the National Park Service’s proposed course of action in this *Draft Environmental Impact Statement*. The intent of this alternative would be to establish a sense of place and an overall identity for the National Mall as the preeminent civic stage for our country, creating a coherent pedestrian environment that would complement and balance the natural environment, the National Mall’s historic character, the combination of formal and informal features, and national commemorative works. The preferred alternative includes actions from alternatives A, B, and C.
- *Alternative A* — With a focus on the historic landscape and education, alternative A would restore and maintain the resources of the National Mall as a historic landscape. The designed historic landscape would evolve and its value over time would change, reflecting significant national events.
- *Alternative B* — Alternative B would improve the National Mall as the nation’s premier civic space and would support very

high use levels. The National Mall's evolving ceremonial, celebratory, cultural, and visitor uses would be emphasized.

- *Alternative C* — Alternative C would meet evolving recreational needs in the nation's capital by providing beautiful, enjoyable, and ecologically sustainable open spaces that could be adapted to changing recreational patterns of diverse local and national users.

## SUMMARY OF BEST PRACTICES

Before work was begun to develop the alternatives, best management practices used by others were researched to provide a foundation for determining what steps could be taken to improve maintenance and operations for the National Mall. Two studies examined a number of the best management practices used at designed landscapes in Washington, D.C., and at heavily used landscapes in New York City, Chicago, San Francisco, Atlanta, London, Ottawa, and Canberra. The review of best practices has been an ongoing process as alternatives were developed, and the most applicable practices have been included in the action alternatives. The best practices that have been considered in the development of alternatives are summarized below and are more fully discussed in appendix B.

### Sustainable Sites Initiative

The Sustainable Sites Initiative™ is an interdisciplinary partnership led by the American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA), the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center, and the United States Botanic Garden. The partnership is seeking to create and implement clear and rigorous design, construction, operations, and maintenance criteria that would supplement existing green building and landscape guidelines, as well as to create a stand-alone tool for site sustainability (ASLA et al. 2008). The main principle is that sustainable land practices enable natural and built systems to work together to protect and enhance the ability of landscapes to provide services such as climate regulation, clean air and water, and improved quality of life. The U.S. Green Building Council anticipates incorporating proposed benchmarks into future

versions of the LEED® Green Building Rating System™.

The initiative's guidelines and benchmarks are designed to preserve or restore a site's sustainability within the context of ecosystem services — the idea that healthy ecosystems provide goods and services of benefit to humans and other organisms. Restoring soils and integrating green stormwater management that would address collection, conveyance, detention, treatment, and reuse are best practices. In addition to collecting and cleansing stormwater, these techniques can also help recharge groundwater supplies and reduce the use of potable water for irrigation and water features. Sustainable maintenance reduces resource consumption and waste, enhances flora and fauna health and diversity, and provides positive and healthy experiences.

To maintain a landscape for long-term sustainability, the following operation and maintenance guidelines are recommended:

- Develop a landscape maintenance plan that outlines the long-term strategic plan for the site and identifies short-term action plans to achieve sustainable maintenance goals.
- Use vegetation trimmings generated during operations and maintenance as compost and mulch to improve soil health and reduce the need for chemical fertilizers, irrigation, and pesticides.
- Provide space for collecting recyclables (including paper, glass, plastics, and metals) to facilitate recycling and reduce waste generation and waste disposal in landfills.
- Use electricity from renewable sources to reduce a site's carbon footprint and to minimize air pollution and habitat destruction.

### Design Features for Public Use and Maintenance

Destinations should be convenient and flexible, and they should be well used throughout the day so people are comfortable being there. Best practices for design include creating a sense of place and enhancing landscape appearance through a hierarchy of design for site furniture (benches, trash cans, information stations, light

fixtures, and orientation signs), with coordinated logos, color systems, signage, uniforms, and messages. Quality places are pleasant to be in and appeal to all five senses. Quality is the result of design, construction, facility condition, and maintenance. All four are needed components to achieve the desired standards. High-quality and durable materials and details can attract users, contribute to respect and user stewardship, and deter vandalism. Quality, comfort, cleanliness, and feelings of safety make a good first impression.

Certain visitor amenities go together, such as signs, seating areas, cafés, restrooms, and pathway intersections. Combining activities and uses in one area can help create a comfortable social place for people to relax and attend to several needs at once (Project for Public Spaces 2008). Encouraging visitors to linger at visitor service locations can concentrate trash where it can be handled, reducing trash at memorials or other trash-free zones.

Designs need to consider the ease of maintenance and typical uses, as well as incorporate ergonomics that support employee safety. Access and circulation routes should accommodate staff and maintenance vehicles, in addition to pedestrians and other types of use.

Excessive lighting and light pollution should be reduced. Cities as well as national and international associations (the American Medical Association, the International Dark-Sky Association, and environmental organizations) are increasingly concerned about the impact of light pollution and are seeking to reduce excessive lighting and its attendant biological and health concerns. Green and sustainable approaches are often required so that lighting provides safety, and night lighting is appropriate for the type of use and the environment. Less energy consumptive approaches are desirable. Standards are included in both LEED and the Sustainable Sites Initiative™.

## **Cultural Resources**

Maintaining the historic character and identity of places and adaptively reusing historic structures to ensure their preservation are widely used best practices.

## **Natural Resources**

Soil function should be maintained or restored to support healthy plants, biological communities, infiltration, and water storage. Erosion and compaction should be alleviated.

Green, organic landscapes are often safer, cleaner, and healthier for everyone. The public should understand “green” goals. Plants need to be selected that are suitable for the area to ensure that they will grow and that they can be easily maintained. Urban water ecology and sustainable management should be promoted.

## **Event Management**

Spaces should be designed to sustainably accommodate demonstrations and events, including venues with hard surfaces and necessary infrastructure, specific locations for support facilities (such as portable restrooms), defined access routes, and specific procedures for event setup and takedown. On-line access for information and permit applications can make the process more efficient for event organizers in terms of scheduling and understanding permit requirements, as well as for onsite management.

## **Public Access**

Walking environments should be safe, comfortable, convenient, efficient, and welcoming. Good pedestrian environments provide seating, human-scale street furniture, and interesting pedestrian amenities that make walking pleasurable. Multiple means of transportation access are available. Street crossings are safe, and various traffic-calming measures are used. Motorists and pedestrians are equitably treated, for example, waits at stoplights are equal for both pedestrians and drivers and vehicles do not have priority in walkable urban areas.

Better public transportation access equates with improved quality of life and better environmental quality. Connections between different modes of transit (subways, buses) should be facilitated. Increased bicycle use and alternative public transportation are important components of sustainable urban areas. Congestion, air quality, and quality of life can be enhanced by reducing private vehicle use and providing more integrated transit services.

Curbside loading / unloading areas should be designated, along with areas where these uses are prohibited, and time limits should be enforced for stopping or idling (3–10 minutes). Long-term parking should be provided in peripheral areas or at centrally located off-street, multi-modal parking facilities.

## Visitor Experience

Memorable visitor experiences can be created by considering all aspects of how visitors get to the park, find out where to go, learn about what they are seeing, and move through the site. In addition, providing quality places that are pleasant to be in can help visitors enjoy being on site, knowing that they are in a safe environment and that they can easily take care of personal needs. Onsite staff, settings, and programs should all support memorable visitor experiences.

Providing many diverse types of activities and choices of things to do will appeal to diverse users and mixed ages. Sufficient convenient and accessible visitor amenities (rest areas, water, food service, gift shops, and stroller and locker rentals) should be sized and configured to meet the visitation levels on high-volume days.

To reduce congestion, use during non-peak times can be encouraged through coordination with tour companies and by using incentives and programs such as pricing breaks, advanced reservation systems, timed ticketing, and the scheduling of special events and programs during non-peak times or at locations that can accommodate more use.

Utilizing multiple types of food service, ranging from mobile carts, refreshment stands, food courts, order-ahead picnic or pick-up food, to full-service restaurants, will meet a variety of user needs. The recommended split is 80% fast-food to 20% full-service facilities. Mobile carts are generally around 5% of the 80%.

Quality retail merchandise directly related to the experience should be available at all price ranges.

## Operations and Maintenance

Building public support and encouraging positive visitor behavior can help achieve higher maintenance standards. Well-maintained and clean areas encourage a higher standard of behavior, along with prominently displayed visitor rules of behavior and visible management and staff presence. Taking time to help users understand regulations, limits, and maintenance goals will help gain their cooperation and support. Simple but visually unobtrusive systems, such as flags, can be used to identify areas closed for restoration.

Through written standards all staff should understand desired conditions, along with their role in achieving them. All staff members should help achieve standards and set a visible example for the public to follow, such as picking up trash or thanking people for their help in maintaining clean areas. In addition, written standards and guidelines for all staff should be focused on creating memorable visitor experiences.

Best practices for waste management include concentrating trash-generating activities at specific places, such as food service locations or refreshment stands. Trash and recycling containers should always be located together and have restricted openings so the containers are not misused. They should also have highly visible symbols and messages.

Trash and recyclable pickups should be mechanized to promote efficiency and reduce the potential for staff injuries. Regular maintenance needs to be provided during open hours. Use levels in facilities such as restrooms need to be monitored so that facilities are cleaned in a timely fashion and the desired standard of care is achieved. Trash collection during the evening hours should be frequent enough to keep the trash receptacles tidy every night of the year.

Electronic monitoring can be used to identify maintenance needs (burned out light bulbs) or to set regular maintenance schedules (such as self-cleaning restrooms). A public website can also help identify maintenance and repair needs, as well as respond to public concerns.

# CONSERVATION ZONES AND USER CAPACITIES

The National Park Service requires management plans to include descriptions of park management zones and user capacities (also known as carrying capacities) that are consistent with these management zones. (For this plan the term conservation zone is used rather than management zone to avoid confusion with city zoning requirements.) The National Park Service uses zoning to define the desired resource and visitor experience conditions, along with the appropriate uses and facilities that are proposed for each zone. Conservation zones are delineated for each alternative to illustrate intended resource conditions, visitor experiences, and management activities. No conservation zones have been defined for the no-action alternative.

As defined in the NPS *Management Policies 2006*, “Visitor carrying capacity is the type and level of visitor use that can be accommodated while sustaining the desired resource and visitor experience conditions in the park” (NPS 2006e, sec. 8.2.1). Park superintendents are to identify and stay within user capacities so that resources and values for which the park was established are not unacceptably impacted. In addition, ways to monitor for and address unacceptable impacts on park resources and visitor experiences are to be identified.

Conservation zones and user capacities are correlated because the zoning plan establishes the desired resource conditions and visitor experiences, which have implications for the kinds and levels of use that can be accommodated in an area. The intent of this section is to outline the criteria for desired park conditions, along with appropriate uses and facilities to support those conditions, and desired visitor experiences. Some desired conditions may apply throughout the National Mall, but the delineation of conservation zones will illustrate where there are differences in intended resource conditions, visitor experiences, and management activities (NPS 2006e, sec. 2.3.1.2).

Four conservation zones have been defined to protect resource conditions and the quality of visitor experiences on the National Mall. They are

- memorials
- character protection areas
- multipurpose areas
- high-use areas

Areas within each zone may have specific requirements or characteristics. Because each alternative has a difference emphasis, the delineation of conservation zones varies by alternative and is shown on a map for each alternative in the next chapter.

Regulations at 36 CFR 7.96 apply to all conservation zones, and only authorized or permitted activities may occur. The use of some memorials for demonstrations or special events is restricted by federal regulations (36 CFR 7.96(g)(3)(ii)). Permits are generally required for special events and for demonstrations with more than 25 people. The permit process sets specific criteria for each event to ensure that soils, turf, walks, trees, and irrigation systems are not degraded or are restored to the desired standards. The National Mall and Memorial Parks *Superintendent’s Compendium* addresses additional public use limits to ensure safety, resource protection, and proper management, in accordance with 36 CFR Parts 1-7 and authorized by 16 USC 3 (NPS 2006f).

All areas of the National Mall are to remain free of commercial advertising. The regulations limit event sponsor and donor recognition to protect the sanctity of the National Mall. Commercial business services, such as food, retail, or recreation equipment rentals that have been determined to be necessary or appropriate are provided through contracts.

## CONSERVATION ZONES

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### Memorials

The purpose of the conservation zone for memorials is to preserve the principal memorials and the character of their immediate surroundings, as well as to provide opportunities for contemplation, learning experiences, and appropriate activities. Many of the memorials are symbols of our nation and have taken on additional

iconic meanings over time, such as the connection of the Lincoln Memorial with civil rights.

#### *Desired Cultural Resource Conditions*

Cultural resources (buildings, sites, structures, objects, districts, and cultural landscapes) and related commemorative works of art are and can be maintained to the highest standard according to scheduled maintenance and major restoration schedules.

#### *Desired Natural Resource Conditions*

Related landscapes and plant materials are in excellent condition and meet the highest standards. Any related designed water features and lighting operate continuously to desired standards during scheduled times of operation.

#### *Desired Visitor Experience / Allowable Activities*

Memorials are pedestrian-only zones\* that provide opportunities for quiet contemplation, inspiration, enjoyment, and understanding of the values and ideals of our country. Many visitors take photographs, enjoy the art or architecture, or read the quotations at each memorial. Related events such as presidential birthday celebrations, Veterans Day ceremonies, state visits, or programs occur.

The desired experience includes sufficient space so that each visitor can easily access the memorial, enjoy or photograph it, and look at the views and vistas without being overly affected by others. The desired capacity could occasionally be exceeded, yet the experience might still be acceptable if a special event serendipitously added to the visitor experience.

The necessary space per person to achieve the desired conditions varies, depending on the memorial's design, site conditions, time of day and year, visitor location within the memorial, or the attractiveness of views and vistas. At most memorials the optimal density for the desired experience would be 100–200 square feet per

person, with more space desirable. At 100–200 square feet per person visitors would have sufficient space for contemplation, reading quotations, or taking photos. At 50–100 square feet per person the social experience could be congested for many visitors. A density of 50 square feet per person could be expected when high levels or pulses of visitation occur, such as when multiple tour buses arrive at the same time, with many people taking photographs or trying to see a memorial at once.

More people can be accommodated and have a quality visitor experience in an open memorial (such as the Vietnam Veterans Memorial or the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial) than in an enclosed memorial (such as the Washington Monument, or the Lincoln or Thomas Jefferson Memorial). The desired visitor experience at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial is focused on a linear experience along a narrow walkway, so a density in the range of 7–10 square feet per person may be acceptable during the peak season as people progress slowly along the wall, moving around those who have stopped to look at names or items left at the wall. Opportunities for contemplation may not be possible at this density, which could occur from midday to early evening from spring to early fall, as well as during events or holidays. (For example, it may be very hard for a visitor to have a quiet experience during the Memorial Day weekend when hundreds of people crowd the walkway.) Reflective or more emotionally powerful experiences may be possible during evenings or low-visitation times.

The proximity of tour bus drop-off and pickup locations and tour bus parking spaces near major memorials or groups of memorials affects the desired visitor experience. Simultaneous use of these locations may result in frequent high concentrations or pulses of visitors. Tour bus drop-offs and pickups and nearby parking spaces are noted in Table 3.

Demonstrations and special events are allowed in accordance with regulations at 36 CFR 7.96, and they are prohibited at certain memorials. These restrictions are included in Table 3.

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\* A pedestrian is defined as anyone on foot or using an assistive device, such as a wheelchair, electric scooter, or Segway®HT.

### *Allowable Facilities*

Some facilities are necessary to support visitor use. Memorials may have visitor seating to allow for contemplation, as well as unobtrusive facilities such as exhibits, visitor information, restrooms, bookstores, or retail in or near the memorial. Within the immediate area, a limited number of signs, compatible with the memorial design, may be provided to remind visitors about regulations or respectful behavior.

### **Character Protection**

The character protection zone applies to components of the historic landscape that demarcate important designed vistas and that establish the character of the National Mall. This zone may serve as a pedestrian and vehicular entry to the National Mall, and it may contain necessary visitor orientation and directional information. The landscape character ranges from formal to informal and is generally comprised of simple components — landforms, tree plantings, lawn areas, and related park furniture or structures.

Character-defining features that are to be protected are described for each area (see Table 3). The visual great cross axis of the National Mall is defined by the vegetation in this zone. This zone includes well-known landscapes such as the Tidal Basin, the Lincoln Reflecting Pool, the grounds of the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial, and the D.C. War Memorial. Smaller scale memorials (such as the John Paul Jones or John Ericcson Memorial) or landscape memorials (the German-American Friendship Garden) may also be included.

### *Desired Cultural Resource Conditions*

Historic structures, small-scale memorials, and other contributing features of the park's cultural landscapes are preserved and protected. Cultural resources are in the desired condition as defined in cultural resource documents, and they are maintained in accordance with planned maintenance and major restoration schedules. Any lighting and water features operate continuously to desired standards during scheduled times of operation.

### *Desired Natural Resource Conditions*

The landscape and its features are nourished and perpetuated in a sustainable manner to desired standards for each area.

### *Desired Visitor Experience / Allowable Activities*

The desired visitor experience includes enjoyment of the character of the designed landscape with its vistas to and from iconic memorials, sightseeing, education and orientation, small-scale entertainment, and passive or individual recreational activities such as paddleboating, walking, bicycling, kayaking or other self-propelled boating, picnicking, reading, children playing, and fishing. This zone may also accommodate spillover from extremely large First Amendment demonstrations that exceed the capacity of the adjacent multipurpose or high-use zones. Visitor service facilities are conveniently located outside vistas.

Landscaped areas are used for general enjoyment; as a result, more separation between others is desired. The minimum desired space per person in this zone would be 200 square feet on a high-use holiday, with 1,000 square feet preferred for daily use during the peak season. For example, at 200 square feet per person, many people could sit informally on the grass to enjoy picnics, garden concerts, or small events, but the sights and sounds of other people and groups would be very evident. At 1,000 square feet per person the atmosphere would be more relaxed and enjoyable for most visitors.

User densities on walks or at visitor facilities could be in the range of 10–50 square feet per person. Occasionally First Amendment gatherings or national celebrations could result in higher densities of short duration. A temporary density of 10 square feet per person would feel very crowded in this zone because landscape elements such as trees provide a sense of enclosure.

The permit process for demonstrations and events sets specific criteria for each event to ensure that soils, turf, walk, trees, and irrigation systems are not degraded (36 CFR 7.96).



### *Allowable Facilities*

Allowable facilities in this zone include pedestrian sidewalks and pathways; roads, parking, and multimodal transportation corridors and intermodal transportation stops; visitor facilities (food and related seating areas, retail, restrooms, information); park furnishings (seating, lighting, trash containers, etc.); outdoor educational wayside exhibits; directional, orientation, and transit-related signs; and gardens and reflective or active water features.

Temporary facilities related to permitted special events are generally not allowed unless they are on paved surfaces.

### **Multipurpose Areas**

Multipurpose areas provide for visitor access and services, and they accommodate programs, activities, events, recreation, and relevant entertainment in a high-quality parklike or historic setting. This zone is generally characterized by undulating landforms, with trees, walks, roads, and other features. Secondary and pleasant views of memorials and iconic features are maintained. This zone may serve as a pedestrian and vehicular entry to the National Mall, and it contains necessary visitor orientation and directional information. Areas in this zone include portions of Constitution Gardens, the Watergate area, and portions of the Washington Monument grounds and the Tidal Basin (see Table 3).

#### *Desired Cultural Resource Conditions*

Cultural resources, including small-scale resources, are preserved.

#### *Desired Natural Resource Conditions*

The landscape and its features are perpetuated in a sustainable manner to meet the desired standards for each area.

#### *Desired Visitor Experience / Allowable Activities*

Opportunities are provided for passive and active outdoor enjoyment in a pleasant atmosphere, with vistas to some of the National Mall's icons. Visitor service facilities and transit stops are conveniently located and able to meet the needs of groups as well as individuals. While First Amend-

ment activities are fully accommodated, they are an occasional short-term use, and areas are more likely to be used to provide support for such permitted activities. Opportunities are provided for small events, educational waysides, programs, and relevant entertainment. Passive recreation (picnicking, sunning, fishing, and relaxing) may take place, along with active recreation, such as volleyball games, ballfields, or impromptu sports.

Because the purpose is to accommodate multiple uses, the space per person in visitor service portions of this zone ranges from 50 to 100 square feet, and the resulting social experience would mean that people would be very aware of the presence and sounds of others. In recreational areas a less dense experience of more than 1,000 square feet per person is desirable.

The permit process sets specific criteria for each event to ensure that soils, turf, walks, trees, and irrigation systems are not degraded or are restored to the desired standards.

### *Allowable Facilities*

Facilities include pedestrian sidewalks and trails; roads, parking and multi-modal transportation corridors and stops; visitor facilities (food and related seating areas, retail, restrooms, information); limited athletic facilities (such as existing backstops and volleyball courts); park furnishings (seating, lighting, trash containers, etc.); outdoor wayside exhibits; directional, orientation, and transit-related signs and facilities; and gardens.

### **High-Use Areas**

High-use area would accommodate various well-attended activities, including national celebrations, First Amendment demonstrations, and special events, as well as sightseeing, and spontaneous or sport league recreation. Flexible areas are generally characterized by open turf or hard surfaces. Areas in this zone include Union Square, the central panels on the Mall, and athletic fields (see Table 3).

#### *Desired Cultural Resource Conditions*

Cultural resources include primarily views and vistas or small-scale elements such as light fixtures or benches. These elements are perpetuated to achieve desired conditions.

### *Desired Natural Resource Conditions*

Landscapes are preserved to the desired standard. Shade and ornamental trees may edge open spaces.

### *Desired Visitor Experience / Allowable Activities*

The zone provides the primary space for First Amendment demonstrations, national celebrations, and special events. It also provides opportunities to enjoy views and vistas, along with passive and active outdoor enjoyment within a pleasant atmosphere that may be visually dominated by iconic American memorials. Opportunities for individual or spontaneous uses are generally accommodated. Picnicking, sunning, and relaxing may take place, depending on the location. Organized sports and recreation, such as softball, soccer, or even cricket and polo, may take place in designated and permitted locations. Participants supply needed equipment, activity marking, and cleanup.

Wide ranging use densities are expected in this area. Higher levels of use in the range of 3–50 square feet per person would occur during national celebrations, such as the recent presidential inauguration or a large First Amendment demonstration. Under these circumstances users would expect and tolerate extremely dense crowding. At 3 square feet per person, the experience would be extremely congested, with people standing shoulder-to-shoulder, and this level of use could not be safely sustained for any length of time. Space of 7–10 square feet per person would be typical during most demonstrations or special events and could be sustained for a day or the duration of an event. The desired experiences for sightseeing and general recreation would be in the range of 100 square feet or more per person; at lower densities this would allow for freedom of movement for active recreation or fewer people in viewsheds.

Permits are required for group activities, recreational sport leagues, and special events, as well as First Amendment demonstrations of 25 people or more. The permit process sets specific criteria for each event to ensure that soils, turf, walks, trees, and irrigation systems are not degraded or are restored to the desired standards.

### *Allowable Facilities*

Allowable facilities include paving, pedestrian sidewalks or trails, athletic fields, parking lots, and event infrastructure. Irrigation systems are protected from damage during events.

Temporary facilities would be allowed. It is always preferable to locate temporary facilities on paved surfaces, convenient to access and civic event infrastructure.

## **RESOURCE STANDARDS**

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Standards further define the desired conditions for areas within zones. Five levels of care have been defined to help the National Park Service evaluate whether desired conditions are being achieved within this area.

1. *Level 1* — This first level represents the highest level of care and excellence in maintenance. Grounds would be manicured. Level 1 is appropriate for high-traffic areas, such as public squares and gathering areas, as well as commemorative works or memorials. Based on public scoping for this planning effort, the American public thinks this is the level at which the National Mall should be maintained.
2. *Level 2* — This level represents a very high level of care for public spaces that are primarily vegetated and see a very high volume of use due to special events and demonstrations. This zone may contain lesser known memorials.
3. *Level 3* — Level 3 represents a high level of care associated with locations that have moderate use and that have some maintained turf or naturalized areas. Facilities consist primarily of circulation corridors and small visitor facilities.
4. *Level 4* — This level relates to naturalized or vegetated areas that see some local use along well-maintained paths. There are no memorials or buildings.
5. *Level 5* — The fifth level relates to areas that see little use and require minimal effort to maintain. There are no memorials or buildings.

The first three levels of care will predominate on the National Mall. The levels of care set goals to help park staff assess whether desired conditions are being achieved.

Park staff are developing more detailed standards for each level of care. The more detailed standards for the National Mall are based on the *Operational Guidelines for Grounds Maintenance* (APPA et al. 2001), a set of professional standards used by many organizations across the country to identify various levels of desired conditions for turf, trees, shrub and tree borders, floral plantings, site furnishings, display fountains, and irrigation, as well as various maintenance approaches such as repairs, inspections, pruning, surfaces, litter control, and snow removal. In applying the standards to the National Mall, they have been broadened to include memorials, permanent and temporary facilities, utilities, and construction, as well as grounds maintenance. They incorporate ideas from best practices, past maintenance standards, and those used by other federal entities, such as the Smithsonian Institution, National Gallery of Art, and the Architect of the Capitol.

## USER CAPACITY

The foundations for making user capacity decisions in this plan are the park's purpose, significance, special mandates, and conservation zones. The purpose, significance, and special mandates define why the park was established and identify the most important resources and values that will be protected and provided. The conservation zones describe the desired resource conditions and visitor experiences, including appropriate visitor activities, for different locations throughout the National Mall. As part of the National Park Service's commitment to implementing user capacity, the park staff will abide by these directives for guiding the types and levels of visitor use that will be accommodated while sustaining the quality of park resources and visitor experiences consistent with the purposes of the park.

In addition to these directives, this plan also includes indicators and standards, which are more specific guiding directives that will be used to direct the management of visitor use and can also be monitored to ensure that desired condi-

tions are being achieved. The plan also includes a range of management strategies that would be used to achieve desired conditions.

The appropriate kinds of use were described for each conservation zone and are based on the purposes of the memorials, the sensitivity of resources, and the site characteristics of each area, along with maintenance and programming standards. The appropriate levels of use were also described for each zone and are largely derived from estimates of appropriate use densities for each area. The density of people (the number of square feet per person) in various park settings is an indicator of quality that has been shown to affect perceptions of crowding and visitors' ability to achieve desired intellectual, educational, and recreational outcomes. The standards for user density in this plan range from 3 square feet per person for a large demonstration or historic event like the 2009 inauguration to 10,000 square feet per person for recreational activities like Frisbee or kite flying. At 3 square feet per person people would be standing shoulder-to-shoulder in a highly congested situation that would not be sustainable for more than a few hours. At 10,000 square feet per person the nearest person would be about 100 feet away, and the social experience would be very open, with visitors having ample opportunities for personal contemplative experiences or recreational activities.

User capacities would vary somewhat by alternative because conservation zones would be applied differently depending on the emphasis of a particular alternative. For example, more people could be accommodated under the preferred alternative and alternative B because of flexible spaces that could handle more people and an improved ability to host national celebrations, First Amendment demonstrations, and special events.

The capacity of various park areas was examined by applying several different square footage options per person. Physical capacities are most important for determining the capacities of specific venues for demonstrations, national celebrations, and special events, and these densities range from 3 square feet to 50 square feet per person. A few locations such as the D.C. War Memorial, the Sylvan Theater, or Room 4 in the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial were

planned to accommodate performances or programs, and these areas generally require

more space per person because the audience would typically be seated on chairs or blankets.

**TABLE 3: NATIONAL MALL USER CAPACITIES**

Area	Resource Standard*	Social Standard	Management / Features	Estimated Level of Use (at one time)	Notes
<b>MEMORIAL AREAS</b>					
<b>Ulysses S. Grant Memorial</b>	1	50–200 sq. ft. / person	<i>Traditional Uses:</i> Viewing the memorial, enjoying historic vistas, group photos.	500–2,000 people	
<b>Washington Monument (within the inner circle of flags)</b>	1	200 sq. ft. / person Higher use levels (e.g., 100 sq. ft / person) would result in feelings of congestion.	<i>Official Uses:</i> Annual birthday commemorative ceremony (Feb. 22) <i>Limitations:</i> No demonstrations or special events in the inner circle surrounding the monument, except for the official annual birthday ceremony (36 CFR 7.96).	500 people <i>Monument interior:</i> 80 people at one time.	Tour bus drop-off/pickup and parking; parking for visitors with disabilities.
<b>World War II Memorial</b>	1	200 sq. ft. per person	<i>Traditional Uses:</i> Veterans Day programs.	Not more than 1,800 people	Tour bus drop-off/pickup and parking; parking for visitors with disabilities. Also convenient to Constitution Gardens.
<b>Vietnam Veterans Memorial</b>	1	<i>Memorial wall:</i> 10–50 sq. ft. / person <i>Knoll east of the memorial:</i> 1,000 sq. ft. / person to retain an open character.	<i>Official Uses:</i> Memorial Day and Veterans Day commemorative ceremonies. <i>Limitations:</i> No demonstrations or special events within the memorial boundaries except for official annual Memorial Day and Veterans Day ceremonies (36 CFR 7.96 (g)(3)(ii) (D)). No stages or sound amplification closer than 100 feet from the memorial's boundaries; sound systems to be directed away from the memorial at all times.	<i>Memorial wall:</i> 50–250 people <i>Knoll east of the memorial:</i> 150 people	The lawn south of the wall is used for ceremonies and has the capacity for several thousand, but it is typically set up for only several hundred.
<b>Lincoln Memorial</b>	1	<i>Chamber:</i> 50–200 sq. ft. / person <i>Staircase to lower approachway:</i> 10 sq. ft. / person, allowing aisles.	<i>Official Uses:</i> Annual birthday commemorative ceremony (Feb. 12) <i>Traditional Uses:</i> The staircase may serve as seating for national celebrations, park programs, and events taking place near the reflecting pool. The stairs may also occasionally host small ceremonies and events related to civil rights and the First Amendment. <i>Limitations:</i> No demonstrations or special events at or above the large marble columns surrounding the memorial except for the official birthday ceremony (36 CFR 7.96(g)(3)(ii)(B)).	<i>Chamber:</i> 35–150 people <i>Staircase to lower approachway:</i> 4,000 people	Tour bus drop-off/pickup and parking; parking for visitors with disabilities. Also serves the Vietnam and Korean War veterans memorials.
<b>Korean War Veterans Memorial</b>	1	<i>Walkways:</i> 50–200 sq. ft. / person	<i>Traditional Uses:</i> Armistice Day ceremonies, wreath-laying ceremonies.	<i>Walkways:</i> 80–300 people	Use has never exceeded several hundred. Parking for visitors with disabilities.
<b>Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial</b>	1	To be determined.	To be determined.	To be determined.	
<b>Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial</b>	1	10–200 sq. ft. / person	The memorial is a series of large paved "rooms" that can accommodate higher levels of use because adjacent visual open	400–8,000 people	Tour bus drop-off/pickup and parking; parking for visitors with disabilities. Will

Area	Resource Standard*	Social Standard	Management / Features	Estimated Level of Use (at one time)	Notes
			space creates a more open feeling.		also serve the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial.
<b>George Mason Memorial</b>	1	50–200 sq. ft. / person	Sightseeing and understanding of American history.	25–100 people	Sidewalks and plaza can accommodate higher levels of use because adjacent visual open space creates a more open feeling.
<b>Thomas Jefferson Memorial</b>	1	<i>Chamber:</i> 50–100 sq. ft. / person <i>Stairs / plaza:</i> 10–50 sq. ft. / person	<i>Official Uses:</i> Annual birthday commemorative ceremony (Apr. 13). <i>Traditional Uses:</i> The staircase may serve as seating for events on the plaza. <i>Limitations:</i> No demonstration or special events at or above the circular portion of the memorial enclosed by the outermost series of columns except for the official birthday ceremony (36 CFR 7.96(g)(3)(ii)(C)).	<i>Chamber:</i> 60–120 people <i>Stairs / plaza:</i> 800–4,000 people	The plaza is used for performances and viewing and can accommodate higher use levels. Tour bus drop-off/pickup and parking; parking for visitors with disabilities. Also serves the George Mason Memorial.
<b>CHARACTER PROTECTION</b>					
<b>Mall Elm Tree Panels</b>	1 or 2	For demonstrations (all alternatives) and special events (no-action alternative only) 7 sq. ft. / person. For general enjoyment, 200–1,000 sq. ft. / person.	Crisp formal design characterized by rows of mature elm trees planted every 50 feet in turf to define the primary east-west view corridor (U.S. Capitol to the Washington Monument). Other cultural landscape characteristics include historic site furnishings (seating, lighting).	For demonstrations (all alternatives) and special events (no-action alternative only) — 80,000 people. For general enjoyment, 1,000–7,000 people	
<b>Washington Monument Grounds (above the retaining wall)</b>	1 or 2	7–50 sq. ft. / person	Simple symmetrical layout of walkway circulation and turf emphasizing the monument. Flags and flagpoles characterize this visible orientation point, providing a 360 degree view of the city. Other components include the north-south vista from the White House to the Thomas Jefferson Memorial, the historic adaptively reused Monument Lodge, and the boulevard, along with informal tree plantings.	650–4,000 people	
<b>Constitution Gardens</b>	3	<i>Walks:</i> 10–100 sq. ft. / person. <i>Hillsides:</i> 200–1,000 sq. ft. / person	Informal character with undulating tree-covered enclosed terrain and meandering walkways. Direct views of the Washington Monument from around the lake; secondary views from various locations within the site, including the 56 Signers of the Declaration of Independence Memorial.	<i>Walks:</i> 200–2,000 people <i>Hillsides:</i> 800–4,000 people	Because of many trees, a density of 50 sq. ft. / person would feel very crowded. Walks can absorb higher use levels with 100 sq. ft. / person still retaining the informal garden character.
<b>Lincoln Memorial Grounds</b>					
• Inside Lincoln Circle	1 or 2	NA	The elevated memorial dominates viewsheds east to the Washington Monument and the U.S. Capitol and southwest to Arlington National Cemetery.		Little use occurs in area.
• Reflecting Pool	1 or 2	3–200 sq. ft. / person	Symmetrically laid out shady elm walkways flank the reflecting pool and frame vistas both to the east (the World War II Memorial) and	2,000–90,000 people	

Area	Resource Standard*	Social Standard	Management / Features	Estimated Level of Use (at one time)	Notes
			the west (the Lincoln Memorial) and emphasize the most direct circulation pattern. Formal layout contrasts with the informal tree plantings north and south of the walkways.		
• Watergate Area	2	200 sq. ft. / person	The setting of the Watergate steps provides a formal western foreground to the Lincoln Memorial, as well as a formal entrance to the city, with the <i>Arts of Peace</i> and the <i>Arts of War</i> sculptures. Informal tree plantings on a grassy hillside provide glimpses to the Potomac River and Arlington National Cemetery. The riverfront has a formal atmosphere characterized by high-quality construction and the stone river walls and the Constitution Avenue belvedere, as well as the Watergate Steps.	20 people	
<b>D.C. War Memorial</b>	<i>Memorial: 1 Surrounding landscape: 2</i>	<i>Memorial: 10 sq. ft. / person Paved areas: 10 sq. ft. / person</i>	The small, classical marble memorial set within a heavily wooded area may host small performances and special events (including weddings).	<i>Memorial: 100 people Paved areas: 375 people</i>	
<b>Ash Woods</b>	3	10,000 sq. ft. / person	Generally level terrain characterized by naturalized dense woods that provide separation from traffic on Independence Avenue. The woods enclose the central east-west vistas and border secondary views along the JFK hockey fields.	50 people	While the woods could absorb higher levels of use, more than 50 people at one time would alter the naturalized dense wood character.
<b>West Potomac Park Riverfront</b>	2 or 3	100–1,000 sq. ft. / person	River views dominated by a serene, parklike setting and the recreational and pleasurable nature of most boating. The south end has an informal atmosphere characterized by the gentle slope to the Potomac River, with informally planted flowering trees closer to the river bordered by taller shade trees.	60–600 people	
<b>Tidal Basin and Walkways</b>	1 or 2	<i>Walks: 3–50 sq. ft. / person</i>	Informal, undulating naturalistic water edge bordered by flowering cherry trees that sometimes overhang walks and water. The dominating visual element is the Thomas Jefferson Memorial. Other views from land, bridges, and water include the Washington Monument and glimpses into the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial.	<i>Walks: 1,800–25,000 people If walks doubled in width, 3,600–50,000 people</i>	
<b>Thomas Jefferson Memorial</b>	1	<i>Stairs / plaza: 10–50 sq. ft. / person</i>	The primary planned view is the north-south view between the White House and the Thomas Jefferson Memorial. From the plaza north of the memorial, the U.S. Capitol can also be seen.	<i>Stairs / plaza: 800–4,000 people</i>	
<b>MULTIPURPOSE AREAS</b>					
<b>Washington Monument Grounds (below</b>	2	10–50 sq. ft. / person <i>Sylvan Theater:</i>	Tree canopies; north-south vista between the White House and the Thomas Jefferson Memorial,	500–2,500 people <i>Sylvan Theater: 4,000–15,000</i>	

Area	Resource Standard*	Social Standard	Management / Features	Estimated Level of Use (at one time)	Notes
the retaining wall)		10–50 sq. ft. / person	historic Survey Lodge, and Sylvan Theater.	people	
Constitution Gardens	2	10–50 sq. ft. / person	Informal, undulating tree-covered terrain and curving walkways, views focused to and from lake that is in a bowl; 56 Signer of the Declaration of Independence Memorial. Secondary views of the Washington Monument and glimpses to the World War II Memorial, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, and Constitution Avenue.	600–1,200 people 20,000 people if the lake area was reconstructed to be drainable (alternative B).	
Lincoln Circle and Radial Roads / Water-gate Area	3	50 sq. ft. / person	Tree canopy. Sloping terrain bisected by roadways make use of the area impractical for large events.	4,400	Recreation fields (volleyball courts, baseball/softball fields)
Tidal Basin	2	10–100 sq. ft. / person	Parking and food services areas. Flowering trees and perennial gardens, secondary views.	500–5,000 people	
<b>HIGH-USE AREAS</b>					
Union Square	1	<i>Paved areas:</i> 3–10 sq. ft. / person	No traditional or required ceremonies. Hard-surface area can absorb higher levels of use.	<i>Paved areas:</i> 30,000–100,000 people (or 50,000–290,000 if pool was drainable)	
Mall Center Panels	2	3–50 sq. ft. / person	No recreational league sport fields identified. Additional regulation to provide fair use of a limited resource; possible incentives to relocate events. Equitable use among events, restoration, open recreational use, and general visitation. Strong events monitoring program of indicators and standards.	30,000–500,000 people	
<b>Washington Monument Grounds</b>					
• North of Independence Avenue and west of 15th Street	2	3–50 sq. ft. / person	Fields identified for permitted recreation sport league use. Strong events monitoring program of indicators and standards	43,000–700,000 people	
• South of Independence Avenue	3	100–1,000 sq. ft. / person	Goal posts provided; area primarily used for recreation.	60–600 people	
JFK Hockey Fields	3	7–100 sq. ft. / person	Fields identified for permitted recreation league use. Infrequent use for permitted events.	4,500–60,000 people	
FDR Ballfields / Polo Grounds	3	<i>FDR ballfields:</i> 7–100 sq. ft. / person <i>Polo grounds:</i> 7–100 sq. ft. / person	Permanent backstops provided in some locations. Regularly used as a staging area and for starting footraces and charity walks. Polo grounds sometimes used for special events and a staging area for commercial filming FDR ballfields used primarily for local recreational league sports.	<i>FDR ballfields:</i> 10,000–120,000 people <i>Polo grounds:</i> 7,000–100,000 people	

NOTE: The social standard is based on the highest number of people that would be acceptable in terms of maintaining the desired visitor experience.

\* Level 1 — the highest level of care and excellence in maintenance.

Level 2 — a very high level of care for public spaces that are primarily vegetated and see a very high volume of use due to special events and demonstrations.

Level 3 — a high level of care associated with locations that have moderate levels of use and that have some maintained turf or naturalized areas.

## MONITORING AND ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

Monitoring use is critical to determining if and when standards are not being met. Different monitoring programs would be developed for normal visitation and permitted activities. Additionally, the National Park Service would continue to improve visitation counting methodologies. NPS staff would continue regularly gathering information in annual visitor surveys and authorized surveys, and undertaking assessments of various activities to determine if improvements could be made to either visitor experiences or resource conditions.

Social monitoring at memorials would track normal visitation and would examine whether desired conditions were being met or exceeded. When it was evident over an extended period (weeks, months, or seasons) that the desired memorial experiences could not be achieved and that general use levels were being consistently exceeded, the National Park Service would identify adaptive management techniques to mitigate adverse effects on visitor experiences. Elements of visitor experiences that would be desirable to maintain include ease of access, along with opportunities for contemplation, education, photography, seeing or reading memorial elements, and enjoying a memorial.

The monitoring of permitted activities would track and compile use and impact data related to First Amendment gatherings, national celebrations, special events, and commercial filming. Monitoring would include tracking events, event days, and locations; estimated sizes of events and general accuracy of estimates; weather conditions and temperatures; related planning documents; and fees, bonds, and permit compliance. Monitoring would also use pre- and post-permitted activity checklists, photo records, and pre- and post-permitted activity testing of equipment, such as irrigation systems and other utilities, or soil conditions and compaction as needed, depending on location, season, and size of an event. In addition the National Park

Service would use incentive programs and acknowledgments to encourage shorter, low-impact, green, and sustainable permitted activities.

When standards were not being met because of permitted activities, the following types of steps could be taken to mitigate impacts:

- revise the required recovery periods after permitted activities to shorten the permitted activity or its setup and takedown time
- require longer recovery periods between special events and national celebrations
- track and enforce compliance with permit conditions
- modify regulations for national celebrations, special events, and commercial filming (not First Amendment gatherings)
- increase bonding and cost recovery

If measures such as these were not effective, more stringent restoration measures could be recommended or required.

The National Park Service would also undertake more detailed implementation plans to lay out how to achieve desired resource conditions. Progress in meeting these conditions would be monitored as part of annual work plans. Plans would include the following:

- a soils management and restoration plan to rebuild healthy soils and describe appropriate soil treatment programs and schedules for areas within the National Mall
- a plan to preserve and restore special status vegetation, such as trees, turf, and other vegetation that is part of the historic landscape, including methods to increase onsite plant biomass and to reduce the carbon footprint
- a sustainable water management plan to address onsite water quality, irrigation, water cleansing, minimized use of potable water, ornamental water features, graywater use, and stormwater management



# ACTIONS COMMON TO ALL ALTERNATIVES

## A Vision for the National Mall — Enriching Your American Experience

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 America’s civic stage. This historic open space with its planned vistas provides 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. For more than 200 years it has symbolized our nation and its democratic values, which have inspired the world. “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.

Actions related to historic and natural resources of the National Mall, as well as current conditions and uses for First Amendment demonstrations, national celebrations, special events, and recreation, are described in this section. Actions that will be taken under all alternatives, such as visitor activities, access and circulation, public health and safety, and park operations, are also described.

After the plan is completed and approved, other, more detailed studies and plans might be needed to implement specific actions. The National Park Service will carry out additional compliance as required with the National Environmental Policy Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, and other relevant laws and policies, as well as consultation and public involvement. The additional studies and consultation that may be needed are listed in the “Consultation and Coordination” portion of the document.

To comply with its mandate to manage the lands under its stewardship “in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations” (16 USC 1), the National Park Service routinely evaluates and applies mitigating measures whenever conditions could adversely affect the sustainability of national park system resources.

The National Park Service would conduct appropriate environmental review as required by the National Environmental Policy Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, and other relevant legislation for any future actions. As part of the environmental review, the National Park Service would avoid, minimize, and mitigate adverse impacts when possible.

Mitigating measures and best management practices would be used to avoid or minimize potential impacts on cultural and natural resources from construction activities, use by visitors, and NPS operations. These measures are described below under “Cultural Resources” and “Natural Resources” and would apply to all alternatives.

## NATIONAL MALL ACTIONS

### Cultural Resources

#### Common Actions

Cultural resources would continue to be preserved and would be managed in accordance with *The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties for Preserving, Rehabilitating, Restoring, and Reconstructing Historic Buildings* (NPS 1995) and *The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes* (NPS 1996c). The D.C. Historic Preservation Office would be consulted in the preservation, restoration, adaptive reuse, or rehabilitation of any cultural resource.

Current laws and policies require that the National Park Service take the following actions to meet its legal and policy requirements:

- Complete and regularly update cultural landscape inventories.
- Regularly update/certify the list of classified structures.
- Periodically update the National Register of Historic Places nominations for all national register properties.

- Treat all structures as eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places pending a formal determination by the National Park Service and the D.C. Historic Preservation Office, as appropriate, as to their eligibility.
- Determine, implement, and maintain the appropriate level of preservation for each historic property formally determined or considered eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (subject to *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards*).
- Before modifying any historic property found eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, consult with the D.C. Historic Preservation Office and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, as required.

### **Mitigating Measures**

To the greatest extent possible, the National Park Service would preserve and protect resources that reflect human occupation of the National Mall. Specific mitigating measures would include the following:

- Continue to inventory and research archeological, historic, and ethnographic resources, as well as cultural landscapes, to better understand and manage the resources. Continue to follow federal regulations and NPS guidelines in managing cultural resources and collections.
- Avoid adverse impacts by applying *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Archeology and Historic Preservation*. If adverse impacts were unavoidable, mitigate them through consultation with all interested parties.
- Document structures to be adaptively reused according to the standards of the Historic American Buildings Survey / Historic American Engineering Record as defined in the *Re-engineering Proposal* (October 1, 1997).
- Wherever possible, place pathways and sidewalks, parking areas, and other facilities in previously disturbed areas or in existing developed areas. Design facilities to avoid

known or suspected archeological resources.

- Complete project-specific archeological inventories before final decisions on project location and before finalizing construction designs.
- Conduct archeological site monitoring during construction. If protection or site avoidance during design and construction was infeasible, conduct data recovery excavations at archeological sites threatened with destruction. Should archeological resources be discovered, all work in the immediate vicinity of the discovery would be halted until the resources could be identified and documented and an appropriate mitigation strategy developed in consultation with the D.C. Historic Preservation Office.

### **Natural Resources**

#### **Common Actions**

Water quality problems in designed water features would continue to be addressed. Soils and vegetation health would be managed to improve appearance. Technologies supported by scientifically sound research will be included for consideration to improve turf conditions and determine best management practices. Regional coordination on urban wildlife issues, such as Canada geese, would be continued with other national park system units, other federal agencies, and the city. Threatened or endangered species would be protected.

No additional management actions would be taken by the National Park Service to improve air quality.

#### **Mitigating Measures**

The National Park Service would preserve and protect, to the greatest extent possible, the natural resources of the National Mall. Mitigating measures intended to reduce or eliminate adverse effects on natural resources could include the following. Additional mitigating measures for natural resources are listed in appendix B:

- **Air Quality** — A dust abatement program would be implemented. Standard dust abatement measures could include the following elements: water or otherwise stabilize soil, cover haul trucks, employ speed limits on unpaved roads, minimize vegetation clearing, and revegetate after construction. Vegetation and the tree canopy would be increased to reduce the carbon footprint. Sustainable management, planting, and rehabilitation of existing vegetation would be implemented to increase carbon sequestration capability.

- **Water Resources** — To prevent water pollution during construction, best management practices would be used, such as erosion control measures, minimized discharge to water bodies, and regular inspection of construction equipment for leaks of petroleum and other chemicals. The use of heavy equipment would be minimized in a waterway.

A runoff filtration system would be designed and installed to minimize water pollution from larger parking areas. Both structural and bioremediation (fungi, microorganisms, higher plants) options would be considered.

- **Wetlands** — Wetlands would be delineated by qualified NPS staff or certified wetlands specialists, and they would be clearly marked before construction work. Construction activities would be performed in a cautious manner to prevent damage caused by equipment, erosion, siltation, etc.
- **Soils** — New facilities would be built on soil suitable for development. Soil erosion would be minimized by limiting the time that soil is left exposed and by applying other erosion control measures such as erosion matting, silt fencing, and sedimentation basins in construction areas to reduce erosion, surface scouring, and discharge to water bodies. Once work is completed, construction areas would be revegetated in a timely period.
- **Vegetation** — Areas used by visitors (e.g., trails) would be monitored for signs of vegetation disturbance. Public education, revegetation of disturbed areas, erosion

control measures, and barriers would be used to control potential impacts on plants from trail erosion or social paths.

- **Wildlife** — Techniques would be used where necessary to reduce impacts on wildlife, including visitor education programs, restrictions on visitor activities, and park ranger patrols.

A natural resource protection program would be implemented. Standard measures would include construction scheduling, biological monitoring, erosion and sediment control, the use of fencing or other means to protect sensitive resources adjacent to construction, the removal of all food-related items or rubbish, topsoil salvage, and revegetation. This could include specific construction monitoring by resource specialists as well as treatment and reporting procedures.

- **Threatened and Endangered Species and Species of Concern** — Mitigation actions would occur during normal park operations as well as before, during, and after construction to minimize immediate and long-term impacts on rare, threatened, or endangered species. These actions would vary by specific project and area affected, and additional mitigation would be added depending on the specific action and location. Many of the measures listed above for vegetation and wildlife would also benefit rare, threatened, or endangered species by helping preserve habitat. Mitigation actions specific to these species would include the following:

- Conduct surveys for rare, threatened, or endangered species as warranted.
- Locate and design facilities and actions to avoid adverse effects on rare, threatened, or endangered species. If avoidance was infeasible, minimize and compensate for adverse effects as appropriate and in consultation with the appropriate resource agencies. Conduct work outside of critical periods for specific species.
- Develop and implement restoration and/or monitoring plans as warranted. Plans should include methods for implementation, performance standards, mon-

itoring criteria, and adaptive management techniques.

- Implement measures to reduce the adverse impacts of nonnative plants and wildlife on rare, threatened, or endangered species.

## **The Civic Stage: Demonstrations, Special Events, and National Celebrations**

The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution provides for freedom of expression as a right of citizens. The National Mall is the most prominent space in our country for the demonstration of these rights, and that is an essential purpose of the National Mall. Areas where national symbols are prominent backdrops are especially popular locations for demonstrations. Consistent with the First Amendment and federal regulations, demonstrations will continue to be fully accommodated on a first-come, first-served basis throughout the National Mall. Federal regulations (36 CFR 7.96) define allowable areas and activities at the Lincoln Memorial, Washington Monument, Jefferson Memorial, and Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Demonstrations, special events, and national celebrations are defined differently (see page 16), and proposed alternative actions related to special events and national celebrations may not apply to demonstrations.

The National Park Service would seek to improve permit procedures for special events and First Amendment demonstrations. Also, monitoring procedures would be enhanced to ensure that resources are better protected and that soil, turf, and vegetation impacts were reduced. The Park Service would continue to work with the Environmental Protection Agency on guidelines for ensuring sustainable, low-impact events.

## **Access and Circulation**

Access and circulation through the National Mall and surrounding downtown areas is part of the urban experience in Washington, D.C. There is a large regional bicycle-riding population that commutes and engages in recreational riding. Bicyclists commute through the park from Virginia and Maryland. Within the park they use

multipurpose walks, which are also used by pedestrians and recreational bicycle riders. The city's *Bicycle Master Plan* identifies improved bicycle access and facilities. The National Park Service has also instituted a work-related employee bike-sharing program that would continue.

Existing tour bus drop-off and pickup locations would remain and would be improved where possible, including provisions for waste management. The National Park Service would continue to work with the D.C. Department of Transportation and other city agencies to address tour bus parking. No changes are planned for taxi stands.

## **Visitor Information, Education, and Enjoyment**

Visitor information is currently provided by the National Park Service online and in brochures. Maps would continue to be upgraded, and park websites would be improved. Park staff would work with professional tour guide groups and others to disseminate accurate, engaging information. NPS educational programs would be focused on the memorials as symbols of democracy and the history of the national capital. Living history programs and other special programs would continue to be offered by the park in some locations. Opportunities for entertainment at venues such as at the Sylvan Theater, the D.C. War Memorial, the lower approachway to the Lincoln Memorial, and the Thomas Jefferson Memorial plaza would continue.

The National Park Service and others would continue to offer guided walking and bicycling tours. Efforts would be made to incorporate technological advances to further diversify educational offerings, including programs and handouts related to national celebrations, anniversaries, and special events.

Recreational activities such as walking, picnicking, reading, sunning, kite flying, Frisbee, volleyball, softball, kickball, and playing would continue throughout the National Mall. Seasonal ice-skating occurs on natural ice when conditions permit. Permitted league sports would continue where authorized. Current

commercial activities, such as seasonal paddle-boat rentals at the Tidal Basin, would continue.

### Visitor Amenities

The park would assess the economic feasibility, necessity, and appropriateness of additional food service, retail, and recreation equipment rentals. Based on this assessment, the park would determine the service types and levels that would be offered. Commercial service would be offered using available authorities. Currently authorized visitor services would be continued.

### Health, Public Safety, and Security

Existing law enforcement patrols would be continued. Law enforcement presence is currently increased during large events.

The National Park Service would work with the General Services Administration to permanently resolve public safety and health issues related to the steam tunnel and vent system that crosses under the National Mall.

### Park Operations

The National Mall has a significant backlog of deferred maintenance projects (repairs) and related capital improvements. Projects would be undertaken to reduce the backlog. A visual quality team would be continued to identify high-profile problems and concerns that would be addressed promptly by a quick response team.

In addition to ongoing maintenance and repairs, restrooms would be cleaned and trash containers emptied at least twice daily. In-park communication systems would be upgraded. The National Park Service would develop a solid waste and recycling plan to incorporate best practices for collection, retrieval, storage, and hauling in order to expand recycling, reduce waste hauled to landfills, compost green waste, and reuse materials as much as possible. Key criteria for a suite of equipment and containers would be identified, along with the best locations for containers, routes for mechanized and manual retrieval, appropriate collection vehicles, schedule options, and implementation phasing.

A public educational component would also be included.

To help meet NPS energy goals, energy-efficient bulbs that are compatible with the historic scene would be used in the more than 20,000 light fixtures on the National Mall. In addition, sustainable forms of transportation (such as electric cars) would be increasingly used for park operations. Water features would be designed or retrofitted to be sustainable, and durable, easy-to-use, standardized pumping systems would be installed.

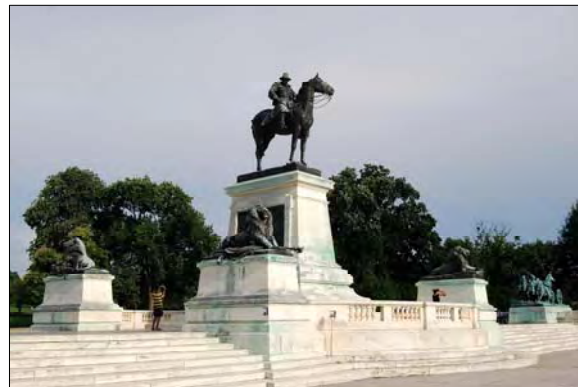
The National Park Service has several agreements to facilitate park management. The purpose of these arrangements with authorized private and public partners, nonprofit organizations, and volunteers is to support park goals, provide service, supplement park staff, or undertake specific projects. These partnerships and agreements would continue.

## THE MALL

### Union Square (1st to 3rd Streets)

The 11.4-acre Union Square, with its presidential memorial to Ulysses S. Grant, will remain an essential civic space in the immediate vicinity of the legislative branch of government, and it will continue to provide opportunities for demonstrations and events. Consistent with the First Amendment and federal regulations, demonstrations will continue to be fully accommodated on a first-come, first-served basis. Special events and national celebrations will be accommodated in accordance with federal regulations and co-

FIGURE 13: ULYSSES S. GRANT MEMORIAL



Looking southeast toward the Grant Memorial.

ordinated with the Architect of the Capitol as necessary.

### **The Mall (3rd to 14th Streets)**

The Mall will remain the designed promenade west of the U. S. Capitol, featuring expansive green lawns (the formal French *tapis verte* or green carpet) bordered by formal rows of American elm trees that frame vistas to and from the Capitol, a fundamental concept of the L'Enfant and McMillan plans. Consistent with the First Amendment and federal regulations, demonstrations will continue to be fully accommodated on a first-come, first-served basis. Special events will also be accommodated, consistent with federal regulations.

The most popular transit entrance to the National Mall is the Smithsonian Metro station. The National Park Service would work with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority to add the National Mall to the station name.

**FIGURE 15: THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT**



The Washington Monument from near the Sylvan Theater.

**FIGURE 14: THE MALL**



Looking east on the Mall to the United States Capitol.

## **WASHINGTON MONUMENT AND GROUNDS**

### **Washington Monument**

One of the five presidential memorials on the National Mall, the Washington Monument will continue to be a historic character-defining feature and the visual orientation point for Washington, D.C. Hours at the monument would be extended until 10 p.m. to allow more people to visit.

### **Washington Monument Grounds**

The grounds of the Washington Monument extend from Constitution Avenue on the north to Maine Avenue on the south, and from 14th Street on the east to 17th Street on the west. The German-American Friendship Garden is at the north edge of grounds on Constitution Avenue, across from the Ellipse. Consistent with the First Amendment and federal regulations, demonstrations will continue to be fully accommodated on a first-come, first-served basis on the Washington Monument grounds north of Independence Avenue. Special events and national celebrations will also be accommodated, consistent with federal regulations, and recreational activities will be allowed. Roadways bisect the south grounds, separating the monument and the Tidal Basin.



## WEST POTOMAC PARK (NORTH OF INDEPENDENCE AVENUE)

### World War II Memorial

The World War II Memorial commemorates the sacrifices, achievements, and activities of a major event of the mid-20th century, both at home and in the Atlantic and Pacific theaters. It was constructed around the historic Rainbow Pool. Living history is occasionally provided, along with programs on Veterans Day and Memorial Day. Wreaths are not permitted in front of the Freedom Wall, which encompasses the Field of Gold Stars (NPS 2006f). The memorial provides parking and drop-off for visitors with disabilities, and wheelchairs are provided. No major actions are planned for this memorial.

### Constitution Gardens

Constitution Gardens was developed for the Bicentennial and was intended for 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, and it provides a pastoral setting for passive recreation and a respite as visitors travel between memorials. Consistent with the First Amendment and federal regulations, demonstrations will continue to be fully accommodated on a first-come, first-served basis. Special events will also be allowed, consistent with federal regulations.

Present public access and parking would remain on Constitution Avenue, including tour bus

**FIGURE 17: CONSTITUTION GARDENS**



Looking from the island in Constitution Gardens Lake with the Memorial to the 56 Signers of the Declaration of Independence to the left.

**FIGURE 16: WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL**



Looking south across the Rainbow Pool at the World War II Memorial.

drop-off and parking spaces. Ice-skating is allowed on natural ice when conditions are safe.

### Vietnam Veterans Memorial

The 5.8-acre Vietnam Veterans Memorial honors those who served during this conflict. As previously noted, an underground memorial center will be constructed by others west of Henry Bacon Drive. Rangers and volunteers would continue to lead living history and educational programs. Catalogs listing the names on the wall are provided in several locations. Wayside exhibits provide additional information.

**FIGURE 18: VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL**



Looking west toward the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Except for official annual Memorial Day and Veterans Day commemorative ceremonies, federal regulations prohibit demonstrations and special events in certain areas of the memorial. First Amendment demonstration sites related to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial (small structures with displays) are present along the sidewalk of the Lincoln Memorial.

Under all alternatives circulation patterns and related pedestrian amenities (lighting, name catalogs, post-and-chain fencing) would be examined once the new Vietnam Veterans Memorial Center has been constructed.

### Lincoln Memorial and Grounds

One of the five presidential memorials on the National Mall, the Lincoln Memorial will continue to be a historic, character-defining feature and the visual western terminus of the National Mall. The presidential memorial will remain a highly visited area also associated with civil rights history as well as the contributions of our 16th president. Consistent with the First Amendment, federal regulations, and the 2009 *Guidelines for Special Events and Demonstrations*, demonstrations will continue to be fully accommodated on a first-come, first-served basis. Special events and national celebrations will also continue to be allowed, consistent with federal regulations.

The memorial exhibit area and restrooms, which are on the lower level, would be renovated. The bookstore would be relocated from the chamber level to the lower level.

**FIGURE 19: LINCOLN MEMORIAL**



The Lincoln Memorial and steps.

The historic landscape design retains a great deal of integrity with existing plant materials, the elm walkways, and radial plantings around the base of the memorial and at the Watergate steps. The recommendations of the Lincoln Memorial *Cultural Landscape Report*, which seek to protect the historic design, would be implemented under all alternatives.

The Lincoln Memorial grounds include three component cultural landscapes: the reflecting pool, the memorial circle and roads, and the Watergate area. The reflecting pool area also contains the north and south elm walkways and the lower approachway (staircase to the reflecting pool).

The historic landscape associated with the memorial circle and radial roads would be rehabilitated. Existing public access and parking would be maintained, including tour bus drop-offs, parking for visitors with disabilities, and taxi stands.

The Watergate area is on the west edge of the National Mall and includes historic features and recreation areas (volleyball and softball). Adjacent to and north of Constitution Avenue is Braddock's Memorial Rock Well, which is within intertwined nonhistoric access roads for Rock Creek Parkway, the Kennedy Center parking area, U.S. Highways 50 and 66, and the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Bridge.

The historic features of the Watergate steps, the Constitution Avenue belvedere, the John Ericsson Memorial, and the *Arts of Peace* statues would be maintained. In cooperation with other national park system units, Arlington Memorial Bridge and the *Arts of War* statues will be maintained. Portions of the area, which are outside the Reserve that was designated by Congress, have been identified in the NCP *Memorials and Museums Master Plan* for future national commemorative sites. The National Park Service would accommodate future national memorials authorized by Congress, reinforcing that this is a commemorative landscape. The condition of volleyball courts and softball fields would be improved.

This area also serves as a major vehicular gateway to the city and the National Mall from Virginia and Maryland. Road projects and



**FIGURE 20: KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL**



Looking west at the Korean War Veterans Memorial.

circulation improvements by others would be accommodated to simplify traffic patterns and to improve pedestrian connections from the Kennedy Center and adjacent neighborhoods.

### **Korean War Veterans Memorial**

The Korean War Veterans Memorial commemorates the veterans and international coalition that fought the Korean War in the 1950s. Living history programs and annual special events at the memorial would continue.

### **D.C. War Memorial**

The D.C. War Memorial primarily commemorates city residents' involvement in World War I. It is in a pleasant wooded setting with flowering trees and shrubs, and it was also designed to serve as a bandstand. Current use for small events would continue.

### **Ash Woods**

Ash Woods, which is between Independence Avenue and Ash Road, was planned to be a naturalized, thickly wooded area with little understory vegetation, and this appearance would be maintained. The area contains the U.S. Park Police stables, a restroom, and recreation fields.

## **WEST POTOMAC PARK (SOUTH OF INDEPENDENCE AVENUE)**

### **Tidal Basin Area**

The Tidal Basin area, a designed water area of a little more than 100 acres, is the beautiful setting for several memorials, cherry trees that were a gift from Japan, historic monuments, and visitor amenities. It provides spectacular views, as well as reflected views, of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial and the Washington Monument.

Consistent with the First Amendment and federal regulations, demonstrations will continue to be fully accommodated on a first-come, first-served basis. National celebrations and special events will also be allowed, consistent with federal regulations.

Measures would be taken to reduce trampling, compaction, and erosion near the cherry trees, including the installation of post-and-chain fencing in some areas. Visitors would be educated about how they can help reduce damage to the trees.

Visitor enjoyment is primarily informal recreation, such as enjoying views, picnicking, and strolling along the Tidal Basin walks. Seasonal paddleboat rentals are provided on the east side of the Tidal Basin. These activities would continue under all alternatives.

**FIGURE 21: THE D.C. WAR MEMORIAL**



The D.C. War Memorial is within Ash Woods.

## Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial

One of five presidential memorials on the National Mall, this memorial tells important stories of mid-20th century history — the Great Depression, the Roosevelt presidential legacy, and World War II. Based on Roosevelt’s four terms as president, the memorial is subtly divided into four outdoor rooms; Room 4 was designed for programs. Existing public access and parking will continue. West Basin Drive will be realigned when the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial is built to the north. Visitor amenities, including an information station, bookstore, and two restroom facilities, would be maintained and updated as needed.

### West Potomac Park Riverfront

Stretching south from the John Ericsson Memorial to the I-395 corridor, the Potomac Riverfront includes the First Air Mail Flight plaque, cherry trees, walks, views, and parking. This is primarily an informal area. Athletic fields are east of Ohio Drive. The riverfront trail system connects to Georgetown and East Potomac Park, as well as to the National Mall.

Informal or passive recreation, such as picnicking, play, and walking, would continue. Ballfields west of the Tidal Basin are highly sought after for league and recreational games. The fields are occasionally used for special events, as well as a staging area for events and commercial filming, and these uses would continue.

**FIGURE 23: THOMAS JEFFERSON MEMORIAL**



The south side of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial.

**FIGURE 22: FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT MEMORIAL**



Room 4 at the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial.

### George Mason Memorial

The memorial to this founding father emphasizes the rights of citizens in a democracy and is built around an existing historic fountain. It contains perennial gardens. The historic fountain would be rehabilitated to improve water quality.

### Thomas Jefferson Memorial

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. This memorial to our third president includes the terrace wall and related plantings, the circular terrace roadway, and the north plaza. Exhibits, a bookstore, information, and restrooms would continue inside the memorial. Educational information about Thomas Jefferson would continue to be provided.

Consistent with the First Amendment and federal regulations, demonstrations will continue to be fully accommodated on a first-come, first-served basis. National celebrations and special events will also be allowed, consistent with federal regulations.

The memorial grounds include 19.2 acres immediately south of the Tidal Basin, with tall shade trees and cherry trees. Historic plantings would be preserved. A refreshment stand is located south of the memorial near the tour bus parking area.

# THE ALTERNATIVES

## **THE NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE — CONTINUE CURRENT MANAGEMENT**

The no-action alternative describes how current management would be continued, and it identifies those plans and actions already moving forward. Park staff would continue standard maintenance activities and undertake deferred maintenance projects as funding permits. The following is a summary of actions that would occur under this alternative. All actions that would be taken under this alternative are listed in Table 7. Because this alternative outlines existing conditions, it serves as a baseline to compare the action alternatives.

All actions described below would be in addition to those under “Actions Common to All Alternatives” and highlighted in the accompanying text box. Only areas where actions would be taken are included in the following discussion.

### **National Mall Actions**

#### ***Cultural Resources***

In addition to the actions common to all alternatives, views and vistas within the historic landscape would be recognized, including large areas of unprogrammed open space.

#### ***Natural Resources***

No actions beyond those described in “Actions Common to All Alternatives” would be taken.

#### ***Demonstrations, Special Events, and National Celebrations***

No actions beyond those described in “Actions Common to All Alternatives” would be taken.

#### ***Access and Circulation***

Various means of circulation within the National Mall would continue for different users (public transit, tour buses, taxis, commuters, pedestrians, and bicycle riders). The NPS visitor transportation system would be replaced when the current contract expires. No changes would be made to visitor parking or public access.

### **Actions Common to All Alternatives**

As previously described, the following summarized actions are common to all alternatives:

- *Cultural Resources* — Preserve and protect cultural resources; manage in accordance with *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards* and with the general recommendations of cultural landscape reports and inventories.
- *Natural Resources* — Continue to manage and protect natural resources. Address water quality problems in water features.
- *Demonstrations and Special Events* — Consistent with the First Amendment and federal regulations, fully accommodate demonstrations on a first-come, first-served basis. Consistent with federal regulations, accommodate special events. Improve permit procedures for special events and First Amendment demonstrations. Enhance monitoring procedures to ensure that resources are better protected and that soil, turf, and vegetation impacts are reduced.
- *Access and Circulation* — Continue working with the city and other agencies to address tour bus parking.
- *Visitor Information, Education, and Enjoyment* — Continue to offer visitor information, educational programs, venues for entertainment, guided walking and bicycle tours, and a mix of recreational activities.
- *Visitor Amenities* — Assess the economic feasibility, necessity, and appropriateness of changes to commercial visitors services and facilities.
- *Health, Public Safety, and Security* — Continue law enforcement patrols and increase a law enforcement presence during large events.
- *Park Operations* — Make waste management more efficient; expand recycling at events; continue a visual quality team to improve conditions and the appearance of park facilities; and meet NPS energy efficiency goals.

### **Visitor Information, Education, and Enjoyment**

No actions beyond those described in “Actions Common to All Alternatives” would be taken.

### **Visitor Amenities**

The present variety of architectural styles for visitor amenities and site furnishings on the National Mall would continue. Various types of paving (including gravel, asphalt, concrete, brick, stone, and concrete pavers) would be maintained, repaired, and replaced as budgets allow. The National Park Service would work with the Commission of Fine Arts to retain the existing character of lighting. Present restroom, drinking fountains, and seating would remain.

### **Health, Public Safety, and Security**

Highly used areas with many different activities (such as bicycle use on sidewalks or softball games near areas where people are picnicking) would continue.

Present street crossing times would remain, as would existing pathway lighting, furnishings, and paving materials. U.S. Park Police and ranger staff would continue to notify visitors of emergency situations, including severe weather conditions.

The National Park Service would continue to reduce opportunities for illegal camping and the misuse of public facilities through staff oversight (law enforcement rangers as well as maintenance personnel).

Public information and emergency announcements would continue to be made by park police and ranger staff. Improved mass notification methods would be researched.

### **Park Operations**

Deferred maintenance would be addressed as budgets and staffing allow. Park standards, which are dated and limited in scope, would continue to be used. Current programs to make facilities sustainable would be continued, including designing any new facilities to incorporate sustainable systems. Operational access for vehicles would remain limited in some areas.

In accordance with the turf management record of decision, half of the Mall (3rd to 14th streets) would continue to be closed every other winter for restoration. Efforts would be made to reduce the use of snow fencing to restrict access to areas for security or resource rehabilitation.

For events, temporary communication systems would be installed as needed.

## **The Mall**

### **Union Square (1st to 3rd Streets)**

The Grant Memorial and the Capitol Reflecting Pool would continue to be the focal point of the east end of the National Mall, the foreground of the U.S. Capitol. Union Square would remain a popular location for demonstrations and special events.

The Grant Memorial would be maintained, and the historic features of the landscape would be preserved. Existing facilities would be maintained, but no additional facilities (such as seating, restrooms, or food service), infrastructure for demonstrations or special events, or information would be provided.

### **The Mall (3rd to 14th Streets)**

The Mall would continue to serve as an extremely popular venue for demonstrations, special events, cultural activities, and other civic events.

The components of the historic landscape from the L'Enfant and McMillan plans that still have integrity would be preserved. Soils compacted by repeated events would remain. Half of the Mall would be rested every other winter for restoration, and new management techniques for lawn areas would be studied. American elm trees would be replaced as needed. Nonhistoric plantings of other trees (elms, bald cypress, cedar, and oak) would be maintained.

A temporary visitor contact station would continue to be provided, and orientation maps and information would be improved near the Metro stop and elsewhere on the Mall. No additional educational waysides would be provided. Designated drop-off and pickup sites for visitor transportation and commercial tour buses would remain. Free public and permit parking would continue on Madison Drive NW and Jefferson Drive SW. Gravel walkways, which are frequently difficult for people with disabilities to maneuver, would be maintained, and maintenance issues related to gravel (mi-

gration onto adjacent lawns, uneven surfaces, dust) would be dealt with as budgets allow.

Four stands for refreshments and souvenir sales, along with adjacent tables and seating, and a small information station, would be maintained. Tourmobile ticket booths, which are no longer used, would remain.

The following action for the Mall is common to all alternatives:

- Work with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority to change the name of the Smithsonian Metro station to include the National Mall.

## **Washington Monument and Grounds**

The Washington Monument grounds would continue to be a popular location for demonstrations and special events. Food and retail, now in a temporary tent, would be relocated to a permanent location to be determined in this plan. The highly used circular restroom near 15th Street and Independence Avenue SW would be maintained, along with benches, drinking fountains, and other facilities. The newly renovated Monument Lodge offers a bookstore, ticketing, and restrooms. The Sylvan Theater would continue to be used as a performance venue for an audience of several thousand people. Survey Lodge would continue to serve as the main visitor contact station, even though it is off the main circulation routes, not easily identifiable, and hidden by overgrown vegetation.

Informal games and recreational activities, along with league ball games, would continue.

Present public access and parking, including tour bus drop-offs, as well as parking for NPS staff, would remain.

## **West Potomac Park (North of Independence Avenue)**

### ***Lincoln Memorial and Grounds***

The Lincoln Memorial would continue to be highly visited and would remain a popular location for demonstrations and special events. Maintenance activities would continue for the

reflecting pool area, the historic features of the Watergate steps, the Constitution Avenue belvedere, the *Arts of Peace* statues, and the John Ericsson Memorial, as well as the circle and radial roads. The social trail created by heavy foot traffic along the length of the pool would be addressed. The north and south concession / refreshment stands would be retained, but no restrooms would be provided in those locations.

The following actions for the Lincoln Memorial and grounds are common to all alternatives:

- Renovate and expand the exhibit area, renovate the restrooms at the memorial, and relocate the bookstore to the lower level.
- Implement recommendations of the Lincoln Memorial *Cultural Landscape Report*.
- Rehabilitate the historic landscape associated with the memorial circle and radial roads.
- Accommodate future national memorials authorized by Congress in the area north of the Watergate steps.
- Accommodate road projects and circulation improvements by others to simplify traffic patterns and to improve pedestrian connections from the Kennedy Center and adjacent neighborhoods.

### ***Ash Woods***

The Ash Woods restroom would be upgraded as funds became available. The U.S. Park Police stables would be maintained in their current location, with access from the Ash Woods road.

## **West Potomac Park (South of Independence Avenue)**

### ***Tidal Basin Area***

The Tidal Basin area would continue to offer a pleasant strolling and viewing experience.

Historic features within a naturalistic environment would be maintained. Engineering studies would be undertaken to improve Tidal Basin flushing and to ensure seawall stability. The basin walls would be maintained and repaired as necessary, and walks would be relocated outside high-tide areas. Compacted soils and social

trails, as well as adverse effects on cherry tree health, would be addressed as budgets and staffing allow. Walks would be maintained as budgets and staffing allow.

Public parking in the lot accessed from Maine Avenue would remain except during large events such as the National Cherry Blossom Festival, when it could be closed for event use and temporary facilities.

The refreshment stand would be retained, but no restrooms would be provided.

### ***West Potomac Park Riverfront***

The deteriorating dry-laid stone river walls south of Arlington Memorial Bridge would be stabilized with riprap. Recreational and

commuter bicycle traffic would continue along the riverfront, along with parking on Ohio Drive.

### ***Thomas Jefferson Memorial and Grounds***

The memorial grounds would continue to be a popular destination for visitors and a venue for special events. Plantings on the grounds (deciduous trees, including cherry trees) have historic integrity and would be preserved. The present tour bus drop-off and parking lots A, B, and C would be retained, as would existing visitor amenities (bookstore, retail, refreshment stand, and restrooms).

## **No-Action Alternative — Current Use Map**

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No-Action Alternative —  
Existing Conditions

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## THE PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

The National Mall, as the premier civic space for our nation, would be refurbished so that very high levels of use could be perpetuated and the needs of visitors could be met in an energy-efficient and sustainable manner. Its memorials and landscapes would be protected, with large areas of unprogrammed open space as defining features of the historic landscape. The designed historic landscape would evolve, and its value over time would change, reflecting significant national events. Contemporary uses would be accommodated while respecting the planned historic character and visions of the L'Enfant and McMillan plans. The intent would be to establish an overall identity and character for the National Mall, creating a coherent pedestrian environment that would complement and balance the natural environment, the combination of formal and informal features, and national commemorative works. The National Mall would be emphasized as a year-round destination where the beauty and variety of every season would enhance visitor experiences.

Uses for First Amendment demonstrations, commemorations, and national ceremonies and celebrations would be emphasized. Visitors would be made to feel welcome through helpful wayfinding signs, knowledgeable staff, and high-quality and accessible facilities. Diverse opportunities would be offered for public enjoyment, including educational, cultural, and musical programs, as well as active and passive recreational activities.

Professionals would be engaged to design high-quality solutions to unify the National Mall and to articulate the visions for specific sites. The National Park Service would ensure compatible and enduring high-quality design, as well as the highest facility maintenance standards, to create a sense of place that would reinforce the civic, historic, and symbolic role of the National Mall to our nation.

All actions described below would be in addition to those under “Actions Common to All Alternatives” and highlighted in the accompanying text box. Only areas where actions would be taken are included in the following discussion.

### Actions Common to All Alternatives

As previously described, the following summarized actions are common to all alternatives:

- *Cultural Resources* — Preserve and protect cultural resources; manage in accordance with *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards* and with the general recommendations of cultural landscape reports and inventories.
- *Natural Resources* — Continue to manage and protect natural resources. Address water quality problems in water features.
- *Demonstrations and Special Events* — Consistent with the First Amendment and federal regulations, fully accommodate demonstrations on a first-come, first-served basis. Consistent with federal regulations, accommodate special events. Improve permit procedures for special events and First Amendment demonstrations. Enhance monitoring procedures to ensure that resources are better protected and that soil, turf, and vegetation impacts are reduced.
- *Access and Circulation* — Continue working with the city and other agencies to address tour bus parking.
- *Visitor Information, Education, and Enjoyment* — Continue to offer visitor information, educational programs, venues for entertainment, guided walking and bicycle tours, and a mix of recreational activities.
- *Visitor Amenities* — Assess the economic feasibility, necessity, and appropriateness of changes to commercial visitors services and facilities.
- *Health, Public Safety, and Security* — Continue law enforcement patrols and increase a law enforcement presence during large events.
- *Park Operations* — Make waste management more efficient; expand recycling at events; continue a visual quality team to improve conditions and the appearance of park facilities; and meet NPS energy efficiency goals.

## National Mall Actions

### Cultural Resources

The public's use of the designed historic landscape and the memorials, historic structures, and other landscape features would continue to evolve, and its value over time would change, reflecting significant national events. The health and appearance of the historic landscape would be improved. Planned vistas would be protected

and preserved, including large open spaces that define the historic landscape.

### ***Natural Resources***

Natural resource conditions would be improved for tree and turf areas, soil conditions would be enhanced or reengineered to reduce or reverse the effects of compaction, and rehabilitation and recovery periods would be revised so that smaller areas could be set aside more frequently and broader public access maintained. To ensure optimal turf conditions and the enhancement of natural resources, irrigation systems would be installed or replaced in a manner that would protect them from damage during events.

Means would be developed to conserve water, reduce the use of potable water, and reuse water (for example, collecting and storing water from subsurface drainage / dewatering activities and using for irrigation purposes). Nonpotable water sources would be sought for water features. Sustainable water strategies would be developed in partnership with the General Services Administration, the Army Corps of Engineers, the National Capital Planning Commission, the D.C. Department of the Environment, the D.C. Water and Sewer Authority, and others to address flooding and stormwater management. Fountains or interactive water features would be designed so the sound of water would mask traffic noise and help create a more contemplative and enjoyable atmosphere.

Gravel would be eliminated as a paving material to improve air quality for pedestrians. A comprehensive approach would be taken with others to address the impacts of climate change, such as rising sea levels.

### ***Demonstrations, Special Events, and National Celebrations***

Highly visible venues throughout the National Mall would be improved and better designed to facilitate high levels of use for First Amendment demonstrations, events, and entertainment. Infrastructure support would be provided, including utilities and communication systems.

Organizers of large events would be encouraged to schedule their functions during non-peak seasons and to provide bicycle parking.

A new computer-mapping-based reservation system would be developed to provide venue and permit information, as well as to schedule events, maintenance, and recovery periods or to schedule park projects. The National Park Service would seek to provide more balance in the scheduling and distribution of special events (not First Amendment demonstrations) in order to more equitably accommodate open space for recreation, general visitation, and natural resource restoration.

Sufficient staff would be provided to support national celebrations, events, and demonstrations. The National Park Service would continue to collect data on best practices for managing events, success rates, and standards to achieve, and where feasible procedures would be incorporated into park standards. Onsite staging and logistical areas for special events would be limited.

Permanent infrastructure and space would be planned for temporary facilities (such as portable restrooms, trash, recycling, logistical or operational space, media activities, access, and law enforcement). Participation in events could be expanded through simulcasts of programs. The intent would be to protect resources, reduce the impact of annual events, and make setup and takedown operations for event organizers more efficient. Product types and standards to be used during events would be defined, including acceptable locations and seasonal time limits for temporary facilities. Better cost recovery procedures would be developed.

Intense post-event recovery procedures would be developed to improve resource conditions, but smaller areas would be set aside more frequently for rehabilitation so that broader public access could be maintained.

### ***Access and Circulation***

A coordinated pedestrian environment would be implemented and would accommodate various types of uses and needs, including a high-quality, enjoyable walking and bicycling environment, while providing a positive urban experience and coordinated urban connections within a park-like setting. All areas of the National Mall would be connected, and better transitions would be provided into adjacent areas, such as walkways to the National Mall from Constitution and In-

dependence avenues and along 7th, 12th, and 14th streets.

The pedestrian experience would be improved by upgrading walking surfaces, developing consistent and identifiable crosswalks, as part of a coordinated National Mall paving system, creating bigger intersections and adjacent waiting areas to accommodate large numbers of people, programming automatic and extended pedestrian crossing times into signal phasing, and considering traffic-calming measures. Access for people with disabilities would be improved.

Bicycling would be facilitated through improved facilities such as separate bicycle lanes or routes and additional facilities for bicyclists. Park managers would also work with the city to implement compatible sections of its *Bicycle Master Plan* and bicycle rental program.

A coordinated strategy to limit visitor vehicle traffic and emphasize alternative modes of transportation would be developed with the city and other governmental agencies. Valet or shuttle service could be provided to and from parking garages to designated drop-off and pickup locations on the National Mall. Some parking areas would be redesigned for more efficient traffic flows, and additional visitor parking for people with disabilities would be provided.

Tour bus drop-offs would be redesigned as needed. Supplementary transportation could be provided. Roving health and safety courtesy shuttles could provide service for the elderly, families with small children, and others as needed. The National Park Service could offer wheelchairs or rental electric scooters for seniors, the disabled, or those for whom walking long distances is difficult.

### **Visitor Information, Education, and Enjoyment**

All people would be welcomed through improved orientation, wayfinding, and information services. Orientation / map areas would be provided near key pedestrian entries and intersections or corridors linking to the National Mall, and they would be readable at night. Sign and information systems would be flexible enough to incorporate changes in cutting edge technology. Signs and brochures would be wel-

coming and would be offered in multiple languages. In addition, roving rangers would welcome visitors and answer questions, and all park staff, including maintenance staff, would be able to direct visitors to destinations and provide park maps.

Communication networks, mass notification systems, program and activity listings, coordinated information about adjacent museums and visitor destinations, and links to tourist websites would create a seamless visitor experience.

Educational programs would be developed to inspire visitors so that they would leave with a new or renewed appreciation of their inalienable rights, the American experience, and our diverse culture. Programs would be flexible and adaptable to technological innovations, such as digital electronic displays, phone tours, and interpretive boards and activity listings that could be programmed by computer and would allow visits to the National Mall to be personalized. Mobile information stations and roving staff would supplement dispersed visitor contact stations rather than having a single visitor center to provide visitor orientation, information, and education. Self-guided thematic walking tour brochures would be available. The variety of NPS guided tours would be increased, such as multi-season touring opportunities, thematic walking tours, and multilingual tours.

Educational themes would include civic space and First Amendment demonstrations, history, commemorative works, historic plans and the city's development, healthy life styles, and sustainability (including the importance of recycling, reducing waste, and reusing items as a stewardship message). All visitor amenities, including restrooms, would have educational, stewardship, or informational components.

Opportunities for entertainment would be increased through improved or additional venues with the necessary infrastructure. Performances, thematically appropriate entertainment, and educational programs could be provided at new visitor food service destinations. Small-scale programs or entertainment could be used as a way to enhance the pedestrian experience.

An on-line permitting system for athletic fields would be developed.

Commercial recreational activities could be expanded and diversified, including possible recreation equipment rentals (for example, bicycles, kayaks, rowboats, model boats, kites, and ice skates). Offsite bicycle rentals would continue, and connections to other nearby recreation facilities in East Potomac Park, along with trail connections to the waterfront and the Potomac and Anacostia rivers, would be improved.

### **Visitor Amenities**

Coordinated, high-quality, year-round and seasonal furnishings would be provided, including seasonal tables and chairs, as well as trash/ recycling containers, curbs, signs, drinking fountains, and restrooms. Designs would be sensitive to the character of the historic landscape and would visually connect different areas of the National Mall to establish a sense of place and an overall identity. Sustainable designs would be incorporated into all new visitor amenities for ease of maintenance and use. Visitor facilities would be designed to withstand vandalism, forced entry, and skateboarding.

More seating opportunities and locations for visitors to enjoy views or summer shade would be provided, along with seating for groups. Seating options would include benches, the use of site components such as walls, and portable lawn chairs. Seating could be added at some memorials. Seating would be designed to meet the needs of people with disabilities.

The following character-defining components for furnishings would be incorporated into the overall design:

- historic benches, including the NPS standard Washington bench
- historic lighting (Olmsted, Twin twenties, Washington globe, Saratoga lights)
- furnishings specifically designed for memorials (seating, trash receptacles, signs, drinking fountains, light fixtures, etc.)

New walks would be developed to be low-maintenance, sustainable, and universally accessible. Along streets the walks would also conform to the design appearance of the *Streetscape Manual* (Interagency Initiative for National Mall Road Improvement Program 1992) and any updates. Paving would be suitable for pedestrian access

and recreational activities, as well as durable enough for event access, operations, and maintenance. The use of porous or other sustainable approaches would be encouraged.

The National Park Service would work closely with the Commission of Fine Arts, the National Capital Planning Commission, the Architect of the Capitol, the Smithsonian Institution, and D.C. city agencies to reestablish the lighting task force to develop a comprehensive lighting guideline for the monumental core that addresses at a minimum:

- protection of the dominant lighting of the five symbolic icons (the Capitol, the White House, the Washington Monument, the Thomas Jefferson Memorial, and the Lincoln Memorial)
- desired lighting character for urban and park areas, character-defining elements such as statuary and building facades, pedestrian and vehicular areas, and transitions between different light levels
- appropriate light levels (foot-candles or lumens) and light color (color rendition) for different areas
- energy efficiency and sustainable lighting practices
- light pollution / protection of night sky from excessive, horizontal light pollution (temporarily blinding light)
- security lighting

All new and rehabilitated visitor facilities would be designed to be compatible with the character of the National Mall (e.g., the refreshment stands on the Mall and at the Lincoln Memorial could be used as the quality standard). The intent would be to make them easily identifiable, strengthening the NPS identity and denoting that they are secondary to national memorials.

If feasible, several well-located, convenient, attractive, and architecturally significant multi-purpose facilities could be developed in certain locations (e.g., Union Square, the Washington Monument grounds, Constitution Gardens, and the Tidal Basin area). These facilities would provide pleasant places for visitors to sit and relax, and infrastructure would be provided for programs, performances, and entertainment. Food service could be offered, with more variety in

types of food, along with indoor/outdoor seating. High-quality designs and pleasant surroundings would encourage visitors to linger. Also, trash and recycling would be concentrated at these locations to protect memorials. No indoor auditoriums or museum collections, which typify NPS visitor centers, would be proposed.

Well-designed and clearly identifiable mobile food carts and refreshment stands, coordinated with signs and site furnishings, would be available during high use seasons and special events. In addition, more variety would be provided in types of food, such as sit-down restaurants in addition to mobile carts and refreshment stands, and longer service hours. Refreshment stands would be pleasant places to pause for food or drink during daytime and evening hours, but the larger multipurpose visitor facilities (such as proposed for the Washington Monument grounds or Constitution Gardens) would be destinations where visitors could linger.

Reflecting pools and ornamental water features would be retained. Some new water features would be added for visitor enjoyment as well as for health and safety, including interactive water features, such as those at the German-American Friendship Garden.

Drinking fountains would be concentrated near restrooms. Water stations would be designed to make it easier to fill reusable water bottles or take care of pet water needs, and they would also be designed to be vandal proof. Additional conveniently located visitor restrooms would be constructed, cleanliness monitored, and more frequent servicing provided, including at new or renovated food service areas. In high use areas some restrooms would be located and sized to flexibly accommodate increased demand generated by events, tour buses, or peak-season visitation. The capacity of some existing restrooms would be increased. In some areas automated, self-cleaning public restrooms would be provided to extend operating hours of facilities.

### **Health, Public Safety, and Security**

Areas would be redesigned to safely differentiate multiple uses (e.g., bicycle lanes to separate riders from vehicles). Measures such as programming automatic and extended pedestrian crossing times into signal phasing, traffic-

calming measures (such as raised crosswalks), special crosswalk paving, midblock crossing points, larger waiting areas, better walkway lighting to emphasize surface conditions and the pedestrian environment, and emergency call stations would all enhance pedestrian safety.

Visitor contact with uniformed staff, including horse and bike patrols, would be maximized. Mass notification capability to keep visitors and staff informed of what to do in case of weather or other emergencies would be provided. This system would be coordinated with an upgraded communication network.

Seating would be increased in shaded areas, and shade would be added in some areas. Automated, self-cleaning public restrooms (which sanitize surfaces after use) would be provided in some areas.

Tall shrub beds and areas allowing cover and storage would be reduced or eliminated, in keeping with the original landscape design intent.

### **Park Operations**

Deferred maintenance would be addressed. Some projects would be redefined to allow more use, to better protect resources, and to better provide visitor amenities. Park standards would be developed to clearly define desired qualities for different areas of the National Mall. Activities such as inspections, monitoring, maintenance (grounds, memorials, and other facilities), and education and interpretation, as well as activities by other park divisions, would be addressed. Best practices and approaches would be used for maintenance and operations to improve the National Mall's visual appearance and operational efficiency. Sustainable practices would be maximized.

New, high-quality facilities would be designed and constructed to achieve the highest maintenance standards and to be vandal-resistant. Cutting edge sustainable facility and site design measures and recycling would be incorporated in all facilities. Durable, easy-to-maintain, and standardized recirculation systems would be installed in water features.

Operational access would be provided as circulation systems were upgraded. Walkways would

be wide enough to accommodate maintenance, staff, and operational vehicles, as well as the public, and they would be able to withstand the weight of vehicles used for park operations and event deliveries. Trash removal and restroom cleaning would be increased during visitor hours.

Turf management would be altered to close smaller areas more frequently and to provide more equitable opportunities for all uses — events, demonstrations, recreation, and general visitation, as well as restoration/rehabilitation. To protect areas during rehabilitation and restoration, an attractive, durable, temporary fence system (in lieu of snow fencing) would be developed. It should be lightweight, not easily scaled, and easy to store, transport, and install. Alternatively, a marking system would identify areas to be closed to use.

Renewable energy sources would be sought for lighting and pumping systems for water features (e.g., a large-scale photovoltaic system on the roof of the Interior Building). Advances in monitoring, such as locating burned out light bulbs, would be used to improve maintenance.

The required core operations planning would be used to match staffing needs to the core mission of the park. Staffing needs would be examined and correlated with park standards, particularly in the areas of resource management, communications, maintenance, events, special project teams, and law enforcement. Multiple contract opportunities would be offered to provide visitor services that have been determined to be necessary and appropriate.

To advance the principles of sustainability and to educate the public about sustainable projects, the National Park Service would undertake the following:

- Participate in the EPA “Climate Friendly Parks” program.
- Reduce solid waste; increase recycling and use of biodegradable products.
- Reduce water use; retain stormwater for irrigation.
- Reduce energy consumption, greenhouse gas emissions, and air pollutants; use renewable energy sources; maximize energy efficiency.

- Increase educational information about green practices.
- Maximize public transportation; increase use of alternative fuels.
- Ensure that new or replacement facilities meet the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) silver rating.

The National Park Service would strive to achieve the highest LEED standard practicable, would determine the park’s carbon footprint (estimated through the Climate Leadership in Parks program), and reduce greenhouse gases by 18% by 2012.

A state-of-the-art communications system would be provided, with dedicated lines for NPS operations, law enforcement, emergency communications, media, and event sponsor use.

## The Mall

### ***Union Square (1st to 3rd Streets)***

Union Square would fulfill its McMillan plan purpose 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 Capitol. The Ulysses S. Grant Memorial would be the focal point of a symmetrical and formally laid out civic square based on historic precedents. It would be a popular, active, and dignified day and evening destination, and it could be easily transformed into a larger venue for First Amendment demonstrations and events. Grade changes would be addressed, and circulation patterns would be improved for all visitors. The area would be visually and physically connected to the Botanic Garden to the south and the U.S. Senate Youth Park and U.S. Botanic Garden Education and Outreach Center to the north. Floral plantings would add color.

The Ulysses S. Grant Memorial would be restored. The condition of historic landscape components would be improved and incorporated into a new design, including historic or “witness” trees (trees that were present when the area was originally developed). The historic east-west vista between the U.S. Capitol and the Washington Monument would be improved and perpetuated. Turf areas would be minimized,

eliminated, or redesigned, but low plantings would retain a sense of continuity with the historic landscape that was once home to the Botanic Garden.

Union Square would highlight sustainable water management practices and include reflective and interactive water features (such as jets to frame vistas of the Capitol, and provide play opportunities). Designs would be environmentally friendly to highlight sustainable water management practices, and the sound of water would be used to create a more enjoyable atmosphere by muffling the noise of urban traffic. A smaller reflecting pool or water features would be considered to make the space more suited to various uses and reduce water use. A nonpotable water source would be sought. To increase enjoyment, the pool could also be redesigned as a shallow sheet of interactive water that could be drained for demonstration and events or frozen for seasonal ice skating.

Pedestrian circulation would be improved, along with visual and physical connections and access to the Mall, the U.S. Capitol, and areas north and south of Union Square. Social trails would be eliminated. Crosswalks on 3rd Street would be designed to highlight and continue pedestrian connections and circulation patterns on the Mall.

Educational media would address First Amendment demonstrations, the Grant Memorial, the city's history, and the U.S. Capitol.

Redesigning this area as a paved square would accommodate more use, including demonstrations and events. The size and character of visitor facilities and amenities would be determined during design. Infrastructure for events would be provided. The square would incorporate shade structures for visitor comfort, and pleasant places to rest and relax. Facilities would be located outside vistas. A flexible, indoor/outdoor, multipurpose destination would provide a site to enjoy views of the Grant Memorial and the Capitol, with space for seating, educational exhibits, and small exhibitions or displays.

High-capacity restrooms would be designed so that more stalls could be opened during high use, and nearby drinking water and recreation equipment rentals would be provided.

### **The Mall (3rd to 14th Streets)**

The Mall would remain a highly visible landscape that would be renovated to improve conditions and to sustainably accommodate very high levels of use for First Amendment demonstrations, public gatherings, national celebrations, cultural programs, and special events, as well as passive recreation and informal play. The National Park Service would encourage partnerships between all visitor destinations along the Mall to serve visitor needs.

Critical elements of the historic landscape, such as lawns and elm trees, would be improved and protected. The planting plan for all vegetation on the Mall would be updated and would be compatible with contributing features of historic plans. Compacted soils in turf areas would be removed and replaced with engineered soils that could better withstand intense use, or other sustainable technologies would be implemented. Drainage and irrigation would be provided, and the irrigation system would be designed so that it would not be damaged by event facilities. More frequent restoration of smaller areas would be undertaken. A combination of design elements, paving, and stewardship messages would be used to reduce social trails. Park furniture and cooling interactive water features would be added outside historic vistas.

Rows of American and European elm trees flank the pedestrian promenades and frame vistas of major memorials and government buildings. While individuals would still be able to enjoy the shade these trees provide, along with low-intensity recreational activities, the elm tree panels would no longer be available for temporary event facilities, such as tents, stages, or vehicles.

The pedestrian circulation system would be improved and would better connect Union Square, the Washington Monument, and museums and other areas adjacent to the Mall. As part of a coordinated paving plan for the National Mall, gravel on pathways and former roadbeds (with paving underneath) would be removed. Walks and other areas would be paved with low-maintenance, sustainable, and universally accessible materials to improve circulation, facilitate events, and maintain improved landscape conditions. Some walks would be widened to enhance the visitor experience by providing room for

orientation and space for rest and enjoyment, to facilitate First Amendment demonstrations and special events, and to allow for more efficient park operations.

To improve growing conditions for trees, gravel between the street and paved walkways along Madison Drive NW and Jefferson Drive SW would be removed and replaced by turf panels edged with low curbs. Shaded seating and paved pathways would remain.

Event utility infrastructure would be developed to protect resources, to reduce setup and take-down times, and to accommodate media communications. Narrow strips of turf along 3rd, 4th, 7th, and 14th streets would be removed and paved to accommodate event facilities. Locations would be identified for temporary restrooms so that these facilities would be convenient, easy to service, and not block views. A paved area for events would be added south of the National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden and north of the center grass panels, and visitor sidewalk amenities would be provided.

The 12th Street axis would be redesigned to accommodate high levels of use, and the placement of tents, stages, and special events logistical and operational areas. Flexible office space and a public restroom facility would be constructed to support demonstrations and special events. Additional special events staging space would be created over the 12th Street tunnel entry north of Madison Drive NW to reduce the impact of truck parking on the historic landscape.

Like the other alternatives, the National Park Service would work with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority to add the name of the National Mall to the Metro station, which would remain the primary pedestrian entrance for the National Mall. A paved welcome plaza would be developed at 12th Street and Jefferson Drive SW that would include a visitor contact station, high-capacity public restrooms, multiple orientation maps, and a large tactile model or pavement map of the National Mall, along with shaded and group seating. Electronic information and a listing of events and activities would be provided.

Additional pleasantly shaded seating could be provided along north-south sidewalks within the

elm tree panels. This could include some seating areas for groups. Containers with horticultural plantings could add seasonal color and enjoyment. To further enhance the Mall as well as public safety, pedestrian lighting levels along walkways could be increased to supplement the historic Olmsted lights.

Visitor transportation, commercial tour bus drop-offs, bicycles, and other wheeled vehicles would be accommodated on Madison and Jefferson drives over the short- to mid-term (10–15 years). Occasionally access would be restricted to accommodate events and national celebrations (such as the Fourth of July). A long-term goal for Madison and Jefferson drives would be to improve traffic flow by removing private vehicle parking to better accommodate bicycling, visitor transit, and pedestrians. Tour bus drop-offs on the Mall would be increased.

Educational themes would address First Amendment demonstrations, the Mall as the nation's premier civic space, and development of the federal city around the Mall. The coordination of visitor information would be increased with museums surrounding the Mall. Existing recreational opportunities would be continued, and the agreement with the Smithsonian Institution for the carousel would be updated. Small-scale entertainment would be encouraged, along with programs, educational entertainment, and celebrations at events.

To create a pleasant ambience near all refreshment stands elements such as additional seating at tables, umbrellas, flower boxes, or display fountains could be added, encouraging visitors to stay and relax. The center grass panels near the 8th Street cross axis would be reconfigured to provide larger spaces for informal recreation (e.g., pickup games). A small visitor restroom near the refreshment stand by the Air and Space Museum would have two to four potentially self-cleaning stalls. It would have a similar architectural character to the refreshment stand so that it would appear to have always been there. An additional higher capacity restroom would be located north of the central grass panel near 12th Street. NPS staff would also work with the National Gallery of Art and the Smithsonian Institution to improve access to food service and restrooms for National Mall visitors.



## Washington Monument and Grounds

Views of the Washington Monument and the north-south vista between the Thomas Jefferson Memorial and the White House would be protected and improved. The condition of the grounds, trees, and the German-American Friendship Garden would also be improved.

The north grounds of the Washington Monument would continue to see high volume of use, including large demonstrations and special events, but infrastructure would be provided to make them more sustainable. Specifically, electrical and communication connections, along with space for operations and the media, would be provided in the northeast, northwest, and southwest corners of the north grounds to make these areas more sustainable for demonstrations and special events.

Roads and parking, along with bicycle and pedestrian circulation, would be redesigned on the south grounds (south of Independence Avenue) to reconnect park areas, to enhance safety and recreational opportunities, and to improve pedestrian connections between the Washington Monument grounds and the Tidal Basin, as well as to the southwest waterfront and East Potomac Park. A system of separate dedicated bike trails would be constructed to improve bicycling throughout the National Mall. The pedestrian environment would be improved by programming automatic and extended crossing times into signal phasing, special crosswalk paving, and improved signs.

Educational themes would address George Washington, the Washington Monument, the history of the National Mall, and the German-American Friendship Garden. Recreational activities would continue and could be expanded. Educational waysides and integrated exhibits would be provided at a new multipurpose facility.

A new indoor/outdoor, high-quality, multipurpose facility and performance space would be constructed on the northwest corner of 15th Street and Independence Avenue to replace the temporary tent. This facility would consolidate visitor services and take the place the Sylvan Theater. The facility would provide information,

education, integrated exhibits, food service, retail, and restrooms (sized for high use volumes). It would be a pleasant destination and would be constructed below the level of roads and oriented to muffle noise and provide views of the monument. Various programs, events, performances, and entertainment would be offered. For performances audiences of up to 3,000 people could be accommodated on the hillside. The facility would also include operations space and ranger offices. It would be open from early morning, when visitors queue for monument tickets, until evening. Additional parking would be available for visitors with disabilities.

Survey Lodge would be adaptively reused for services and parking for visitors with disabilities (an additional 10–20 spaces), information, exhibits about the building's history, and possibly recreation equipment rentals (such as bicycles and kites). The lodge's access and visibility would be improved. Monument Lodge would continue to provide ticketing, a bookstore, and restrooms. Park ranger offices would be provided at the new multipurpose facility, while primary ranger office space would be relocated to another facility off the National Mall.

## West Potomac Park (North of Independence Avenue)

### *Constitution Gardens*

Constitution Gardens would be a pleasant place for pedestrians to relax as they tour the National Mall. It would be a restful, high-quality, multipurpose visitor destination that would provide food service and opportunities for entertainment, enjoyment, and recreation.

Landscape conditions would be improved in accordance with the "Cultural Landscape Inventory" (NPS 2008a), and the pedestrian circulation system would be upgraded with coordinated paving and improved operational access. The lake would be rebuilt to be self-sustaining, and circulating pumps and a filtration system would be installed. A nonpotable, sustainable water source would be explored.

To accommodate demonstrations and special events, circulation patterns would be redesigned. Walks would be repaved, and some walkways and intersections would be widened

to create venues for smaller events (exhibits, tents, and performances), and others would be reconfigured to accommodate the Potomac Park levee and provide accessible routes. Infrastructure (e.g., utilities and communication systems) to facilitate demonstrations and events would be incorporated into the new design.

Educational themes would address the history of the area (the Washington Canal and the Lockkeeper's House), land reclamation, flood control, and the role and importance of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution in our country's history.

Urban recreational activities, such as fishing or model boating, would be increased but would not conflict with commemorative experiences at nearby memorials. Children's play opportunities would make use of natural elements, boulders, sculpture or interactive water features, and pavement patterns or educational activities and programs to encourage exploration.

Multipurpose, coordinated visitor facilities would be located near the east end of the lake (17th and Constitution Avenue), and the historic canal Lockkeeper's House could potentially be adaptively reused. The new food service facility would be a destination for visitors to linger and would include food service, restrooms, and potentially programs or entertainment. It would provide a unique indoor/outdoor garden character. A decision about the Lockkeeper's House would be coordinated with the Potomac Park levee, and the structure could be relocated away from the corner of 17th and Constitution Avenue to provide better protection. Coordinated functions could include visitor services, education, exhibits, information, a bookstore, retail, recreation equipment rentals (model boats, portable lawn chairs), and space for partner activities.

A flexible program or performance space, stage, or gazebo would be located in or near the east end of the lake, making it convenient to the multipurpose facility and taking advantage of the nearby rolling terrain to accommodate an audience of several thousand. Utilities would be provided. Sound levels from programs would be controlled so as to respect the ambience at nearby memorials.

Existing restrooms would be replaced with a facility more sensitive to the surroundings. The existing refreshment stand could be rehabilitated and adaptively reused or removed.

### ***Vietnam Veterans Memorial***

Space would be provided in the vicinity of the memorial for seating and contemplation. In addition to volunteer interpretation, educational themes would address the history of the memorial and its role on the National Mall.

### ***Lincoln Memorial and Grounds***

For demonstrations and special events on the memorial grounds, the *Lincoln Memorial Guidelines* would be expanded to address the availability and use of infrastructure (e.g., utilities, communication systems) to facilitate events.

Educational themes would address Abraham Lincoln, the memorial's development, and the role of the memorial in civil rights and First Amendment demonstrations, as well as the history of the National Mall and Washington, D.C. Educational information would also enhance public understanding of the Watergate steps and the Constitution Avenue belvedere.

The historic landscape associated with the memorial circle and radial roads would be rehabilitated. A ceremonial use would be developed for the Watergate steps. The areas within the memorial circle and the radial roads would continue to provide visitor amenities such as food services and information stations for the Korean War Veterans Memorial and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial; the latter station would be removed once the memorial center has been completed, and the Korean War information station could be replaced. Pedestrian crossings would be better defined. An architecturally compatible restroom would be added in the vicinity of the south refreshment stand, while respecting the historic planting patterns. Recreation fields for volleyball and softball would continue to be provided.

The following actions for the Lincoln Memorial and grounds are common to all alternatives:

- Renovate and expand the exhibit area, renovate the restrooms at the memorial, and relocate the bookstore to the lower level. In

addition, expand the restroom within the building footprint.

- Implement recommendations of the Lincoln Memorial *Cultural Landscape Report*.
- Restore the historic landscape associated with the memorial circle and radial roads.
- Accommodate future national memorials authorized by Congress in the area north of the Watergate steps.
- Accommodate road projects and circulation improvements by others to simplify traffic patterns and to improve pedestrian connections from the Kennedy Center and adjacent neighborhoods.

### **Korean War Veterans Memorial**

On the west side of the Korean War Veterans Memorial the walks would be widened to accommodate changing circulation patterns and group visitation. Pedestrian connections between the memorial, the Lincoln Reflecting Pool, and Independence Avenue would be improved. Educational themes would address the Korean War, commemoration, and the history of the National Mall.

### **Ash Woods**

The U.S. Park Police stables would be rebuilt to be compatible with the historic character and quality of the National Mall. Operational functions would remain fairly inconspicuous on the south side. The paddocks would be made part of the visitor experience, and educational exhibits about the U.S. Park Police and horse patrols would be offered. A new stables parking area and vehicle access road from Independence Avenue would be constructed. The present Ash Woods road would become primarily a walkway with a secondary function as a service road. Seating and inconspicuous pedestrian lighting would be provided. The recreational fields would remain.

The Ash Woods restrooms would be demolished. A new restroom would be provided nearer the U.S. Park Police stables to better distribute restrooms. It would be designed using the visitor services architectural style. Food service could be provided near the new restroom if warranted by increased visitation.

## **West Potomac Park (South of Independence Avenue)**

### **Tidal Basin Area**

A sense of arrival at the Tidal Basin would be created by redesigning pedestrian circulation. Around the Tidal Basin high-quality recreational experiences would be provided for strolling / sightseeing, bicycling, and boating. Improved circulation patterns, high-quality paving, additional seating, and more pedestrian stopping points would enhance visitor experiences. Pedestrian lighting would be installed in a manner that would not impact the evening lighting ambience of memorials.

Based on engineering recommendations, the Tidal Basin seawalls would be rebuilt above tide-water. The historic appearance would be retained while accommodating wider walks and improving bicycling/vehicular circulation and safety, slightly reducing the size of the basin.

Educational themes would address the history of the cherry trees and the Tidal Basin, the development of the Potomac parks, as well as the history of the National Mall. Rowboat, canoe, and kayak rentals could offer additional recreational boating opportunities. A Tidal Basin recreational boat service could provide access to the Thomas Jefferson, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, and Martin Luther King, Jr. memorials, as well as the Tidal Basin parking lot.

A system of separate bicycle lanes or trails would be developed. Walks for pedestrians and bicyclists would be widened and separated near Inlet, Outlet, and Kutz bridges. The recreation equipment rental facilities would be replaced.

The recreation equipment rental facility and refreshment stand would be replaced by a new structure in the same general location. Restrooms and seating would be added.

### **Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial**

A comprehensive condition assessment of the memorial, including visitor use patterns, would be undertaken. Educational programs would be increased, and Room 4 would be used for this purpose, as intended. Information, a bookstore, and restrooms are provided at the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial and would also be

provided at the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial. A small food service and restroom facility could be provided if warranted by demand.

### ***West Potomac Park Riverfront***

Where feasible, a sustainable, vegetated shoreline would be established along the Potomac River. In other areas stone-faced walls would provide space for seating, fishing, and enjoyment, or perhaps nodes for water taxi service or the launching of small, hand-carried watercraft (such as canoes or kayaks). Walks would be improved, and additional seating would be provided. Separate bicycle lanes or trails would be developed along Ohio Drive and the river walks. Visitor parking would be provided but areas might be reconfigured for more efficient parking. Athletic fields would remain.

### ***Thomas Jefferson Memorial and Grounds***

No special event stage, roof, or walls would be allowed to obstruct the view to the White House

from the north plaza. Educational themes would address Thomas Jefferson, the memorial's development, and the history of the Tidal Basin, as well as the history of the National Mall.

The former parking area south of the memorial would be redesigned to accommodate demonstrations and special events. Utilities would be provided.

The tour bus drop off would be redesigned to improve pedestrian circulation. Bicycle lanes or trails would be provided for safer or improved access near the memorial and to the I-395 bridges.

The refreshment stand along East Basin Drive would be replaced with a new facility providing food, restrooms, and retail. Siting would need to consider traffic and circulation patterns, as well as protecting views to and from the memorial.

## Preferred Alternative — Conservation Zoning

Map

**Preferred Alternative**

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## ALTERNATIVE A — FOCUS ON THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE AND EDUCATION

Alternative A would restore and maintain the resources of the National Mall as a historic landscape. Under this concept the designed historic landscape would evolve and its value over time would change, reflecting significant national events. Contemporary uses would be accommodated while respecting the planned historic character and visions of the L'Enfant and McMillan plans.

The National Park Service would ensure compatible and enduring high-quality design, as well as the highest facility maintenance standards, to create a sense of place that would reinforce the civic, historic, and symbolic role of the National Mall to our nation.

The following actions would be in addition to those described under “Actions Common to All Alternatives” and highlighted in the accompanying text box. Only areas where actions would be taken are included in the following discussion.

### National Mall Actions

#### **Cultural Resources**

Under alternative A memorials and historic structures would be preserved and protected and the health and appearance of historic landscapes would be improved. Historic views and vistas would be improved and perpetuated to ensure that they are not obscured, even during events.

#### **Natural Resources**

To improve water quality in water features, circulation and filtration systems would be installed. Current technology, maintenance techniques, and upgraded equipment would be used.

Soil conditions would be improved, and soils in some areas would be replaced and reengineered to reduce effects from compaction. The most successful turf management practices would be implemented. Trees and plants would be protected from social trails.

#### **Actions Common to All Alternatives**

As previously described, the following summarized actions are common to all alternatives:

- *Cultural Resources* — Preserve and protect cultural resources; manage in accordance with *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards* and with the general recommendations of cultural landscape reports and inventories.
- *Natural Resources* — Continue to manage and protect natural resources. Address water quality problems in water features.
- *Demonstrations and Special Events* — Consistent with the First Amendment and federal regulations, fully accommodate demonstrations on a first-come, first-served basis. Consistent with federal regulations, accommodate special events. Improve permit procedures for special events and First Amendment demonstrations. Enhance monitoring procedures to ensure that resources are better protected and that soil, turf, and vegetation impacts are reduced.
- *Access and Circulation* — Continue working with the city and other agencies to address tour bus parking.
- *Visitor Information, Education, and Enjoyment* — Continue to offer visitor information, educational programs, venues for entertainment, guided walking and bicycle tours, and a mix of recreational activities.
- *Visitor Amenities* — Assess the economic feasibility, necessity, and appropriateness of changes to commercial visitors services and facilities.
- *Health, Public Safety, and Security* — Continue law enforcement patrols and increase a law enforcement presence during large events.
- *Park Operations* — Make waste management more efficient; expand recycling at events; continue a visual quality team to improve conditions and the appearance of park facilities; and meet NPS energy efficiency goals.

#### **Demonstrations, Special Events, and National Celebrations**

A new computer mapping-based reservation system would be developed to provide venue and permit information, as well as to schedule events, maintenance, and recovery periods or to schedule park projects.

Product types and standards to be used during events would be defined, including acceptable locations for temporary facilities (e.g., portable

restrooms, incident command centers, and event staging areas). Better cost recovery procedures would be developed.

Under alternative A events would be required to have a meaningful association with the National Mall venues, as required by *NPS Management Policies 2006* (NPS 2006e, sec. 8.6.2.1).

Permanent infrastructure and space for temporary facilities such as portable restrooms would be planned to reduce the impact of annual events. Standards would address location, installation, temporary surfacing materials, tent installation methods for various areas, generator decibel levels, use of waterless hand cleaners, need for supplementary drinking water, and locations that must remain free of event facilities.

Sufficient staff would be provided to monitor resource impacts during demonstrations and special events. Intense post-event recovery procedures would be developed to improve resource conditions and to minimize rest periods between events.

### **Visitor Information, Education, and Enjoyment**

Website information would be improved by offering downloadable information for visitors planning trips. Visitors would be educated about the planned open space of the nation's capital as developed in the L'Enfant, McMillan, and other historic plans. Additional living history programs would be offered, as well as multilingual programs. An on-line permitting system for athletic fields.

### **Access and Circulation**

Pedestrian circulation improvements, such as signs, wayfinding and orientation maps, and transit stops within the National Mall, would be coordinated. Tour bus drop-offs would be redesigned as needed.

### **Visitor Amenities**

All new facilities would be designed to be compatible with the character of the National Mall (e.g., the design of the Mall and Lincoln Memorial refreshment stands). The goal would

be to make visitor facilities more identifiable for visitors, to strengthen the NPS identity, and to denote that they are secondary to memorials. Visitor facilities would be designed to withstand vandalism, forced entry, and skateboarding.

A coordinated approach would be developed for furnishings, incorporating the following character-defining components:

- historic benches, including the NPS standard Washington bench
- historic lighting (Olmsted, Twin twenties, Washington globe, Saratoga lights)
- furnishings specifically designed for memorials (seating, trash receptacles, signs, drinking fountains, light fixtures, etc.)

New, coordinated, high-quality furnishings would be provided, for example trash/recycling containers, curbs, signs, and drinking fountains. New areas of paving would be coordinated with the most common and visible adjacent paving.

The National Park Service would work closely with the Commission of Fine Arts, the National Capital Planning Commission, the Architect of the Capitol, the Smithsonian Institution, and D.C. city agencies to reestablish the lighting task force to develop a comprehensive lighting guideline for the monumental core that addresses at a minimum:

- protection of the dominant lighting of the five symbolic icons (the Capitol, the White House, the Washington Monument, the Thomas Jefferson Memorial, and the Lincoln Memorial)
- desired lighting character for urban and park areas, character-defining elements such as statuary and building facades, pedestrian and vehicular areas, and transitions between different light levels
- appropriate light levels (foot-candles or lumens) and light color (color rendition) for different areas
- energy efficiency and sustainable lighting practices
- light pollution / protection of night sky from excessive, horizontal light pollution (temporarily blinding light)
- security lighting



Food service facilities would be replaced or upgraded. Efforts would be made to diversify food service, which would still be offered primarily at refreshment stands.

New restrooms would be provided near food service facilities, and outdated restrooms would be replaced.

More benches would be provided for seating to take advantage of views. Seating would be designed to accommodate the needs of people with disabilities.

### **Health, Public Safety, and Security**

The National Park Service would work with the city to increase pedestrian street-crossing countdowns and add midblock crossings to enhance pedestrian safety. A mass notification system would be provided for emergency situations and would be coordinated with an upgraded communication network.

To deal with problems and concerns caused by homeless and transient populations, the National Park Service would work with city agencies, business improvement districts, and Congress to address the causes and impacts of homelessness.

The National Park Service would work with the General Services Administration to permanently resolve public safety and health issues as well as resource issues related to the steam system crossing through the park.

### **Park Operations**

Deferred maintenance would be addressed as budgets and staffing allow. Staffing would be increased for resource management and communications (web, technology, media, and public information). Park standards would be developed to define desired conditions for different areas of the National Mall and covering all park operations.

The National Park Service would advance the principles of sustainability, as described in the preferred alternative. Existing facilities would be rehabilitated to be sustainable and to reduce maintenance, and new facilities would be designed for sustainable operations and efficient maintenance. Commercial business services

would also be required to improve recycling efforts and reduce waste.

Any upgrades to circulation systems would ensure that operational access for maintenance vehicles would be available and would not cause damage to resources. A state-of-the-art communication network would be provided, with dedicated lines for NPS operations (phones/computers), law enforcement, media, and event sponsor use. An attractive, durable, temporary fence system (in lieu of snow fencing) would be developed to protect areas during rehabilitation and restoration.

## **The Mall**

### **Union Square (1st to 3rd Streets)**

The Ulysses S. Grant Memorial would be the focal point of a redesigned civic square and reflecting pool that would incorporate interpretation of the former Washington City Canal and the history of the U.S. Botanic Garden site.

The Grant Memorial would be restored, and the condition of historic landscape components would be improved and incorporated into a new design based on historic precedents. The reflecting pool would be redesigned to be much smaller to facilitate pedestrian circulation.

All viewing screens, stages, and large video screens would have to be located so as to not block the primary east-west vista for people on site. (This might require that video screens be located at angles.)

Additional educational information about the site would be provided for visitors. Walks would be widened to facilitate public access and maintenance. Seating would be added.

### **The Mall (3rd to 14th Streets)**

The Mall would be rehabilitated to improve conditions. Soils would be augmented or replaced for better turf and tree growing conditions, and other sustainable technologies would be implemented. The gravel walkways would be refurbished, and edging or curbs would be installed to limit gravel migration. Post-and-chain fencing would be used to prevent social trails. A new irrigation system would be installed in a way that it could not be damaged during

events. American elms would be replaced as needed in accordance with the historic planting plan. Other trees that are noncontributing elements of historic plans would not be replanted.

For demonstrations and events, infrastructure would be provided. No temporary event facilities, such as tents, stages, or vehicles, would be allowed in the elm tree panels. Open, eye-level views between the U.S. Capitol and the Washington Monument would be protected. Event organizers would be encouraged not to install temporary event facilities, such as tents, directly in the center of the major view corridor between the U.S. Capitol and the Washington Monument.

A visitor contact station would continue to be provided near the Metro stop, and orientation maps and information would be improved here and elsewhere on the Mall. Educational panels would be provided about the history of the Mall and the development of the federal city. To restore the historic scene, the carousel would be removed.

The National Park Service would work with the city to remove vehicle parking on the north-south cross streets through the Mall (3rd, 4th, and 7th streets) within the east-west viewshed.

Small restroom facilities would be constructed near existing refreshment stands and would have a similar architectural style. Paving at refreshment stand areas would be redesigned to better accommodate use.

The following action for the Mall is common to all alternatives:

- Work with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority to change the name of the Smithsonian Metro station to include the National Mall.

## **Washington Monument and Grounds**

The Washington Monument and grounds would continue to be highly used. The condition of the German-American Friendship Garden would be improved.

A high-quality indoor facility for visitor services and food service would be provided on the monument grounds between 14th and 15th streets. This facility would be partially underground and would have a grass roof so as to blend into the landscape.

The circular restroom would be replaced with a larger facility that would also contain a ranger information station.

## **West Potomac Park (North of Independence Avenue)**

### ***Constitution Gardens***

Constitution Gardens would continue to be an informal area providing limited visitor services. The Lockkeeper's House would be kept in its current location, but it would be preserved and its visibility and appearance would be improved to reduce safety hazards for turning vehicles and pedestrians.

Soils and vegetation would be rejuvenated. The lake would be reconstructed to be self-sustaining for plants, but fish would be removed.

Walks would be repaved, and the refreshment stand and restrooms would be replaced.

### ***Lincoln Memorial and Grounds***

The Lincoln Memorial would continue to be a very popular destination and location for demonstrations and species events.

On the grounds of the memorial the recommendations of the *Cultural Landscape Report* would be implemented.

Educational exhibits would be provided in the Watergate area to enhance public understanding of the steps and the Constitution Avenue belvedere. The information stations for the Korean War Veterans and Vietnam Veterans memorials would be rehabilitated.

To help restore a more historic scene, the south ramp cloverleaf from Arlington Memorial Bridge to Rock Creek Parkway would be removed, and traffic would be redirected to 23rd Street NW. Jurisdictional adjustments would be made to correspond to new road and circulation improvements. Storage and maintenance areas

associated with the roads would be addressed with the realignment of the roads.

The following actions for the Lincoln Memorial and grounds are common to all alternatives:

- Renovate and expand the exhibit area, renovate the restrooms at the memorial, and relocate the bookstore to the lower level.
- Implement recommendations of the Lincoln Memorial *Cultural Landscape Report*.
- Restore the historic landscape associated with the memorial circle and radial roads.
- Accommodate future national memorials authorized by Congress in the area north of the Watergate steps.
- Accommodate road projects and circulation improvements by others to simplify traffic patterns and to improve pedestrian connections from the Kennedy Center and adjacent neighborhoods.

### **Ash Woods**

The Ash Woods restroom would be replaced, and the U.S. Park Police stables would be renovated.

### **West Potomac Park (South of Independence Avenue)**

#### ***Tidal Basin Area***

The Tidal Basin area under alternative A would be upgraded with paved walks and facilities to enhance strolling and viewing experiences.

The recommendations of engineering studies about how the Tidal Basin is to function would be implemented, and the basin walls would be rebuilt in the current location to be above tidewater.

Soil conditions would be improved, social trail development thwarted, and erosion and soil compaction under trees would be addressed. The effectiveness of tree protection measures would be assessed, and the most effective measures would be implemented.

Walkways would be rebuilt and upgraded. Traffic lanes on the historic Kutz Bridge would be reconfigured to widen pedestrian walks on the south side.

Visitor facilities would be redesigned to reduce congestion and to blend with the historic character of the National Mall. New recreation rental and refreshment facilities would be provided, and restrooms would be added.

### ***Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial***

The Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial would remain a popular destination. A comprehensive condition assessment of the memorial, including visitor use patterns, would be undertaken periodically. Educational programs would be increased.

### ***West Potomac Park Riverfront***

The dry-laid stone river walls would be restored.

### ***Thomas Jefferson Memorial and Grounds***

The Thomas Jefferson Memorial would continue to be a popular destination that is also used for special events. No special event stage, roof, or walls would be allowed to obstruct the view to the White House. Cell phone tours would be developed.

On the grounds the tour bus drop-off would be redesigned to facilitate pedestrian circulation.

## Alternative A — Conservation Zoning

Map

## **Alternative A**

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## ALTERNATIVE B — FOCUS ON A WELCOMING NATIONAL CIVIC SPACE FOR PUBLIC GATHERINGS, EVENTS, AND HIGH-USE LEVELS

Alternative B would improve the National Mall as the premier civic space for our nation and would support very high use levels. The evolving ceremonial, celebratory, cultural, and visitor uses at this national civic space would be emphasized. Diverse peoples would be welcomed through multilingual educational opportunities, and the needs of large groups (including those arriving by tour bus), demonstrators, and event participants would be met.

Some areas would be redesigned to provide a more sustainable civic forum and a stage for First Amendment demonstrations and other events.

The National Park Service would ensure compatible and enduring high-quality design, as well as the highest facility maintenance standards, to create a sense of place that would reinforce the civic, historic, and symbolic role of the National Mall to our nation.

The following actions would be in addition to those described under “Actions Common to All Alternatives” and highlighted in the accompanying text box. Only areas where actions would be taken are included in the following discussion.

### National Mall Actions

#### **Cultural Resources**

Cultural resources would be protected, and planned vistas within the historic landscape would be improved and perpetuated.

#### **Natural Resources**

The National Park Service would seek a long-term solution to flooding in the monumental core, based on the results of engineering studies. This would be done in cooperation with the Army Corps of Engineers, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the National Capital Planning Commission, and city agencies.

#### Actions Common to All Alternatives

As previously described, the following summarized actions are common to all alternatives:

- *Cultural Resources* — Preserve and protect cultural resources; manage in accordance with *The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards* and with the general recommendations of cultural landscape reports and inventories.
- *Natural Resources* — Continue to manage and protect natural resources. Address water quality problems in water features.
- *Demonstrations and Special Events* — Consistent with the First Amendment and federal regulations, fully accommodate demonstrations on a first-come, first-served basis. Consistent with federal regulations, accommodate special events. Improve permit procedures for special events and First Amendment demonstrations. Enhance monitoring procedures to ensure that resources are better protected and that soil, turf, and vegetation impacts are reduced.
- *Access and Circulation* — Continue working with the city and other agencies to address tour bus parking.
- *Visitor Information, Education, and Enjoyment* — Continue to offer visitor information, educational programs, venues for entertainment, guided walking and bicycle tours, and a mix of recreational activities.
- *Visitor Amenities* — Assess the economic feasibility, necessity, and appropriateness of changes to commercial visitors services and facilities.
- *Health, Public Safety, and Security* — Continue law enforcement patrols and increase a law enforcement presence during large events.
- *Park Operations* — Make waste management more efficient; expand recycling at events; continue a visual quality team to improve conditions and the appearance of park facilities; and meet NPS energy efficiency goals.

In addition to actions under alternative A (improving soil conditions, protecting trees and plants from social trails, implementing turf management practices, and developing a fencing system for use during rehabilitation and restoration), park managers would seek ways to reduce the physical impacts of events, such as soil compaction and erosion in the Mall elm tree panels and around the Tidal Basin cherry trees. As one of the measures to deal with the effects of climate change, raising the height of the seawalls at

the Tidal Basin and along the Potomac River would be considered.

### ***Demonstrations, Special Events, and National Celebrations***

Highly visible venues throughout the National Mall would be redeveloped to better accommodate and in some cases increase space available for demonstrations and special events. These spaces would be better designed for intense levels of use. Multiple, desirable, hard-surface venues, staging areas, and utilities (water, electrical, Internet, and media connections) would be provided.

Permit brochures and handouts would be rewritten to better inform potential demonstration and event organizers about how to promote sustainable, low-impact activities.

In addition to the regulation changes proposed under alternative A to reduce resource impacts and to implement post-event recovery procedures, the standard permit requirements would be revised to recommend that special event organizers consider placement of all structures so that they do not block eye-level views between national symbols (such as the U.S. Capitol, the Washington Monument, the Lincoln Memorial, the Thomas Jefferson Memorial, or the White House). Event organizers would be encouraged to use supplementary (hired) transit services to facilitate large-scale events based on estimated size and location of events.

### ***Access and Circulation***

For public access the intent would be to coordinate visitor circulation systems that would be focused on a high-quality, enjoyable pedestrian environment while providing a positive urban experience and coordinated urban connections within a parklike setting.

Some roads and crosswalks would be redesigned to improve and facilitate pedestrian movements while accommodating urban traffic, and traffic-calming measures would be considered. Additional parking would be provided for people with disabilities; parking areas would be redesigned for more efficient operation; and if determined feasible by engineering, security, geotechnical, and economic studies, under-

ground paid public parking garages would be developed. Tour bus drop-offs would be redesigned as needed.

Pedestrian experiences would be improved with upgraded walking surfaces and programming automatic and extended pedestrian crossing times into signal phasing. Pedestrian bridges or tunnels would be added.

### ***Visitor Information, Education, and Enjoyment***

Park information and orientation would continue to be improved. In addition, an on-line events calendar would be provided on glare-free variable message signs that would also be capable of providing emergency information. Onsite orientation maps would be lit for readability and viewing during evening hours. Roving rangers would welcome visitors and answer questions, and all park staff, including maintenance staff, would be able to direct visitors to destinations and provide park maps. Greetings, welcoming information, publications, and tours would be offered in foreign languages, and the use of large-print publications would be increased. Park staff would work with adjacent museums and managers of visitor destinations to provide park information.

In addition to educational programs focused on the memorials and the history of the city, visitors would be educated about how the National Mall is the nation's civic stage and gathering place. The purpose and history of our nation's preeminent civic space would be discussed as the location for First Amendment demonstrations, special events, and national celebrations.

Multiple thematic walking tour brochures or cell phone tours would be offered, in addition to current bicycle and walking tours. Examples of topics include development of the federal city, the civic stage and First Amendment demonstrations, presidential memorials, tree guides, seasonal guides, and exploring with children.

Entertainment would be facilitated through improved or additional venues that would be designed with the necessary infrastructure, including new food service destinations (if feasible). Performances, educational programs,



and thematically appropriate entertainment would be encouraged.

A mix of recreational activities would be continued. Surface materials would be improved under alternative B to better accommodate some activities. Curbs and steps would be designed to discourage skateboarding. As described under the no-action alternative, the park would assess the economic feasibility, necessity, and appropriateness of additional food service. If feasible, existing facilities would be replaced or upgraded in some locations. Well-located, convenient, and attractive multipurpose facilities with indoor/outdoor seating and potential for performance venues would be provided. Longer service hours would be considered. An on-line permitting system for athletic fields.

### **Visitor Amenities**

Like alternative A, all new facilities would be designed to be compatible with the character of the National Mall. They would also be more identifiable for visitors, would strengthen the NPS identity, and would denote that they are secondary to memorials. A limited number of architecturally significant destination visitor facilities could be developed in certain locations (e.g., the Washington Monument, Constitution Gardens, Union Square, and the Tidal Basin area).

A coordinated approach for furnishings would be developed, incorporating character-defining components (similar to alternative A):

- historic benches, including the NPS standard Washington bench
- historic lighting (Olmsted, Twin twenties, Washington globe, Saratoga lights)
- replacement furnishings at memorials (seating, trash receptacles, signs) to unify the National Mall except for custom furnishings such as seating specifically designed for memorials

New, coordinated, high-quality furnishings would be provided, including but not limited to trash/recycling containers, curbs, and fencing (including post-and-chain and temporary fencing).

New walks would be developed to be low-maintenance, sustainable, and universally accessible. Along streets the walks would also conform to the design appearance of the *Streetscape Manual* (Interagency Initiative for National Mall Road Improvement Program 1992) and any updates. Paving could simulate the appearance of gravel.

In addition to adopting lighting guidelines as described under alternative A, pedestrian lighting would be supplemented in some areas, but lighting sources would not contribute to light pollution.

Public restrooms would be provided approximately every quarter mile, and they would be kept open longer. New restrooms would include some sized to meet high use levels, and the capacity of some existing restrooms would be increased. Cleanliness would be frequently monitored.

Drinking fountains would be concentrated near staffed and monitored restrooms. Convenient locations would be designed for portable restrooms.

As described under the no-action alternative, the park would assess the economic feasibility, necessity, and appropriateness of additional commercial services, plus would determine the service types and levels that would be offered. Commercial service would be offered using available authorities. Currently authorized visitor services would be continued. If feasible, existing facilities would be replaced or upgraded in some locations. Well-located, convenient, and attractive multipurpose facilities with indoor/outdoor seating and potential for performance venues would be provided. Longer service hours would be considered.

Seating would be increased by using site components such as walls, and more seating would be provided at some memorials, including seating for groups.

### **Health, Public Safety, and Security**

Areas would be redesigned to safely accommodate multiple uses, for example, separate bicycle lanes in some areas. In addition to pedestrian access improvements (programming automatic and extended pedestrian crossing times into

signal phasing, midblock crossings, wider waiting areas, special paving, in-pavement lighting, pedestrian tunnels or bridges), walkways would be lit for pedestrian safety, and emergency call stations would be provided near orientation signs. Paving materials would be universally accessible, and additional facilities would be provided for people with disabilities.

Park managers would work with the U.S. Park Police to expand horse patrols, and a law enforcement presence would be emphasized.

To help visitors cool off during hot weather, permanent or temporary water misters would be provided in paved areas, along with interactive water features.

Tall shrub beds and areas allowing cover and storage would be reduced or eliminated, which would be keeping with the original landscape design intent.

### **Park Operations**

Deferred maintenance or repairs would be addressed as budgets and staffing allow, but some project areas would be redesigned to allow more use, to better protect resources, and to upgrade and provide sufficient visitor amenities. In addition to the actions under alternative A for operations and sustainability, staffing would be increased for maintenance, events, special project teams, and law enforcement to manage high volumes of use, events, and recovery/rehabilitation. Electronic facility monitoring would be used to schedule the opening/closing of restrooms and cleaning. A temporary fence system would be developed that is attractive, durable, not easily scaled, and lightweight so that it is easy to store, transport, and install. As described for alternative A, recycling programs would be improved, and facilities would be designed to withstand vandalism and forced entry.

Walkways would be wide enough to accommodate maintenance, staff, and operational vehicles, as well as the public, and they would be able to withstand the weight of vehicles used for park operations and event deliveries.

## **The Mall**

### **Union Square (1st to 3rd Streets)**

The Ulysses S. Grant Memorial would be the focal point of a dignified, paved urban civic square that is redesigned to highlight views, meet event needs, be a visitor destination, and offer comfort, convenience, and entertainment. It would also be a venue for demonstrations and special events.

Under alternative B the reflecting pool would be removed, and the square would be redesigned to increase space for demonstrations, civic engagement, and special events. Infrastructure such as utilities and communication system networks, including media connections, would be provided for demonstrations and events. A multi-purpose visitor destination facility with food service, restrooms, retail, and entertainment or performance space would be developed.

### **The Mall (3rd to 14th Streets)**

The Mall would be rehabilitated and redesigned as a highly visible, sustainable venue with more hard surfaces for very high levels of use (demonstrations, public gatherings, cultural programs, and other civic events). Its critical historic features would be maintained.

The condition of the historic landscape would be improved, and a decorative and interactive water feature would be added at the 8th Street cross axis, a site identified in the McMillan plan.

Soils, turf, and tree growing conditions would be improved, similar to alternative A, except gravel on the walkways would be eliminated. Ways would be sought to reduce soil compaction and erosion within the elm tree panels, and American elms would be replaced as needed. The use of post-and-chain fencing to control resource damage would be minimized. The planting plan for all vegetation on the Mall would be updated to ensure that any changes would be compatible with contributing features of historic plans.

For demonstrations and special events, actions would be similar to the no-action alternative and alternative A. However, some temporary event facilities (such as tents, stages, and vehicles) could be located in the elm tree panels if turf/root zones and soils were protected through an

acceptable and authorized method. In addition, Madison Drive NW and Jefferson Drive SW could be used during large special events or demonstrations (more than 250,000 people), and non-emergency / law enforcement vehicular traffic would be rerouted.

A welcome area would be developed near the Metro stop, with a large tactile model of the National Mall. Electronic information would be provided, along with a listing of events and activities. Educational panels would be provided about First Amendment demonstrations and the Mall as the nation's premier civic space.

Existing recreational opportunities would continue, and interactive water features would be provided in some locations. Regularly scheduled ranger programs or walks would be offered, and entertainment would be encouraged. The coordination of visitor information with museums surrounding the Mall would be increased.

Visitor transportation, commercial tour bus drop-offs, bicycles, and other wheeled vehicles would be accommodated on Madison and Jefferson drives, with access occasionally restricted to accommodate events and national celebrations (such as the Fourth of July). If determined feasible by engineering, security, geotechnical, and economic studies, an underground facility for paid visitor parking would be constructed between 15th and 12th streets, which would be entered from 15th Street. Tour bus drop-offs on the Mall would be increased.

For paving and pedestrian circulation, new walks would be developed to be low-maintenance, sustainable, and universally accessible. Along streets the walks would also conform to the design appearance of the *Streetscape Manual* (Interagency Initiative for National Mall Road Improvement Program 1992) and any updates. Surfaces in other areas would be provided to facilitate events and to maintain improved landscape conditions. Some walks would be widened, and some turf areas would be paved for event venues.

Small restroom facilities near existing refreshment stands would be constructed in a similar architectural style. A larger multi-agency restroom would be provided at the Smithsonian

Metro station, and a custom-designed, covered entry would be constructed over the Metro entrance.

New public space for seating, pedestrian amenities, and event staging would be created over the 12th Street tunnel portals at Madison Drive NW and Jefferson Drive SW.

The following action for the Mall is common to all alternatives:

- Work with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority to change the name of the Smithsonian Metro station to include the National Mall.

## Washington Monument and Grounds

A high-quality, convenient indoor/outdoor visitor service facility (food service, retail, information, entertainment, restrooms, and views of the monument) would be provided on the northwest corner of 15th Street and Independence Avenue, near the current location of the Sylvan Theater. The facility would be a pleasant destination and a model of adaptable, convenient space capable of meeting the needs of early morning ticket queues (ticketing and a contact station would still be provided in the Monument Lodge). Space would also be provided for food and retail, educational programs, and entertainment (events, performances, and evening entertainment), as well as office space. This facility would replace the Sylvan Theater and the circular restroom.

Infrastructure (utility connections, space for portable restrooms) would be developed to support demonstrations, events, performances, and staging in the northeast and northwest corners of the monument's north grounds.

To improve public access under alternative B, pedestrian underpasses or bridges would be constructed between 14th and 15th streets near Madison Drive NW and Jefferson Drive SW. Paving would be expanded near major crosswalks. Additional parking for people with disabilities would be provided near the new multipurpose visitor facility. If determined feasible by engineering, security, geotechnical, and economic studies, an underground visitor

parking facility would be built below the multi-purpose recreation fields on the south grounds, with pedestrian access under Independence Avenue to the monument's visitor service areas.

Survey Lodge would be rehabilitated to provide services for people with disabilities.

## **West Potomac Park (North of Independence Avenue)**

### **Constitution Gardens**

Constitution Gardens would be a restful, high-quality visitor destination, with food service and opportunities for entertainment and enjoyment. Soils and vegetation would be rejuvenated.

The Lockkeeper's House would be preserved, but it would be relocated slightly away from the intersection for safety reasons. The interior would be rehabilitated, and the building would be staffed for visitor information. Pedestrian and vehicular movements at the intersection would be improved.

To accommodate demonstrations and special events, the lake and circulation patterns would be redesigned to increase available space. Walks would be repaved, and some walkways would be widened to create venues for smaller events (exhibits, tents, and performances). The lake would be reconstructed as a very shallow pool that could be drained for demonstrations and special events. Infrastructure (e.g., utilities and communication systems) would be incorporated into the new design.

A multipurpose facility would be developed in the paved asphalt area as previously designed, with a unique indoor/outdoor character that could accommodate approximately 130 people indoors and 200 outside. A flexible, multi-use outdoor stage would be provided in the lake near this facility, with informal seating around the lake for several thousand people. Performances of thematic entertainment could be offered (e.g., World War II era music, Latin American music). The existing restrooms would be replaced.

### **Vietnam Veterans Memorial**

Space would be provided near the memorial to allow for seating and contemplation.

### **Lincoln Memorial and Grounds**

For demonstrations and special events on the memorial grounds, the *Lincoln Memorial Guidelines* would be expanded to address the availability and use of infrastructure (e.g., utilities, communication systems) to facilitate events.

Additional restrooms would be provided near the north and south concession / refreshment stands on the grounds. The integrity of the historic planting plan would be respected when adding restrooms.

Better pedestrian crossings of the memorial circle and radial roads would be provided.

Under alternative B the Vietnam Veterans Memorial information station would be removed once the memorial center was open, and the Korean War information station could be replaced.

A ceremonial use would be developed for the Watergate steps. Also, pedestrian crossings and access to Arlington Memorial Bridge would be improved.

The following actions for the Lincoln Memorial and grounds are common to all alternatives:

- Renovate and expand the exhibit area, renovate the restrooms at the memorial, and relocate the bookstore to the lower level. In addition under alternative B the restroom would be expanded within the building footprint.
- Implement recommendations of the Lincoln Memorial *Cultural Landscape Report*.
- Restore the historic landscape associated with the memorial circle and radial roads.
- Accommodate future national memorials authorized by Congress in the area north of the Watergate steps.
- Accommodate road projects and circulation improvements by others to simplify traffic patterns and to improve pedestrian

connections from the Kennedy Center and adjacent neighborhoods.

### ***Korean War Veterans Memorial***

Changes in visitor use patterns at the Korean War Veterans Memorial since the development of new memorials would be assessed. Additional east-side entry walks would be provided to accommodate changing circulation patterns.

### ***Ash Woods***

Ash Road would become primarily a pedestrian walk and secondarily a service road for emergency, law enforcement, and maintenance access. The restroom would be replaced with a new facility between the World War II and Lincoln memorials. The U.S. Park Police stables would be screened from view with a wall or fence appropriate for the historic design of the National Mall. A new parking area and vehicle access would be provided from Independence Avenue.

## **West Potomac Park (South of Independence Avenue)**

### ***Tidal Basin Area***

The Tidal Basin area would be upgraded with high-quality, paved walks, improved circulation, furniture, facilities, and services to provide opportunities for more visitors to enjoy strolling and viewing experiences.

The recommendations of engineering studies of the basin function would be implemented, and the walls would be rebuilt to allow wider walkways to protect the cherry trees. Additional locations would be provided for visitors to enjoy views or take photographs, and walks would be widened to reduce trampling of tree roots. Three pedestrian bridges would be added near Inlet, Outlet, and Kutz bridges to reduce congestion, and pedestrian lighting would be added for visitor safety and enjoyment.

The parking lot would be removed if and when a new underground garage was provided on the south grounds of the Washington Monument.

Seating would be added, and facilities would be redesigned to reduce congestion and to complement the historic character of the National Mall. The refreshment stand would be replaced with a destination multipurpose facility, which would be a small-scale, year-round facility with a unique character, indoor/outdoor seating, and open views. Restrooms would be provided, and the recreation equipment rental facilities would be upgraded.

### ***Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial***

Under alternative B educational programs would be increased, and Room 4 would be used for this purpose, as intended. A comprehensive condition assessment of the memorial, including visitor use patterns, would be undertaken. Food service would be provided in a location that would also be convenient to the future Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial.

### ***West Potomac Riverfront Park***

The river walls would be reconstructed as higher, stone-faced structural walls so they would not be overtopped by water and floating debris. A small staging area for demonstrations and events would be developed south of 23rd Street and Independence Avenue SW. Grass pavement and utilities would be provided.

### ***Thomas Jefferson Memorial and Grounds***

Proposals for the Thomas Jefferson Memorial would generally be similar to the no-action alternative and alternative A. Utilities and infrastructure for demonstrations and special events would be installed on the plaza.

On the grounds historic plantings would be preserved. The refreshment stand along East Basin Drive would be replaced.

## Alternative B — Conservation Zoning

Map

## **Alternative B**

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## ALTERNATIVE C — FOCUS ON URBAN OPEN SPACE, URBAN ECOLOGY, RECREATION, AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLES

The vision for alternative C is to meet evolving recreational needs in the nation’s capital by providing beautiful, enjoyable, and ecologically sustainable open spaces that could be adapted to changing recreational patterns of diverse local and national users. This concept would contribute to healthy lifestyles, healthy parks, and healthy, more sustainable cities.

Recreational activities would be expanded by redesigning some areas, increasing recreation equipment rentals (such as boats, skates, and bicycles), adding playgrounds, and emphasizing connections to the recreational and enjoyment opportunities in East Potomac Park, the Georgetown Waterfront, and Rock Creek Park, as well as the southwest waterfront.

The National Park Service would ensure compatible and enduring high-quality design, as well as the highest facility maintenance standards, to create a sense of place that would reinforce the civic, historic, and symbolic role of the National Mall to our nation.

The following actions would be in addition to those described under “Actions Common to All Alternatives” and highlighted in the accompanying text box. Only areas where actions would be taken are included in the following discussion.

### National Mall Actions

#### **Cultural Resources**

As described for alternative A, landscape health and appearance would be improved. Vistas within the historic landscape would be protected and preserved.

#### **Natural Resources**

Environmentally sound ways to improve water quality would be sought. Means would be developed to conserve water, reduce the use of potable water, and reuse water. Nonpotable water sources would be sought for water features. In cooperation with other federal and city

### Actions Common to All Alternatives

As previously described, the following summarized actions are common to all alternatives:

- *Cultural Resources* — Preserve and protect cultural resources; manage in accordance with *The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards* and with the general recommendations of cultural landscape reports and inventories.
- *Natural Resources* — Continue to manage and protect natural resources. Address water quality problems in water features.
- *Demonstrations and Special Events* — Consistent with the First Amendment and federal regulations, fully accommodate demonstrations on a first-come, first-served basis. Consistent with federal regulations, accommodate special events. Improve permit procedures for special events and First Amendment demonstrations. Enhance monitoring procedures to ensure that resources are better protected and that soil, turf, and vegetation impacts are reduced.
- *Access and Circulation* — Continue working with the city and other agencies to address tour bus parking.
- *Visitor Information, Education, and Enjoyment* — Continue to offer visitor information, educational programs, venues for entertainment, guided walking and bicycle tours, and a mix of recreational activities.
- *Visitor Amenities* — Assess the economic feasibility, necessity, and appropriateness of changes to commercial visitors services and facilities.
- *Health, Public Safety, and Security* — Continue law enforcement patrols and increase a law enforcement presence during large events.
- *Park Operations* — Make waste management more efficient; expand recycling at events; continue a visual quality team to improve conditions and the appearance of park facilities; and meet NPS energy efficiency goals.

agencies, the National Park Service would seek to develop sustainable approaches to address urban drainage flooding.

Stormwater management structures would be developed to mitigate urban drainage flooding. The potential for collecting and storing water from subsurface drainage / dewatering activities and reusing it for irrigation purposes would be explored, as would stormwater retention to reduce flooding from urban drainage (e.g., Constitution Gardens Lake) and rain gardens.

To improve soil and vegetation conditions, rehabilitation and recovery periods would be revised so that smaller areas could be set aside more frequently and broader public access maintained. Practices would be implemented to protect and improve conditions for special vegetation populations. Soils would be managed according to the Sustainable Sites Initiative™ approach.

To help address the effects of climate change, the park would coordinate with others to undertake a comprehensive approach to address the impacts of climate change. In addition, the park would seek to reduce greenhouse gases by 18% by 2012.

### ***Demonstrations, Special Events, and National Celebrations***

As described for alternative B, highly visible venues would be provided for demonstration and special events that would be better designed for high levels of use and with support infrastructure (electrical power, Internet and media connections) and durable surfacing.

In addition to the regulation changes proposed under alternative A for event permitting and monitoring, as well as post-event recovery procedures, the turf management program would be revised so that smaller areas would be set aside more frequently, thus allowing broader public access. Events — not First Amendment demonstrations — would be scheduled to equalize use of the National Mall at any time. Part of the Mall's grass panels would be open at all times for public recreation, part would be available for events, and part would be available for landscape recovery and restoration. Also, other means to expand participation in demonstrations and special events would be considered, e.g., opportunities for large viewing screens to simulcast offsite demonstrations.

Operational improvements would be the same as alternative A, including a new reservation system, infrastructure, and space for temporary facilities and law enforcement to reduce resource impacts.

### ***Access and Circulation***

Circulation systems would offer a high-quality, enjoyable environment for both pedestrians and bicyclists, while accommodating urban traffic within a park environment.

Some roads and crosswalks would be redesigned to improve and facilitate pedestrian movements, and some roads would be tunneled to improve vehicular circulation. Parking areas would be redesigned to be more efficient.

Pedestrian experiences would be improved with upgraded walking surfaces and longer pedestrian countdowns; low-maintenance, sustainable, and universally accessible paving (same as alternative B), and pedestrian bridges or pedestrian/vehicular underpasses. Nonmotorized access would be facilitated by providing separate circulation routes for pedestrians and bicyclists or personal transit users, and by providing additional facilities geared to pedestrians and bicyclists. Bicycle lanes or markings on roads would be coordinated with the city. Tour bus drop-offs would be redesigned as needed.

### ***Visitor Information, Education, and Enjoyment***

Visitors would be educated about healthy lifestyles, plant materials and gardens, natural resources, sustainable practices and ecosystems, and stewardship activities through brochures, exhibits, and tours. More guided walking/ bicycling tours would be offered. Multi-season touring opportunities (spring cherry blossoms, fall colors) would be emphasized. Entertainment would be facilitated by providing better infrastructure at performance venues.

Consistent with this alternative's emphasis on healthy lifestyles, opportunities would be expanded to meet evolving recreational needs. Sport field conditions would be improved and additional fields created. Connections to other nearby recreation facilities would be improved, and information about recreational opportunities in East Potomac Park would be provided through brochures and web-based information. Trail connections along the Washington Waterfront, as well as along the Potomac and Anacostia rivers, would be improved. An on-line

permitting system for athletic fields would be developed.

If determined to be feasible in a commercial service plan, additional seasonal rentals of recreation equipment would be provided, as discussed below for each area.

### **Visitor Amenities**

The architectural character of all facilities would be similar to alternative B, with the development of architecturally significant destination visitor facilities in certain locations. Under alternative C there would be a focus on cutting-edge, sustainable design solutions, exceeding the silver rating under the LEED program. Visible but subtle renewable energy components, such as photovoltaic solar energy systems, would be incorporated in designs. As described for alternative B, coordinated, high-quality, compatible site furnishings would be developed, but they would also be sustainable.

In addition to adopting lighting guidelines as described under alternative A, pedestrian lighting would be supplemented in some areas, but lighting sources would not contribute to light pollution.

Porous paving surfaces would be used if feasible, plus soft surfaces for jogging and smooth surfaces for in-line skating or wheeled recreation. Seating, including rental portable lawn chairs, would be increased in areas used for active recreation, such as ballfields.

For food service, facilities would be replaced or upgraded in some locations, but refreshment stands would be the primary venue. More food variety would be offered. New drinking fountains or water stations would be designed to reduce possible misuse and to facilitate the filling of reusable water bottles. Restrooms, including some that would be automated and self-cleaning, would be added near food service locations.

### **Health, Public Safety, and Security**

Circulation systems would be redesigned and separated to improve safety and reduce use conflicts. As described for alternative B, pedestrian safety would be increased by programming

automatic and extended pedestrian crossing times into signal phasing, adding midblock crossings, improving crosswalks, providing pedestrian tunnels or bridges, and redesigning roadways to connect park areas. Walkways would be lit so as to emphasize surface conditions but not be intrusive (hidden or low profile light sources). Universally accessible paving materials would be provided.

For law enforcement, bike patrols would be expanded. A mass notification system would be provided for emergency situations, as well as emergency call stations. Water misters and interactive water features would be provided to allow visitors to cool off.

### **Park Operations**

Deferred maintenance would be addressed as budgets and staffing allow, but some project areas would be redesigned to allow more use, to better protect resources, and to upgrade and provide sufficient visitor amenities. Maintenance activities and operations would be increased, as described for alternatives A and B. Under alternative C staff increases for recreational and educational programs would be sought. Technological advances such as self-cleaning, automated public restrooms would be used in some areas to reduce maintenance. Means other than snow fencing would be developed to protect areas during rest and rehabilitation periods.

The park would take the lead in demonstration and interactive programs for efficient energy use. Renewable energy sources would be sought for lighting and pumping systems for water features. The National Park Service would advance the principles of sustainability, as described in the preferred alternative, and would strive to achieve the highest LEED standard practicable, determine the park's carbon footprint, and reduce greenhouse gases by 18% by 2012.

## **The Mall**

### **Union Square (1st to 3rd Streets)**

The Ulysses S. Grant Memorial would be the focal point of an active, paved urban civic square that would be a visitor destination and that

would showcase reflective and interactive water features with an environmentally friendly design to highlight sustainable water management practices. The area would be visually and physically connected to the U.S. Botanic Garden and U.S. Senate Youth Park and U.S. Botanic Garden Education and Outreach Center to the north.

As described for alternative A, the condition of historic landscape components would be improved. The Capitol Reflecting Pool would be redesigned as a shallow pool that could be drained for demonstrations and events or frozen for ice skating. Interactive water features would be provided to help visitors cool off during hot weather and to enliven the space.

Infrastructure would be provided for demonstrations and events. Food and retail sales would be provided, plus automated, self-cleaning public restrooms.

### ***The Mall (3rd to 14th Streets)***

The Mall would be redesigned to better accommodate high levels of use for demonstrations and special events. It would provide additional, sustainable areas for recreational enjoyment (gardens, fountains) and improved lawn conditions (for informal pickup games and play). A children's play area would be provided, as well as interactive water features at some locations. The center grass panels would be reconfigured to provide larger spaces for informal recreation.

Soil, turf, and tree growing conditions would be improved, and a new irrigation system would be installed, similar to alternatives A and B. American elms would be replaced as needed, and post-and-chain fencing would be used to prevent social trails. Like alternative B, the planting plan for nonhistoric elements would be updated to ensure that any changes would be compatible with historic plans.

Infrastructure would be provided for demonstrations and events, but no temporary event facilities, such as tents, stages, or vehicles, would be allowed in the elm tree panels.

A visitor contact station would continue to be provided near the Metro stop, and orientation maps and information would be provided here and elsewhere on the Mall. Information would

also be provided about recreational opportunities and ecologically sustainable management of designed landscapes.

Additional lighting and floral displays would enhance the Mall. Park furniture and interactive water features would be provided outside the primary viewshed to protect the historic landscape. Paving near refreshment stands would be redesigned to allow for expanded service areas as needed. Small restroom facilities would be provided near the refreshment stands.

A 14th Street vehicular tunnel would be constructed to create a larger pedestrian-only area. Free public parking would continue to be allowed on Madison and Jefferson drives. Gravel would be replaced with sustainable, universally accessible surface materials. Some north-south walks would be eliminated between 7th and 9th streets to increase recreation space on center lawn panels.

The following action for the Mall is common to all alternatives:

- Work with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority to change the name of the Smithsonian Metro station to include the National Mall.

### **Washington Monument and Grounds**

High-quality indoor/outdoor visitor services (food service, retail, restrooms) would be provided on the Washington Monument grounds between 14th and 15th streets. The circular restroom would be replaced, and automated, self-cleaning restrooms would also be installed near Constitution Avenue between 16th and 17th streets. The Sylvan Theater would be reconstructed and reoriented to provide a new entertainment venue with improved viewing.

A 14th Street vehicular tunnel would be constructed to improve pedestrian movement and safety, along with enhanced pedestrian crosswalks to increase their visibility to drivers, widened pedestrian waiting areas, and programming automatic and extended pedestrian crossing times into signal phasing, on 15th Street. Roads, parking, bicycle, and pedestrian circulation would be redesigned to reconnect park

areas, to improve safety and recreational opportunities, and to connect to the southwest waterfront and East Potomac Park. Separate, dedicated bike trails would be constructed. A turfed surface would be provided over Maine Avenue to connect the monument grounds with the Tidal Basin.

## **West Potomac Park (North of Independence Avenue)**

### ***Constitution Gardens***

The Constitution Gardens would be a restful, quality visitor destination, with a garden café. As described for alternative B, the Lockkeeper's House would be preserved and moved to an adjacent location slightly away from the intersection for safety reasons. The interior would be rehabilitated, and the building would be staffed for visitor information. Vehicular and pedestrian movements would be improved at the intersection.

Soils and vegetation would be rejuvenated. The lake would be reconstructed to be self-sustaining for fish and plants. The lake would also be incorporated into the urban stormwater retention systems to control flooding, and a nonpotable water source would be found.

For visitor enjoyment recreation rentals, such as model boats and lawn chairs, would be provided. A children's play area would be added, along with an informal interactive water feature. Walks would be repaved and widened in some areas to create venues for small events (exhibits, tents, performances). Space would be provided for refreshment carts. Visitor facilities would be similar to alternative B, with a smaller food service facility.

### ***Lincoln Memorial and Grounds***

The historic landscape on the memorial grounds would be preserved and protected. As described for alternative B, the *Lincoln Memorial Guidelines* would be expanded to address the availability and use of infrastructure (e.g., utilities, communication systems) to facilitate events.

Educational information would enhance public understanding of the Watergate steps and the Constitution Avenue belvedere. In addition

under alternative C water taxi stops could be accommodated at the steps, with a redesign of Ohio Drive for safe pedestrian access.

A north ramp and access to Constitution Avenue would be reestablished, in conjunction with the *Framework Plan*. Jurisdictional agreements and storage / maintenance facilities would be addressed as described under alternative A.

The addition of visitor restrooms at the south concession stand would respect the integrity of the historic planting plan. (Restrooms on the north side would be available at the planned Vietnam Veterans Memorial Center.) Facilities at volleyball courts would be improved.

The following actions for the Lincoln Memorial and grounds are common to all alternatives:

- Renovate and expand the exhibit area, renovate the restrooms at the memorial, and relocate the bookstore to the lower level.
- Implement recommendations of the Lincoln Memorial *Cultural Landscape Report*.
- Restore the historic landscape associated with the memorial circle and radial roads.
- Accommodate future national memorials authorized by Congress in the area north of the Watergate steps.
- Accommodate road projects and circulation improvements by others to simplify traffic patterns and to improve pedestrian connections from the Kennedy Center and adjacent neighborhoods.

### ***Korean War Veterans Memorial***

Screens for interactive computer displays would be replaced and upgraded as technology improves. As described for alternative B, visitor use patterns would be assessed, and additional east-side entry walks would be provided.

### ***Ash Woods***

Recreation fields in the Ash Woods area would be upgraded with backstops, etc., to avoid leagues leaving their equipment on the fields.

The restroom would be replaced with a new facility between the World War II and Lincoln

memorials (the same as alternative B). The U.S. Park Police stables would be reconstructed and would be designed to be compatible with the historic character and quality of the National Mall. The horse paddocks would become part of the visitor experience, with information about the U.S. Park Police and horse patrols. A new parking area and vehicle access road from Independence Avenue would be constructed.

## **West Potomac Park (South of Independence Avenue)**

### ***Tidal Basin Area***

The Tidal Basin area would be upgraded with high-quality paved walks, improved circulation, and facilities, as well as additional recreational opportunities, to allow more visitors to enjoy strolling and viewing experiences.

A sustainable solution would be sought to comprehensively address hydrology and flooding in the Tidal Basin area. The recommendations of engineering studies would be implemented, and the ability of the basin to flush and absorb tidal surges would be maximized. The basin walls would be rebuilt to allow wider walkways. Soil and vegetation conditions would be improved.

During demonstrations and special events more roving educational ambassadors and more educational signs would help prevent resource damage.

Recreation equipment rentals would be expanded to include kayaks and rowboats. The bay north of Kutz Bridge would be filled to provide additional recreation fields.

Roads and parking areas would be redesigned to be more efficient. In addition to widening and repaving walkways, pedestrian bridges would be added to reduce congestion. Pedestrian lighting would be installed in a manner that would not affect the evening lighting ambience of memorials.

Visitor amenities, including the refreshment stand and the recreation equipment rental facilities, would be replaced to reduce congestion and to complement the historic character of the National Mall. Restrooms would be added.

### ***Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial***

Educational programs would be increased, and Room 4 would be used for this purpose, as intended. A comprehensive condition assessment of the memorial, including visitor use patterns, would be undertaken. A refreshment stand without restrooms would be constructed in a location that would also be convenient to the future Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial.

### ***West Potomac Park Riverfront***

Where feasible, a sustainable, vegetated shoreline would be developed. The river walls would be reconstructed where necessary. Trees would be added, and river views would be emphasized.

Recreation fields could be occasionally used as staging areas for demonstrations, events, and filming; but other uses would be limited during recreation seasons. Lockers would be provided for personal storage near the recreation fields, and children's play areas would be developed.

Separate bike and walking trails would be provided, with an emphasis on trail connections to East Potomac Park and Rock Creek Park, as well as the southwest waterfront. Roads and parking areas would be redesigned as needed to accommodate bike lanes.

### ***Thomas Jefferson Memorial and Grounds***

Proposals would generally be the same as the no-action alternative and alternative A. For demonstrations and special events utilities and infrastructure would be installed on the plaza. The restrooms in the memorial would be renovated and expanded. Under alternative C ranger programs would be increased.

Historic plantings on the memorial grounds would be preserved. The tour bus drop-off would be redesigned to facilitate pedestrian circulation. The refreshment stand would be relocated to be more convenient to primary view routes (bicycle and pedestrian walkways), as well as the tour bus drop-off.

## Alternative C — Conservation Zoning

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Map

## **Alternative C**

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## ACTIONS CONSIDERED BUT DISMISSED

Numerous suggestions were made during the public scoping and planning process. The National Park Service received around 30,000 public comments, and many public ideas have been included in the alternatives considered in this *Draft Environmental Impact Statement*. These included separate bike routes or lanes, additional and more conveniently located restrooms, better pedestrian lighting, an emphasis on the importance of First Amendment demonstrations, removal of gravel on walkways, more choice in food service, more color, setting an example for green and sustainable uses, recycling, more passive recreational opportunities, family play opportunities, more recreation equipment rentals, and extended hours. In the preferred alternative at least eight ideas were included from each of the preliminary alternatives presented in newsletter 3, and these alternatives were originally developed to incorporate public ideas. The following discussion represents some of the ideas that were considered but dismissed from further consideration as described below.

As stated in NPS *Director's Order #12: Handbook for Environmental Impact Analysis* (NPS 2001b), the National Park Service generally eliminates alternatives from further study because of (a) technical or economic infeasibility; (b) inability to meet project objectives or resolve need; (c) duplication with other, less environmentally damaging or less expensive alternatives; (d) conflict with an up-to-date and valid park plan, statement of purpose and significance, or other policy such that a major change in the plan or policy would be needed to implement; and (e) too great an environmental impact. Reasons for dismissing individual actions are identified in the following discussion.

### A NATIONAL MALL BOUNDARY EXPANSION

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At the beginning of the 20th century the National Mall was expanded by the McMillan Commission at a time when new landfill presented opportunities for what was then an enormous swath of undeveloped space. That

same opportunity no longer exists; the National Mall is now surrounded by federal, local, and private development.

Areas considered to be part of the monumental core have strong physical and symbolic connections to the National Mall, and this includes areas west of the river as well as areas to the north, east, and south. Even though these areas are beyond the defined boundaries of the National Mall, they still make significant contributions to its setting. The lands to the north and south of the National Mall are either privately owned or owned by the federal government and are principally used for agency headquarters. They have a much different character than the National Mall, which is defined by sweeping landscapes, the symbolic cross axis, and the iconic buildings that flank the Mall. The NCPC's *Extending the Legacy* and its implementing documents, the *Memorials and Museums Master Plan* and the *Monumental Core Framework Plan*, propose to elevate important secondary axes that emanate from the National Mall to establish new symbolic connections to sites that are prominently situated. These sites would be integrated within an urban context and would add a rich layer to the city's identity as a modern capital city. Rather than managing the monumental core as a whole landscape or precinct, planning calls for them to be managed as individual sites or corridors

As previously discussed, the National Park Service has defined the National Mall to include three specific areas over which the agency has legal jurisdiction:

- ***The Mall*** — This area includes Union Square, just to the west of the U.S. Capitol grounds, to 14th Street at the east edge of the Washington Monument grounds. The Mall itself extends from 3rd to 14th streets, and from Jefferson Drive on the south to Madison Drive on the north. Adjacent facilities facing the Mall are under the jurisdiction of the Smithsonian Institution, the National Gallery of Art, and the Department of Agriculture.
- ***The Washington Monument*** — This portion of the National Mall lies between 14th

and 17th streets, and from Independence Avenue north to Constitution Avenue. The south Washington Monument grounds are between Maine Avenue and Raoul Wallenberg Place south of Independence Avenue.

- **West Potomac Park** — This portion lies west of 17th Street and extends to the Potomac River on the west and south; the northern boundary is basically Constitution Avenue. This is the setting for numerous memorials, including the Lincoln Memorial, the World War II Memorial, the Thomas Jefferson Memorial, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, the George Mason Memorial, the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial, and the Tidal Basin. The north-west end extends toward the Kennedy Center north of the U.S. 66 highway ramps.

The “Mall System” in the 1901 McMillan plan included eight areas, and the area that is now managed by the National Park Service covers all or a part of five of the eight areas. The other areas included (1) the White House and President’s Park, which the National Park Service manages as a separate unit and for which a current comprehensive plan has already been approved; (2) the U.S. Capitol; and (3) the Federal Triangle area. East Potomac Park, which is adjacent to the National Mall to the south, has a separate legislated purpose to forever provide recreation space; this area has been addressed by the National Capital Planning Commission in the *Monumental Core Framework Plan* so that the National Park Service could focus on the National Mall.

The NPS *Management Policies 2006* stipulate the conditions under which boundary adjustments would be considered (NPS 2006e, sec. 3.5):

As part of the planning process, the Park Service will identify and evaluate boundary adjustments that may be necessary or desirable for carrying out the purposes of the park unit. Boundary adjustments may be recommended to

- protect significant resources and values, or to enhance opportunities for public enjoyment related to park purposes;
- address operational and management issues, such as the need for access or the need for boundaries to correspond to logical boundary delineations such as

topographic or other natural features or roads; or

- otherwise protect park resources that are critical to fulfilling park purposes. . . .

All recommendations for boundary changes must meet the following two criteria:

- The added lands will be feasible to administer considering their size, configuration, and ownership; costs; the views of and impacts on local communities and surrounding jurisdictions; and other factors such as the presence of hazardous substances or exotic species.
- Other alternatives for management and resource protection are not adequate.

The National Park Service does not believe that the current definition of the National Mall requires expansion because of coordinated planning efforts by three federal agencies — the National Capital Planning Commission, the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, and the National Park Service. The National Capital Planning Commission is responsible for planning throughout Washington, D.C., including areas adjacent to the National Mall. The Commission of Fine Arts is responsible for advising on the location of statues, fountains, and monuments in the public areas in the District of Columbia and for reviewing the designs of private construction projects within certain areas of the national capital. Also, adjacent areas are being adequately managed by other entities, and the D.C. Office of Planning has undertaken numerous city planning projects. Therefore, expanding the National Mall would not achieve any purpose that is not already being addressed, would require a change in park purpose, and would not resolve any need or meet park policy. Therefore, it has been eliminated from further consideration.

## A NEW NATIONAL MALL COMMISSION

Suggestions have been made to establish a new commission similar to the McMillan Commission to plan for the areas covered in that 1901 plan. At the time of the McMillan Commission no federal agencies were charged with either planning for or protecting the character of lands within Washington, D.C. Subsequent to the McMillan plan, Congress established the

National Capital Planning Commission and the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts to protect the visions embodied in the McMillan plan, as well as the L'Enfant plan. The National Capital Planning Commission's *Extending the Legacy* plan (NCPC 1997) is the successor to the McMillan plan and provides an overarching vision for the nation's capital that builds on the principles of the L'Enfant and McMillan plans and protects the National Mall. *Monumental Core Framework Plan: Connecting New Destinations with the National Mall*, which was developed by the National Capital Planning Commission in cooperation with the Commission of Fine Arts, would implement the *Extending the Legacy* plan (NCPC 2009). These agencies have been working closely with the National Park Service, the D.C. Office of Planning, and the Architect of the Capitol to coordinate various planning efforts, including the development of the National Mall plan.

A new National Mall commission could only be authorized by Congress or the president, not by the National Park Service, and it would necessarily supersede the purview of the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Planning Commission, as well as the National Park Service. Rather than clarifying the existing situation, a new commission would further complicate present planning and management efforts by delaying urgently needed deferred maintenance, jeopardizing funding that may become available, stalling private/public fundraising, and creating another advocacy or grievance forum.

The work of a new commission might identify some new ideas and provide a new forum for public participation, but public participation is currently part of planning. Much of the work of a new commission would likely be duplicative and redundant to planning efforts undertaken by the National Capital Metropolitan Area Commission as well as the National Capital Planning Commission, the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, the District of Columbia, the General Services Administration, the Smithsonian Institution, the National Gallery of Art, and the National Park Service. Washington residents have direct access to participating in decision-making on the National Mall now through NCPC membership (4 of 12 seats) and also on

the National Capital Metropolitan Area Commission. A new commission could distance that relationship between D.C. citizens and decision-makers. This alternative would duplicate a less expensive alternative to use existing commissions that have been developed for the purposes of planning for and protecting the character of the federal city. Therefore, this proposal is eliminated from further consideration.

## **BUILDING OUT THE McMILLAN PLAN FOR THE NATIONAL MALL**

Suggestions were made to complete the McMillan plan vision for the National Mall or portions of it, such as the design for the Washington Monument grounds. The development of the Mall, the Lincoln Memorial, the Thomas Jefferson Memorial, the Ulysses S. Grant Memorial, and adjacent museums were all clear outgrowths of the McMillan plan. While that plan established the character of the National Mall as the cultural core for our nation, as well as its general boundaries, it was a plan geared to the needs and sensibilities of the early 1900s. A number of projects proposed in the McMillan plan were undertaken, while others underwent significant changes or were never completed. As stated in *Designing the Nation's Capital: The 1901 Plan for Washington, D.C.* (U.S. Commission of Fine Arts [CFA] 2006), "As early as the mid-1920s, the commission's *Tenth Report* noted that the agency's position was that the L'Enfant plan of 1791 was the fundamental one for the District of Columbia, and the [McMillan] plan of 1901 was a 'restatement of the authority of the L'Enfant plan, together with such extensions of that plan as were necessary to make it apply to increased areas and changed conditions. This commission have [*sic*] never held that the plan of 1901 might not in its turn require changes and extensions'" (quoted in CFA 2006, 270).

One example is the McMillan plan's elaborate proposal for the Washington Monument gardens. Doubts about soil conditions around the foundations of the monument caused both the Commission of Fine Arts and the National Capital Park and Planning Commission (the predecessor of the National Capital Planning Commission) to call for a full engineering report, which recommended the plan be abandoned because the areas requiring either excavation or

heavy loading were located where they would seriously affect the stability of the monument (CFA 2006, 265). Another example is the Thomas Jefferson Memorial, which was placed on a site reserved for both a memorial, possibly to the Founding Fathers, and a grouping of public buildings (CFA 2006, 267).

The McMillan plan was a strong plan that provided an urban design and architectural concept illustrating the character for a portion of the symbolic monumental core that had not developed in accordance with L'Enfant's vision or affected land not available in L'Enfant's era. While the strength of the McMillan plan helped propel many components that were eventually realized, designs that were either not feasible or that no longer aligned with changing conditions or tastes were altered as projects were implemented. Projects completed during the 1930s and 1940s in Washington, nearly three decades after the McMillan plan, were as significant as the previous generation's efforts in contributing to the significance of the National Mall.

The design of the National Mall has become more significant with time, and Congress declared it to be "a substantially completed work of civic art" in the 2003 amendments to the Commemorative Works Act. While the National Park Service recognizes that the National Mall is an evolving landscape, there would be no reason to implement elements of the McMillan plan that were previously set aside. NPS *Management Policies 2006* stipulate that "as a basic principle, anything of historical appearance that the National Park Service presents to the public in a park will be either an authentic survival from the past or an accurate representation of that once existing there" (NPS 2006e, sec. 5.3.5). In addition, *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* specifically state, "Designs that were never executed historically will not be constructed." This precludes implementing historic plans that were never built. Therefore, this suggestion was dismissed from further consideration since it would conflict with NPS policy, as well as plans approved by the Commission of Fine Arts, and it would not meet any need.

## CHANGING THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE

Several proposals suggested that the center grass panels of the Mall are too wide and should be narrowed; that additional trees need to be added; that elm trees should be replaced with other species; or that some form of gravel should be used to replace grass under the elm trees. These proposals would alter character-defining components of one of the most historic landscapes and vistas in our nation. The simple and formal Mall landscape is comprised of regularly spaced elm trees and rectangular turf panels. The formal spatial relationships and circulation system were carefully considered in both the McMillan plan and in the 1930s when the present Mall took form under the guidance Frederick Law Olmsted Jr. Elm trees remain one of the most tolerant tree species, and the National Park Service has developed significant expertise in maintaining the trees. Placing gravel under the elm trees would further eliminate picnicking, reading, and general enjoyment of present turf areas. NPS policies prevent the alteration of contributing elements of a nationally significant historic landscape (such as different tree species, or adding gravel beneath the trees) without a compelling reason. Some of these proposals were previously rejected by the National Capital Planning Commission and the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts. As a result, these suggestions were considered but eliminated since several of them would conflict with proposals in park historic structure reports or cultural landscape inventories, or would alter or conflict with plans approved by established commissions.

There have been proposals to remove Constitution Avenue and reopen Tiber Creek as a canal. The National Park Service does not restore a landscape to a specific time without a significant reason and only when detailed plans are available. Constitution Avenue is a critical part of the urban circulation system, and re-establishing the canal would completely disrupt the city's circulation patterns, would be economically infeasible, would result in too great an environmental impact, and would fail to resolve any need.

It was suggested that the National Mall be turned into gardens to produce food. Given the National Mall's purpose and symbolic nature, and its historical use for national celebrations, First Amendment demonstrations, events, tourism, and recreation, the highest and best use would be to continue these uses, not agricultural production. This alternative was dismissed from further consideration since it would conflict with objectives to respect historic plans and provide a venue for First Amendment demonstrations and national celebrations, and it would not resolve any need.

## FEATURES ON THE NATIONAL MALL

### Additional Memorials or Museums

Several comments proposed additional memorials to people or events or a war museum. This action is prohibited by the Commemorative Works Clarifications and Revision Act of 2003. The act identifies the Reserve, which includes the National Mall and the White House and President's Park, and it states that this area is a "substantially completed work of civic art." The construction of additional memorials or visitor centers that had not already been authorized by Congress in 2003 is prohibited. Since this proposal would conflict with a congressional objective and would fail to resolve any need, it was not considered further.

Locations for future memorials and museums include Area 1, which is adjacent to the National Mall and would be appropriate for nationally significant memorials, and Area 2, which encompasses the remainder of the city and would be appropriate for other memorials. The NCPC *Memorials and Museums Master Plan* also identifies numerous locations outside the National Mall for future memorials in order to protect the National Mall from being overbuilt (NCPC 2001). One of the purposes of the NCPC *Monumental Core Framework Plan* is to improve the viability and attractiveness of proposed locations for cultural destinations or commemoration (NCPC 2009). Any proposals to add memorials or museums would conflict with the Commemorative Works Act and could be addressed in accordance within the *Memorials and Museums Master Plan*. Therefore, these

proposals were dismissed from further consideration.

### Moving, Removing, or Destroying Memorials or Historic Structures

Several people and organizations suggested that after the death of the last veteran of each war that is commemorated on the National Mall (the D.C. War Memorial, the World War II Memorial, the Korean War Veterans Memorial, and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial) each memorial should be relocated to Arlington National Cemetery. Congressionally authorized memorials are considered to be cultural resources, and relocating them would alter the historic landscape and the original context for the memorial. These memorials document our nation's history, and they have historic value for that reason. While individual memorials might not be seen as attractive or valued by one group, they may be highly valued by others. These proposals would conflict with NPS cultural resources policies or would not meet congressional objectives when the memorials were established, so they were dismissed from further consideration.

A suggestion was made to move the Ulysses S. Grant Memorial. However, *The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties*, as well as *NPS Management Policies 2006*, set very high standards for considering the relocation of an important commemorative element such as this presidential memorial that is the visually dominating feature of Union Square. Since this proposal would conflict with a congressional objective, as well as NPS cultural resource management policies, and it would constitute too great an environmental impact, this proposal was eliminated from further consideration.

It was also suggested that the historic Monument Lodge be moved because it is within the primary east-west viewshed. This structure is relevant to the history of the Washington Monument, and grading of the Mall screens it from view until viewers are west of 14th Street. The facility has been adaptively reused in the past, and NPS policy is to adaptively reuse buildings in place when their past use is no longer possible. Monument Lodge now serves as a bookstore, ticket location for the Washington

Monument, and restrooms. This proposal was dismissed from further consideration because it would conflict with NPS cultural resource management policies, would not meet any need, and would be economically infeasible.

## A Central Visitor Center

Proposals have been made that a central visitor center should be provided on the National Mall to orient and educate visitors. However, the Commemorative Works Clarifications and Revision Act of 2003 prohibits the construction of any visitor centers within the Reserve, which includes the National Mall. Also, a National Visitor Center was provided at Union Station for the 1976 Bicentennial but was later removed. When the Washington Monument was restored, a temporary visitor center was provided. Neither of these facilities proved to be well used.

The National Park Service emphasizes the value of authentic experiences for visitors rather than virtual experiences. NPS *Management Policies 2006* state,

Within the rich learning environments of national parks and facilitation by NPS interpreters, visitors will be offered authentic experiences and opportunities to immerse themselves in places where events actually happened, experience the thrill of connecting with real objects used by previous generations, enjoy some of the most beautiful and historic places in America, and understand the difficult moments our nation has endured (NPS 2006e, sec. 7.1).

The National Mall is the ideal location to achieve this goal without a central visitor center. Today, the widespread availability of websites facilitate advance planning, understanding of park resources, and getting an overview of visitor opportunities. Information and education for the National Mall would continue to be widely available through brochures, educational wayside panels, onsite radio information, guided walks, scheduled programs, and cell phone tours instead of being centralized at a visitor center. The optimal experience on the National Mall will continue to be direct personal experiences. Currently, a cohesive system of updated National Mall signs, orientation maps, and pedestrian guide signs is being developed to provide wayfinding information.

Focused indoor exhibits and audiovisual programs will continue to be offered at several memorials — the Washington Monument, the Lincoln Memorial, the Thomas Jefferson Memorial, and the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial. Related bookstores will continue to have displays and presentations that use various media. Both the Korean War Veterans Memorial and the World War II Memorial have interactive computer listings. It is expected that the Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Center will continue this approach to some extent. Surrounding museums and galleries also provide visitor information.

Multipurpose facilities proposed in some alternatives would also provide information and education that could be integrated with other visitor services. Other changes to facilitate educational opportunities are addressed in the alternatives. Traditional visitor centers, with auditoriums and extensive media or museum exhibits, have been successfully replaced by open-air facilities that provide a sense of welcome, orientation, information, and education, as well as a point of dispersal for personalized park visits. These methods also provide considerable cost savings.

Generally, visitor centers in national parks are located where the maximum number of visitors could be served. However, there are multiple entry points to the National Mall, and while the Smithsonian Metro station is a primary entrance for visitors arriving on the subway, visitors can enter from one of several entry points and from any direction. Because the destinations are widespread, visitors primarily walk to them, making it logical to provide information at dispersed locations. This idea was dismissed from further consideration because it would not meet plan objectives for visitor convenience and would duplicate less expensive alternatives of providing orientation and information at existing or needed multipurpose facilities.

A central visitor center has been proposed in the Smithsonian Institution's Arts and Industries Building. This location is outside the jurisdiction of the National Park Service, and as previously described, the Smithsonian Institution is considering alternative uses for this space, which the National Park Service is closely following.



## Adding New Features

Some public comments suggested adding features such as a walk of presidents lined by statues, interactive statues, wishing wells, extremely large flagpoles, moats, or patriotically themed or brightly colored paving. These suggestions would alter the character of the historic landscape and vistas in a way that would be inconsistent with historic preservation guidelines and NPS policy. The historic landscape of the National Mall is a treasure that represents core values of our nation, and other comments have reflected a concern that the National Mall could be turned into a theme or amusement park. The *NPS Management Policies 2006* state that a cultural landscape may be rehabilitated for contemporary use if

- it cannot adequately serve an appropriate use in its present condition; and
- rehabilitation will retain its essential features and not alter its integrity and character or conflict with approved park management objectives (NPS 2006e, sec. 5.3.5.2.2).

The actions recommended in the alternatives, such as infrastructure for demonstrations and events and restrooms for visitors, would meet contemporary needs and would be provided in a way that would maintain the integrity and character of the National Mall. However, adding any of the features suggested above would alter the integrity and character of the National Mall. Such alternatives would conflict with NPS policy and would not meet plan objectives to respect historic plans. Therefore, they were eliminated from further consideration.

## Historic Appearance for New Features

Several suggestions were made that new features, such as signs, seating, or other small-scale features, should have a “historic” appearance. *NPS Management Policies 2006* state that new construction should be compatible but differentiated from historic features (sec. 5.3.5).

This policy ensures that authentic historic resources are identifiable to the public as well as protected. This alternative was eliminated from further consideration because it would fail to meet NPS cultural resource management policies, would not meet the plan objective to respect historic plans and resources, and would not resolve any needs that could not be addressed in other ways.

## VISITOR ACCESS

### Underground Connections to Memorials

A proposal was made to develop an underground walk system between all visitor attractions on the National Mall. This area is crossed by several Metro lines and a number of utility systems. Costs to construct such a system would be exorbitant, and visitors would not be able to enjoy the historic landscape and vistas, part of the experience that makes the National Mall unique. This alternative would be economically and technically infeasible, and it would have too great an environmental impact. It would also fail to meet plan objectives for visitors to enjoy the beauty and significance of the National Mall as they move from one destination to another, so it was dismissed from further consideration.

### Tram or Streetcar System

A tram or streetcar system running around the National Mall was proposed as a way to improve visitor transportation. This system typically requires power to be run through overhead lines, which would intrude on views and vistas. The same goal for transportation can be achieved with a bus system, as proposed in the *NPS Visitor Transportation Study* (NPS 2006c), without any adverse effects on the cultural landscape. Because this proposal would duplicate less expensive and less environmentally damaging means of transportation, and because it would fail to meet the plan objective to protect historic vistas, it was dismissed from further consideration.

# COMPARISON OF ALTERNATIVES

Conceptual costs of the alternatives are presented to illustrate the order of magnitude of costs, allowing the comparison of the value of ideas with the cost to implement. The environmentally preferred alternative, as determined by comparing the alternatives to the goals listed in the National Environmental Policy Act, is then described and detailed in Table 5. How well the alternatives meet the objectives of the plan is presented in Table 6. The alternatives are shown in detail in Table 7, and the environmental impacts are summarized in Table 8.

## CONCEPTUAL COST ESTIMATES

In 2008 an NPS consultant prepared conceptual cost estimates for the preliminary range of alternatives (the no-action alternative plus alternatives A, B, and C) to aid in the development of a preferred alternative (see page 51). This process looked first at the values and advantages of alternative actions, then the costs in order to maximize the advantages to the public, as well as the National Park Service, and to provide an appropriate level of quality, while minimizing the costs.

The conceptual cost estimates included projects within the NPS project management information system (PMIS), which parks use to request project funding. This task helped identify the magnitude of the deferred maintenance backlog for the National Mall at more than \$400 million. The park is continually examining the costs to maintain, preserve, protect, and renew its assets and components, so deferred maintenance numbers, PMIS project descriptions, and estimates change as additional information is available. National Mall annual funding and staffing requests would continue to be submitted by the National Mall and Memorial Parks through the NPS National Capital Region.

Future annual operating fund requests and annual work plans would be based on two NPS planning efforts that are outside the scope of the National Mall plan: (1) core operations planning, which aligns staffing to essential tasks, and (2) park asset management planning, which ex-

amines approaches to preserve and maintain the National Mall and its new and existing facilities.

Several projects that were identified in the preliminary alternatives have since been funded, or planning has been completed. These projects are now addressed in this document under cumulative impacts, and their costs are not included in the conceptual cost estimates. These projects include:

- the Potomac Park levee, which is now underway
- five projects funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 for \$60.8 million — Thomas Jefferson Memorial plaza seawall, D.C. War Memorial, the Lincoln Reflecting Pool area and elm walks, Madison Drive, and Ohio Drive
- the visitor transportation service — planning for the *Visitor Transportation Study* (NPS 2006c) is nearing completion

The conceptual cost estimates presented in Table 4 illustrate the relative magnitude of costs of each alternative. NPS and industry cost estimating guidelines were used to develop the costs (in 2008 dollars) to the extent possible, but the estimates should not be used for budgeting purposes. Once a plan has been approved, specific costs would be determined in subsequent, more detailed planning and design exercises. More specific estimates would also consider the design of facilities, the identification of detailed resource protection needs, and changing visitor expectations. Actual costs to the National Park Service will vary depending on if and when the actions are implemented, and on contributions by partners and volunteers.

The implementation of the approved plan, no matter which alternative is selected, will depend on future NPS funding levels and servicewide priorities, and on partnership funds, time, and effort. The approval of the plan does not guarantee that funding and staffing needed to implement the plan will be forthcoming. Full implementation of the plan could be many years in the future.

**TABLE 4: CONCEPTUAL COST ESTIMATES FOR PLANNING COMPARISONS ONLY  
(IN MILLIONS OF 2008 DOLLARS)**

	No-Action Alternative	Preferred Alternative	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
Alternative Focus	Primarily deferred maintenance; no expenditures to meet desired quality and use levels and standard.	Improvements to meet desired quality and use levels and standards, plus proposals for civic stage venues, circulation, visitor facilities, and resource sustainability.	Replacement in kind of facilities; some additional visitor facilities; levels of use or civic stage needs not addressed.	Improvements to meet use levels and standards, plus proposals for civic stage venues, circulation (including parking garages), visitor facilities, and resource improvements.	Improvements to meet use levels, plus proposals for civic stage venues, extensive circulation, visitor facilities, and resource sustainability.
<b>One-Time Facility Costs</b>					
New Visitor Facilities (restrooms, food service, and civic infrastructure)	\$9.7	\$62.5	\$10.4	\$63.4	\$54.2
Underground Parking Garages	NA	NA	NA	\$50–\$100 for two facilities	NA
Other Costs (roads, walks, bicycle, park operational access, deferred maintenance, restoration or facility rehabilitation, misc.)	\$107	\$198.8	\$147.1	\$155.4	\$261.6
Subtotal	\$116.7	\$261.3	\$157.5	\$268.8–\$318.8	\$315.8
<b>Non-facility Costs</b>					
Rehabilitation of Historic Water Features (Constitution Gardens Lake, Tidal Basin walls [more than \$250 million], Potomac River seawalls, Capitol Reflecting Pool)	\$269.8	\$299.1	\$299.2	\$285.6	\$301.8
Natural Resource Restoration	\$16.3	\$40–\$80	\$37.8–\$80	\$40–\$80	\$40–\$80
Education and Communications (website, waysides, public address system, communication systems)	\$5.2	\$5.6–\$7.6	\$5.5–\$7.6	\$5.6–\$7.6	\$5.4–\$7.4
Subtotal	\$291.3	\$344.7–\$386.7	\$342.5–\$368.8	\$331.2–\$373.2	\$347.2–\$389.2
<b>Total (including deferred maintenance)</b>	<b>\$408</b>	<b>\$606–\$648</b>	<b>\$502–\$542</b>	<b>\$600–\$652</b>	<b>\$665–\$705</b>
Difference from the No-Action Alternative		+\$198–\$240	+\$94–\$136	+\$192–\$284	+\$255–\$297

NOTE: Costs do not include projects funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (stabilization of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial plaza wall; rehabilitation of the D.C. War Memorial; rehabilitation of the Lincoln Reflecting Pool, approachway, and elm walks; rehabilitation of Madison Drive and Ohio Drive) or the visitor transportation system.

## THE ENVIRONMENTALLY PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE

The environmentally preferred alternative is defined as “the alternative that will best promote the national environmental policy as expressed in section 101(b) of the National Environmental Policy Act.” (Council on Environmental Quality [CEQ] 1981). Section 101 (b) states that it is the

continuing responsibility of the federal government to improve and coordinate federal plans, functions, programs and resources in order to

- (1) fulfill the responsibilities of each generation as trustee of the environment for succeeding generations;

- (2) ensure for all Americans safe, healthful, productive and aesthetically and culturally pleasing surroundings;
- (3) attain the widest range of beneficial uses of the environment without degradation, risk of health or safety, or undesirable or unintended consequences;
- (4) preserve important historic, cultural, and natural aspects of our national heritage and maintain, wherever possible, an environment that supports diversity and variety of individual choice;
- (5) achieve a balance between population and resource use that will permit high standards of living and wide sharing of life's amenities; and
- (6) enhance the quality of renewable resources and approach the maximum attainable recycling of depletable resources.

As the alternatives were analyzed, each alternative was evaluated as to how well the goals stated in section 101 of the National Environmental Policy Act would be met. The following discussion highlights how each alternative meets these goals and compares the differences of each alternative.

### **The No-Action Alternative**

The no-action alternative represents continuity of present management; planned, congressionally approved projects would be constructed; security perimeter projects would be completed; First Amendment demonstrations and special events would continue to be permitted as they are today; and the park would continue to see improvements as deferred maintenance projects were addressed.

The impacts of special events would continue to result in an appearance visitors find unworthy, as well as a continual degradation of the National Mall's cultural and natural resources. Walks would continue to be too narrow for current use levels in some areas, and bicycles and pedestrians would continue to share the same space. Water quality issues would remain, and large amounts of potable water would be used in water features. Some areas would remain too dark for pedestrian nighttime comfort and safety. Visitor facilities would continue to be

inadequate for demand; the distance between locations may be too great for many visitors; facility locations would remain utilitarian rather than pleasant; some facilities would continue to have an architectural style not harmonious with the cultural landscape; and a limited variety of choice in recreation rentals and food service would continue.

None of the NEPA goals would be met to the same degree as under other alternatives, and a greater portion of goals would not be met under the no-action alternative, as described below and shown in Table 5:

- *Goal 1* — The National Park Service would continue to be unable to fulfill its trustee role and pass the National Mall on to succeeding generations because conditions would worsen with high levels of use and deferred maintenance would likely increase.
- *Goal 2* — Perimeter security projects would be completed. It would remain difficult to provide aesthetically and culturally pleasing environments. Pedestrian safety concerns would remain.
- *Goal 3* — It would remain difficult to continue offering a wide range of uses, including permitted activities such as national celebrations and special events without ongoing degradation of the National Mall's natural resources.
- *Goal 4* — While important cultural resources would be preserved, the designed landscape setting for them would continue to deteriorate.
- *Goal 5* — While a variety of activities would continue to occur, the inadequate number and lack of conveniently located visitor facilities (necessities such as restrooms, water, and food) would continue to affect all the diverse groups visiting the National Mall and would not achieve the high expectations, nor the wide sharing of life's amenities.
- *Goal 6* — Despite the fact that new facilities would meet sustainability goals, many venues would remain unsustainable in terms of providing for permitted events, a primary function of the National Mall.

## The Preferred Alternative

Under the preferred alternative, which was developed based on combining the advantages of the other alternatives, resource conditions would be greatly improved to help achieve the paramount goal of enriching and providing a quality American experience for all. The ability of today's and future generations to experience First Amendment rights, national celebrations, and special events would be ensured through improved sustainable venues. An understanding of core American values and the symbolic meanings of memorials would be improved through responsible stewardship, preservation and shared educational opportunities. Visitors would feel welcome and could widely share nationally significant symbols, national and patriotic activities, and amenities. Efforts to improve the day and nighttime appearance of the National Mall would allow visitors to be able to appreciate its beauty. This alternative would address high levels of use and improve conditions.

- *Goal 1* — Trustee responsibilities would be enhanced by addressing the challenges posed by events on natural resources; improving the health of resources; controlling potential memorial damage through education and improved visitor service locations; and improved waste management.
- *Goal 2* — Safe, healthy environments would be provided by completing security perimeters; providing additional restrooms with co-located drinking fountains; enhancing pedestrian lighting of walks; improving pedestrian walks/crosswalks and connections into the city; providing separate bicycle lanes; and installing mass notification systems.

Aesthetically and culturally pleasing environments would be provided through improved natural resource conditions; pleasant multipurpose visitor service destinations where visitors could appreciate cultural icons and enjoy appropriate educational, performance, and entertainment opportunities; and visitor facilities that are contextually compatible with cultural landscape.

- *Goal 3* — A wide range of beneficial uses without environmental degradation would be accommodated through an improved ability of the National Park Service to provide event venues that could withstand high levels of use while placing additional areas off-limits to temporary facilities. Diverse educational programs would address civic space, memorials, historic plans and development, and issues related to stewardship and sustainability.
- *Goal 4* — The National Mall's important historic and cultural aspects are integral to our national heritage. It is an environment that supports diversity and variety of individual choice, where all visitors can come for contemplation, commemoration, demonstration, and celebration.
- *Goal 5* — The preservation of public resources would be balanced with public enjoyment, civic activity, national celebration, and recreation in a sustainable manner.
- *Goal 6* — Renewable resources would be emphasized through sustainable water management; facilities that are energy efficient and models of sustainability; solid waste and recycling improvements; and an emphasis on providing an improved walkable, bikable environment and a revised alternate transportation system.

Taken as a whole, the preferred alternative is the environmentally preferred alternative because it best meets all six goals in the National Environmental Policy Act.

## Alternative A

Alternative A would focus on improving the historic landscape and education. Landscape health and appearance would be improved, and facilities including walks would be replaced. Contemporary uses would be accommodated, and over time the historic landscape would evolve to reflect ongoing significant historic events. The National Mall would continue to see First Amendment demonstrations and national celebrations and special events. Some permanent event infrastructure would be developed for events, and intensive recovery methods would be used to restore landscape conditions after

events. Pedestrian crosswalk timing would be lengthened. The educational focus would be on memorials and the history of planning in Washington, D.C. Guided tours, recreation, and entertainment would remain unchanged. There would be less pedestrian lighting than today, but seating and restrooms would be increased. Outdated facilities would be replaced.

Alternative A would focus on improved conditions, it would largely meet goal 4 in terms of preserving important cultural resources (see Table 5). However, because it would not address the needs to sustain high levels of use, it would not fully realize goals 1 (fulfilling trustee responsibilities), 2 (ensuring safe surroundings), 3 (attaining the widest range of beneficial uses), 5 (achieving a balance between people and resources), and 6 (enhancing sustainability).

### **Alternative B**

Alternative B would focus on a welcoming national civic space that would see high levels of use day and night throughout the year. In addition to improved resource conditions, this alternative would emphasize improving visitor experiences and facilities to make them pleasant and inviting. Multipurpose visitor facilities would encourage visitors to linger and would include indoor/outdoor seating and the potential for nearby or adjacent performance spaces. High-quality, coordinated paving, site furnishings, and facilities would meet the needs of visitors, and universal design and additional facilities for people with disabilities would be provided. Technology would be used to monitor and improve maintenance and park operations.

Because this alternative would focus on meeting the needs of visitors, it would fully meet goals 1 (trustee responsibilities) and 2 (ensuring safe surroundings) and fully or partially meet the remaining goals (see Table 5).

### **Alternative C**

Alternative C would focus on the urban open space, ecology/sustainability, and recreation/healthy lifestyles. It would help meet recreational needs in the capital city, redesigning some areas, increasing recreational rentals, and emphasizing recreation connections to adjacent areas and the Potomac waterfront. It would focus on sustainable approaches to water management and a vegetated sustainable shoreline. It would encourage “virtual” events or demonstrations to limit impacts while increasing participation. Smaller areas of turf would be rehabilitated more frequently, and success would be carefully monitored so that areas could be open to public recreation between events. Alternative C would separate bicycles and pedestrians to encourage bicycling as recreation and alternative transportation. Pedestrian lighting would emphasize safe walking and limiting light pollution. Park programs would include active guided walks and bicycle tours and emphasize year round beauty. Cutting edge sustainable facilities would model green development. Under alternative C the north bay of the Tidal Basin would be filled in to provide more recreation space and to improve water quality. New walks would be low-maintenance, sustainable, and universally accessible. Paving would include soft surfaces for jogging, and smooth surfaces for in-line skating.

Because alternative C would focus on a healthy urban ecosystem, recreation, and sustainability, it would fully meet goals 2 (ensuring safe surroundings), 5 (achieving a balance between people and resources), and 6 (enhancing sustainability). As noted in Table 5, however, because this alternative would focus on recreation, it would not fully address the needs of a national audience, this alternative would not fully realize goals 1 (trustee responsibilities), 3 (attaining widest range of beneficial uses), and 4 (preserving resources).

**TABLE 5: COMPARISON OF HOW THE ALTERNATIVES MEET THE GOALS OF THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT**

No-Action Alternative	Preferred Alternative	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
<b>NEPA Goal 1: Fulfill the responsibilities of each generation as trustee of the environment for succeeding generations.</b>				
<p><i>Meets goal:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•First Amendment demonstrations accommodated.</li> <li>•Deferred maintenance addressed.</li> </ul> <p><i>Partially meets goal:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Resources repaired for future generations.</li> </ul> <p><i>Does not meet goal:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Continued unsustainable events approach, adversely affecting resources.</li> <li>•Inadequate facilities for use levels.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Meets goal:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•First Amendment demonstrations accommodated.</li> <li>•Deferred maintenance addressed.</li> <li>•Resources improved for future generations.</li> <li>•Event venues improved to protect resources.</li> <li>•Natural resource conditions improved; irrigation systems provided.</li> <li>•Facilities redesigned to meet current and future high levels of use.</li> <li>•Water quality improved through re-circulation.</li> </ul> <p><i>Partially meets goal:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Location of temporary facilities limited.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Meets goal:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•First Amendment demonstrations accommodated.</li> <li>•Deferred maintenance addressed.</li> <li>•Resources improved for future generations.</li> </ul> <p><i>Partially meets goal:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Facilities improved but still inadequate for demand.</li> <li>•Location of events limited.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Meets goal:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•First Amendment demonstrations accommodated.</li> <li>•Deferred maintenance addressed.</li> <li>•Resources improved for future generations.</li> <li>•Event venues improved to protect resources.</li> <li>•Facilities redesigned to meet current and future high use levels.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Meets goal:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•First Amendment demonstrations accommodated.</li> <li>•Deferred maintenance addressed.</li> <li>•Resources improved for future generations.</li> <li>•Event venues improved to protect resources.</li> <li>•Facilities redesigned to meet current and future high use levels.</li> </ul>
<b>NEPA Goal 2: Ensure for all Americans safe, healthful, productive and aesthetically and culturally pleasing surroundings.</b>				
<p><i>Meets goal:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Security projects completed.</li> </ul> <p><i>Partially meets goal:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Drinking water fountains dispersed, but frequently in need of repair</li> </ul> <p><i>Does not meet goal:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Walks too narrow in locations; graveled walks dusty and slippery.</li> <li>•Improvements needed to pedestrian environment / crosswalks.</li> <li>•Simultaneous use of same areas by bicyclists and pedestrians.</li> <li>•Mass notification system not up-to-date.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Meets goal:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Security projects completed.</li> <li>•Pedestrian safety improved with lighting.</li> <li>•Improved walks and crosswalks.</li> <li>•Improved communication and mass notification systems.</li> <li>•Separate bike lanes and routes.</li> <li>•Pleasant, restful visitor facility destinations</li> <li>•Contextually compatible facilities.</li> <li>•Pleasant seating environments with views of cultural symbols.</li> <li>•Year-round use and beauty emphasized.</li> <li>•Emergency call stations.</li> <li>•Cooling interactive water features.</li> <li>•Universal design and additional facilities for people with disabilities.</li> <li>•Improved pedestrian safety with a new entry at the USPP stables.</li> </ul> <p><i>Partially meets goal:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•More restrooms, sized for level of use, but consolidated on Mall instead of near each refreshment stand.</li> <li>•Drinking fountains concentrated near restrooms; can fill water bottles and provide water for pets.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Meets goal:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Security projects completed.</li> <li>•Improved walks and crosswalks.</li> <li>•More restrooms near food service locations.</li> <li>•Pleasant, restful visitor facility destinations.</li> <li>•Contextually compatible facilities.</li> <li>•Pleasant seating environments with views.</li> </ul> <p><i>Does not meet goal:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Walks too narrow in locations; graveled walks dusty and slippery.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Meets goal:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Security projects completed.</li> <li>•Improved pedestrian safety with lighting.</li> <li>•Improved walks and crosswalks.</li> <li>•More restrooms near food service locations.</li> <li>•Improved communication and mass notification systems.</li> <li>•Separate bike lanes/routes.</li> <li>•Pleasant, restful visitor facility destinations.</li> <li>•Contextually compatible facilities.</li> <li>•Pleasant seating environments with views of cultural symbols.</li> <li>•Emergency call stations.</li> <li>•Cooling interactive water features.</li> <li>•Universal design and additional facilities for people with disabilities.</li> <li>•Pedestrian safety improved with new entry to USPP stables.</li> </ul> <p><i>Partially meets goal:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Drinking water fountains concentrated near restrooms.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Meets goal:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Security projects completed.</li> <li>•Improved pedestrian safety with lighting.</li> <li>•Separate bike lanes and routes.</li> <li>•More restrooms near food service locations.</li> <li>•Cooling water features.</li> <li>•Cutting edge sustainable facilities.</li> <li>•Improved pedestrian safety at USPP stables with new entry.</li> </ul> <p><i>Partially meets goal:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Drinking water fountains concentrated near restrooms; can fill water bottles and provide water for pets.</li> </ul>

No-Action Alternative	Preferred Alternative	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
<b>NEPA Goal 3: Attain the widest range of beneficial uses of the environment without degradation, risk of health or safety, or undesirable or unintended consequences.</b>				
<p><i>Meets goal:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Congressionally approved projects constructed.</li> </ul> <p><i>Partially meets goal:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited food and recreation choice.</li> <li>• Continued variety of demonstrations, national celebrations and events.</li> </ul> <p><i>Does not meet goal:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued resource damage due to inadequate venues for events.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Meets goal:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Congressionally approved projects constructed.</li> <li>• Maximized choice in food and recreation</li> <li>• Improved walking and bicycling</li> <li>• Continued variety of demonstrations, national celebrations, and events.</li> </ul> <p><i>Partially Meets Goal:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Less resource damage due to improved venues and infrastructure for events.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Meets goal:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Congressionally approved projects constructed.</li> <li>• More food choice.</li> <li>• Continued variety of demonstrations, national celebrations, and events.</li> </ul> <p><i>Partially Meets Goal:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Less resource damage due to improved infrastructure for events.</li> <li>• Limited recreational opportunities.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Meets goal:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Congressionally approved projects constructed.</li> <li>• High choice in food and recreation.</li> <li>• Improved walking opportunities.</li> <li>• Continued variety of demonstrations, national celebrations, and events.</li> </ul> <p><i>Partially meets goal:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Less damage due to improved venues and infrastructure for events.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Meets goal:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Congressionally approved projects constructed.</li> <li>• High choice in food and recreation.</li> <li>• Improved walking and bicycling.</li> <li>• Continued variety of demonstrations, national celebrations, and events.</li> </ul> <p><i>Partially meets goal:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Less damage due to improved venues and infrastructure for events.</li> </ul>
<b>NEPA Goal 4: Preserve important historic, cultural, and natural aspects of our national heritage and maintain, wherever possible, an environment that supports diversity and variety of individual choice.</b>				
<p><i>Meets goal:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deferred maintenance addressed.</li> <li>• Memorials preserved.</li> </ul> <p><i>Partially meets goal:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some cultural landscapes improved.</li> </ul> <p><i>Does not meet goal:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued poor appearance of turf areas due to unimproved soil conditions.</li> <li>• Mall landscape degraded because of temporary event facilities, such as tents, stages, and vehicles.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Meets goal:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deferred maintenance addressed.</li> <li>• Memorials preserved.</li> <li>• Cultural landscapes improved.</li> <li>• Historic vistas protected and preserved.</li> <li>• Improved appearance of turf areas due to enhanced soil conditions.</li> <li>• Water quality improved.</li> <li>• Mall landscape improved.</li> </ul> <p><i>Partially meets goal:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Views in some areas obstructed by events.</li> <li>• Some historic landscapes altered in sensitive manner to protect characteristics and views.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Meets goal:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deferred maintenance addressed.</li> <li>• Memorials preserved.</li> <li>• Cultural landscapes improved.</li> <li>• Historic vistas protected and preserved, and not obstructed by events.</li> <li>• Improved appearance of turf areas due to enhanced soil conditions.</li> <li>• Water quality improved.</li> <li>• Little change in appearance</li> <li>• Mall landscape improved.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Meets goal:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deferred maintenance addressed.</li> <li>• Memorials preserved.</li> <li>• Cultural landscapes improved.</li> <li>• Historic vistas protected and preserved.</li> <li>• Improved appearance of turf areas due to enhanced soil conditions.</li> <li>• Water quality improved.</li> </ul> <p><i>Partially meets goal:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Views in some areas obstructed by events.</li> <li>• Temporary event facilities, such as tents, stages, and vehicles, allowed if determined to be sustainable.</li> <li>• Some historic landscapes altered in sensitive manner to protect characteristics and views.</li> </ul> <p><i>Does not meet goal:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Water feature in Union Square removed.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Meets goal:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Deferred maintenance addressed.</li> <li>• Memorials preserved.</li> <li>• Cultural landscapes improved.</li> <li>• Historic vistas protected and preserved.</li> <li>• Mall landscape improved.</li> <li>• Improved appearance of turf areas due to enhanced soil conditions.</li> <li>• Water quality improved.</li> </ul> <p><i>Partially meets goal:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Views in some areas obstructed by events.</li> <li>• Some historic landscapes altered in sensitive manner to protect characteristics and views.</li> </ul> <p><i>Does not meet goal:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North bay of Tidal Basin filled in.</li> </ul>
<b>NEPA Goal 5: Achieve a balance between population and resource use that will permit high standards of living and wide sharing of life's amenities.</b>				
<p><i>Partially meets goal:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Choice of recreational opportunities.</li> </ul> <p><i>Does not meet goal:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High use levels not planned for.</li> <li>• Social trails persist</li> <li>• Continued resource damage from events.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Meets goal:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High-use levels planned for in an energy efficient and sustainable manner.</li> <li>• Events venues improved, with more paved locations and event infrastructure.</li> <li>• Events management improved, with better recovery times / methods, balanced scheduling, data</li> </ul>	<p><i>Meets goal:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduced social trails.</li> <li>• Events management improved, with intense post-event recovery methods and permanent infrastructure.</li> <li>• Educational topics – history, national capital, memorials</li> </ul> <p><i>Partially meets goal:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinated pedestrian amenities.</li> </ul> <p><i>Does not meet goal:</i></p>	<p><i>Meets goal:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High-use levels planned for in an energy efficient and sustainable manner.</li> <li>• Events venues improved, with more paved locations and event infrastructure.</li> <li>• Events management improved, with better recovery times / methods, balanced scheduling, data</li> </ul>	<p><i>Meets goal:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High-use levels accommodated in an energy efficient and sustainable manner.</li> <li>• Events venues improved, with more paved locations, event infrastructure.</li> <li>• More areas open for public use with more frequent landscape rehabilitation of smaller areas.</li> </ul>



No-Action Alternative	Preferred Alternative	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>collection, and monitoring.</li> <li>• More areas open for public use with more frequent landscape rehabilitation of smaller areas.</li> <li>• Widened walks, reduced social trails.</li> <li>• Coordinated visitor circulation.</li> <li>• High-quality pedestrian and bicycle environments; connections to adjacent areas, urban traffic accommodated in a parklike setting.</li> <li>• Welcome area near Metro station.</li> <li>• Most diverse educational topics — history, national capital, memorials, civic space, stewardship, sustainability.</li> <li>• Additional recreational opportunities with rentals of bicycles, boats, and model boats; improved athletic fields; and improved areas for pedestrians and passive recreation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High use levels not planned for.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>collection, and monitoring.</li> <li>• Widened walks, reduced social trails</li> <li>• Coordinated visitor circulation.</li> <li>• Educational topics — history, national capital, memorials, civic space.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Widened walks, reduced social trails.</li> <li>• Educational topics — stewardship and sustainability.</li> <li>• Additional recreational opportunities with rentals of bicycles, boats, and model boats; improved athletic fields; and improved areas for pedestrians and passive recreation.</li> </ul>
<b>NEPA Goal 6: Enhance the quality of renewable resources and approach the maximum attainable recycling of depletable resources.</b>				
<p><i>Meets goal:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy goals for sustainable practices met.</li> <li>• LEED silver standard met.</li> </ul> <p><i>Does not meet goal:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Unsustainable events management.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Meets goal:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy goals for sustainable practices met.</li> <li>• Goals of climate-friendly parks met with recycling, less water and energy use, reduced soil compaction.</li> <li>• Renewable energy sources sought for lighting and water features.</li> <li>• Sustainable pedestrian lighting.</li> <li>• Strive to achieve highest LEED standard practicable (silver minimum).</li> <li>• Reduced carbon footprint goals met.</li> <li>• More sustainable events management.</li> <li>• Sustainable Sites Initiative™ implemented.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Meets goal:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy goals for sustainable practices met.</li> <li>• LEED silver standard met.</li> </ul> <p><i>Partially meets goal:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some climate-friendly parks goals met with recycling, reduced soil compaction, less energy use.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Meets goal:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy goals for sustainable practices met.</li> <li>• Goals of climate-friendly parks met with recycling, less water and energy use, reduced soil compaction.</li> <li>• LEED silver standard met.</li> <li>• More sustainable events management.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Meets goal:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Policy goals for sustainable practices met.</li> <li>• Goals of climate-friendly parks met with recycling, less water and energy use, reduced soil compaction.</li> <li>• Renewable energy sources sought for lighting and water features.</li> <li>• Sustainable pedestrian lighting.</li> <li>• Strive to achieve highest LEED standard practicable (silver minimum).</li> <li>• Reduced carbon footprint goals met.</li> <li>• More sustainable events management.</li> <li>• Sustainable Sites Initiative™ implemented.</li> </ul>

**TABLE 6: HOW WELL THE ALTERNATIVES MEET THE PLAN OBJECTIVES**

No-Action	Preferred Alternative	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
<b>CULTURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION</b>				
<b>Objective: Primary east-west vistas and several north-south vistas on the National Mall are improved and perpetuated.</b>				
<i>Partially meets objective:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Views and vistas remain important, but continued intrusions from temporary facilities.</li> <li>Continued deterioration of vegetation that defines vistas, endangering for long-term perpetuation of views.</li> </ul>	<i>Meets objective:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Protected vegetation that defines and perpetuates vistas.</li> <li>Continued predominance of east-west vistas, with improved multiple north-south vistas.</li> <li>View protection encouraged when temporary facilities put in place.</li> <li>Facilities located outside view corridors.</li> </ul>	<i>Meets objective:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Similar to the preferred alternative but east-west vistas protected from visual intrusion of temporary facilities.</li> </ul>	<i>Meets objective:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Similar to the preferred alternative, except view protection not considered for temporary facility placement.</li> </ul>	<i>Meets objective:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as the preferred alternative.</li> </ul>
<b>Objective: Cultural resources, including memorials and their settings, are preserved and protected.</b>				
<i>Partially meets objective:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued deterioration of the historic landscape.</li> </ul>	<i>Meets objective:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rehabilitation of memorials as needed.</li> <li>Cultural landscape conditions protected and preserved.</li> </ul>	<i>Meets objective:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as the preferred alternative.</li> </ul>	<i>Meets objective:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as the preferred alternative.</li> </ul>	<i>Meets objective:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as the preferred alternative.</li> </ul>
<b>Objective: Historic plans for the National Mall are respected. Resources are managed compatibly with the intent of the historic plans.</b>				
<i>Meets objective:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The historic L'Enfant and McMillan plans respected; actions coordinated with the NCPC Legacy Plan.</li> </ul>	<i>Meets objective:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<i>Meets objective:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<i>Meets objective:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<i>Meets objective:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>
<b>NATURAL RESOURCE PROTECTION</b>				
<b>Objective: Conditions of natural resources, such as water, turf, trees/vegetation, and soils, are improved to be part of a sustainable urban ecosystem.</b>				
<i>Does not meet objective:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continued water quality issues.</li> <li>Unsustainable soil and vegetation conditions.</li> </ul>	<i>Meets objective:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Soil compaction reversed, improved soil conditions, with better air and water infiltration.</li> <li>Improved plant growing conditions; vegetation protected from trampling by wider walks, edging / curbs, and post-and-chain fencing.</li> <li>Improved water quality; reduced water use; efforts to find nonpotable water sources for display fountains and to reuse gray water; studies to reduce urban flooding.</li> </ul>	<i>Meets objective:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved soils, water, and vegetation conditions.</li> <li>Most protection of vegetation from trampling (curbs, post-and-chain fencing).</li> </ul>	<i>Meets objective:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improved soils, water, and vegetation conditions.</li> </ul>	<i>Meets objective:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as the preferred alternative.</li> </ul>
<b>Demonstrations, Special Events, and National Celebrations</b>				
<b>Objective: The National Mall remains a venue for First Amendment demonstrations and national celebrations.</b>				
<i>Meets objective:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Essential purpose of the National Mall continued.</li> </ul>	<i>Meets objective:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as the no-action alternative plus greater participation possible with improved and more flexible venues.</li> </ul>	<i>Meets objective:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<i>Meets objective:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as the preferred alternative.</li> </ul>	<i>Meets objective:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as the preferred alternative.</li> </ul>

Comparison of Alternatives: Table 6: How Well the Alternatives Meet the Plan Objectives

No-Action	Preferred Alternative	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
<b>Objective:</b> 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 is unacceptably compromised by others, now or in the future.				
<i>Does not meet objective:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use levels cannot be sustained without natural resource damage.</li> </ul>	<i>Meets objective:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Equitable space distribution plus natural resource restoration and time for general visitation and recreation.</li> <li>• Improved permitting procedures and management.</li> </ul>	<i>Meets objective:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the preferred alternative.</li> </ul>	<i>Meets objective:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the preferred alternative.</li> </ul>	<i>Meets objective:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the preferred alternative.</li> </ul>
<b>Objective:</b> Venues and facilities for demonstrations and special events are provided that are compatible with the historic significance of the National Mall, that enhance the experiences of users, and that accommodate operations efficiently and effectively with minimal impacts on nationally significant resources.				
<i>Does not meet objective:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Present venues not planned to accommodate current uses, to meet user needs, or to protect resources.</li> </ul>	<i>Meets objective:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• High-use venues redesigned to flexibly meet needs and reduce impacts.</li> <li>• Offsite participation encouraged through simulcasts.</li> </ul>	<i>Does not meet objective:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<i>Meets objective:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the preferred alternative.</li> </ul>	<i>Meets objective:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the preferred.</li> </ul>
<b>ACCESS AND CIRCULATION</b>				
<b>Objective:</b> Public access and circulation are convenient, and visitors are easily able to find their way to all sites on the National Mall.				
<i>Partially meets objective:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pedestrian environment dominated by vehicles.</li> <li>• Renamed Metro station to identify National Mall.</li> </ul>	<i>Meets objective:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved environments for walking and bicycling, with separate bike routes and potential traffic calming measures. Upgraded crosswalks and longer crossing times.</li> <li>• Supplementary transportation provided to meet visitor needs.</li> <li>• Programs with offsite parking garages.</li> <li>• Renamed Metro station to identify National Mall; welcome plaza for visitor orientation.</li> </ul>	<i>Partially meets objective:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improved pedestrian crossing times.</li> <li>• Renamed Metro station to identify National Mall.</li> </ul>	<i>Meets objective:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Similar to the preferred alternative, except                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Pedestrian bridges and tunnels to separate users.</li> <li>◦ If feasible, develop onsite underground parking garages.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<i>Meets objective:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Similar to the preferred alternative, except                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Vehicular tunnels to separate users.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Objective:</b> The National Mall is better integrated with and connected to the urban fabric of Washington, D.C.				
<i>Partially meets objective:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued physical connections to the fabric of the city with National Mall road systems, tunnels, and walks.</li> </ul>	<i>Meets objective:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better pedestrian amenities, pedestrian entry area, and crosswalks emphasize pedestrian safety and connections to the fabric of the city.</li> <li>• Improved access and connection with road realignments and improved access.</li> </ul> <i>Partially meets objective:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued physical connections to the fabric of the city with National Mall road systems, tunnels, and walks.</li> </ul>	<i>Partially meets objective:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<i>Meets objective:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Better pedestrian amenities, pedestrian entry area, and crosswalks emphasize pedestrian safety and connections to the fabric of the city.</li> </ul> <i>Partially meets objective:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued physical connections to the fabric of the city with National Mall road systems, tunnels, and walks.</li> </ul>	<i>Meets objective:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the preferred alternative.</li> </ul>

No-Action	Preferred Alternative	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
<b>VISITOR INFORMATION, EDUCATION, AND ENJOYMENT</b>				
<b>Objective:</b> The National Mall provides the quintessential American experience where visitors • can feel welcome.				
<i>Partially meets objective:</i> •Millions visit, but welcoming support opportunities (information, multilingual brochures, visitor services, or access to uniformed staff) possibly inconvenient or unknown.	<i>Meets objective:</i> •Enhanced services with welcome plaza, staff guest services training, improved onsite communication networks and mass notification system, better website. multilingual programs, and increased coordination with adjacent museums.	<i>Partially meets objective:</i> •Better website and foreign language materials.	<i>Meets objective:</i> •Some lighted signs for easier night viewing.	<i>Partially meets objective:</i> •Improved recreational information.
<b>Objective:</b> The National Mall provides the quintessential American experience where visitors • fully understand the importance of this preeminent civic area for First Amendment rights.				
<i>Does not meet objective:</i> •Minimal visitor programs to explain the role of the National Mall in providing for civic expression or the importance of the First Amendment.	<i>Meets objective:</i> •Improved programs about First Amendment rights and the role of the National Mall, supported by onsite wayfinding.	<i>Does not meet objective:</i> •Same as the no-action alternative.	<i>Meets objective:</i> •Same as the preferred alternative.	<i>Does not meet objective:</i> •Same as the no-action alternative.
<b>Objective:</b> The National Mall provides the quintessential American experience where visitors • 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.				
<i>Meets objective:</i> •Many visitors inspired and feel a patriotic connection. •Longer Washington Monument operating hours. <i>Partially meets objective:</i> •Importance of some under-visited memorials not fully explained.	<i>Meets objective:</i> •Increased education about all memorials, their values and ties to American culture, history and democratic form of government. •Better opportunities for visitor connections due to improved quality of all facilities and appropriate programs at multipurpose facilities. •Longer Washington Monument operating hours.	<i>Meets objective:</i> •Increased education about all memorials, their values and ties to American culture, history and democratic form of government. •Longer Washington Monument operating hours. •Many visitors inspired and feel a patriotic connection.	<i>Meets objective:</i> •Better opportunities for visitor connections due to improved quality of all facilities and appropriate programs at multipurpose facilities. •Longer Washington Monument. operating hours. •Many visitors inspired and feel a patriotic connection <i>Partially meets objective:</i> •Importance of some under-visited memorials not fully explained.	<i>Meets objective:</i> •Longer Washington Monument operating hours. <i>Partially meets objective:</i> •Same as the no-action alternative.
<b>Objective:</b> The National Mall provides the quintessential American experience • where visitors appreciate the beauty of the National Mall during the day, at night, and year-round.				
<i>Does not meet objective:</i> •Resources do not meet expected conditions for the nation’s front yard.	<i>Meets objective:</i> •Improved resource conditions — vistas, plant materials, walks, lighting — while respecting the historic character and limiting light pollution.	<i>Meets objective:</i> •Improved resource conditions — vistas, plant materials, walks — while respecting the historic character. <i>Partially meets objective:</i> •Evening use limited by inadequate lighting.	<i>Meets objective:</i> •Similar to the preferred alternative. but less emphasis on limiting light pollution.	<i>Meets objective:</i> •Same as the preferred alternative.
<b>Objective:</b> Lighting on the National Mall evokes emotion and provides enjoyment, while respecting historic fixtures and existing lighting at memorials. The Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, and Thomas Jefferson Memorial (as well as the U.S. Capitol and the White House) continue to be the most prominent nighttime features.				
<i>Does not meet objective:</i> •Tidal Basin nighttime use limited by lack of lighting.	<i>Meets objective:</i> •Interagency lighting task force reestablished; lighting of five icons and nighttime character protected. •Energy-efficient pedes-	<i>Partially meets objective:</i> •Work with others to reestablish interagency lighting task force.	<i>Meets objective:</i> •Same as the preferred alternative.	<i>Meets objective:</i> •Same as the preferred alternative.

Comparison of Alternatives: Table 6: How Well the Alternatives Meet the Plan Objectives

No-Action	Preferred Alternative	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
	trian lighting provided to respect memorials, protect nighttime character, and limit light pollution.			
<b>Objective:</b> Visitor information is convenient, accurate, easy to understand, and consistent throughout the site. Information reaches the widest audience possible.				
<p><i>Meets objective:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Cell phone tours provided.</li> <li>• Staff review of materials sold at bookstores or stands for accuracy.</li> <li>• Work with groups to disseminate accurate information.</li> </ul> <p><i>Partially meets objective:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Difficult to navigate park websites, with minimal planning information.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Meets objective:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Similar to the no-action alternative except                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Improved park websites, with advance planning information.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><i>Meets objective:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the preferred alternative.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Meets objective:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the preferred alternative.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Meets objective:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the preferred alternative.</li> </ul>
<b>Objective:</b> Visitors understand and appreciate the social experiences they are likely to encounter — millions of people come here to celebrate, commemorate, demonstrate, or recreate.				
<p><i>Does not meet objective:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Limited visitor information about activities taking place on the National Mall or how they may affect their visit.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Meets objective:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expanded information about the civic roles of the National Mall through signs, education, waysides, and websites.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Does not meet objective:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Meets objective:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the preferred alternative.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Does not meet objective:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>
<b>Objective:</b> Learning opportunities are provided to engage all ages and abilities of an increasingly multicultural and technologically sophisticated society. Educational information inspires all visitors, including populations that have not typically visited national parks.				
<p><i>Meets objective:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Variety of programs offered, including maps, brochures, handouts, ranger talks, cell phone tours, bicycling tours, radio information and educational waysides.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Meets objective:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative, plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ More living history, interactive programs, and use of technology.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><i>Meets objective:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative, plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ More living history.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p><i>Meets objective:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the preferred alternative.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Meets objective:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative, plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Increased bicycling tours and emphasis on sustainable recreation.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>Objective:</b> Recreational opportunities are balanced with other uses of the National Mall, and both active and passive forms of recreation meet the needs of visitors, residents, and workers.				
<p><i>Meets objective:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued meeting of local active recreation needs through permitted use of athletic fields.</li> <li>• Improved conditions for volleyball courts.</li> </ul> <p><i>Partially meets objective:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued sharing of walkways by bicyclists and pedestrians, resulting in use conflicts.</li> <li>• Limited recreation rentals.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Meets objective:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued meeting of local active recreation needs through permitted use of athletic fields.</li> <li>• Improved conditions for volleyball courts, athletic fields, and passive recreation areas.</li> <li>• Pedestrian environment improved.</li> <li>• Improved bicycling opportunities with bike lanes.</li> <li>• More choice in seating for passive enjoyment.</li> <li>• More choice in potential recreation equipment rentals (bikes, boats, model boats, ice skates).</li> </ul>	<p><i>Meets objective:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued meeting of local active recreation needs through permitted use of athletic fields.</li> <li>• Improved conditions for volleyball courts, athletic fields, and passive recreation areas.</li> <li>• Pedestrian environment improved.</li> <li>• More choice in seating for passive enjoyment.</li> <li>• Continued sharing of walkways by bicyclists and pedestrians, resulting in use conflicts.</li> <li>• Limited recreation equipment rentals.</li> </ul> <p><i>Partially meets objective:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• More choice in seating for passive enjoyment.</li> <li>• More choice in potential recreation equipment rentals (bikes, boats, model boats, ice skates).</li> </ul>	<p><i>Meets objective:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued meeting of local active recreation needs through permitted use of athletic fields.</li> <li>• Improved conditions for volleyball courts, athletic fields, and passive recreation areas.</li> <li>• Pedestrian environment improved.</li> <li>• More choice in seating for passive enjoyment.</li> <li>• More choice in potential recreation equipment rentals (boats, model boats).</li> </ul> <p><i>Partially meets objective:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued sharing of walkways by bicyclists and pedestrians, resulting in use conflicts.</li> </ul>	<p><i>Meets objective:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continued meeting of local active recreation needs through permitted use of athletic fields.</li> <li>• Improved conditions for volleyball courts, athletic fields, and passive recreation areas.</li> <li>• Pedestrian environment improved.</li> <li>• More choice in seating for passive enjoyment.</li> <li>• Improved bicycling opportunities with bike lanes.</li> <li>• More choice in potential recreation equipment rentals (bikes, boats, model boats, ice skates).</li> </ul>

No-Action	Preferred Alternative	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
<b>VISITOR AMENITIES</b>				
<b>Objective:</b> 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 and are appropriate for public commemorative and symbolic spaces in our nation's capital.				
<i>Partially meets objective:</i> •A few newer concession buildings, but many outdated facilities that generate complaints.	<i>Meets objective:</i> •High-quality facilities that reinforce the sense of place.	<i>Partially meets objective:</i> •Some new-high quality facilities that would reinforce the sense of place, along with rehabilitated facilities from various eras.	<i>Meets objective:</i> •Same as the preferred alternative.	<i>Meets objective:</i> •Same as the preferred alternative.
<b>Objective:</b> Various visitor and commercial amenities are provided that are conveniently located and that are sized and configured to meet visitor use levels on high-volume days.				
<i>Does not meet objective:</i> •Facilities such as restroom not easy to find, undersized for many uses, and are not located near food service.	<i>Meets objective:</i> •Visitor facilities better dispersed, easy to find, and convenient; sized for high levels of use; restrooms provided near food service locations.	<i>Partially meets objective:</i> •Additional visitor facilities such as restrooms and more conveniently located, but possibly undersized for many uses.	<i>Meets objective:</i> •Same as the preferred alternative.	<i>Meets objective:</i> •Same as the preferred alternative.
<b>HEALTH, PUBLIC SAFETY, AND SECURITY</b>				
<b>Objective:</b> Safe, healthy, secure visits are provided.				
<i>Partially meets objective:</i> •Lack of pedestrian lighting in some areas, short pedestrian crosswalk countdowns, use conflicts with bicyclists and pedestrians on the same walkways. •Limited facilities to address heat and humidity.	<i>Meets objective:</i> •Improved pedestrian lighting for safer nighttime visitation, improved pedestrian crosswalks and longer countdowns; separate bike lanes or routes, emergency call boxes. •Misters and interactive water features for summer heat and humidity relief, and more seating in shady areas.	<i>Partially meets objective:</i> •Less pedestrian lighting than today; longer pedestrian crosswalk countdowns; use conflicts with bicyclists and pedestrians on the same walkways. •Limited facilities to address heat and humidity.	<i>Meets objective:</i> •Same as the preferred alternative plus ◦ Pedestrian tunnels or bridges to separate users. •Misters and interactive water features for summer heat and humidity relief, and more seating in shady areas.	<i>Meets objective:</i> •Same as the preferred alternative plus ◦ A vehicular tunnel at Maine Avenue and 14th Street.
<b>Objective:</b> Visitors have adequate information to find their way around or notification of what to do in emergency situations.				
<i>Partially meets objective:</i> •New sign system; inter-agency preparedness programs with shelter in place/safe haven or evacuation plans; and use of temporary signs and notification by personnel. •No public address system.	<i>Meets objective:</i> •Same as the no-action alternative except ◦ Electronic variable message signs. ◦ Staff notification; emergency call systems. ◦ Public address system.	<i>Meets objective:</i> •Similar to the preferred alternative.	<i>Meets objective:</i> •Same as the preferred alternative.	<i>Meets objective:</i> •Same as the preferred alternative.
<b>Objective:</b> Fully accessible visitor facilities, with appropriate walking surfaces, seating, lighting, and amenities; and programs offering visitors comfortable and enjoyable opportunities for reflection, commemoration, celebration, and recreation.				
<i>Partially meets objective:</i> •Access to memorials provided, and parking for visitor with disabilities; free wheelchairs available only at certain sites and not the entire National Mall. •Uneven and gravel walk surfaces difficult for visitors with wheelchairs and strollers.	<i>Meets objective:</i> •Improved access with better walkway surfacing; universal access for programs and facilities; more parking spaces for visitors with disabilities; wheelchairs or rental electric scooters available for day use; supplementary transportation on walkways for visitors needing assistance.	<i>Partially meets objective:</i> •Same as the no-action alternative.	<i>Meets objective:</i> •Same as the preferred alternative.	<i>Meets objective:</i> •Improved access with better walkway surfacing; universal access is the goal in facilities.

Comparison of Alternatives: Table 6: How Well the Alternatives Meet the Plan Objectives

No-Action	Preferred Alternative	Alternative A	Alternative B	Alternative C
<b>PARK OPERATIONS</b>				
<b>Objective: Facilities are consistently maintained to the desired standards of excellence.</b>				
Does not meet objective: •Out-of-date standards not applicable to all facilities.	Meets objectives: •New standards developed for all facilities.	Meets objectives: •Same as the preferred alternative.	Meets objectives: •Same as the preferred alternative.	Meets objectives: •Same as the preferred alternative.
<b>Objective: All maintenance and park operations emphasize efficient, effective, and sustainable practices.</b>				
Partially meets objective: •Maintenance and operations not fully efficient or sustainable.	Meets objective: •Improved, more efficient, and sustainable maintenance and operations.	Meets objective: •Similar to the preferred alternative without an emphasis on sustainable practices.	Meets objective: •Improved, more efficient, and sustainable maintenance and operations.	Meets objective: •Improved, more efficient, and sustainable maintenance and operations.
<b>Objective: Cooperating agencies coordinate planning, information, services, facilities, and programs for visitors, residents, and the local workforce.</b>				
Partially meets objective: •Some NPS coordination with others to provide visitor information.	Meets objective: •Increased cooperation and coordination for information and onsite communication.	Partially meets objective: •Same as the no-action alternative.	Meets objective: •Same as the preferred alternative.	Meets objective: •Same as the preferred alternative.

## COMPARISON OF CONCEPTS AND ALTERNATIVES

In accordance with the Commemorative Works Act, as amended, the National Mall will be considered under all alternatives a substantially completed work of civic art — a historic open space with planned views that provide the setting for national memorials, many of them symbols of democracy, and a setting to showcase federal buildings and branches of government, as well as the great cultural institutions of our nation. Consistent with the First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution and federal regulations, the National Mall will continue to accommodate First Amendment demonstrations, special events, and national celebrations.

As previously described, several projects have been approved by Congress for the National Mall and would be implemented under all alternatives. Planning, compliance, and construction would be completed by others for the following:

- ***Vietnam Veterans Memorial Center*** — This would be an underground facility with restrooms, information, exhibits, and a bookstore.
- ***National Museum of African American History and Culture*** — Land has been transferred to the Smithsonian Institution; Washington Monument food and retail services will be relocated.
- ***Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial*** — The memorial would include restrooms, information, and a bookstore.

The 2001 *Memorials and Museums Master Plan* by the National Capital Planning Commission identifies sites for future memorials in the study area, but outside the Reserve. The Watergate

area (see row 19) could accommodate six memorials — the Constitution Avenue belvedere, a gateway site, two sites along Constitution Avenue, and two sites along Rock Creek Parkway. Under all alternatives future memorials will be accommodated in locations outside the Reserve. The National Park Service will participate in the memorial process to ensure that historic views, character, and plans are respected.

Also several projects that were previously considered in the alternatives have been funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. These include

- the Lincoln Reflecting Pool area (lower approachway, pool, and related landscape, plus the north and south elm walks)
- the D.C. War Memorial
- the Thomas Jefferson Memorial plaza seawall;
- Madison and Ohio drives

Other projects include a coordinated National Mall sign system, which has been approved, and the Potomac Park levee project, which is underway and will address flood protection for downtown D.C. Proposals from the NPS 2006 *Visitor Transportation Study* were considered as this management plan was developed, and they will be implemented separately. Security screening for the Washington Monument will be completed separately. All of these projects are considered as projects outside the scope of this plan, and their impacts are addressed under cumulative impacts.

Sites on the National Mall where no major actions are proposed, such as the World War II Memorial and the D.C. War Memorial, are not included in Table 7.



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**TABLE 7: CONCEPTS AND ALTERNATIVES FOR THE NATIONAL MALL**

TOPIC OR AREA	NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE: CONTINUE CURRENT MANAGEMENT	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE — PROVIDE A QUALITY VISITOR EXPERIENCE, PROTECT THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE, AND ACCOMMODATE HIGH-USE LEVELS
<b>NATIONAL MALL CONCEPTS</b>		
<b>1. OVERALL CONCEPT</b>		
1.1 Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)	The National Mall has multiple purposes to fulfill — accommodating First Amendment demonstrations and national celebration events, preserving memorials and historic landscapes, and providing for diverse public use and enjoyment.	
1.2 Vision Emphasis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>This alternative outlines existing conditions and serves as a baseline to compare the action alternatives.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The National Mall, as the premier civic space for our nation, would be refurbished so that very high levels of use could be perpetuated and the needs of visitors could be met in an energy-efficient and sustainable manner. Its memorials and landscapes would be protected, with large areas of unprogrammed open space as defining features of the historic landscape.</li> <li>The designed historic landscape would evolve, and its value over time would change, reflecting significant national events. Contemporary uses would be accommodated while respecting the planned historic character and visions of the L’Enfant and McMillan plans.</li> <li>The intent would be to establish an overall identity and character for the National Mall, creating a coherent pedestrian environment that would complement and balance the natural environment, the combination of formal and informal features, and national commemorative works. The National Mall would be emphasized as a year-round destination where the beauty and variety of every season would enhance visitor experiences.</li> <li>Uses for First Amendment demonstrations, commemorations, and national ceremonies and celebrations would be emphasized.</li> <li>Visitors would be made to feel welcome through helpful wayfinding signs, knowledgeable staff, and high-quality and accessible facilities.</li> <li>Diverse opportunities would be offered for public enjoyment, including educational, cultural, and musical programs, as well as active and passive recreational activities.</li> <li>Professionals would design high-quality solutions to unify the National Mall and to articulate the visions for specific sites.</li> <li>The National Park Service would ensure compatible, enduring high-quality design, as well as the highest facility maintenance standards, to create a sense of place that would reinforce the civic, historic, and symbolic role of the National Mall to our nation.</li> </ul>

ALTERNATIVE A — FOCUS ON THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE AND EDUCATION	ALTERNATIVE B — FOCUS ON A WELCOMING NATIONAL CIVIC SPACE FOR PUBLIC GATHERINGS, EVENTS, AND HIGH-USE LEVELS	ALTERNATIVE C — FOCUS ON URBAN OPEN SPACE, URBAN ECOLOGY, RECREATION, AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLES
<b>NATIONAL MALL CONCEPTS</b>		
<b>1. OVERALL CONCEPT</b>		
1.1 Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions) — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This alternative concept would restore and maintain the resources of the National Mall as a historic landscape. Under this concept the designed historic landscape would evolve, and its value over time would change, reflecting significant national events.</li> <li>• Contemporary uses would be accommodated while respecting the planned historic character and visions of the L’Enfant and McMillan plans.</li> <li>• The National Park Service would ensure enduring high-quality design, as well as the highest facility maintenance standards, to create a sense of place that would reinforce the civic, historic, and symbolic role of the National Mall to our nation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This alternative would improve the National Mall as the premier civic space for our nation and would support very high use levels. The evolving ceremonial, celebratory, cultural, and visitor uses at this national civic space would be emphasized. Diverse peoples would be welcomed through multilingual educational opportunities, and the needs of large groups (including those arriving by tour bus), demonstrators, and event participants would be met.</li> <li>• Some areas would be redesigned to provide a more sustainable civic forum and a stage for First Amendment demonstrations and other events.</li> <li>• The National Park Service would ensure compatible and enduring high-quality design, as well as the highest facility maintenance standards, to create a sense of place that would reinforce the civic, historic, and symbolic role of the National Mall to our nation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This alternative would meet evolving recreational needs in the nation’s capital by providing beautiful, enjoyable, and ecologically sustainable open spaces that could be adapted to changing recreational patterns of diverse local and national users. This concept would contribute to healthy lifestyles, healthy parks, and healthy, more sustainable cities.</li> <li>• Recreational activities would be expanded by redesigning some areas, increasing recreation equipment rentals (such as boats, skates, and bicycles), adding playgrounds, and emphasizing connections to the recreational and enjoyment opportunities in East Potomac Park, the Georgetown Waterfront, and Rock Creek Park, as well as the southwest waterfront.</li> <li>• The National Park Service would ensure compatible and enduring high-quality design, as well as the highest facility maintenance standards, to create a sense of place that would reinforce the civic, historic, and symbolic role of the National Mall to our nation.</li> </ul>

TOPIC OR AREA	NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE: CONTINUE CURRENT MANAGEMENT	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE — PROVIDE A QUALITY VISITOR EXPERIENCE, PROTECT THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE, AND ACCOMMODATE HIGH-USE LEVELS
<b>2. CULTURAL RESOURCES</b>		
2.1 Memorials	<p><i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> The National Mall is the site of a number of memorials, some of them well-known symbols of our nation. All memorials are managed pursuant to specific laws and regulations, and changes may require congressional authorization. Commemorative works are generally subject to review, and in some instances approval by the National Capital Planning Commission and the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, and possibly by the D.C. Historic Preservation Office. As a result of the 2003 amendments to the Commemorative Works Act, no new memorials will be added to the National Mall; however, memorials could be placed in area I adjacent to the National Mall.</p>	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preserve memorials, related statuary, and places of commemoration.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>
2.2 Historic Properties and Cultural Landscapes	<p><i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> The National Park Service consults with the D.C. Historic Preservation Office and others in accordance with section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act to preserve, restore, adaptively reuse, or rehabilitate cultural resources (see specific areas).</p>	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manage resources in accordance with <i>The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties</i> and general recommendations of historic structure reports.</li> <li>• Continue to consult with the D.C. Historic Preservation Office and others.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>
2.3 Spatial Organization and Land Use	<p><i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> Areas with integrity of existing plant materials exist, including portions of Union Square, the Mall, the Lincoln Memorial, the Tidal Basin, and the Thomas Jefferson Memorial. Landscape health and appearance are deteriorating.</p>	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manage the historic landscape in accordance with the <i>Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties, with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes</i> and general recommendations of cultural landscape reports and inventories.</li> <li>• Maintain landscape health and conditions at current levels.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Similar to the no-action alternative, except <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Recognize that the public's use of the designed historic landscape and the memorials, historic structures, and other landscape features would continue to evolve and that its value would change over time, reflecting significant national events.</li> <li>◦ Improve landscape health and appearance.</li> <li>◦ Implement general recommendations from historic structure and cultural landscape reports.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
2.4 Historic Views and Vistas	<p><i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> Primary views (spatial organization and land patterns) were defined in historic landmark plans. Large areas of unprogrammed open space define historic landscape features. The view from the White House to the Thomas Jefferson Memorial is somewhat obscured by trees northeast of the Tidal Basin. Some events on the Mall can obstruct the view between the U.S. Capitol and the Washington Monument.</p>	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recognize planned views within the historic landscape, including large areas of unprogrammed open space.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve and perpetuate planned viewsheds or vistas, including large areas of unprogrammed open space.</li> </ul>

ALTERNATIVE A — FOCUS ON THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE AND EDUCATION	ALTERNATIVE B — FOCUS ON A WELCOMING NATIONAL CIVIC SPACE FOR PUBLIC GATHERINGS, EVENTS, AND HIGH-USE LEVELS	ALTERNATIVE C — FOCUS ON URBAN OPEN SPACE, URBAN ECOLOGY, RECREATION, AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLES
<b>2. CULTURAL RESOURCES</b>		
2.1 Memorials: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>
2.2 Historic Properties and Cultural Landscapes: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>
2.3 Spatial Organization and Land Use: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Similar to the no-action alternative, except               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Recognize that the use of the designed historic landscape would continue to evolve and that its value would change over time, reflecting significant national events.</li> <li>◦ Improve landscape health and appearance.</li> <li>◦ Implement general recommendations from historic structure and cultural landscape reports.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative A.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative A.</li> </ul>
2.4 Historic Views and Vistas: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve and perpetuate planned viewsheds or vistas, including large areas of unprogrammed open space.</li> <li>• Ensure views and vistas are not obscured, even during events.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve and perpetuate planned viewsheds or vistas, including large areas of unprogrammed open space.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative B.</li> </ul>

TOPIC OR AREA	NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE: CONTINUE CURRENT MANAGEMENT	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE — PROVIDE A QUALITY VISITOR EXPERIENCE, PROTECT THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE, AND ACCOMMODATE HIGH-USE LEVELS
<b>3. NATURAL RESOURCES</b>		
3.1 Science and Urban Ecology	<p><i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> Various organizations have indicated a strong interest in helping undertake projects based on scientifically sound research to address problems.</p> <p>The National Park Service manages to preserve physical and biological processes, and national park system units are managed as parts of larger ecosystems.</p> <p>The National Park Service will pursue cooperative conservation.</p> <p>Nonnative species may be used to meet desired conditions at cultural resources.</p>	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build on a science-based understanding of park resources.</li> <li>• Incorporate science-based decision making.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Incorporate science and best practices in urban ecology, based on a continued program of inventorying, assessment, surveys, evaluation/analysis, data collection, documentation, and resource monitoring.</li> <li>◦ Use sound science, support appropriately designed and peer reviewed scholarly studies, engage the scientific community, and seek subject matter expertise.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
3.2 Water Resources	<p><i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> Water quality issues affect most water features; changes in water chemistry have resulted in algae growth; some pools and ornamental fountains lack proper circulation systems; and the Tidal Basin does not flush as intended. Large volumes of potable water are used in designed water features.</p>	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to address algae growth in designed water features.</li> <li>• Design and install a runoff filtration system to minimize water pollution from larger parking areas; consider both structural and bioremediation (fungi, microorganisms, higher plants) options.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve water resources by rehabilitating some water features, installing circulation and filtration systems, and taking advantage of current technology, maintenance techniques, and upgraded equipment.</li> <li>• Conserve water, reduce the use of potable water, reuse water, and seek nonpotable water sources for water features.</li> <li>• Seek environmentally sound, natural ways to improve water quality.</li> </ul>
3.3 Flooding in the Monumental Core	<p><i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> Flooding in the Monumental Core occurs from Potomac River overbank flooding, urban drainage flooding (stormwater management), and tidal surges. Heavy rains can overwhelm the urban drainage system, and the city sewer system needs capital improvements.</p> <p>The National Capital Planning Commission has the lead in coordinating a comprehensive approach to flood prevention and control. Buildings in low-lying areas near submerged streams may require dewatering. Dewatering and its impact on urban drainage flooding will be examined by the commission and the city.</p> <p>The National Park Service released the <i>Potomac Park Levee Project Environmental Assessment</i> in 2008.</p>	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue cooperation with the Army Corps of Engineers to maintain the flood control system and address permanent solutions to hydrology and flood control.</li> <li>• Work with the Army Corps of Engineers, the Federal Emergency</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Undertake a comprehensive sustainable water management approach to address flooding.</li> <li>◦ Develop sustainable approaches to address urban drainage flooding in conjunction with the Army Corps of Engineers,</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



ALTERNATIVE A — FOCUS ON THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE AND EDUCATION	ALTERNATIVE B — FOCUS ON A WELCOMING NATIONAL CIVIC SPACE FOR PUBLIC GATHERINGS, EVENTS, AND HIGH-USE LEVELS	ALTERNATIVE C — FOCUS ON URBAN OPEN SPACE, URBAN ECOLOGY, RECREATION, AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLES
<b>3. NATURAL RESOURCES</b>		
3.1 Science and Urban Ecology: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Incorporate science and best practices in urban ecology, based on a continued program of inventorying, assessment, surveys, evaluation/analysis, data collection, documentation, and resource monitoring.</li> <li>◦ Use sound science, support appropriately designed and peer reviewed scholarly studies, engage the scientific community, and seek subject matter expertise.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative A.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative A.</li> </ul>
3.2 Water Resources: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve water resources by rehabilitating some water features, installing circulation and filtration systems, and taking advantage of current technology, maintenance techniques, and upgraded equipment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative A.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative A plus               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Seek environmentally sound, natural ways to improve water quality.</li> <li>◦ Conserve water, reduce the use of potable water, reuse water, and seek nonpotable water sources for water features.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
3.3 Flooding in the Monumental Core: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Seek a long-term solution based on results of engineering studies.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Develop sustainable approaches to address urban drainage flooding in conjunction with the Army Corps of Engineers, the Federal Emergency Management</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

TOPIC OR AREA	NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE: CONTINUE CURRENT MANAGEMENT	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE — PROVIDE A QUALITY VISITOR EXPERIENCE, PROTECT THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE, AND ACCOMMODATE HIGH-USE LEVELS
	<p>Management Agency, and the city as needed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Help implement NCPC/DC plans for comprehensive flood prevention and control as appropriate.</li> </ul>	<p>the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Capital Planning Commission, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, DC agencies, and others.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Explore potential collection and storage of water from subsurface drainage / de-watering activities and re-use for irrigation.</li> </ul>
3.4 Soils and Vegetation	<p><i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> About half of the nearly 700 acres within the National Mall were constructed on tidal flats. Imported soils have often been of poor quality. Additionally, soil compaction from high levels of use affects tree root systems and hardens turf areas. Soil compaction reduces water infiltration and contributes to runoff. Social trails adjacent to designated walkways or water edges destroy turf and further compact soils.</p> <p>Turf recovery periods are scheduled every other winter.</p>	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manage soils and vegetation health; improve appearance.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve natural resource conditions for tree and turf areas; improve soil conditions and/or reengineer and replace or restore soils to reduce or reverse effects from compaction; implement the most successful turf management practices; install or replace irrigation systems so that they would be protected from damage during events.</li> <li>• Seek ways to reduce the physical impacts of events, such as compaction and erosion within the Mall elm tree panels and around the Tidal Basin cherry trees.</li> <li>• Revise rehabilitation and recovery periods so that smaller areas could be set aside more frequently and broader public access maintained.</li> <li>• Protect trees and plants from social trails.</li> </ul>
3.5 Wildlife	<p><i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> Urban wildlife is present, along with less frequently seen fox and deer. Visitors have complained about Canada geese droppings.</p> <p>There are a few listed threatened or endangered species.</p>	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to protect threatened or endangered species.</li> <li>• Continue regional coordination with other national park system units and with other federal and city agencies to address urban wildlife issues and nuisance species.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>

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		<p>Agency, the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Capital Planning Commission, the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority, DC agencies, and others.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Explore potential collection and storage of water from subsurface drainage / dewatering activities and re-use for irrigation.</li> <li>◦ Develop stormwater management structure(s) to mitigate urban drainage flooding.</li> <li>◦ Explore stormwater retention to reduce flooding from urban drainage (e.g., Constitution Gardens Lake) as well as rain gardens.</li> </ul>
<p>3.4 Soils and Vegetation: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Similar to the no-action alternative, except: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Improve soil conditions and/or reengineer and replace soils to reduce effects from compaction.</li> <li>◦ Implement the most successful turf management practices.</li> <li>◦ Protect trees and plants from social trails.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Similar to alternative A plus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Seek ways to reverse the physical impacts of events, such as compaction and erosion within the Mall elm tree panels and around the Tidal Basin cherry trees.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative B plus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Revise rehabilitation and recovery periods so that smaller areas could be set aside more frequently and broader public access maintained.</li> <li>◦ Implement practices to protect and improve conditions for special vegetation populations.</li> <li>◦ Implement Sustainable Sites Initiative™ approach to soils management.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>3.5 Wildlife: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>

TOPIC OR AREA	NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE: CONTINUE CURRENT MANAGEMENT	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE — PROVIDE A QUALITY VISITOR EXPERIENCE, PROTECT THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE, AND ACCOMMODATE HIGH-USE LEVELS
3.6 Air Quality	<i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> Urban air quality is impacted by vehicular exhaust. Air quality is affected by dust from gravel paving.	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take no additional management actions. Better air quality will result from improved technology (e.g., cleaner vehicles).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as the no-action alternative, except                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Eliminate gravel as a paving material.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
3.7 Noise	<i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> Urban sounds, such as traffic and airplane noise, are audible in all areas. Water features may mask noise to some degree.	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take no additional management actions; existing conditions would continue.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as the no-action alternative plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use the sound of water features to muffle urban traffic noise in additional areas.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
3.8 Effects of Climate Change	<i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> There is little that park managers can do to prevent global climate change, which could affect temperature, rainfall, and sea level; however, they can take some steps to mitigate its impact. A 3-meter rise in sea levels could affect many areas in the park. Increased storm severity could result in tidal surges that would inundate more park areas.	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Monitor conditions, assess potentially affected areas and risks for sea level rise, and consider strategies to mitigate impacts.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as the no-action alternative plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coordinate with others to undertake a comprehensive approach to address the impacts of climate change.</li> <li>Develop a natural shoreline.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>4. THE CIVIC STAGE: DEMONSTRATIONS, SPECIAL EVENTS, AND NATIONAL CELEBRATIONS</b>  According to the <i>Code of Federal Regulations</i> (36 CFR 7.96(g)):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The term “demonstrations” includes demonstrations, picketing, speechmaking, marching, holding vigils or religious services and all other like forms of conduct which involve the communication or expression of views or grievances, engaged in by one or more persons, the conduct of which has the effect, intent or propensity to draw a crowd or onlookers. This term does not include casual park use by visitors or tourists which does not have an intent or propensity to attract a crowd or onlookers.</li> <li>The term “special events” includes sports events, pageants, celebrations, historical reenactments, regattas, entertainments, exhibitions, parades, fairs, festivals and similar events (including such events presented by the National Park Service), which are not demonstrations under the previous definition, and which are engaged in by one or more persons, the conduct of which has the effect, intent or propensity to draw a crowd or onlookers. This term also does not include casual park use by visitors or tourists which does not have an intent or propensity to attract a crowd or onlookers.</li> <li>The term “national celebration events” means the annually recurring special events regularly scheduled by the National Capital Region, including the . . . the Fourth of July celebration, Festival of American Folklife, Columbus Day Commemorative Wreath-Laying, and Inaugural ceremonies.</li> </ul>		
<p>4.1 Demonstrations (First Amendment)</p> <p>(NOTE: Language related to demonstrations has also been included in the areas most frequently used for these purposes.)</p>	<p><i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution provides for freedom of expression as a right of citizens. The National Mall is the most prominent space in our country for the demonstration of these rights, and that is an essential purpose of the National Mall. Areas where national symbols are prominent backdrops are especially popular locations for demonstrations.</p> <p>Consistent with the First Amendment and federal regulations, demonstrations will continue to be fully accommodated on a first-come, first-served basis throughout the National Mall. Federal regulations (36 CFR 7.96) define allowable areas and activities related to the Lincoln Memorial, Washington Monument, Jefferson Memorial and Vietnam Veterans Memorial.</p> <p>Demonstrations involving 25 people or fewer do not require a permit.  Demonstration permits can be extended unless a site has already been reserved.</p>	

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3.6 Air Quality: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative, except                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Eliminate gravel as a paving material.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative, except                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Eliminate gravel as a paving material.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
3.7 Noise: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Use the sound of water features to muffle urban traffic noise in additional areas.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative B.</li> </ul>
3.8 Effects of Climate Change: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Consider raising the height of the seawalls.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative A plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Coordinate with others to undertake a comprehensive approach to address the impacts of climate change.</li> <li>◦ Develop a natural shoreline.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>4. THE CIVIC STAGE</b> See facing page.		
4.1 Demonstrations (First Amendment): <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		

TOPIC OR AREA	NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE: CONTINUE CURRENT MANAGEMENT	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE — PROVIDE A QUALITY VISITOR EXPERIENCE, PROTECT THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE, AND ACCOMMODATE HIGH-USE LEVELS
<p>Actions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consistent with the First Amendment and federal regulations, continue to fully accommodate demonstrations.</li> <li>• Consistent with the First Amendment and federal regulations, better monitor demonstrations to facilitate and improve the ability to host them; ensure that resources are protected to the extent possible and that soil, turf, and vegetation impacts are reduced.</li> <li>• Seek to improve permit procedures for demonstrations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Improve highly visible venues throughout the National Mall and better design for high levels of use; provide infrastructure (electrical power, communication systems) and durable surfacing.</li> <li>◦ Provide sufficient staff to support demonstrations.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>4.2 Special Events and National Celebrations</p> <p>(NOTE: Language related to events has also been included in the areas most frequently used for these purposes.)</p>	<p><i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> Regulations for special events and national celebrations on the National Mall are codified at 36 CFR 7.96. Federal courts have ruled that reasonable regulations relating to time, place, and manner for events are appropriate. All special events require a permit.</p> <p>Noise from generators used during events affects visitor experiences.</p>	
<p>Actions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to improve NPS events permitting procedures to better protect resources and to reduce soil, turf, and vegetation impacts.</li> <li>• Better enforce permit requirements and monitor events.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Encourage organizers of large events to schedule their functions during non-peak seasons.</li> <li>◦ Ensure that event scheduling (not First Amendment demonstrations) leaves part of the Mall’s grass panels open for public recreation at all times, part available for events, and part available for landscape recovery/restoration.</li> <li>◦ Define product types and standards to be used during events, and provide definitions to event organizers. Standards could address location, seasonal time limits for temporary surfacing materials, tent installation methods for various areas, generator decibel levels, use of waterless hand cleaners in portable restrooms, supplementary drinking water, locations to remain free of event facilities, and acceptable locations for temporary facilities (e.g., portable restrooms, incident command centers, and events staging).</li> <li>◦ Require the use of supplementary (hired) transit services to facilitate large-scale events based on estimated event size and location.</li> <li>◦ Encourage bicycle parking at special events.</li> <li>◦ Require the use of supplementary (hired) transit services to facilitate large-scale events based on estimated size and location of events.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<b>ALTERNATIVE A — FOCUS ON THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE AND EDUCATION</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVE B — FOCUS ON A WELCOMING NATIONAL CIVIC SPACE FOR PUBLIC GATHERINGS, EVENTS, AND HIGH-USE LEVELS</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVE C — FOCUS ON URBAN OPEN SPACE, URBAN ECOLOGY, RECREATION, AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLES</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Provide sufficient staff to prevent resource impacts.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Improve highly visible venues throughout the National Mall and better design for high levels of use; provide infrastructure (electrical power, communication systems) and durable surfacing.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative B.</li> </ul>
<p>4.2 Special Events and National Celebrations: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Require events to have a meaningful association with the National Mall venues.</li> <li>◦ Define product types and standards to be used during events, and provide definitions to event organizers. Standards would address location, installation, temporary surfacing materials, tent installation methods for various areas, generator decibel levels, use of waterless hand cleaners in portable restrooms, supplementary drinking water, locations to remain free of event facilities, and acceptable locations for temporary facilities (e.g., portable restrooms, incident command centers, and events staging).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Similar to alternative A except                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Revise NPS permit requirements to recommend that event organizers consider placement of all structures so that they do not block eye-level views between national symbols (such as the U.S. Capitol, the Washington Monument, the Lincoln Memorial, the Thomas Jefferson Memorial, and the White House).</li> <li>◦ Require the use of supplementary (hired) transit services to facilitate large-scale events based on estimated size and location of events.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Similar to alternative A except                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Revise NPS permit requirements to recommend that event organizers consider placement of all structures so that they do not block eye-level views between national symbols (same as alternative B).</li> <li>◦ Ensure that event scheduling (not First Amendment demonstrations) leaves part of the Mall’s grass panels open for public recreation at all times, part available for events, and part available for landscape recovery/restoration.</li> <li>◦ Require that bicycle parking be provided at events estimated to be attended by more than 2,000 people (with estimated use by 1% of attendees) to encourage bicycle access.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

TOPIC OR AREA	NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE: CONTINUE CURRENT MANAGEMENT	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE — PROVIDE A QUALITY VISITOR EXPERIENCE, PROTECT THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE, AND ACCOMMODATE HIGH-USE LEVELS
4.3 Venues for Demonstrations, Special Events, and National Celebrations	<p><i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> Over 3,000 events take place annually on the National Mall, and the wear and tear contribute to the slow deterioration of significant character-defining elements within the historic landscape or affecting historic planned views and visitor experiences.</p> <p>Giant video screens are often used to broadcast onsite events to large crowds (e.g., the 2009 inauguration) or to broadcast offsite events.</p>	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to accommodate demonstrations, special events, and national celebrations at current venues.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Similar to the no-action alternative, except               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Improve the nation’s premier civic space, focusing on high visibility areas within the National Mall.</li> <li>◦ Redesign some areas to provide improved or additional sustainable civic forums and stages for First Amendment demonstrations, as well as special events and enjoyment.</li> <li>◦ Provide a more convenient and sustainable civic forum and stage for First Amendment demonstrations, national celebrations, ceremonies, and other events by providing multiple, desirable, hard-surface venues, staging areas, and utilities (water, electricity, communications).</li> <li>◦ Provide civic infrastructure at convenient locations to accommodate portable restrooms and to facilitate servicing them.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
4.4 Operations	<p><i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> The reservation system does not take advantage of current technology to schedule and coordinate events, maintenance and rehabilitation, and construction periods.</p> <p>Areas are regularly needed for law enforcement and command — first aid, command, parking, dogs, horses, motorcycles, bicycles, etc.</p> <p>Resource protection measures such as fencing, signs, and flooring may be required as part of the permitting process for special events.</p> <p>Covering turf distributes weight and reduces compaction but may kill grass.</p> <p>Under the turf management program record of decision half of the Mall area (3rd Street to 14th Street) is closed every other winter for restoration, making these areas unavailable for events or demonstrations.</p> <p>During the Fourth of July roads are closed, a temporary fence is erected, and security checkpoints are established throughout the National Mall.</p> <p>The capabilities and opportunities of different event areas (venues) are not effectively marketed.</p> <p>Portable restrooms are a permit requirement for some events and demonstrations.</p> <p>Staff are insufficient to monitor permitted activities.</p>	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue current practices for managing demonstrations, special events, and national celebrations.</li> <li>• Continue to work with the Environmental Protection Agency on guidelines for ensuring sustainable and low-impact events.</li> <li>• Continue to use portable restrooms at certain demonstrations and events.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a new computer mapping-based reservation system to provide venue and permit information, as well as to schedule events, maintenance, and recovery periods or to schedule park projects.</li> <li>• Seek to provide more balance in scheduling and the distribution of special events (not First Amendment demonstrations) to more equitably accommodate open space for events, recreation, general visitation, and natural resource restoration.</li> </ul>



<b>ALTERNATIVE A — FOCUS ON THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE AND EDUCATION</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVE B — FOCUS ON A WELCOMING NATIONAL CIVIC SPACE FOR PUBLIC GATHERINGS, EVENTS, AND HIGH-USE LEVELS</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVE C — FOCUS ON URBAN OPEN SPACE, URBAN ECOLOGY, RECREATION, AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLES</b>
<p>4.3 Venues for Demonstrations, Special Events, and National Celebrations: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Similar to the no-action alternative, except                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Improve the nation’s premier civic space, focusing on high visibility areas within the National Mall.</li> <li>◦ Provide a more convenient and sustainable civic forum and stage for First Amendment demonstrations, national celebrations, ceremonies, and other events by providing multiple, desirable, hard-surface venues, staging areas, and utilities (water, electrical, Internet, and media connections).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative B.</li> </ul>
<p>4.4 Operations: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Similar to the no-action alternative, except                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Develop a new computer mapping-based reservation system to provide venue and permit information, as well as to schedule events, maintenance, and recovery periods or to schedule park projects.</li> <li>◦ Plan permanent infrastructure and space for temporary facilities</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative A plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Rewrite permit brochures and handouts to better inform potential demonstration and event organizers about how to promote sustainable, low-impact activities.</li> <li>◦ Provide infrastructure at convenient locations to accommodate portable restrooms and to facilitate servicing them.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative A plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Revise the turf management program rehabilitation and recovery periods so that smaller areas are set aside more frequently and broader public access is maintained. Monitor and consider turf recovery results in reopening venues early for general and recreational use.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

TOPIC OR AREA	NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE: CONTINUE CURRENT MANAGEMENT	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE — PROVIDE A QUALITY VISITOR EXPERIENCE, PROTECT THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE, AND ACCOMMODATE HIGH-USE LEVELS
4.4 Operations: Actions (cont.)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide sufficient staff to monitor permitted activities.</li> <li>• Continue to collect data on best practices for events, success rates, and standards; incorporate into park standards where feasible.</li> <li>• Limit onsite staging and logistical areas for special events. Plan permanent infrastructure and space for temporary facilities (such as portable restrooms, trash, recycling, logistical or operational space, media activities, access, and law enforcement) in order to protect resources, reduce the impact of annual events, and make setup and takedown operations for event organizers more efficient.</li> <li>• Develop intense recovery procedures (such as turf renovation methods, deep-tine aeration, overseeding, with recovery time periods depending on event duration and attendance). Monitor and consider turf recovery results in reopening venues early for general and recreational use.</li> <li>• Continue to work with the Environmental Protection Agency on guidelines for ensuring sustainable and low-impact events. Rewrite permit brochures and handouts to better inform demonstration and event organizers about how to promote sustainable, low-impact activities.</li> </ul>
<b>5. ACCESS AND CIRCULATION</b>		
5.1 Coordination of Circulation Systems	<p><i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> Commuter and urban traffic continues to mix with high volumes of pedestrians. There is a large community of bicycle commuters.</p> <p>The National Mall is walkable and easily bikable, but it lacks convenient, visible, and coordinated amenities and information to encourage healthy and non-polluting circulation activities. Pedestrian circulation can be encouraged by helping visitors get additional information that would make walking more enjoyable.</p> <p>Various public and commercial, tour and sightseeing bus services are provided, including NPS visitor transit. A majority of visitors arrive by public transportation and tour buses.</p>	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue uncoordinated means of circulation within the National Mall for different users (public transit, NPS visitor transportation system users, tour buses, taxis, commuters, pedestrians, and bicycle riders).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement a coordinated pedestrian environment that would accommodate various types of uses and needs, including a high-quality, enjoyable pedestrian and bicycle environment, while providing a positive urban experience and coordinated urban connections within a parklike setting; connect all areas of the National Mall and provide better transitions into adjacent areas.</li> <li>• Increase coordinated pedestrian amenities (signs, orientation maps, transit stops, crosswalks, seating, and lighting).</li> <li>• Develop a coordinated strategy to limit visitor vehicular traffic and emphasize alternative modes of transportation in cooperation with the city and other governmental agencies.</li> </ul>

<b>ALTERNATIVE A — FOCUS ON THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE AND EDUCATION</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVE B — FOCUS ON A WELCOMING NATIONAL CIVIC SPACE FOR PUBLIC GATHERINGS, EVENTS, AND HIGH-USE LEVELS</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVE C — FOCUS ON URBAN OPEN SPACE, URBAN ECOLOGY, RECREATION, AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLES</b>
<p>(such as portable restrooms and law enforcement) to reduce the impact of annual events.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Develop intense recovery procedures (turf renovation methods, deep-tine aeration, overseeding, with recovery time periods depending on event duration and attendance) to improve resource conditions but minimize rest periods.</li> <li>◦ Provide sufficient staff to monitor permitted activities.</li> </ul>		
<b>5. ACCESS AND CIRCULATION</b>		
<p>5.1 Coordination of Circulation Systems: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Coordinate pedestrian amenities (signs, orientation maps, transit stops).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement coordinated visitor circulation focused on a high-quality, enjoyable pedestrian environment while providing a positive urban experience and coordinated urban connections within a parklike setting.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative B plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Provide a high-quality, enjoyable bicycling environment.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

TOPIC OR AREA	NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE: CONTINUE CURRENT MANAGEMENT	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE — PROVIDE A QUALITY VISITOR EXPERIENCE, PROTECT THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE, AND ACCOMMODATE HIGH-USE LEVELS
5.2 Roads	<p><i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> Roads provide important urban circulation and commuter routes, but high volume roads (such as 17th and 14th streets, and Constitution and Independence avenues, can be pedestrian barriers. Traffic may exceed the posted speed in some locations. Tunnels under the National Mall are at I-395, 9th Street, and 12th Street.</p> <p>The streets near the National Mall accommodate around 400,000 commuters every weekday. It may be difficult for infrequent visitors to navigate the roads.</p>	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make no change to roads.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Redesign some roads and crosswalks to improve and facilitate pedestrian movements while accommodating urban traffic.</li> <li>• Add traffic-calming measures.</li> </ul>
5.3 Visitor Parking	<p><i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> More than 1,000 free public parking spaces are provided, primarily along park roads and at the Tidal Basin, with approximately 250 additional spaces in three lots near the 14th Street bridge corridor. The amount of parking for people with disabilities is 10%, which exceeds standards; however, some locations attract more visitors who are elderly or have disabilities (see specific areas).</p>	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make no change to parking.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with the city and local parking garages to offer visitor parking and weekend rates; consider valet or shuttle service to and from parking garages to designated drop-off and pickup locations on the National Mall.</li> <li>• Provide additional parking for visitors with disabilities.</li> <li>• Redesign some parking areas for more efficient operation.</li> </ul>
5.4 Pedestrian Access	<p><i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> High-volume roads surround and cross through the National Mall. Traffic lights generally include pedestrian countdown times, but they may be too short for many users. City and regional plans focus on maximizing public transportation.</p>	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make no change to pedestrian access.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve pedestrian experiences with upgraded walking surfaces and crosswalks as part of a coordinated National Mall paving system, larger intersections and adjacent waiting areas to accommodate large numbers of people, and longer pedestrian crossing times.</li> <li>• Improve access for people with disabilities.</li> <li>• Facilitate nonmotorized access by providing separate circulation routes for pedestrians and bicyclists or personal transit users, and by providing additional facilities geared to pedestrians and bicyclists.</li> <li>• Provide for electric scooter rentals to seniors, visitors with disabilities, or those for whom walking long distances is difficult.</li> </ul>

ALTERNATIVE A — FOCUS ON THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE AND EDUCATION	ALTERNATIVE B — FOCUS ON A WELCOMING NATIONAL CIVIC SPACE FOR PUBLIC GATHERINGS, EVENTS, AND HIGH-USE LEVELS	ALTERNATIVE C — FOCUS ON URBAN OPEN SPACE, URBAN ECOLOGY, RECREATION, AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLES
<p>5.2 Roads: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Redesign some roads and crosswalks to improve and facilitate pedestrian movements while accommodating urban traffic.</li> <li>• Add traffic-calming measures.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative B plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Tunnel some roads to improve vehicular circulation.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>5.3 Visitor Parking: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide additional visitor parking for people with disabilities.</li> <li>• Redesign parking areas for more efficient operation.</li> <li>• If determined feasible by engineering, security, geotechnical, and economic studies, develop underground public parking garages.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Redesign parking areas for more efficient operation.</li> </ul>
<p>5.4 Pedestrian Access: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relocate the truck route from 15th Street to 14th Street. Work with the city to lengthen pedestrian crossing times.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve pedestrian experiences with upgraded walking surfaces and longer pedestrian countdowns.</li> <li>• Add pedestrian bridges or tunnels.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve pedestrian experiences with upgraded walking surfaces and longer pedestrian countdowns; upgrade and coordinate paving (same as alternative B).</li> <li>• Redesign some roads.</li> <li>• Add pedestrian bridges or pedestrian/vehicular underpasses.</li> <li>• Provide separate circulation routes for pedestrians and bicyclists or personal transit users; provide additional facilities for pedestrians.</li> </ul>

TOPIC OR AREA	NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE: CONTINUE CURRENT MANAGEMENT	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE — PROVIDE A QUALITY VISITOR EXPERIENCE, PROTECT THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE, AND ACCOMMODATE HIGH-USE LEVELS
5.5 Supplementary Visitor Transportation	<i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> Up to 25% of visitors may not be able to walk long distances, or they may be exhausted from visiting multiple sites.	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No opportunities for supplementary visitor transportation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide supplementary transportation, including scooter rentals or wheelchairs, and roving health and safety courtesy shuttles for the elderly, families with small children, and others as needed.</li> </ul>
5.6 Public Transportation	<i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> Public and commuter bus routes cross the National Mall, but the west end is not well-served. Circulator buses use several routes in the area. There is one Metro stop on the National Mall and four more within two blocks.	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to accommodate public and commuter bus services.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to accommodate public and commuter bus services.</li> <li>Support an additional Metro entry at 7th Street and Constitution Avenue NW (Navy / Archives / Penn Quarter) and the Federal Triangle.</li> </ul>
5.7 Taxis	<i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> Taxi stands are dispersed throughout the National Mall, at the Washington Monument, major memorials, and near museums.	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Make no change to taxi stands.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>
5.8 Tour Bus Management	<i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> Up to a third of visitors to the National Mall may arrive by tour bus. Tour bus drop-offs and pickups are accommodated in the following areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the Mall (four locations)</li> <li>Washington Monument</li> <li>Thomas Jefferson Memorial</li> <li>Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial / future Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial</li> <li>Lincoln Memorial (Daniel French, Henry Bacon drives)</li> <li>Raoul Wallenberg Place</li> </ul> Tour bus regulations limit time for engine idling. Tour buses frequently deposit large amounts of waste from box lunches. Turf areas may be destroyed or compacted by large numbers of people getting on / off buses.	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to work with the D.C. Department of Transportation and other city agencies to address tour bus parking needs.</li> <li>Continue to improve tour bus drop-off locations and waste management.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as the no-action alternative plus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Redesign tour bus drop-offs as needed.</li> <li>Increase tour bus drop-offs on the Mall.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>6. VISITOR INFORMATION, EDUCATION, AND ENJOYMENT</b>		
6.1 Park Information and Orientation	<i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> The National Park Service provides online information about visiting the National Mall, but layers of information may be hard to navigate. Brochures, maps, and general park information are available at visitor contact stations (see specific areas below). Outdated orientation maps are being replaced; wayfinding signs are coordinated with the city. The park radio station (AM 1670) provides onsite information. Park information has been provided by others through tour books, maps, and brochures, but sometimes this information is inaccurate.	

ALTERNATIVE A — FOCUS ON THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE AND EDUCATION	ALTERNATIVE B — FOCUS ON A WELCOMING NATIONAL CIVIC SPACE FOR PUBLIC GATHERINGS, EVENTS, AND HIGH-USE LEVELS	ALTERNATIVE C — FOCUS ON URBAN OPEN SPACE, URBAN ECOLOGY, RECREATION, AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLES
5.5 Supplementary Visitor Transportation: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide supplementary transportation, including scooter rentals or wheelchairs, and roving health and safety courtesy shuttles for the elderly, families with small children, and others as needed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>
5.6 Public Transportation: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to accommodate public and commuter bus services.</li> <li>• Support an additional Metro entry at 7th Street and Constitution Avenue NW (Navy / Archives / Penn Quarter).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative A.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative A.</li> </ul>
5.7 Taxis: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>
5.8 Tour Bus Management: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Redesign tour bus drop-offs as needed.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Redesign tour bus drop-offs as needed.</li> <li>◦ Increase tour bus drop-offs on the Mall.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Redesign tour bus drop-offs as needed.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>6. VISITOR INFORMATION, EDUCATION, AND ENJOYMENT</b>		
6.1 Parking Information and Orientation: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		

TOPIC OR AREA	NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE: CONTINUE CURRENT MANAGEMENT	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE — PROVIDE A QUALITY VISITOR EXPERIENCE, PROTECT THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE, AND ACCOMMODATE HIGH-USE LEVELS
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to improve website information about visiting the park as staffing and funding are available, and develop innovative improvements.</li> <li>• Continue to work with tour groups and others to disseminate accurate information.</li> <li>• Continue to replace outdated, onsite orientation maps.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ In addition to improved orientation, way-finding, and information services; provide signs and brochures in multiple languages; provide roving rangers to greet visitors and answer questions.</li> <li>◦ Provide orientation / map areas near key pedestrian entries and intersections or corridors that are readable at night. Make sign and information systems flexible enough to incorporate changes in cutting edge technology; use glare-free variable message signs.</li> <li>◦ Create a seamless visitor experience through communication networks, mass notification systems, program/ activity listings (also on-line), coordinated information about adjacent museums and visitor destinations, and links to tourist websites.</li> <li>◦ Ensure all park staff, including maintenance staff, are able to direct visitors to destinations and provide park maps.</li> <li>◦ Work with adjacent museums and managers of visitor destinations to provide park information.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
6.2 Educational Programs and Exhibits	<p><i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> Memorials and park areas provide interpretive opportunities based on commemoration, unique features, activities and uses, and the history of development and use.</p> <p>Audiovisual exhibits are provided at the Lincoln and Jefferson memorials. Interactive computer displays at the Korean War Veterans and World War II memorials may be difficult to see because of glare.</p> <p>Regularly scheduled daily programs take place. Programs include living history and curriculum-based education. Temporary and permanent educational panels provide additional visitor information. Special programs celebrate the Fourth of July, the National Cherry Blossom Festival, Veteran's Day, Memorial Day, and birthdays for George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, and Franklin Delano Roosevelt, as well as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.</p>	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus educational programs on the memorials as symbols of democracy and the history of the nation's capital.</li> <li>• Continue to provide living history and special programs in some locations.</li> <li>• Continue to add educational panels.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Develop programs to inspire visitors so that they leave with a new or renewed appreciation of their inalienable rights, the American experience, and our diverse culture.</li> <li>◦ Develop educational methods that would be flexible and adaptable to technological innovations, such as digital electronic displays, cell phone tours, and interpretive boards and activity listings that could be programmed by computer and would allow visits to the National Mall to be personalized.</li> <li>◦ Use mobile information stations and roving staff to supplement dispersed</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



<b>ALTERNATIVE A — FOCUS ON THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE AND EDUCATION</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVE B — FOCUS ON A WELCOMING NATIONAL CIVIC SPACE FOR PUBLIC GATHERINGS, EVENTS, AND HIGH-USE LEVELS</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVE C — FOCUS ON URBAN OPEN SPACE, URBAN ECOLOGY, RECREATION, AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLES</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Improve website information by offering downloadable information to help visitors plan their visits.</li> <li>◦ Provide greetings, welcoming information, and brochures in foreign languages.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Provide an on-line events calendar on glare-free variable message signs that can also be used to provide emergency information.</li> <li>◦ Light onsite orientation maps for readability and viewing during evening hours.</li> <li>◦ Provide roving rangers to welcome visitors and answer questions.</li> <li>◦ Ensure all park staff, including maintenance staff, are able to direct visitors to destinations and provide park maps.</li> <li>◦ Work with adjacent museums and managers of visitor destinations to provide park information.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Provide information (brochures, web-based information) about recreational opportunities in East Potomac Park.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>6.2 Educational Programs and Exhibits: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Educate visitors about the planned open space of the nation’s capital as developed in the L’Enfant, McMillan, and other historic plans, as well as about the history of planning and development of the nation’s capital and individual memorials.</li> <li>◦ Offer additional living history programs.</li> <li>◦ Offer multilingual programs.</li> <li>◦ Provide educational programs about sustainability.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Educate visitors about how the National Mall is the nation’s civic stage and gathering place, the history of First Amendment expression in a democracy, national celebrations, and the nation’s capital as a civic stage for all kinds of cultural and other activities.</li> <li>◦ Offer multilingual and educational publications and more large-print publications.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Provide information about walking opportunities and trails.</li> <li>◦ Educate visitors about healthy parks / healthy lifestyles, plant materials/gardens, natural resources, sustainable practices and ecosystems, and stewardship activities (including the importance of recycling, reducing waste, and reusing items).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

TOPIC OR AREA	NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE: CONTINUE CURRENT MANAGEMENT	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE — PROVIDE A QUALITY VISITOR EXPERIENCE, PROTECT THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE, AND ACCOMMODATE HIGH-USE LEVELS
6.2 Educational Programs and Exhibits: Actions (cont.)		<p>visitor contact stations rather than having a single visitor center to provide visitor orientation, information, and education.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Educate visitors about civic space and First Amendment demonstrations, history, commemorative works, historic plans and the development of the capital city, healthy lifestyles, and sustainability (including the importance of recycling, reducing waste, and reusing items as a stewardship message).</li> <li>◦ Offer additional living history programs.</li> <li>◦ Offer multilingual programs.</li> <li>◦ Provide educational, stewardship, or informational components at all visitor facilities, including restrooms.</li> </ul>
6.3 Guided Tours	<p><i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> The National Park Service and others provide sightseeing, bicycling, walking, and cell phone tours. Walking tour brochures and maps, as well as cell phone tours, are offered during the National Cherry Blossom Festival and at other special events and national celebrations.</p> <p>Technological advances, such as cell phones and portable media players, offer opportunities to reach visitors at times and locations convenient to them.</p>	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to offer NPS bicycle and walking tours.</li> <li>• Continue to incorporate technology to diversify NPS educational tours (e.g., cell phone or downloadable tours).</li> <li>• Continue to develop NPS programs and handouts related to national celebrations, anniversaries, and special events.</li> <li>• Jointly promote walking and bicycle tours through Cultural Tourism DC.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Provide more NPS guided walking/ bicycling interpretive tours and brochures.</li> <li>◦ Emphasize multi-season touring opportunities (spring cherry blossoms, fall colors).</li> <li>◦ Offer multiple thematic walking tour brochures or cell phone tours (e.g., development of D.C., civic stage / First Amendment, presidential memorials, tree guides, seasonal guides, exploring with children).</li> <li>◦ Provide multilingual tours, perhaps by portable media players, cell phones, or other means.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
6.4 Entertainment	<p><i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> Various locations are used for entertaining educational programs and performances, including concerts, small group performances, military tattoos, school band performances, Screen on the Green (movies), and Kennedy Center simulcasts.</p>	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to offer opportunities for variety in entertainment at existing venues (Sylvan Theater, the D.C. War Memorial, lower approachway of the Lincoln Memorial, the Thomas Jefferson Memorial plaza) and at temporary locations set up for the event performances.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Facilitate increased entertainment through improved or additional venues designed with the necessary infrastructure.</li> <li>◦ Encourage thematically appropriate performances, entertainment, and educational programs at new visitor food service destinations (if feasible).</li> <li>◦ Use small-scale programs or entertainment to enhance the pedestrian experience.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

ALTERNATIVE A — FOCUS ON THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE AND EDUCATION	ALTERNATIVE B — FOCUS ON A WELCOMING NATIONAL CIVIC SPACE FOR PUBLIC GATHERINGS, EVENTS, AND HIGH-USE LEVELS	ALTERNATIVE C — FOCUS ON URBAN OPEN SPACE, URBAN ECOLOGY, RECREATION, AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLES
<p>6.3 Guided Tours: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Provide multilingual tours, perhaps by portable media players, cell phones, or other means.</li> <li>◦ Offer multiple thematic walking tour brochures or cell phone tours (e.g., development of D.C., civic stage / First Amendment, presidential memorials, tree guides, seasonal guides, exploring with children).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Provide more guided walking/ bicycling interpretive tours and brochures.</li> <li>◦ Emphasize multi-season touring opportunities (spring cherry blossoms, fall colors).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>6.4 Entertainment: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Facilitate increased entertainment through improved or additional venues designed with the necessary infrastructure.</li> <li>◦ Encourage thematically appropriate performances, entertainment, and educational programs at new visitor food service destinations (if feasible).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Facilitate entertainment through improved infrastructure.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

TOPIC OR AREA	NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE: CONTINUE CURRENT MANAGEMENT	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE — PROVIDE A QUALITY VISITOR EXPERIENCE, PROTECT THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE, AND ACCOMMODATE HIGH-USE LEVELS
6.5 Recreational Activities	<p><i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> Informal or passive recreation, such as walking, picnicking, reading, sunning, kite flying, Frisbee, and play, occurs everywhere.</p> <p>A variety of recreational activities are available, including softball, volleyball, kickball, running, rugby, soccer, kickball, bicycling, and football. Some areas are used for recreational sports leagues and are permitted through the D.C. Department of Parks and Recreation. Seasonal ice-skating occurs on natural ice when conditions permit.</p> <p>Organized sports require a permit.</p> <p>Swimming or wading in fountains and the Tidal Basin is prohibited.</p> <p>Pavement and surfaces are not conducive to some types of recreation, such as running or in-line skating.</p> <p>Skateboarding is prohibited since it damages memorials, curbing, steps, and walls.</p>	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue a mix of recreational activities, with some authorized locations used by organized sport leagues.</li> <li>• Reconfigure recreation fields to accommodate the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Center.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Expand recreational opportunities to meet evolving recreational needs; improve field conditions.</li> <li>◦ Improve surface materials to better accommodate some recreational activities.</li> <li>◦ Improve connections to other nearby recreation facilities in East Potomac Park.</li> <li>◦ Improve trail connections along the Washington Waterfront and along the Potomac and Anacostia rivers.</li> <li>◦ Design all facilities, curbs, and steps to discourage skateboarding.</li> <li>◦ Develop an online permitting system for athletic fields.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
6.6 Commercial Recreational Activities	<p><i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> While additional recreational services may be desired, some may be outside existing contractual agreements. Actual future services and facilities will be contingent on a park assessment of the economic feasibility, whether the proposed services are necessary and appropriate, and under what authority these services could be offered. An example of an existing commercial activity is the rental of seasonal paddleboats at the Tidal Basin.</p>	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess the economic feasibility, necessity, and appropriateness of recreation services to determine the amount/level and type of such services to be offered.</li> <li>• Continue current commercial activities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Expand and possibly diversify recreational activities, including potential recreation equipment rentals:                   <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- rowboats and kayaks at the Tidal Basin</li> <li>- model boats at Constitution Gardens Lake</li> <li>- ice skates at Union Square/ Capitol reflecting pool</li> <li>- bicycles</li> <li>- kites at the Washington Monument grounds</li> </ul> </li> <li>◦ Work with city bicycle rental programs.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<b>ALTERNATIVE A — FOCUS ON THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE AND EDUCATION</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVE B — FOCUS ON A WELCOMING NATIONAL CIVIC SPACE FOR PUBLIC GATHERINGS, EVENTS, AND HIGH-USE LEVELS</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVE C — FOCUS ON URBAN OPEN SPACE, URBAN ECOLOGY, RECREATION, AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLES</b>
<p>6.5 Recreational Activities: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Develop an online permitting system for athletic fields.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Improve surface materials to better accommodate some recreational activities.</li> <li>◦ Design curbs and steps to discourage skateboarding.</li> <li>◦ Develop an online permitting system for athletic fields.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative B plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Expand opportunities to meet evolving recreational needs; improve field conditions.</li> <li>◦ Improve connections to other nearby recreation facilities in East Potomac Park.</li> <li>◦ Improve trail connections along the Washington Waterfront and along the Potomac and Anacostia rivers.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>6.6 Commercial Recreational Activities: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Improve conditions and the variety of recreation equipment rentals.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Expand recreational activities, including potential recreation equipment rentals:                                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- rowboats and kayaks at the Tidal Basin</li> <li>- model boats at Constitution Gardens Lake</li> <li>- ice skates at Union Square/ Capitol reflecting pool</li> <li>- lawn chairs</li> </ul> </li> <li>◦ Continue offsite bicycle rentals.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

TOPIC OR AREA	NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE: CONTINUE CURRENT MANAGEMENT	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE — PROVIDE A QUALITY VISITOR EXPERIENCE, PROTECT THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE, AND ACCOMMODATE HIGH-USE LEVELS
<b>7. VISITOR AMENITIES</b>		
<p>7.1 Architectural Character</p>	<p><i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> Historic structures and memorials are unique and contribute to the National Mall character. Visitor amenities developed for memorials are generally compatible with the specific memorial’s character. Historic buildings such as Survey Lodge and Monument Lodge on the Washington Monument grounds, or the Lockkeeper’s House near 17th Street and Constitution Avenue, have been or are being adaptively reused to provide visitor amenities. Their character contributes to telling stories about the National Mall.</p> <p>The variety of architectural styles in visitor facilities does not contribute to a unified identity and awareness of an NPS management presence.</p> <p>Facilities such as restrooms, food service, and information/contact stations may not be recognizable or easy to find because there is no common architectural and graphic character.</p> <p>Newer visitor facilities developed since the mid 1990s have had a consistent use of materials, colors, and textures (e.g., refreshment stands on the Mall and north and south of the Lincoln Memorial), and are sustainable (geothermal).</p> <p>Other facilities are not readily apparent; their color, architectural character, materials, and appearance are not coordinated or compatible; and some look temporary or not in keeping with the importance of the National Mall. Some are nearing the end of their useful lives, were not designed for current use levels, or are no longer needed because of changing use or technology. Examples:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ circular restrooms — Washington Monument, Constitution Gardens, and Ash Woods</li> <li>◦ refreshment stands or recreation equipment rental locations — Constitution Gardens, Tidal Basin, Jefferson Memorial</li> <li>◦ small kiosks for tickets or bus ticket sales — Washington Monument, Mall, FDR and Jefferson memorials, carousel</li> <li>◦ the U.S. Park Police stables, which include mobile structures and grapestake fencing, giving the facility a transient appearance.</li> </ul>	
<p>Actions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make no change to the mixture of architectural styles on the National Mall.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design all new visitor service facilities to be compatible with the character of the National Mall (e.g., the refreshment stands on the Mall and at the Lincoln Memorial), making them easily identifiable for visitors, strengthening the NPS identity, and denoting that they are secondary to national memorials.</li> <li>• Potentially develop a limited number of architecturally significant destination visitor facilities in certain locations (e.g., Union Square, Washington Monument, Constitution Gardens, Tidal Basin area).</li> <li>• Focus on cutting-edge, sustainable design solutions, exceeding the minimum requirement of a silver rating under the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) program.</li> <li>• Incorporate visible but subtle renewable energy components, such as photovoltaic solar energy and geothermal systems.</li> <li>• Design visitor facilities to withstand vandalism, forced entry, and skateboarding.</li> </ul>

ALTERNATIVE A — FOCUS ON THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE AND EDUCATION	ALTERNATIVE B — FOCUS ON A WELCOMING NATIONAL CIVIC SPACE FOR PUBLIC GATHERINGS, EVENTS, AND HIGH-USE LEVELS	ALTERNATIVE C — FOCUS ON URBAN OPEN SPACE, URBAN ECOLOGY, RECREATION, AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLES
<b>7. VISITOR AMENITIES</b>		
7.1 Architectural Character: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Design all new visitor service facilities to be compatible with the character of the National Mall (e.g., the refreshment stands on the Mall and at the Lincoln Memorial), making them more identifiable for visitors, strengthening the NPS identity, and denoting that they are secondary to national memorials.</li> <li>• Design visitor facilities to withstand vandalism, forced entry, and skateboarding.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Similar to alternative A, except                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Potentially develop a limited number of architecturally significant destination visitor facilities in certain locations (e.g., Union Square, Washington Monument, Constitution Gardens, Tidal Basin area).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Similar to alternative B, except                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Focus on cutting-edge, sustainable design solutions, exceeding the silver rating under the LEED program.</li> <li>◦ Incorporate visible but subtle renewable energy components, such as photovoltaic solar energy and geothermal systems.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<b>TOPIC OR AREA</b>	<b>NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE: CONTINUE CURRENT MANAGEMENT</b>	<b>PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE — PROVIDE A QUALITY VISITOR EXPERIENCE, PROTECT THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE, AND ACCOMMODATE HIGH-USE LEVELS</b>
7.2 Ornamental Water Features	<p><i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> Water can be reflective or active and is highly attractive to visitors. The sound of water can muffle noise. Swimming and wading in memorial fountains is prohibited. Interactive water features, such as those at the German-American Friendship Garden, can provide opportunities for visitors to cool off and have fun.</p>	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Retain reflecting pools and active water features.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Retain reflecting pools and active water features; add some new water features, including interactive water features.</li> </ul>
7.3 Site Furnishings	<p><i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> Park furniture remains uncoordinated; some is outdated and difficult to maintain. Some site furnishings were developed for a specific memorial. Furnishings are diverse, with more than 10 kinds of seating, 5 types of bollards and post-and-chain fences, 8 kinds of light fixtures (in addition to memorial lights, ground lights, and fountain lighting); 5 kinds of drinking fountains, and more than 8 types of trash receptacles when planning began.</p>	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain present site furnishings.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide new, coordinated, high-quality, compatible furnishings, including seasonal tables and chairs, as well as trash/ recycling containers, curbs, signs, shelters, drinking fountains, and temporary components such as fencing. Design to be sensitive to the character of the historic landscape and to visually connect different areas on the National Mall to establish a sense of place and an overall identity.</li> <li>Incorporate the following character-defining components for furnishings: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>historic benches, including the NPS standard Washington bench</li> <li>historic lighting (Olmsted, Twin twenties, Washington globe, Saratoga lights)</li> <li>furnishings specifically designed for memorials (seating, trash receptacles, signs, drinking fountains, light fixtures, etc.)</li> </ul> </li> <li>Incorporate sustainable designs into all new visitor facilities for ease of maintenance and use.</li> </ul>
7.4 Paving	<p><i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> The use of various types of paving does not contribute to a sense of place or character. Current paving includes gravel, asphalt, plain or brushed concrete, exposed aggregate concrete, brick, stone (cut granite, marble, flagstone), and concrete pavers. Loose paving material (e.g., gravel) migrates onto paved walks and into grass, is slippery, and creates dust, resulting in complaints. It may not be accessible to people with disabilities.</p>	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain, repair, and replace current paving as budgets and staffing allow.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop a low-maintenance, sustainable, universally accessible paving system for sidewalks, walkways, and crosswalks on the National Mall to improve the visitor experience and park operations; ensure that the surface would be suitable for pedestrian access and recreational activities, as well as durable enough for event, operations, and maintenance access. Encourage the use of porous or other sustainable approaches.</li> </ul>



<b>ALTERNATIVE A — FOCUS ON THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE AND EDUCATION</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVE B — FOCUS ON A WELCOMING NATIONAL CIVIC SPACE FOR PUBLIC GATHERINGS, EVENTS, AND HIGH-USE LEVELS</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVE C — FOCUS ON URBAN OPEN SPACE, URBAN ECOLOGY, RECREATION, AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLES</b>
<p>7.2 Ornamental Water Features: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retain reflecting pools and active water features; add some new water features, including interactive water features.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative B.</li> </ul>
<p>7.3 Site Furnishings: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide new, coordinated, high-quality, compatible furnishings, including but not limited to trash/recycling containers, curbs, signs, drinking fountains, and temporary fencing.</li> <li>• Incorporate the following character-defining components for furnishings:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ historic benches, including the NPS standard Washington bench</li> <li>◦ historic lighting (Olmsted, Twin twenties, Washington globe, Saratoga lights)</li> <li>◦ furnishings specifically designed for memorials (seating, trash receptacles, signs, drinking fountains, light fixtures, etc.)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative A plus               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Develop replacement furnishings at memorials (seating, trash receptacles, signs) to unify the National Mall except for custom furnishings such as seating specifically designed for memorials</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative B plus               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Ensure that furnishings are sustainable.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>7.4 Paving: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Coordinate new areas of paving with the most common and visible adjacent paving.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a low-maintenance, sustainable, universally accessible paving system to improve the visitor experience and park operations; consider paving that could simulate the appearance of gravel.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative B plus               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Consider porous paving if feasible, soft surfaces for jogging, and smooth surfaces for in-line skating or wheeled recreation.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

TOPIC OR AREA	NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE: CONTINUE CURRENT MANAGEMENT	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE — PROVIDE A QUALITY VISITOR EXPERIENCE, PROTECT THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE, AND ACCOMMODATE HIGH-USE LEVELS
7.5 Lighting Guidelines	<p><i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> The night sky in Washington, D.C., is dominated by lighting of five symbolic icons — the U.S. Capitol, the White House, the Washington Monument, the Lincoln Memorial, and the Thomas Jefferson Memorial. Other public and private buildings, memorials, public art, streets and walks, and park areas are lit to varying degrees, with the potential for conflict.</p> <p>Projects are reviewed by the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts; however, there is no written and approved lighting plan to protect the city’s nighttime character and provide guidance.</p>	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide comments to the Commission of Fine Arts on lighting and work to retain the existing character while increasing the efficiency of light bulbs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Work closely with the National Capital Planning Commission, the Commission of Fine Arts, and the Architect of the Capitol to reestablish the lighting task force to develop an approved, written comprehensive lighting guideline for the monumental core area that addresses the following at a minimum:                                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* protections to maintain dominant lighting of the five symbolic icons</li> <li>* desired lighting character for urban and park areas, character-defining elements such as statuary and building facades, pedestrian and vehicular areas, and transitions between different light levels</li> <li>* appropriate light levels (foot-candles or lumens) and light color (color rendition) for different areas</li> <li>* energy efficiency and sustainable lighting practices</li> <li>* light pollution / protection of night sky from excessive, horizontal light pollution (temporarily blinding light)</li> <li>* security lighting</li> </ul> </li> <li>◦ Improve the welcoming atmosphere and safety by increasing pedestrian-oriented lighting throughout the National Mall; ensure that pedestrian lighting sources would not contribute to light pollution.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
7.6 Seating	<p><i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> Seating is provided on benches, tables, and chairs; on steps; and on some walls. Bench seating (nearly 1,200 seats) is insufficient at some times and in some locations. Bench seating is often not facing memorials, views, or features. Shaded seating is highly desirable in the summer.</p>	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue present seating.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase seating opportunities and locations for visitors to enjoy views or summer shade; provide seating for groups.</li> <li>• Design seating to meet the needs of people with disabilities.</li> <li>• Increase seating options by using benches, site components such as walls, and portable lawn chairs. Consider adding seating at some memorials.</li> </ul>

<b>ALTERNATIVE A — FOCUS ON THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE AND EDUCATION</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVE B — FOCUS ON A WELCOMING NATIONAL CIVIC SPACE FOR PUBLIC GATHERINGS, EVENTS, AND HIGH-USE LEVELS</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVE C — FOCUS ON URBAN OPEN SPACE, URBAN ECOLOGY, RECREATION, AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLES</b>
<p>7.5 Lighting Guidelines: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Work closely with the National Capital Planning Commission, the Commission of Fine Arts, and the Architect of the Capitol to reestablish the lighting task force to develop an approved, written comprehensive lighting guideline for the monumental core area that addresses the following at a minimum:                                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>* protections to maintain dominant lighting of the five symbolic icons</li> <li>* desired lighting character for urban and park areas, character-defining elements such as statuary and building facades, pedestrian and vehicular areas, and transitions between different light levels</li> <li>* appropriate light levels (foot-candles or lumens) and light color (color rendition) for different areas</li> <li>* energy efficiency and sustainable lighting practices</li> <li>* light pollution / protection of night sky from excessive, horizontal light pollution (temporarily blinding light)</li> <li>* security lighting</li> </ul> </li> <li>◦ Maintain present pedestrian lighting.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Similar to alternative A except                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Improve the welcoming atmosphere and safety by increasing pedestrian-oriented lighting throughout the National Mall; ensure that pedestrian lighting sources would not contribute to light pollution.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative B.</li> </ul>
<p>7.6 Seating: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase numbers of benches and locate for enjoyment of views. Design seating to accommodate the needs of people with disabilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative A plus .                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Increase seating options by using site components such as walls. Increase seating at some memorials, including seating for groups.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative B plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Increase seating, including portable chairs, in areas used for active recreation, such as ballfields.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

TOPIC OR AREA	NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE: CONTINUE CURRENT MANAGEMENT	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE — PROVIDE A QUALITY VISITOR EXPERIENCE, PROTECT THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE, AND ACCOMMODATE HIGH-USE LEVELS
7.7 Drinking Water	<p><i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> Some drinking fountains have a delay feature, and drinking fountains need frequent repairs. Surfaces and basins may not be sanitary. During summer hydration is essential.</p> <p>Water bottles are readily available for purchase, and water is available at first-aid tents and EMS stations. Water bottles are also handed out at many events.</p>	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain drinking fountains.</li> <li>• Continue to make water bottles available at some events and first-aid stations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce the number of free-standing drinking fountains and concentrate drinking fountains near restrooms.</li> <li>• Provide new drinking fountains / drinking water stations designed to reduce the possibility of misuse (e.g., vandalism) and to facilitate filling reusable water bottles or taking care of pet water needs.</li> </ul>
7.8 Food Service	<p><i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> Food service is limited to refreshment stands and mobile carts.</p> <p>While additional food services may be desired, some may be outside existing contractual agreements. Actual future services and facilities will be contingent on a park assessment of the economic feasibility, whether the proposed services are necessary and appropriate, and under what authority these services could be offered.</p>	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess the economic feasibility, necessity, and appropriateness of additional food service to determine the amount/level and type of such services to be offered.</li> <li>• Continue refreshment stands and mobile carts.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative, plus if feasible               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Provide more variety in types of food, including mobile carts, refreshment stands, and sit-down restaurants, and provide longer service hours.</li> <li>◦ In some locations replace or upgrade existing facilities.</li> <li>◦ Provide several, well-located, convenient, attractive, and architecturally unique multipurpose facilities as pleasant places for visitors to sit and relax, with food service and infrastructure for programs, performances, and entertainment.</li> <li>◦ Encourage visitors to linger with high-quality designs and pleasant surroundings, and concentrate trash and recycling at these locations to protect memorials.</li> <li>◦ Consider multiple food service contracts.</li> <li>◦ Use well-designed, clearly identifiable mobile food carts, coordinated with signs and site furnishings, to help convey the NPS stewardship message during high-use seasons and special events.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
7.9 Public Restrooms	<p><i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> Restrooms are often insufficient for demand, are not well designed, and some are outdated and difficult to keep clean. Restrooms are not available east of 15th Street. Museum restrooms must be accessed through security checkpoints and are not open evenings. Restrooms are usually not provided near refreshment stands, so hand washing is not possible.</p>	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue present restroom facilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide additional conveniently located visitor restrooms throughout the National Mall and service more frequently. Locate and size some restrooms to flexibly accommodate increased demand generated by events, tour buses, or peak-season visitation.</li> </ul>

<b>ALTERNATIVE A — FOCUS ON THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE AND EDUCATION</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVE B — FOCUS ON A WELCOMING NATIONAL CIVIC SPACE FOR PUBLIC GATHERINGS, EVENTS, AND HIGH-USE LEVELS</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVE C — FOCUS ON URBAN OPEN SPACE, URBAN ECOLOGY, RECREATION, AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLES</b>
<p>7.7 Drinking Water: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reduce the number of free-standing drinking fountains and concentrate more drinking fountains and drinking water near staffed and monitored restrooms.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide new drinking fountains / drinking water stations designed to reduce the possibility of misuse (e.g., vandalism) and to facilitate filling reusable water bottles or taking care of pet water needs.</li> </ul>
<p>7.8 Food Service: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative, plus if feasible                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Replace or upgrade outdated food service facilities.</li> <li>◦ Seek to improve and diversify food service, but rely on refreshment stands.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative, plus if feasible                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ In some locations replace or upgrade existing facilities.</li> <li>◦ Provide well-located, convenient, and attractive multipurpose facilities, with food service, indoor/outdoor seating, and potential for performance venues.</li> <li>◦ Consider longer service hours.</li> <li>◦ Consider multiple contracts to provide food service.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Similar to alternative B, except if feasible                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Focus on providing more food variety, but still rely primarily on refreshment stands.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>7.9 Public Restrooms: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide new restrooms near food service facilities.</li> <li>• Replace outdated restrooms.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide public restrooms approximately every quarter mile and keep them open longer.</li> <li>• Increase the capacity of some existing restrooms; at new restrooms; monitor cleanliness.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add restrooms near food service (including some that are sustainable, automated, self-cleaning, and available day and night in some areas).</li> </ul>

TOPIC OR AREA	NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE: CONTINUE CURRENT MANAGEMENT	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE — PROVIDE A QUALITY VISITOR EXPERIENCE, PROTECT THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE, AND ACCOMMODATE HIGH-USE LEVELS
7.9. Public Restrooms: Actions (cont.)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expand capacity in some existing restrooms; increase staffing; monitor cleanliness.</li> <li>Consider sustainable, automated, self-cleaning restrooms (which sanitize surfaces after use) to extend operating hours of facilities.</li> <li>Provide restrooms at new or renovated food service areas.</li> </ul>
<b>8. HEALTH, PUBLIC SAFETY, AND SECURITY</b>		
8.1 Incompatible Activities	<i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> Highly used areas with many different activities can result in safety concerns or use conflicts. Examples are bicycle use on sidewalks or softball games near areas where people are picnicking or walking.	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue multiple uses of different areas.</li> <li>Continue to offer bicycle parking at events to reduce bike riding in highly crowded areas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to offer bicycle parking at events to reduce bike riding in highly crowded areas.</li> <li>Redesign areas to safely differentiate multiple uses (e.g., separate bicycle lanes).</li> </ul>
8.2 Pedestrian Safety	<i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> Pedestrian countdown times at street crossings are too short for many visitors; jaywalking is common in some areas. Some pedestrian walks are not lit.	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue present conditions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase pedestrian street-crossing times; add mid-block crossing points; consider traffic-calming measures (such as raised crosswalks); improved crosswalks; provide wider waiting areas; explore in-pavement lighting; and redesign roadways to reconnect park areas and improve pedestrian safety.</li> <li>Better light pedestrian walkways for safety and peace of mind, emphasizing surface conditions and the pedestrian environment.</li> <li>Add emergency call stations, with a coordinated design and located near orientation signs.</li> </ul>
8.3 Visitors with Disabilities	<i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> Visitors with disabilities find some areas difficult to access due to paving materials. Some furniture does not meet accessibility guidelines for people with disabilities.	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain present paving materials.</li> <li>Improve park furniture, and improve access for visitors with disabilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide universally accessible paving materials to improve conditions for all visitors; provide additional facilities for visitors with disabilities.</li> <li>Offer wheelchairs or scooter rentals at central locations.</li> <li>Increase parking for visitors with disabilities.</li> </ul>
8.4 Mass Notification System	<i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> Visitors must be notified of severe weather conditions or other circumstances. No coordinated mass notification system is available.	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue emergency notification by park police and ranger staff.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide a mass notification capability to keep visitors and staff informed of what to do in case of weather or other emergencies; coordinate with an upgraded communication network.</li> </ul>

<b>ALTERNATIVE A — FOCUS ON THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE AND EDUCATION</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVE B — FOCUS ON A WELCOMING NATIONAL CIVIC SPACE FOR PUBLIC GATHERINGS, EVENTS, AND HIGH-USE LEVELS</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVE C — FOCUS ON URBAN OPEN SPACE, URBAN ECOLOGY, RECREATION, AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLES</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide new restrooms near food service facilities.</li> <li>• Replace outdated restrooms.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide public restrooms approximately every quarter mile and keep them open longer.</li> <li>• Increase the capacity of some existing restrooms; at new restrooms; monitor cleanliness.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add restrooms near food service (including some that are sustainable, automated, self-cleaning, and available day and night in some areas).</li> </ul>
<b>8. HEALTH, PUBLIC SAFETY, AND SECURITY</b>		
8.1 Incompatible Activities: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to offer bicycle parking at events to reduce bike riding in highly crowded areas.</li> <li>• Redesign areas to safely accommodate multiple uses (e.g., separate bicycle lanes).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Redesign and separate circulation systems to improve safety and reduce use conflicts.</li> </ul>
8.2 Pedestrian Safety: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase pedestrian street-crossing countdowns; add some midblock crossing points.</li> <li>• Emphasize lighting of memorials, rather than pedestrian walkways.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase pedestrian street-crossing times; add mid-block crossings; provide wider waiting areas, improved crosswalks, special paving; install in-pavement lighting; provide pedestrian tunnels or bridges; redesign roadways to reconnect park areas, improve pedestrian safety.</li> <li>• Better light pedestrian walkways for safety and peace of mind.</li> <li>• Add emergency call stations, with a coordinated design and located near orientation signs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative B plus               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Light pedestrian walkways in a manner that emphasizes surface conditions (low or hidden light sources for path lighting).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
8.3 Visitors with Disabilities: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide universally accessible paving materials to improve conditions for all visitors; provide additional facilities for visitors with disabilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide universally accessible paving materials to improve conditions for all visitors.</li> </ul>
8.4 Mass Notification System: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a mass notification capability to keep visitors and staff informed of what to do in case of weather or other emergencies; coordinate with an upgraded communication network.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative A.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative A.</li> </ul>

<b>TOPIC OR AREA</b>	<b>NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE: CONTINUE CURRENT MANAGEMENT</b>	<b>PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE — PROVIDE A QUALITY VISITOR EXPERIENCE, PROTECT THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE, AND ACCOMMODATE HIGH-USE LEVELS</b>
8.5 Weather-Related Health Problems	<i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> Hot, humid weather and air pollution contribute to visitor discomfort and health issues for the public and park staff. Weather-related warnings and staff activity restrictions are instituted as needed. Shaded areas are highly desirable during hot weather.	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue current warning systems.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as the no-action alternative plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Add interactive water features and misters in paved areas to allow visitors to cool off.</li> <li>Increase seating in shaded areas and provide shade in some areas.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>9. PARK OPERATIONS</b>		
9.1 Deferred Maintenance	<i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> The National Mall has a large amount of deferred maintenance (repair) and related capital improvement projects that are already included in the NPS project management system.	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Address deferred maintenance as funding and staffing allow.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as the no-action alternative plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Redefine some projects to allow more use, to better protect resources, and to upgrade and provide sufficient visitor amenities.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
9.2 Park Standards	<i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> NPS planning typically identifies management zones for park areas to prescribe how areas are to be managed. Best practices include the development of written and photographic performance standards.	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to use current park standards, which are outdated and limited.</li> <li>Continue to develop a pilot program on new standards.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop park standards to clearly define desired qualities for different areas of the National Mall; address activities such as inspections, monitoring, maintenance (grounds, memorials, and other facilities), and education and interpretation, as well as activities by other park divisions.</li> <li>Use best practices and approaches to achieve desired standards for maintenance and operations to improve the National Mall's visual appearance and operational efficiency; maximize sustainable practices.</li> </ul>
9.3 Maintenance Activities and Operations	<i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> Park staff may not be able to keep up with planned and scheduled maintenance due to multiple, often conflicting and immediate demands. A study of best management practices revealed that some other sites use special teams to address immediate special project needs. Under the turf management program half of the Mall area (3rd Street to 14th Street) is closed every other winter for restoration, making it unavailable for events or demonstrations. Public comments indicate that the snow fencing used to protect turf areas undergoing rest and rehabilitation are out of character with the desired appearance for the National Mall. Existing infrastructure has not been designed to facilitate routine maintenance activities and operations, or for special events and demonstrations.	



ALTERNATIVE A — FOCUS ON THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE AND EDUCATION	ALTERNATIVE B — FOCUS ON A WELCOMING NATIONAL CIVIC SPACE FOR PUBLIC GATHERINGS, EVENTS, AND HIGH-USE LEVELS	ALTERNATIVE C — FOCUS ON URBAN OPEN SPACE, URBAN ECOLOGY, RECREATION, AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLES
8.5 Weather-Related Health Problems: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Provide permanent or temporary water misters in paved areas during very hot weather.</li> <li>◦ Add interactive water features to allow visitors to cool off.</li> <li>◦ Increase seating in shaded areas.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative B.</li> </ul>
<b>9. PARK OPERATIONS</b>		
9.1 Deferred Maintenance: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Redefine some projects to allow more use, to better protect resources, and to upgrade and provide sufficient visitor amenities.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative B.</li> </ul>
9.2 Park Standards: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop park standards to clearly define desired qualities for different areas of the National Mall; address activities such as inspections, monitoring, maintenance (grounds, memorials, and other facilities), and education and interpretation, as well as activities by other park divisions.</li> <li>• Use best practices and approaches to achieve desired standards for maintenance and operations to improve the National Mall’s visual appearance and operational efficiency; maximize sustainable practices.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative A.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative A.</li> </ul>
9.3 Maintenance Activities and Operations: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		

TOPIC OR AREA	NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE: CONTINUE CURRENT MANAGEMENT	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE — PROVIDE A QUALITY VISITOR EXPERIENCE, PROTECT THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE, AND ACCOMMODATE HIGH-USE LEVELS
<p>9.3 Maintenance Activities and Operations: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — cont.</p>	<p>Existing infrastructure has not been designed to facilitate routine maintenance activities and operations, or for special events and demonstrations. Equipment such as pumping systems for water features at various memorials (Korean War Veterans, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, George Mason, WWII, and Constitution Gardens) are difficult to maintain. The large homeless population challenges resources and maintenance. Tall shrub beds provide areas that are used for storage and sleeping. Federal regulations prohibit camping on the National Mall. Restrooms and fountains may be misused for bathing or toileting. Skateboarding can damage memorials and historic resources and is not allowed within the National Mall.</p>	
<p>Actions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Clean restrooms twice daily. Address deferred maintenance as budgets and staffing allow.</li> <li>• For turf management, continue to close half of the Mall (3rd to 14th streets) every other winter for restoration.</li> <li>• Continue to use a visual quality team to identify and prioritize needed projects; establish a quick response team to make repairs and to improve conditions and appearance.</li> <li>• Continue to reduce the use of snow fencing to restrict access to certain areas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Similar to the no-action alternative, except             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Design and construct new facilities to be able to achieve the highest maintenance standards, generate respect, and be vandal-resistant; incorporate cutting edge sustainable facility and site design measures into all facilities.</li> <li>◦ For turf management close smaller areas more frequently and provide more equitable opportunities for all uses — events, demonstrations, recreation, and general visitation, as well as restoration/rehabilitation.</li> <li>◦ Increase restroom cleaning to cover hours of visitation; use technology such as self-cleaning, automated public restrooms in some areas to reduce maintenance.</li> <li>◦ Design or retrofit water features to be sustainable; install durable, easy-to-maintain, and standardized recirculation systems.</li> <li>◦ To protect areas during rehabilitation and restoration, develop an attractive, durable, temporary fence system (in lieu of snow fencing) or another means to notify visitors when areas should not be used. Ensure the system is lightweight, not easily scaled, and easy to store, transport, and install.</li> <li>◦ Reduce or eliminate tall shrub beds and areas allowing cover and storage, in keeping with the original landscape design intent.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>9.4 Operational Access</p>	<p><i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i>: Vehicular access has not been provided to all locations for park operations (deliveries, trash removal, grounds maintenance), resulting in vehicles driving over curbs and damaging resources, as well as making operations less efficient.</p>	
<p>Actions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue limited operational access in some areas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide operational access as circulation systems are upgraded.</li> <li>• Develop walkways wide enough to accommodate maintenance, staff, and operational vehicles, as well as the public, and that can withstand the weight of vehicles used for park operations and event deliveries.</li> </ul>

<b>ALTERNATIVE A — FOCUS ON THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE AND EDUCATION</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVE B — FOCUS ON A WELCOMING NATIONAL CIVIC SPACE FOR PUBLIC GATHERINGS, EVENTS, AND HIGH-USE LEVELS</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVE C — FOCUS ON URBAN OPEN SPACE, URBAN ECOLOGY, RECREATION, AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLES</b>
<p>9.3 Maintenance Activities and Operations: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Rehabilitate facilities to be sustainable and to reduce maintenance.</li> <li>◦ Install durable, easy-to-maintain, and standardized pumping systems for water features.</li> <li>◦ Design new facilities for sustainable operations and efficient maintenance.</li> <li>◦ In cooperation with the city, comprehensively study the adequacy of utilities and the sewer system, and implement recommendations.</li> <li>◦ To protect areas during rehabilitation and restoration, develop an attractive, durable, temporary fence system (in lieu of snow fencing). It should be lightweight, not easily scaled, and easy to store, transport, and install.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative A plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Utilize electronic facility monitoring to schedule opening/ closing of restrooms and cleaning.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative A, except                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Use technology such as self-cleaning, automated public restrooms in some areas to reduce maintenance.</li> <li>◦ Develop means other than snow fencing to protect areas during rest and rehabilitation periods.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>9.4 Operational Access: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide operational access as circulation systems are upgraded.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative A plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Develop walkways wide enough to accommodate maintenance/ operational vehicles and that can withstand the weight of vehicles used for park operations and event deliveries.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative A.</li> </ul>

TOPIC OR AREA	NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE: CONTINUE CURRENT MANAGEMENT	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE — PROVIDE A QUALITY VISITOR EXPERIENCE, PROTECT THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE, AND ACCOMMODATE HIGH-USE LEVELS
9.5 Energy Use	<p><i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> There are over 20,000 light fixtures in the park.</p> <p>The National Mall and Memorial Parks is the highest energy user within the national park system.</p> <p>The National Park Service is to further improve energy efficiency by 2010.</p>	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use energy-efficient bulbs that would be compatible with the historic scene.</li> <li>• Increase the use of sustainable transportation (electric cars) for park operations, and explore the efficiency and reliability of new technology as it emerges.</li> <li>• Meet NPS energy efficiency goals.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Seek renewable energy sources to reduce energy demand and supply energy for lighting and for water feature pumping systems (e.g., a large-scale photovoltaic system on the roof of the Interior Building).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
9.6 Sustainability Indicators	<p><i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> require environmental leadership and high standards for sustainable design, energy efficiency, and reduction of greenhouse gases, while providing opportunities to educate the public. All major facilities are required to meet the LEED silver rating.</p> <p>Recently completed concession refreshment stands and retail facilities north and south of the Lincoln Memorial use a closed loop geothermal heating and air conditioning system that also supports a freezer, refrigerator, and ice maker. The system is non-polluting, improves indoor air quality, lowers energy consumption, has almost no environmental impact, eliminates outdoor condensing units, and conserves water in ice making (saving 2.1 million gallons of fresh water annually).</p>	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue present programs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide public education about sustainable projects.</li> <li>• Advance the principles of sustainability:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Participate in the Environmental Protection Agency’s “Climate Friendly Parks” program.</li> <li>◦ Reduce solid waste; increase recycling and use of biodegradable products.</li> <li>◦ Reduce water use; retain stormwater for irrigation.</li> <li>◦ Reduce soil compaction.</li> <li>◦ Reduce energy consumption, greenhouse gas emissions, and air pollutants; use renewable energy sources; maximize energy efficiency.</li> <li>◦ Maximize public transportation; increase use of alternative fuels.</li> <li>◦ Ensure that new or replacement facilities meet the LEED silver rating.</li> <li>◦ Strive to achieve the highest LEED standard practicable.</li> <li>◦ Determine the park’s carbon footprint (estimated through the Climate Leadership in Parks program).</li> <li>◦ Reduce greenhouse gases by 18% by 2012.</li> <li>◦ Implement recommendations of the Sustainable Sites Initiative™.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

<b>ALTERNATIVE A — FOCUS ON THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE AND EDUCATION</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVE B — FOCUS ON A WELCOMING NATIONAL CIVIC SPACE FOR PUBLIC GATHERINGS, EVENTS, AND HIGH-USE LEVELS</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVE C — FOCUS ON URBAN OPEN SPACE, URBAN ECOLOGY, RECREATION, AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLES</b>
<p>9.5 Energy Use: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Seek renewable energy sources for lighting and water feature pumping systems (e.g., a large-scale photovoltaic system on the roof of the Interior Building).</li> <li>◦ Take the lead in demonstration/interactive programs for efficient energy use.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>9.6 Sustainability Indicators: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advance the principles of sustainability:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Participate in the Environmental Protection Agency’s “Climate Friendly Parks” program.</li> <li>◦ Reduce solid waste; increase recycling and use of biodegradable products.</li> <li>◦ Reduce water use; retain stormwater for irrigation.</li> <li>◦ Reduce soil compaction.</li> <li>◦ Reduce energy consumption, greenhouse gas emissions, and air pollutants; use renewable energy sources; maximize energy efficiency.</li> <li>◦ Maximize public transportation; increase use of alternative fuels.</li> <li>◦ Ensure that new or replacement facilities meet the LEED silver rating.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative A.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative A plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Strive to achieve the highest LEED standard practicable.</li> <li>◦ Determine the park’s carbon footprint.</li> <li>◦ Reduce greenhouse gases by 18% by 2012.</li> <li>◦ Implement recommendations of the Sustainable Sites Initiative™.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

TOPIC OR AREA	NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE: CONTINUE CURRENT MANAGEMENT	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE — PROVIDE A QUALITY VISITOR EXPERIENCE, PROTECT THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE, AND ACCOMMODATE HIGH-USE LEVELS
9.7 Solid Waste Management and Recycling	<p><i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> Park staff remove 3–4 tons of trash daily; a major event may produce 25 tons or more of trash. The National Park Service has been working with the Environmental Protection Agency to improve solid waste management and recycling for events and daily operations. Emptying heavy trash barrels by hand can result in injury. The park does not have the capability to mechanically empty trash containers. Plastic bottles generate a large amount of trash, and recycling is not universal.</p>	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Study and implement feasible waste management and recycling systems to increase efficiencies.</li> <li>• Expand recycling at events.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Increase trash removal to cover hours of visitation; plan circulation routes for efficient mechanized trash removal.</li> <li>◦ Require recycling at events; convey the importance of recycling, reducing waste, and reusing items.</li> <li>◦ Increase NPS identity and stewardship messaging for recycling efforts.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
9.8 Communication Network (Also see “6. Visitor Information, Education, and Enjoyment.”)	<p><i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> Major communications and fiber-optic lines are close to the study area. Communication capabilities for park operations, events, public information/education, emergencies, or media use are inefficient or lacking. Temporary communication systems are installed as needed for events. There is increased public demand for access to wireless communication.</p>	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to install temporary communication systems as needed for events.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide state-of-the-art communications with dedicated lines for NPS operations (phones / computers), law enforcement, emergency communications (audio lines / loudspeakers / mass notification system), media, and event sponsor use.</li> <li>• Provide public wireless access and landline pay phones (in cooperation with service providers).</li> <li>• Provide emergency call stations.</li> </ul>
9.9 Staffing	<p><i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> Present staffing numbers are lower than when there were fewer memorials and facilities to maintain. The staffing of some authorized positions has been deferred. The park completes core operations planning to align staffing needs to the core mission.</p>	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain present staffing levels.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use core operations planning to match staffing needs to the core mission; examine staffing needs and correlate with park standards.</li> <li>• Reassess staffing levels and fill authorized positions. Likely increase staffing for resource management, communications (web, technology, media, and public information), maintenance, events, special project teams, and law enforcement to manage high volumes of use, events, and event recovery.</li> </ul>

<b>ALTERNATIVE A — FOCUS ON THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE AND EDUCATION</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVE B — FOCUS ON A WELCOMING NATIONAL CIVIC SPACE FOR PUBLIC GATHERINGS, EVENTS, AND HIGH-USE LEVELS</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVE C — FOCUS ON URBAN OPEN SPACE, URBAN ECOLOGY, RECREATION, AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLES</b>
<p>9.7 Solid Waste Management and Recycling: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Increase NPS identity and stewardship messaging for recycling efforts.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative A plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Plan circulation routes for efficient mechanized trash removal.</li> <li>◦ Require recycling at events.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative B plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Convey the importance of recycling, reducing waste, and reusing items.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>9.8 Communication Network: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide a state-of-the-art communication network with dedicated lines for NPS operations (phones/computers), law enforcement, emergency communications (audio lines / loudspeakers / mass notification system), media, and event sponsor use.</li> <li>• Provide public wireless access and landline pay phones (in cooperation with service providers).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative A plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Provide emergency call stations.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative B.</li> </ul>
<p>9.9 Staffing: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use core operations planning to match staffing needs to the core mission; examine staffing needs and correlate with park standards. Likely increase staffing for resource management and communications (web, technology, media, and public information).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Similar to alternative A except                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Likely increase staffing for maintenance, events, special project teams, and law enforcement to manage high volumes of use, events, and event recovery.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Similar to alternative A, except                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Likely increase staff to provide more recreational and educational programs.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

TOPIC OR AREA	NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE: CONTINUE CURRENT MANAGEMENT	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE — PROVIDE A QUALITY VISITOR EXPERIENCE, PROTECT THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE, AND ACCOMMODATE HIGH-USE LEVELS
9.10 Park Partners and Volunteer Activities	<p><i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> The National Park Service has several authorized partnerships and agreements to facilitate park management. The Trust for the National Mall is the authorized NPS fundraising partner. Eastern National is the cooperating association and operates educational bookstores. Volunteers-in-Parks help meet various needs.</p>	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to work with authorized private and public partners, nonprofit organizations, and volunteers to support park goals, provide services, supplement park staff, or undertake specific projects.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>
9.11 Commercial Business Services	<p><i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> Food, retail, transportation, and recreational services are provided through concession contracts. Current contracts have provisions that limit competition. As contracts expire, they will be replaced by revised contracts. New concession contracts are open to competition, no longer include provisions that limit competition, must be economically viable, and must be determined to be both necessary and appropriate.</p>	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Assess the economic feasibility, necessity, and appropriateness of any proposed changes to services, including service types and locations, appropriate educational messages, and desired identity.</li> <li>Continue currently authorized visitor services.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as the no-action alternative plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Require recycling and waste reduction.</li> <li>Incorporate public information about recycling / waste reduction and green practices.</li> <li>Offer multiple contract opportunities to provide visitor services determined to be necessary and appropriate.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>THE MALL</b>		
<p><b>10. UNION SQUARE (1ST TO 3RD STREETS)</b>                      The 11.4-acre Union Square, with its presidential memorial to Ulysses S. Grant, will remain an essential civic space in the immediate vicinity of the legislative branch of the government, providing opportunities for demonstrations and events.</p>		
10.1 Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)	<p>Union Square lacks visitor amenities and infrastructure to attract visitation or to meet the needs of special events. Its overall condition is serious. The Capitol backdrop makes this area an essential civic and First Amendment space. Wide social trails have developed at the end of pedestrian walks on the Mall. Multiple levels or grade changes inhibit universal access and include narrow walks that limit pedestrian circulation and park operations.</p>	
10.2 Vision Emphasis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Grant Memorial and the Capitol reflecting pool would remain the focal point of the east end of the National Mall, the foreground of the U.S. Capitol.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Union Square would fulfill its McMillan plan purpose 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 Capitol. The Grant Memorial would be the focal point of a symmetrical and formally laid out civic square based on historic precedents. It would be a popular, active, and dignified day and evening destination that could be easily transformed into a large venue for First Amendment demonstrations and events. Grade changes would be addressed to improve pedestrian access and circulation for all. The square would highlight sustainable water management practices, with reflective and interactive water features. The sound of</li> </ul>



ALTERNATIVE A — FOCUS ON THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE AND EDUCATION	ALTERNATIVE B — FOCUS ON A WELCOMING NATIONAL CIVIC SPACE FOR PUBLIC GATHERINGS, EVENTS, AND HIGH-USE LEVELS	ALTERNATIVE C — FOCUS ON URBAN OPEN SPACE, URBAN ECOLOGY, RECREATION, AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLES
9.10 Park Partners and Volunteer Activities: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>
9.11 Commercial Business Services: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Require recycling and waste reduction.</li> <li>◦ Incorporate public information about recycling / waste reduction and green practices.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative A plus               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Offer multiple contracts to better provide visitor services that have been determined to be necessary and appropriate.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative A.</li> </ul>
<b>THE MALL</b>		
<b>10. UNION SQUARE (1ST TO 3RD STREETS)</b> See facing page.		
10.1 <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Grant Memorial would be the focal point of a redesigned civic square and reflecting pool, highlighting the former Washington Canal and the history of the U.S. Botanic Garden site.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Grant Memorial would be the focal point of a dignified, paved urban civic square that would be redesigned to highlight views, meet event needs, be a visitor destination, and offer comfort, convenience, and entertainment. It would also be a venue for demonstrations and events.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Grant Memorial would be the focal point of an active, paved urban civic square that would be a visitor destination and that would showcase reflective and interactive water features with an environmentally friendly design to highlight sustainable water management practices. The area would be visually and physically connected to the U.S. Botanic Garden and U.S. Senate Youth Park and U.S. Botanic Garden Education and Outreach Center to the north.</li> </ul>

TOPIC OR AREA	NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE: CONTINUE CURRENT MANAGEMENT	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE — PROVIDE A QUALITY VISITOR EXPERIENCE, PROTECT THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE, AND ACCOMMODATE HIGH-USE LEVELS
10.2 Vision Emphasis (cont.)		water would be used to muffle the noise of urban traffic. The area would be visually and physically connected to the U.S. Botanic Garden and U.S. Senate Youth Park and U.S. Botanic Garden Education and Outreach Center to the north and would incorporate floral plantings.
10.3 Ulysses S. Grant Memorial	<i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> The Ulysses S. Grant Memorial, one of five presidential memorials on the National Mall, is in fair condition. Many people may be unaware of the memorial.	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain the Ulysses S. Grant Memorial.</li> <li>• Provide wayside exhibits about the man, the memorial, and its history.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restore the Ulysses S. Grant Memorial.</li> <li>• Provide wayside exhibits about the man, the memorial, and its history.</li> </ul>
10.4 Historic Resources	<i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> The historic landscape has some integrity, and a few trees have been listed as “witness” trees because of their age.	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to preserve components of the historic landscape that have integrity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resolve any outstanding cultural resource identification issues associated with Union Square in consultation with the D.C. Historic Preservation Office before developing plans.</li> <li>• Improve the condition of historic landscape components and incorporate them into a new design.</li> <li>• Protect and emphasize the historic east-west views between the U.S. Capitol and the Washington Monument, as well as view corridors along Pennsylvania and Maryland avenues terminating in historic statuary near 1st Street.</li> <li>• Protect existing historic or “witness” trees. Minimize and redesign turf areas, but retain low plantings to create a sense of continuity with the historic landscape that was once home to the Botanic Garden.</li> </ul>
10.5 Capitol Reflecting Pool	<i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> The Capitol Reflecting Pool has water quality, structural, and leaking problems. The size of the reflecting pool is an obstacle to pedestrian circulation.	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain the reflecting pool, along with the Grant Memorial, as the focal point of the east end of the National Mall; undertake improvements to solve water quality, structural, and leaking problems as budgets and staffing allow.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider a smaller reflecting pool or water features to make the space more suited to various uses.</li> <li>• Reduce the water volume, and seek a non-potable water source.</li> <li>• To increase enjoyment, consider adding vertical water jets to create a more enjoyable atmosphere by muffling traffic noise and providing play opportunities; consider redesigning the pool as a shallow sheet of interactive water that could be drained for demonstrations and special events or frozen for seasonal ice skating.</li> </ul>

ALTERNATIVE A — FOCUS ON THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE AND EDUCATION	ALTERNATIVE B — FOCUS ON A WELCOMING NATIONAL CIVIC SPACE FOR PUBLIC GATHERINGS, EVENTS, AND HIGH-USE LEVELS	ALTERNATIVE C — FOCUS ON URBAN OPEN SPACE, URBAN ECOLOGY, RECREATION, AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLES
10.3 Ulysses S. Grant Memorial: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restore the Ulysses S. Grant Memorial.</li> <li>• Provide wayside exhibits about the man, the memorial, and its history.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative A.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative A.</li> </ul>
10.4 Historic Resources: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Resolve any outstanding cultural resource identification issues associated with Union Square in consultation with the D.C. Historic Preservation Office before developing plans.</li> <li>• Improve the condition of historic landscape components and incorporate them into a new design.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative A.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative A.</li> </ul>
10.5 Capitol Reflecting Pool: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Redesign the reflecting pool to be smaller to facilitate pedestrian circulation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove the reflecting pool.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Redesign the reflecting pool as a shallow, sustainable pool with interactive water features and that could be drained for demonstrations and events or frozen for ice skating.</li> </ul>

TOPIC OR AREA	NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE: CONTINUE CURRENT MANAGEMENT	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE — PROVIDE A QUALITY VISITOR EXPERIENCE, PROTECT THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE, AND ACCOMMODATE HIGH-USE LEVELS
10.6 Demonstrations, Special Events, and National Celebrations	<i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> The location of Union Square with the Capitol as the backdrop makes it very popular for demonstrations and special events. There are no utilities to facilitate events.	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consistent with the First Amendment and federal regulations, continue to fully accommodate demonstrations.</li> <li>• Continue to permit events at Union Square, consistent with federal regulations; coordinate with the Architect of the Capitol as necessary.</li> <li>• Provide no infrastructure for demonstrations or special events.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Similar to the no-action alternative, except <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Redesign as a paved square to accommodate more use, including demonstrations and events.</li> <li>◦ Provide infrastructure, such as utilities and communication system networks (including media connections), for demonstrations and events.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
10.7 Access and Circulation	<i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> Access and circulation are constrained by the size and configuration of the reflecting pool. The current parking function at the terminus of Maryland and Pennsylvania avenues diminishes the grand views of the Capitol defined in the L'Enfant and McMillan plans, and disconnects the avenues from the Capitol complex, the National Mall, and the city. The Architect of the Capitol has responsibility for roads surrounding Union Square, has adjacent permit parking, and is completing a master plan for the Capitol Complex.	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain current public access and circulation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve pedestrian circulation and visual and physical connections and access to the Mall, the U.S. Capitol, and areas north and south of Union Square.</li> <li>• Eliminate social trails.</li> <li>• Design crosswalks on 3rd Street to highlight and continue pedestrian connections and circulation patterns on the Mall.</li> </ul>
10.8 Visitor Information, Education, and Enjoyment	<i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> The area is heavily used for school and group photographs, but its lack of information, amenities, and facilities limits other uses.	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue current conditions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide educational exhibits about First Amendment demonstrations, the Grant Memorial, history of the monumental core, and the U.S. Capitol.</li> <li>• To increase enjoyment, consider interactive water jets and seasonal ice skating (see row 10.5).</li> </ul>
10.9 Visitor Amenities	<i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> Paving with asphalt embedded with small stones (seeded asphalt) creates maintenance challenges and plugs drains. There are no visitor amenities such as seating, restrooms, or food service.	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make repairs as needed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide shade structures for visitor comfort, and pleasant places for rest and relaxation.</li> <li>• Provide a flexible indoor/outdoor, multipurpose food service destination, where views of the Grant Memorial and the Capitol could be enjoyed, with space for seating, performances, educational wayside exhibits, and small exhibitions or displays (size and character of facilities determined during design).</li> </ul>

ALTERNATIVE A — FOCUS ON THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE AND EDUCATION	ALTERNATIVE B — FOCUS ON A WELCOMING NATIONAL CIVIC SPACE FOR PUBLIC GATHERINGS, EVENTS, AND HIGH-USE LEVELS	ALTERNATIVE C — FOCUS ON URBAN OPEN SPACE, URBAN ECOLOGY, RECREATION, AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLES
10.6 Demonstrations, Special Events, and National Celebrations: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Similar to the no-action alternative, except               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Require that all viewing screens, stages, and large video screens be located so as to not block the primary east-west views for people on site. (This might require locating video screens at angles.)</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Similar to the no-action alternative, except               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Redesign Union Square to increase space available for demonstrations, civic engagement, and special events.</li> <li>◦ Provide infrastructure such as utilities and communication system networks (including media connections), for demonstrations and events.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Similar to the no-action alternative, except               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Provide infrastructure for demonstrations and events; provide structures to accommodate large video screens (provided by event organizers) to broadcast demonstrations taking place elsewhere.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
10.7 Access and Circulation: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative A.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative A.</li> </ul>
10.8 Visitor Information, Education, and Enjoyment: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide additional educational information about the Washington City Canal and the history of the U.S. Botanic Garden site.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative A plus               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Provide entertainment or performance space at a multipurpose visitor destination facility.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Provide interactive water features for summer use and explore seasonal ice skating (see actions for row 10.5).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
10.9 Visitor Amenities: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Redesign paving and widen walks to facilitate public access and maintenance.</li> <li>• Add seating.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative A plus               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Provide utilities, shade, and seating on the north and south sides.</li> <li>◦ Provide a multipurpose visitor facility with food service, retail, restrooms, and media stands.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative A plus               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Provide food and retail sales, plus automated, self-cleaning public restrooms.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

TOPIC OR AREA	NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE: CONTINUE CURRENT MANAGEMENT	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE — PROVIDE A QUALITY VISITOR EXPERIENCE, PROTECT THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE, AND ACCOMMODATE HIGH-USE LEVELS
10.9 Visitor Amenities: Actions (cont.)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide flexible, high-capacity restrooms where more stalls could be opened during high use, with nearby drinking water and recreation equipment rentals.</li> </ul>
<p><b>11. THE MALL (3RD TO 14TH STREETS)</b>                      The Mall (146.35 acres) will remain the designed promenade west of the U. S. Capitol, featuring expansive green lawns (the formal French <i>tapis verte</i> or green carpet) bordered by formal rows of American elm trees that frame views to and from the Capitol, a fundamental concept of McMillan plan. It is bordered by the museums of the National Gallery of Art and the Smithsonian Institution as well as the Department of Agriculture. The Mall is an extremely popular venue for demonstrations, special events, cultural activities, and other civic events.</p>		
11.1 Vision Emphasis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Mall would continue to serve as a near non-stop venue for demonstrations, public gatherings, and cultural and other civic events.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Mall would remain a highly visible landscape that would be renovated to improve conditions and to sustainably accommodate very high levels of use for First Amendment demonstrations, public gatherings, national celebrations, cultural programs, and special events, as well as passive recreation and informal play. The National Park Service would encourage partnerships between all visitor destinations along the Mall to serve visitor needs.</li> </ul>
11.2 Historic Resources	<p><i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> The Mall is a historic landscape with a great deal of integrity. The changes implemented as a result of the McMillan plan are clearly evident.</p>	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to preserve components of the historic landscape that have integrity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve and protect the condition of critical elements of the historic landscape, such as lawns and elm trees.</li> <li>• Reduce social trails through a combination of design elements, paving, edging, and stewardship messages.</li> <li>• To protect the historic landscape, add park furniture and interactive water features outside the primary viewshed.</li> </ul>
11.3 Natural Resources		
<i>Soils</i>	<p><i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> Soils compacted by high levels of use make turf very difficult to maintain and affect the health of the trees and lawns.</p>	
<i>Actions</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to seek funding to treat soils compacted by repeated events.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restore soils to improve turf and tree growing conditions by replacing or augmenting soils or implementing other sustainable technologies.</li> <li>• Implement Sustainable Sites Initiative™ benchmarks for soils.</li> </ul>
<i>Lawns</i>	<p><i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> The continuous green lawn is one of the most prominent and recognizable features of the Mall. Two grass types are used, but high use levels make it difficult to sustain the turf, which is often brown, with bare patches and many weeds. Access to half of the grass panels is restricted from late fall to spring every year for restoration by using snow fences and plastic tape. Gravel has migrated from paths, social trails near walks obliterate grass, and planned crisp turf edges have been destroyed by visitors cutting corners. The irrigation system has been damaged by tent stakes used during events.</p>	

ALTERNATIVE A — FOCUS ON THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE AND EDUCATION	ALTERNATIVE B — FOCUS ON A WELCOMING NATIONAL CIVIC SPACE FOR PUBLIC GATHERINGS, EVENTS, AND HIGH-USE LEVELS	ALTERNATIVE C — FOCUS ON URBAN OPEN SPACE, URBAN ECOLOGY, RECREATION, AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLES
<b>11. THE MALL (3RD TO 14TH STREETS)</b> See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Mall would be rehabilitated to improve conditions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Mall would be rehabilitated and redesigned as a highly visible, sustainable venue with more hard surfaces for very high levels of use (demonstrations, public gatherings, cultural programs, and other civic events), while its critical historic features would be maintained.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Mall would be redesigned to provide additional, sustainable areas for recreational enjoyment (gardens and fountains) and improved lawn conditions (for informal pickup games and play).</li> </ul>
11.2 Historic Resources: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve the condition of components of the historic landscape that have integrity.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as alternative A plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Add a decorative and interactive water feature at the 8th Street cross axis.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Add park furniture and interactive water features outside the primary viewshed to protect the historic landscape.</li> </ul>
11.3 Natural Resources <i>Soils: Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Restore soils to improve turf and tree growing conditions by replacing or augmenting soils or implementing other sustainable technologies.</li> <li>Implement Sustainable Sites Initiative™ benchmarks for soils.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as alternative A.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as alternative A.</li> </ul>
<i>Lawns: Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		

TOPIC OR AREA	NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE: CONTINUE CURRENT MANAGEMENT	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE — PROVIDE A QUALITY VISITOR EXPERIENCE, PROTECT THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE, AND ACCOMMODATE HIGH-USE LEVELS
<p><i>Lawns (cont.)</i> <i>Actions</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to rest half of the Mall every other winter.</li> <li>Begin demonstration plots to try new management techniques, such as using organic practices or new grass varieties.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Replace gravel walkways around lawns with new paved surfaces; install edges to define lawn panels.</li> <li>Improve turf conditions by replacing compacted soils or implementing other sustainable technologies.</li> <li>Use slightly elevated turf to improve drainage and perpetuate the sense of continuous turf on the Mall from ground-level views.</li> <li>Undertake more frequent restoration of smaller areas.</li> <li>Provide drainage and irrigation; design the irrigation system so that it would not be damaged by event facilities.</li> <li>Remove narrow strips of turf and create wider sidewalks in center sections along 3rd, 4th, 7th, and 14th streets. To improve growing conditions for trees, remove gravel near Madison Drive NW and Jefferson Drive SW and replace with turf edged with low curbs. Retain shaded seating.</li> </ul>
<p><i>American Elms</i></p>	<p><i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> American elms contribute to the high integrity of the historic planting plan. The National Park Service has successfully developed disease-resistant elm varieties. The side panels containing mature American elms have been used for special events, and the health of trees continues to be affected by soil compaction and large-scale events.</p>	
<p><i>Actions</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Control impacts to elm trees from overuse as budgets and staffing allow.</li> <li>Continue to replace elm trees as needed in accordance with the historic planting plan.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allow individuals to still enjoy the shade that rows of American elm trees provide but no longer allow temporary event facilities such as tents, walkway surfaces, stages, or restrooms in the tree panels.</li> <li>Continue to replace elm trees as needed in accordance with the historic planting plan.</li> <li>Minimize the use of post-and-chain fencing to control resource damage.</li> <li>Continue to seek ways to reduce the impacts of compaction and erosion within the Mall elm tree panels.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Other Trees</i></p>	<p><i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> A few trees (elms, bald cypress, cedar, and oak trees) do not contribute to the historic landscape.</p>	
<p><i>Actions</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allow present noncontributing planting schemes to continue.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update the planting plan for all vegetation on the Mall and ensure it is compatible with contributing features of historic plans.</li> </ul>
<p>11.4 Demonstrations, Special Events, and National Celebrations</p>	<p><i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> During the Fourth of July celebration Madison Drive NW and Jefferson Drive SW are closed to public vehicular access and parking, security checkpoints are established for the entire National Mall, and additional restrooms, law enforcement, and first-aid stations may be established. The Smithsonian Institution has developed some infrastructure to support the Festival of American Folklife. (Also see "4. The Civic Stage: Demonstrations, Special Events.")</p>	



<b>ALTERNATIVE A — FOCUS ON THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE AND EDUCATION</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVE B — FOCUS ON A WELCOMING NATIONAL CIVIC SPACE FOR PUBLIC GATHERINGS, EVENTS, AND HIGH-USE LEVELS</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVE C — FOCUS ON URBAN OPEN SPACE, URBAN ECOLOGY, RECREATION, AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLES</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install edging or curbs to limit gravel migration and post-and-chain fencing to prevent social trails.</li> <li>• Install a new irrigation system designed so that it cannot be damaged during events.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative A except                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Eliminate gravel walkways around lawns; install edges to define lawn areas.</li> <li>◦ Undertake more frequent restoration of smaller areas.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Similar to alternative B, except do not install edging.</li> </ul>
<p><i>American Elms: Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Install curbs or edging and/or post-and-chain fencing to protect improved landscapes and tree panels while allowing pedestrian access to shady areas.</li> <li>• Continue to replace elm trees as needed in accordance with the historic planting plan.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative A except                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Minimize the use of post-and-chain fencing to control resource damage.</li> <li>◦ Continue to seek ways to reduce the physical impacts of compaction and erosion within the Mall elm tree panels.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative A.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Other Trees: Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update planting plan to address noncontributing vegetation on the Mall; do not replant noncontributing features.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update the planting plan for all vegetation on the Mall and ensure is it compatible with contributing features of historic plans.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative B.</li> </ul>
<p>11.4 Demonstrations, Special Events, and National Celebrations: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.</p>		

TOPIC OR AREA	NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE: CONTINUE CURRENT MANAGEMENT	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE — PROVIDE A QUALITY VISITOR EXPERIENCE, PROTECT THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE, AND ACCOMMODATE HIGH-USE LEVELS
<p>11.4 Demonstrations, Special Events, and National Celebrations: Actions (cont.)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consistent with the First Amendment and federal regulations, continue to fully accommodate demonstrations.</li> <li>• Consistent with federal regulations, accommodate special events.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase paved areas to facilitate events and improve the Mall’s appearance.</li> <li>• Allow no temporary event facilities, such as tents, stages, or vehicles, in the elm tree panels. (Note: This action would not apply to First Amendment demonstrations.)</li> <li>• Allow temporary event facilities (such as tents and stages) in the center grass panels or on paved areas, depending on the size of the facilities. Allow very limited, temporary staging and storage areas on site.</li> <li>• Develop event utility infrastructure to protect resources, reduce setup / takedown times, and accommodate media communications.</li> <li>• Identify locations for temporary portable restroom and trailers with restrooms so that these facilities would be convenient, easy to service, and not block views.</li> <li>• Add a paved area for events south of the National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden and north of the center grass panels; provide visitor sidewalk amenities.</li> <li>• Redesign the 12th Street axis to accommodate high levels of use and the placement of tents, stages, and special events logistical and operational staging areas. Provide a flexible office space and public restroom facility to support demonstrations and special events.</li> <li>• Widen the north-south walks that border the center area between 10th and 13th streets.</li> <li>• Create additional special events staging space over the 12th Street tunnel entry north of Madison Drive NW to reduce the impact of truck parking on the historic landscape.</li> </ul>
<p>11.5 Access and Circulation (Also see “5.3 Visitor Parking.”)</p>	<p><i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> Three-hour free public and permit parking is allowed on Madison Drive NW and Jefferson Drive SW and is highly sought after by visitors and workers. There are 407 parking spaces, 47 for people with disabilities, and 32 tour bus drop-offs. The city provides metered parking on 3rd, 4th, and 7th streets NW/SW through the Mall.</p>	
<p>Actions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue designated drop-off/ pickup stops for visitor transportation and commercial tour buses.</li> <li>• Continue to allow three-hour free public and permit parking on Madison and Jefferson drives.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue designated drop-off/pickup stops for visitor transportation, commercial tour buses.</li> <li>• Accommodate visitor transportation, commercial tour bus drop-offs, bicycles and other wheeled vehicles on Madison and Jefferson drives over the short- to mid-term (10–15 years); occasionally restrict access to accommodate events and national celebrations (such as the Fourth of July). Adopt as a long-term goal the removal of private vehicle parking on Madison and Jefferson drives to improve traffic flow and better accommodate bicycling, visitor transit, and pedestrians.</li> </ul>

<b>ALTERNATIVE A — FOCUS ON THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE AND EDUCATION</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVE B — FOCUS ON A WELCOMING NATIONAL CIVIC SPACE FOR PUBLIC GATHERINGS, EVENTS, AND HIGH-USE LEVELS</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVE C — FOCUS ON URBAN OPEN SPACE, URBAN ECOLOGY, RECREATION, AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLES</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Provide infrastructure for demonstrations and events.</li> <li>◦ Allow no temporary event facilities, such as tents, stages, or vehicles, in the elm tree panels.</li> <li>◦ Encourage event organizers not to install temporary event facilities, such as tents and stages, directly in the center of the major view corridor between the U.S. Capitol and the Washington Monument to protect open, eye-level views on the grass panels.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative A, except                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Allow some temporary event facilities to be located in the elm tree panels if turf/root zones and soils were protected through an acceptable and authorized method.</li> <li>◦ Allow Jefferson and Madison drives to be used during large special events or demonstrations (more than 250,000 people) and reroute non-emergency / law enforcement vehicular traffic (similar to current management of the Fourth of July celebration).</li> <li>◦ Create new public space for event staging, etc. over the 12th Street tunnel portals at Madison and Jefferson drives.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Provide infrastructure for demonstrations and events.</li> <li>◦ Allow no temporary event facilities, such as tents, stages, or vehicles, in the elm tree panels.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>11.5 Access and Circulation: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue designated drop-off/ pick-up stops for visitor transportation and commercial tour buses.</li> <li>• Work with the city to remove vehicle parking on the north-south cross streets through the Mall (3rd, 4th, and 7th streets) within the east-west viewshed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue designated drop-off/ pick-up stops for visitor transportation and commercial tour buses.</li> <li>• Continue visitor transportation, commercial tour bus drop-offs, bicycles and other wheeled vehicles on Madison and Jefferson drives; occasionally restrict access for some events and national celebrations.</li> <li>• If determined feasible by engineering, security, geotechnical, and economic studies, provide an underground facility for paid visitor parking between 15th and 12th streets and entered from 15th Street.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue designated drop-off/ pick-up stops for visitor transportation and commercial tour buses.</li> <li>• Construct a 14th Street vehicular tunnel to create a larger pedestrian-only area (one alternative in the <i>14th Street Bridge Corridor Study</i>).</li> </ul>

TOPIC OR AREA	NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE: CONTINUE CURRENT MANAGEMENT	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE — PROVIDE A QUALITY VISITOR EXPERIENCE, PROTECT THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE, AND ACCOMMODATE HIGH-USE LEVELS
<i>Smithsonian Metro Station</i>	<p><i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> The most popular transit entrance to the National Mall is the Smithsonian station. The name does not mention that this is the stop for the National Mall.</p> <p>The Smithsonian station is closed during highly attended events such as the Fourth of July celebration to prevent overcrowding on the Mall.</p>	
<i>Actions</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Work with the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority to add the name of the National Mall to the Metro station.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Develop a welcome area on the Mall near 12th Street and Jefferson Drive (see actions for row 11.6).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<i>Paving and Pedestrian Circulation</i>	<p><i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> Pedestrian walks between Constitution Avenue and Madison Drive NW and between Independence Avenue and Jefferson Drive SW need improvements to enhance the aesthetic and functional qualities of the streetscape and to improve pedestrian safety, circulation, and connectivity between downtown and the National Mall, as outlined in the <i>Framework Plan</i>.</p> <p>Gravel-paved walkways are difficult for people with disabilities, They are slippery, dust can create breathing problems, and gravel migrates everywhere since it not contained by curbing (cut for budget reasons). The McMillan and the Skidmore Owings and Merrill plans included curbs to define turf and tree areas.</p>	
<i>Actions</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain gravel and exposed aggregate paving; deal with maintenance problems as budgets and staffing allow.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• As part of a coordinated paving plan for the National Mall, remove gravel from pathways and former roadbeds, and pave walks and other areas with universally accessible material to improve circulation, facilitate events, and maintain improved landscape conditions.</li> <li>• Widen some walks and pave some turf areas to enhance the visitor experience by providing space for orientation, rest and enjoyment; First Amendment demonstrations, and event venues; allow for more efficient park operations.</li> <li>• Improve the pedestrian circulation system and better connect Union Square, the Washington Monument, and museums and other areas adjacent to the east end of the National Mall. Remove some north-south walks between 7th and 9th streets. Design crosswalks on 3rd, 4th, 7th, and 14th streets, as well as on Madison and Jefferson drives, to identify and continue pedestrian connections and patterns on the Mall and emphasize the pedestrian experience.</li> </ul>

<b>ALTERNATIVE A — FOCUS ON THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE AND EDUCATION</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVE B — FOCUS ON A WELCOMING NATIONAL CIVIC SPACE FOR PUBLIC GATHERINGS, EVENTS, AND HIGH-USE LEVELS</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVE C — FOCUS ON URBAN OPEN SPACE, URBAN ECOLOGY, RECREATION, AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLES</b>
<p><i>Smithsonian Metro Station: Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions) — See facing page.</i></p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Construct a custom-designed, covered entry over the Metro entrance on the Mall; locate additional Metro signs to identify the station entrance on the Mall.</li> <li>◦ Develop a welcome area on the Mall near 12th St. and Jefferson Drive (see actions for row 11.6).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Paving and Pedestrian Circulation: Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions) — See facing page.</i></p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Refurbish gravel walkways, and keep exposed aggregate walkways, but create edging or curbs around grass panels to contain gravel.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a coordinated paving plan.</li> <li>• Replace gravel on walkways with universally accessible surfaced walks, and provide surfaces in other areas to facilitate events and to maintain improved landscape conditions.</li> <li>• Widen some walks and pave some turf areas for event venues.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replace gravel on walkways with sustainable, universally accessible surface materials; add soft pavement edges; and eliminate some north-south walks between 7th and 9th streets to increase recreation space on center lawn panels.</li> </ul>

TOPIC OR AREA	NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE: CONTINUE CURRENT MANAGEMENT	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE — PROVIDE A QUALITY VISITOR EXPERIENCE, PROTECT THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE, AND ACCOMMODATE HIGH-USE LEVELS
11.6 Visitor Information, Education, and Enjoyment	<p><i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> Outdated orientation maps are located around the Mall.                      In summer 2008 the National Park Service opened a contact station on the Mall at the Smithsonian Metro station.</p>	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to provide a temporary visitor contact station at the Metro station; improve orientation maps and information here and elsewhere on the Mall.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Create a paved welcome plaza near the Metro station entrance as the primary pedestrian entrance for the National Mall, including a visitor contact station, multiple orientation maps, and a large tactile model or pavement map of the National Mall.</li> <li>Provide electronic information and a listing of events and activities.</li> <li>Increase coordination of visitor information with museums surrounding the Mall.</li> </ul>
<i>Education</i>	<p><i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> There are no educational panels.</p>	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide no additional education.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide educational information about First Amendment demonstrations, the Mall as the nation’s premier civic space, and the development of the federal city around the Mall.</li> <li>Regularly schedule ranger programs, walks.</li> </ul>
<i>Visitor Recreation</i>	<p><i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> Informal or passive recreation, such as picnicking, sunning, napping, reading, and enjoying views, occurs everywhere. The center grass panels are used for informal recreation (e.g., ball games, kite flying, Frisbee). The Smithsonian Institution operates a carousel under an agreement.</p>	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue existing recreational opportunities.</li> <li>Provide entertainment at special events.</li> <li>Update the agreement with the Smithsonian Institution for the carousel.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as the no-action alternative plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide cooling interactive water features in some locations.</li> <li>Encourage small-scale entertainment, along with entertainment at events.</li> <li>Reconfigure the center grass panels near the 8th Street cross axis to provide larger spaces for informal recreation.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
11.7 Visitor Amenities	<p><i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> Four refreshment stands provide souvenirs and food sales. There are nine tables and seating at each stand. The architecture is understated and timeless, and high-quality materials are used. However, the NPS identity and management are not apparent, and there are no nearby restrooms. There are 540 benches, 4 drinking fountains, 237 trash cans, and 4 bike racks on the Mall. Visitor facilities and adjacent museums must be accessed through security checkpoints.</p>	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue the four refreshment stands and retail (souvenir) sales.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide a paved welcoming plaza near the Metro station for visitor information and orientation; provide high-capacity restrooms, shade, and group seating.</li> <li>Provide additional shaded seating along north-south sidewalks within the elm tree panels, including some group seating areas.</li> <li>Add small interactive water features as a means for visitors to cool off during the summer, along with containers with plantings for seasonal color and enjoyment.</li> <li>To enhance the Mall as well as pedestrian safety, increase pedestrian lighting levels (to supplement the historic Olmsted lights).</li> </ul>

ALTERNATIVE A — FOCUS ON THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE AND EDUCATION	ALTERNATIVE B — FOCUS ON A WELCOMING NATIONAL CIVIC SPACE FOR PUBLIC GATHERINGS, EVENTS, AND HIGH-USE LEVELS	ALTERNATIVE C — FOCUS ON URBAN OPEN SPACE, URBAN ECOLOGY, RECREATION, AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLES
11.6 Visitor Information, Education, and Enjoyment: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Provide a large tactile model of the National Mall for orientation.</li> <li>◦ Provide electronic information and listings of events and activities.</li> <li>◦ Increase coordination of visitor information with museums surrounding the Mall.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>
<i>Education: Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide educational information about the history of the Mall and the development of the federal city.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide educational information about First Amendment demonstrations and the Mall as the nation’s premier civic space.</li> <li>• Regularly schedule ranger programs or walks.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide educational information about recreational opportunities and ecologically sustainable management of designed landscapes.</li> </ul>
<i>Visitor Recreation: Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative, except                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Remove the carousel.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Provide interactive water features in some locations.</li> <li>◦ Encourage entertainment.</li> <li>◦ Provide portable lawn chair rentals.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reconfigure the center grass panels near the 8th Street cross axis to provide larger spaces for informal recreation (e.g., pickup games).</li> <li>• Provide interactive water features at some locations.</li> <li>• Provide a children’s play area.</li> </ul>
11.7 Visitor Amenities: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construct small restroom facilities near existing refreshment stands using a similar architectural style. Redesign paving near refreshment stands to better accommodate use.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construct small restroom facilities near existing refreshment stands using a similar architectural style. Redesign paving near refreshment stands to better accommodate use and to allow for expanded service as needed.</li> <li>• Provide a larger multi-agency restroom at the Smithsonian Metro stop.</li> <li>• Provide supplemental lighting along Mall walkways in addition to the Olmsted lights.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Redesign paving near refreshment stands to allow for expand service areas as needed.</li> <li>• Provide small restroom facilities near refreshment stands.</li> <li>• Add a playground.</li> <li>• To enhance the Mall increase pedestrian lighting and add floral displays.</li> </ul>

TOPIC OR AREA	NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE: CONTINUE CURRENT MANAGEMENT	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE — PROVIDE A QUALITY VISITOR EXPERIENCE, PROTECT THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE, AND ACCOMMODATE HIGH-USE LEVELS
11.7 Visitor Amenities: Actions (cont.)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Near all refreshment stands emphasize a pleasant atmosphere with elements such as additional seating at tables, colorful umbrellas, flower boxes, or display fountains for enjoyment and comfort.</li> <li>Construct a higher capacity restroom near 12th Street (north of the central grass panel); design to be partially closed during lower use periods.</li> <li>Construct a small, architecturally compatible visitor restroom with two to four potentially self-cleaning stalls near the Air and Space Museum refreshment stand.</li> <li>Work with the National Gallery of Art and the Smithsonian Institution to improve access to food service and restrooms for National Mall visitors.</li> </ul>
11.8 Health, Public Safety, and Security	<i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> The Mall is heavily used, and there have been public concerns about night lighting levels and safety. U.S. Park Police in vehicles frequently patrol the area.	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to provide safe public experiences.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as the no-action alternative plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Add supplemental lighting.</li> <li>Add emergency call stations.</li> <li>Add interactive water features and consider temporary cooling misters.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT</b>		
<b>12. WASHINGTON MONUMENT</b> One of the five presidential memorials on the National Mall, the Washington Monument will continue to be a historic character-defining feature and the visual orientation point for Washington, D.C. The total area of the monument and grounds is approximately 106 acres.		
12.1 Tours	<i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> In the past tours were offered from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily, with free tickets available onsite. Visitors may order tickets online for a fee. Since summer 2008 hours have been extended to 10 p.m. seasonally. The interior of the monument includes 195 special commemorative stones that visitors may see as the elevator pauses on the way down, or during special walk-down tours.	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extend hours at the Washington Monument to 10 p.m. year-round</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Extend hours at the Washington Monument to 10 p.m. year-round.</li> </ul>
<b>13. WASHINGTON MONUMENT GROUNDS</b> The grounds of the Washington Monument extend from Constitution Avenue on the north to Maine Avenue on the south, and from 14th Street on the east to 17th Street on the west. The German-American Friendship Garden is at the north edge of grounds on Constitution Avenue, across from the Ellipse. The north grounds are highly used area for demonstrations, special events, national celebrations, civic activities, and recreation. The south grounds extend to the Tidal Basin.		
13.1 Vision Emphasis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue existing services (limited) on the Washington Monument grounds.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The grounds of the Washington Monument would continue to see high volumes of use, including large demonstrations and special events, but infrastructure would be provided to make them more sustainable.</li> <li>A high-quality multipurpose facility would replace the Sylvan Theater, nearby restroom.</li> <li>The condition of the German-American Friendship Garden would be improved.</li> </ul>



ALTERNATIVE A — FOCUS ON THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE AND EDUCATION	ALTERNATIVE B — FOCUS ON A WELCOMING NATIONAL CIVIC SPACE FOR PUBLIC GATHERINGS, EVENTS, AND HIGH-USE LEVELS	ALTERNATIVE C — FOCUS ON URBAN OPEN SPACE, URBAN ECOLOGY, RECREATION, AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLES
11.8 Health, Public Safety, and Security: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Add supplemental lighting.</li> <li>◦ Add emergency call stations.</li> <li>◦ Add interactive water features and cooling misters.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Add interactive water features and misters as landscape features/destinations to improve visitor health and safety.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT</b>		
<b>12. WASHINGTON MONUMENT</b> See facing page.		
12.1 Tours: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>
<b>13. WASHINGTON MONUMENT GROUNDS</b> See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Washington Monument grounds would provide a high-quality indoor facility for visitor services and food service.</li> <li>• The condition of the German-American Friendship Garden would be improved.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The grounds of the Washington Monument would continue to see high volume of use, including large demonstrations and special events, plus infrastructure to make them more sustainable.</li> <li>• A high-quality multipurpose facility would replace the Sylvan Theater and nearby restrooms.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Washington Monument grounds would provide high-quality indoor/outdoor visitor services (food service, retail, restrooms), with views of the monument. A new entertainment venue would be provided at the Sylvan Theater.</li> </ul>

TOPIC OR AREA	NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE: CONTINUE CURRENT MANAGEMENT	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE — PROVIDE A QUALITY VISITOR EXPERIENCE, PROTECT THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE, AND ACCOMMODATE HIGH-USE LEVELS
13.2 Historic Resources	<i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> Monument Lodge has been recently renovated for visitor services. Survey Lodge is used as the main visitor contact station and for park operations.	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue present uses.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to adaptively use Monument Lodge for visitor services.</li> <li>Adaptively reuse Survey Lodge for increased visitor services.</li> </ul>
13.3 Demonstrations, Special Events, and National Celebrations	<i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> The Washington Monument grounds north of Independence Avenue are highly used for demonstrations and special events, national celebrations, and civic activities, as well as recreation.	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consistent with the First Amendment and federal regulations, continue to fully accommodate demonstrations.</li> <li>Consistent with federal regulations, accommodate special events, national celebrations, and civic activities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as the no-action alternative plus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In the northeast, northwest, and southwest corners of the north grounds develop infrastructure (utilities; space for portable restrooms, operations, and media) to support demonstrations, special events, and performances.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
13.4 Access and Circulation	<p><i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> Maine Avenue SW, Independence Avenue SW, and Raoul Wallenberg Place SW, which border the south grounds, are major commuter roads where pedestrians frequently jaywalk.</p> <p>The south grounds are cut off by roadways from both the monument and the Tidal Basin. Commuter and recreational bicyclists share sidewalks with pedestrians, who travel at much slower speeds and are frequently focused on views.</p> <p>Tour bus drop-offs are provided on Independence Avenue SW. There are 8 parking spaces for visitors with disabilities, 9 tour bus spaces, and 1 taxi stand. Survey Lodge has 26 staff parking spaces.</p> <p>There is a visitor transit stop with seating, an orientation map, and a drinking fountain on the west side of Raoul Wallenberg Place SW. There are 10 tour bus drop-off locations on the east side of Raoul Wallenberg Place.</p> <p>Trucks are restricted on 15th Street.</p>	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update the transit stop when the <i>Visitor Transportation Study</i> is implemented.</li> <li>Maintain the tour bus drop-off area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as the no-action alternative plus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve the pedestrian environment with longer crossing times, expanded paving near major crosswalks, enhanced crosswalks, and better pedestrian signs (at Independence and Constitution avenues on 14th, 15th, and 17th streets).</li> <li>Provide additional parking for visitors with disabilities at the new multipurpose facility and the Survey Lodge.</li> <li>Redesign roads, parking, bicycle, and pedestrian circulation south of Independence Avenue to reconnect park areas, to improve safety and recreational opportunities, and to improve pedestrian connections between the Washington Monument grounds and the Tidal Basin, as well as to the southwest waterfront and East Potomac Park, and to highlight north-south views between the Jefferson Memorial and the White House.</li> <li>Construct a separate dedicated bike trail.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

ALTERNATIVE A — FOCUS ON THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE AND EDUCATION	ALTERNATIVE B — FOCUS ON A WELCOMING NATIONAL CIVIC SPACE FOR PUBLIC GATHERINGS, EVENTS, AND HIGH-USE LEVELS	ALTERNATIVE C — FOCUS ON URBAN OPEN SPACE, URBAN ECOLOGY, RECREATION, AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLES
13.2 Historic Resources: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to adaptively use Monument Lodge for visitor services.</li> <li>• Adaptively reuse Survey Lodge for increased visitor services.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative B.</li> </ul>
13.3 Demonstrations, Special Events, and National Celebrations: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ In the northeast, northwest, and southwest corners of the north grounds develop infrastructure (utilities; space for portable restrooms, operations, and media) to support demonstrations, special events, and performances.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>
13.4 Access and Circulation: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Construct pedestrian underpasses or bridges between 14th and 15th streets near Madison and Jefferson drives; expand paving near major crosswalks.</li> <li>◦ Improve crosswalks (Independence Avenue, Maine Avenue, and Raoul Wallenberg Place).</li> <li>◦ Provide additional parking for people with disabilities near the new multipurpose visitor facility.</li> <li>◦ If determined feasible by engineering, security, geotechnical, and economic studies, provide an underground paid parking facility below the south grounds recreation fields, with pedestrian access under Independence Avenue.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Construct a 14th Street vehicular tunnel to create a larger pedestrian-only area.</li> <li>◦ Make crosswalks more visible to drivers, widen pedestrian waiting areas, and increase crossing times on 15th Street.</li> <li>◦ Redesign roads, parking, bicycle, and pedestrian circulation to reconnect park areas, improve safety and recreational opportunities, and connect to the southwest waterfront and East Potomac Park.</li> <li>◦ Construct a separate bike trail.</li> <li>◦ Provide a turfed surface over Maine Avenue to connect the monument grounds with the Tidal Basin area.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

TOPIC OR AREA	NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE: CONTINUE CURRENT MANAGEMENT	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE — PROVIDE A QUALITY VISITOR EXPERIENCE, PROTECT THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE, AND ACCOMMODATE HIGH-USE LEVELS
13.5 Visitor Information, Education, and Enjoyment	<p><i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> The National Park Service issues permits for league use of ballfields; no equipment, backstops, or bases are provided. Informal games and recreational activities take place around the grounds. Half of the area is rested every winter, preventing use. The south grounds have a multipurpose recreation field. The Sylvan Theater hosts concerts and performances; however, the facilities are outdated and are not well placed for hillside viewing.</p>	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to use the Sylvan Theater as a performance venue for an audience of several thousand people.</li> <li>• Continue informal games and recreational activities around the grounds, and league ball games on the north side of the grounds and on the south grounds fields.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide visitor information, education, and entertainment at multipurpose visitor facility.</li> <li>• Provide educational information about George Washington, the Washington Monument, the history of the National Mall, and the German-American Friendship Garden.</li> <li>• Provide exhibits at the Survey Lodge about the building’s history, and potentially add recreation equipment rentals (such as bicycles and kites).</li> <li>• Continue informal games and recreational activities around the grounds, and league ball games on the north side of the grounds.</li> </ul>
13.6 Visitor Amenities	<p><i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> Survey Lodge is the main visitor contact station; it is off the main circulation routes, not easily identifiable, and hidden by overgrown vegetation. Monument Lodge offers a bookstore, ticketing, and restrooms. The outdated circular restroom near 15th Street and Independence Avenue SW is overwhelmed by high use, and the design is not in keeping with the site’s historic character. There are 95 benches, 134 trash cans, 11 drinking fountains, 6 phone booths, 4 bike racks. Food and retail are located in a temporary tent and must be relocated to allow for construction of the National Museum of African American History and Culture. The public was invited to comment about various locations during the initial review of alternatives. Contractual agreements are required for food and retail.</p>	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relocate food and retail services to a permanent location.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replace facilities in the Sylvan Theater area with a new, high-quality, indoor/outdoor, multipurpose visitor service facility that would be a pleasant destination and a model of adaptable, convenient space capable of meeting the needs of early ticket morning queues, information, education, exhibits, food service, retail, restrooms sized for high volumes of use, office space, and various programs, events, performances, and entertainment. Locate below the level of roads; orient to muffle noise and provide views of the monument. For performances accommodate up to 3,000 people on the monument hillside. Keep facility open from early morning for monument ticketing until evening.</li> <li>• Remove the circular restroom.</li> <li>• Adaptively reuse the Survey Lodge for services for visitors with disabilities, information, and recreation equipment rentals. Improve the lodge’s parking, access, and visibility.</li> </ul>

ALTERNATIVE A — FOCUS ON THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE AND EDUCATION	ALTERNATIVE B — FOCUS ON A WELCOMING NATIONAL CIVIC SPACE FOR PUBLIC GATHERINGS, EVENTS, AND HIGH-USE LEVELS	ALTERNATIVE C — FOCUS ON URBAN OPEN SPACE, URBAN ECOLOGY, RECREATION, AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLES
13.5 Visitor Information, Education, and Enjoyment: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide visitor information, education, and entertainment at a new multipurpose visitor facility.</li> <li>• Continue informal games and recreational activities around the grounds, and league ball games on the north side of the grounds.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Similar to the no-action alternative, except                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Reconstruct and reorient the Sylvan Theater to improve viewing.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
13.6 Visitor Amenities: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replace the circular restroom with a larger facility having a ranger information station.</li> <li>• Relocate food and retail services to a permanent, partially underground, grass-roofed facility between 14th and 15th streets.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replace facilities in the Sylvan Theater area with a new, high-quality, indoor/outdoor, visitor service facility that would be a pleasant destination and a model of adaptable, convenient space capable of meeting the needs of early morning queues, office space, and various daytime programs, events, performances, as well as evening entertainment.</li> <li>• Remove the circular restroom.</li> <li>• Rehabilitate the Survey Lodge to provide services for people with disabilities.</li> <li>• Continue to provide ticketing and a contact station in the Monument Lodge.</li> <li>• Coordinate and improve park furniture.</li> <li>• Relocate food and retail services, plus the bookstore, to the new</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replace the circular restroom.</li> <li>• Install automated, self-cleaning restrooms near Constitution Avenue between 16th and 17th streets.</li> <li>• Relocate food and retail services to a permanent facility with a large restroom north of Independence Avenue between 14th and 15th streets.</li> </ul>

TOPIC OR AREA	NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE: CONTINUE CURRENT MANAGEMENT	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE — PROVIDE A QUALITY VISITOR EXPERIENCE, PROTECT THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE, AND ACCOMMODATE HIGH-USE LEVELS
13.6 Visitor Amenities: Actions (cont.)		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Relocate food and retail services, plus the bookstore, to the new destination, multipurpose facility (food service, stage, retail) on the northwest corner of 15th Street and Independence Avenue.</li> <li>Continue to use Monument Lodge for visitor services and restrooms.</li> </ul>
13.7 Operations	<p><i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> Ranger offices are located in the Survey Lodge. A heliport on the west side of the grounds (between existing walkways) is used for emergencies and occasionally for state arrivals. Walkways can accommodate only part of the helicopter wheels, and turf damage results. Heavier helicopters are expected to increase damage.</p>	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue current conditions.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide ranger offices at the multipurpose facility; relocate primary offices to another facility off the National Mall.</li> <li>Accommodate periodic helicopter landings by providing a landing surface in conjunction with upgrading the pedestrian circulation system and providing infrastructure for demonstrations and events.</li> </ul>
<b>WEST POTOMAC PARK (NORTH OF INDEPENDENCE AVENUE)</b>		
<p><b>14. CONSTITUTION GARDENS</b>            Constitution Gardens (52 acres) was developed for the Bicentennial and was intended for 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, and it provides a pastoral setting for passive recreation and a respite as visitors travel between memorials. This area will continue to accommodate demonstrations and special events.</p>		
14.1 Vision Emphasis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Constitution Gardens would continue as a pleasant respite for visitors walking between memorials.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Constitution Gardens would be a restful, high-quality, multipurpose visitor destination that would provide food service and opportunities for entertainment, enjoyment, and recreation. The area would be a pleasant place for visitors to relax as they tour the National Mall. Present conditions would be improved, and the pedestrian circulation system would be upgraded with coordinated paving and improved operational access.</li> </ul>
14.2 Historic Resources	<p><i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> The Lockkeeper’s House at 17th and Constitution is one of the oldest structures in the city. Relocated to this site around 1915, it is somewhat hidden by overgrown vegetation and interferes with visibility at the intersection, creating safety hazards for turning vehicles and pedestrians. It is used for storage.</p>	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to use the Lockkeeper’s House for storage.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Potentially relocate the canal Lockkeeper’s House away from the corner of 17th and Constitution Avenue NW and adaptively reuse in conjunction with a new multipurpose facility, and coordinate use with Potomac Park levee.</li> </ul>

ALTERNATIVE A — FOCUS ON THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE AND EDUCATION	ALTERNATIVE B — FOCUS ON A WELCOMING NATIONAL CIVIC SPACE FOR PUBLIC GATHERINGS, EVENTS, AND HIGH-USE LEVELS	ALTERNATIVE C — FOCUS ON URBAN OPEN SPACE, URBAN ECOLOGY, RECREATION, AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLES
	<p>destination, multipurpose facility (food service, stage, retail) on the northwest corner of 15th Street and Independence Avenue.</p>	
<p>13.7 Operations: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide office space for rangers.</li> <li>• Accommodate periodic helicopter landings by providing a landing surface in conjunction with upgrading the pedestrian circulation system and providing infrastructure for demonstrations and events.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>
<p><b>WEST POTOMAC PARK (NORTH OF INDEPENDENCE AVENUE)</b></p>		
<p><b>14. CONSTITUTION GARDENS</b> See facing page.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Constitution Gardens would be a restful, high-quality, multipurpose visitor destination, with food service and opportunities for entertainment and enjoyment. The area would be a pleasant place for pedestrians to relax as they tour the National Mall. Present conditions would be improved, and the pedestrian circulation system would be upgraded with coordinated paving and improved operational access.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Constitution Gardens would be a restful, quality visitor destination, with food service.</li> </ul>
<p>14.2 Historic Resources: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Keep the Lockkeeper’s House in its current location, preserve the building, but improve its visibility and appearance.</li> <li>• Reuse as a visitor information station.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relocate the Lockkeeper’s House slightly away from the intersection for safety reasons.</li> <li>• Preserve structure and rehabilitate interior; staff for visitor information.</li> <li>• Improve pedestrian and vehicular movements at the intersection.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative B.</li> </ul>

TOPIC OR AREA	NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE: CONTINUE CURRENT MANAGEMENT	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE — PROVIDE A QUALITY VISITOR EXPERIENCE, PROTECT THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE, AND ACCOMMODATE HIGH-USE LEVELS
14.3 Natural Resources		
<i>Soils and Vegetation</i>	<i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> Poor quality soils were used when the area was constructed, and some trees were encircled with asphalt pavement, which has stunted normal tree growth. Thousands of bulbs were planted but have been removed.	
<i>Actions</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Manage present soil and vegetation conditions as budgets and staffing allow.</li> <li>• Continue the bulb replanting program.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rejuvenate soil and vegetation conditions.</li> <li>• Continue the bulb replanting program (same as the no-action alternative).</li> </ul>
<i>Lake</i>	<i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> The concrete-lined shallow lake has water quality problems. Small pumps recirculate water in several areas to improve water quality. Geese and other waterfowl degrade the water and contribute to algae, unpleasant odors, and insect problems.	
<i>Actions</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain the concrete-lined lake; address water quality problems as budgets and staffing allow.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reconstruct the lake to be self-sustaining, and install circulating pumps and a filtration system. Explore a nonpotable water source for filling the lake.</li> <li>• Design the lake to be part of the stormwater retention system to control flooding from urban drainage.</li> </ul>
14.4 Demonstrations, Special Events, and National Celebrations	<i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> A limited number of events (primarily related to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial) occur. This area is large enough to accommodate more demonstrations and events.	
<i>Actions</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consistent with the First Amendment and federal regulations, continue to fully accommodate demonstrations.</li> <li>• Consistent with federal regulations, accommodate special events.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Widen some walkways and intersections to create venues for smaller events (exhibits, tents, performances); also see row 14.7.</li> <li>◦ Develop infrastructure (e.g., utilities and communication systems) to facilitate demonstrations and events.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
14.5 Access and Circulation	<i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> The visitor transit stop for Constitution Gardens and the World War II Memorial is on Constitution Avenue NW. There are 3 tour bus drop-off spaces (during non-rush hours), 7 tour bus parking spaces, and 7 parking spaces for visitors with disabilities. There are public bus stops. The Smithsonian–National Gallery of Art Circulator provides seasonal service on Independence and Constitution avenues west to 17th Street.	
<i>Actions</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain present access and parking.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>
<i>Walkways</i>	<i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> Asphalt walks embedded with small rocks (to resemble gravel) are deteriorating and are difficult to maintain. Some areas do not meet requirements for visitors with disabilities.	
<i>Actions</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Repair walks.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Repave walks as part of a coordinated paving system for the National Mall.</li> <li>• Reconfigure some walks to accommodate the Potomac Park levee and provide accessible routes.</li> </ul>



ALTERNATIVE A — FOCUS ON THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE AND EDUCATION	ALTERNATIVE B — FOCUS ON A WELCOMING NATIONAL CIVIC SPACE FOR PUBLIC GATHERINGS, EVENTS, AND HIGH-USE LEVELS	ALTERNATIVE C — FOCUS ON URBAN OPEN SPACE, URBAN ECOLOGY, RECREATION, AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLES
14.3 Natural Resources		
<i>Soils and Vegetation: Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rejuvenate soil and vegetation conditions.</li> <li>• Continue the bulb replanting program (same as the no-action alternative).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative A.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative A.</li> </ul>
<i>Lake: Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reconstruct the lake to be self-sustaining for plants; remove fish and do not restock.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reconstruct the lake as a very shallow pool that could be drained for demonstrations and special events.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reconstruct the lake to be self-sustaining for fish and plants; explore a nonpotable water source for filling the lake.</li> <li>• Design the lake to be part of the stormwater retention system to control flooding from urban drainage.</li> </ul>
14.4 Demonstrations, Special Events, and National Celebrations: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Redesign circulation and the lake to increase space for demonstrations and special events; also see row 0 under “Lake.”</li> <li>◦ Develop infrastructure (e.g., utilities and communication systems) to facilitate demonstrations and events.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>
14.5 Access and Circulation: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>
<i>Walkways: Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Repave walks.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Repave walks as part of a coordinated paving system for the National Mall.</li> <li>• Widen some walkways to create venues for smaller events (exhibits, tents, performances).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Similar to alternative B plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Provide space for refreshment carts.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

TOPIC OR AREA	NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE: CONTINUE CURRENT MANAGEMENT	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE — PROVIDE A QUALITY VISITOR EXPERIENCE, PROTECT THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE, AND ACCOMMODATE HIGH-USE LEVELS
14.6 Visitor Information, Education, and Enjoyment	<p><i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> This is a pleasant environment for relaxation. Requests have been received for additional entertainment venues. The lake was planned to accommodate model boats, but never has. The area is little used for recreation. Ice-skating is allowed on natural ice when conditions are safe.</p>	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No planned entertainment or recreation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Through educational information address the history of the area (the Washington Canal and the Lockkeeper’s House), land reclamation in the Potomac Park, flood control, and the role and importance of the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.</li> <li>Provide visitor information, education, and opportunities for enjoyment at the new multipurpose facility at the east end of the lake, in conjunction with adaptively reusing the Lockkeeper’s House; consider providing themed food and entertainment.</li> <li>Ensure that recreational activities would not conflict with commemorative experiences at nearby memorials. Explore additional recreational activities, such as fishing or model boating. Explore children’s play opportunities making use of natural elements, boulders, sculpture or interactive water features, and pavement patterns or educational activities and programs.</li> </ul>
14.7 Visitor Amenities	<p><i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> The refreshment stand and circular restroom are outdated, not in a high use area, and difficult to maintain. There are 47 benches, 37 trash cans, and 1 drinking fountain.</p>	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain the present facilities (refreshment stand and retail), with no improvements.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide coordinated visitor facilities, including food service, retail, and restrooms, in the paved area at the east end of the lake. Potentially adaptively reuse the relocated Lockkeeper’s House (see actions for row 14.2).</li> <li>Provide a flexible performance space, stage, or gazebo in or near the east end of the lake, taking advantage of the nearby rolling terrain to accommodate an audience of several thousand. Provide utilities. Control sound levels from programs so as to ensure respect for the ambience of nearby memorials.</li> <li>Replace the existing restrooms with a facility designed to be more sensitive to its surroundings.</li> <li>Consider rehabilitating and adaptively reusing the existing refreshment stand.</li> </ul>

<b>ALTERNATIVE A — FOCUS ON THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE AND EDUCATION</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVE B — FOCUS ON A WELCOMING NATIONAL CIVIC SPACE FOR PUBLIC GATHERINGS, EVENTS, AND HIGH-USE LEVELS</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVE C — FOCUS ON URBAN OPEN SPACE, URBAN ECOLOGY, RECREATION, AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLES</b>
<p>14.6 Visitor Information, Education, and Enjoyment: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide an outdoor entertainment stage (in the lake near a multi-purpose facility), with informal seating around the lake for several thousand people.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add recreation equipment rentals (model boats, chairs).</li> <li>• Add a children’s play area.</li> <li>• Add an informal interactive water feature.</li> </ul>
<p>14.7 Visitor Amenities</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replace the refreshment stand and restrooms.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop a multipurpose facility in the paved asphalt area as previously designed, with a unique character that could accommodate approximately 130 people indoors and 200 outside.</li> <li>• Develop a flexible, multi-use outdoor stage that could support performances of thematic entertainment (e.g., World War II era music, Latin American music).</li> <li>• Replace the existing restrooms.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Similar to alternative B, except remove the restroom and refreshment stand and replace with a food service facility and new restrooms.</li> </ul>

TOPIC OR AREA	NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE: CONTINUE CURRENT MANAGEMENT	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE — PROVIDE A QUALITY VISITOR EXPERIENCE, PROTECT THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE, AND ACCOMMODATE HIGH-USE LEVELS
<b>15. VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL</b> The 5.8-acre memorial honors those who served during the Vietnam War. As previously noted, an underground memorial center will be constructed by others west of Henry Bacon Drive. Except for official annual Memorial Day and Veterans Day commemorative ceremonies, federal regulations prohibit demonstrations and special events in certain areas of the memorial.		
15.1 Demonstrations, Special Events, and National Celebrations	<i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> First Amendment demonstration sites related to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial (small structures with displays) are present along the sidewalk of the Lincoln Memorial.	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See actions for row 18.2.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See actions for row 18.2.</li> </ul>
15.2 Access and Circulation	<i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> Access and circulation may need to be revised as a result of the new Vietnam Veterans Memorial Center.	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examine circulation patterns and related pedestrian amenities (lighting, name catalogs, post-and-chain fencing).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Examine circulation patterns and related pedestrian amenities (lighting, name catalogs, post-and-chain fencing).</li> </ul>
15.3 Visitor Information, Education, and Enjoyment	<i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> The visitor contact station provides information, and rangers and volunteers lead programs. Catalogs listing names on the wall are provided in several locations. Wayside exhibits provide additional information.	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue living history and volunteer interpretation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Provide educational information about the history of the memorial and its role on the National Mall.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<i>Opportunities for Contemplation and Rest</i>	<i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> No seating is provided close to the wall so older visitors can pause to read and contemplate the names.	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No further action.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide additional seating in the vicinity of the memorial.</li> </ul>
<b>16. LINCOLN MEMORIAL</b> One of the five presidential memorials on the National Mall, the Lincoln Memorial will continue to be a historic character-defining feature and the visual western terminus of the National Mall. The presidential memorial will remain a highly visited area also associated with civil rights history as well as the contributions of our 16th president. Demonstrations, special events, and national celebrations will continue on the grounds. The total area of the memorial and grounds is about 107 acres.		
16.1 Visitor Amenities		
<i>Memorial Restrooms</i>	<i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> The memorial restrooms are not staffed, are frequently overwhelmed by demand (the heaviest use area in the park), and need to be updated.	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Renovate the memorial restrooms.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Expand the restroom within the building footprint; monitor for safety and cleanliness.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<i>Memorial Exhibits and Bookstore</i>	<i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> A bookstore is located near the chamber. Exhibits and audiovisual presentations are on the lower level, along with the restrooms.	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relocate the bookstore to the lower level.</li> <li>• Renovate and expand the exhibit area.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Upgrade exhibits, addressing Abraham Lincoln, the memorial's development, and the role of the memorial in civil rights and First Amendment demonstrations, as well as National Mall and Washington, D.C., history.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

ALTERNATIVE A — FOCUS ON THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE AND EDUCATION	ALTERNATIVE B — FOCUS ON A WELCOMING NATIONAL CIVIC SPACE FOR PUBLIC GATHERINGS, EVENTS, AND HIGH-USE LEVELS	ALTERNATIVE C — FOCUS ON URBAN OPEN SPACE, URBAN ECOLOGY, RECREATION, AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLES
<b>15. VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL</b> See facing page.		
15.1 Demonstrations, Special Events, and National Celebrations: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See actions for row 18.2.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See actions for row 18.2.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• See actions for row 18.2.</li> </ul>
15.2 Access and Circulation: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>
15.3 Visitor Information, Education, and Enjoyment: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>
<i>Opportunities for Contemplation and Rest: Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide additional seating in the vicinity of the memorial.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>
<b>16. LINCOLN MEMORIAL</b> See facing page.		
16.1 Visitor Amenities		
<i>Memorial Restrooms: Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Clean the restrooms more frequently during high-use times.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Expand the restroom within the building footprint; monitor for safety and cleanliness.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative A.</li> </ul>
<i>Memorial Exhibits and Bookstore: Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>

TOPIC OR AREA	NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE: CONTINUE CURRENT MANAGEMENT	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE — PROVIDE A QUALITY VISITOR EXPERIENCE, PROTECT THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE, AND ACCOMMODATE HIGH-USE LEVELS
<b>17. LINCOLN MEMORIAL GROUNDS</b> The Lincoln Memorial grounds include three component cultural landscapes: the Reflecting Pool, the Memorial Circle and radial roads, and the Watergate area on the west edge of the National Mall. (The reflecting pool area is being addressed through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.)		
17.1 Historic Resources	<i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> The historic landscape design retains a great deal of integrity with existing plant materials, the elm walkways, and concentric plantings around the base of the memorial and at the Watergate steps. Concentric rows of elms affect where facilities (bicycle racks, etc.) can be located. The elm walkways, street tree grates, plantings around the base of the memorial, and the Watergate steps need to be rehabilitated or restored. Animal habitat needs to be addressed.	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preserve and protect the character of the historic landscape.</li> <li>• Implement recommendations of the Lincoln Memorial <i>Cultural Landscape Report</i>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Implement recommendations of the <i>Cultural Landscape Report</i>.</li> <li>◦ Respect the integrity of historic planting plans.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
17.2 Demonstrations, Special Events, and National Celebrations	<i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> The <i>Lincoln Memorial Guidelines for Special Events and Demonstrations</i> were developed in 1996 to supplement 36 CFR 7.96 and to fulfill statutory obligations to protect the Lincoln Memorial and its heritage for future generations. The guidelines address topics such as public access and operations, deliveries, temporary resource protection measures and requirements, temporary utilities, vibration, height limits, and equipment.	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consistent with the First Amendment and federal regulations, continue to fully accommodate demonstrations.</li> <li>• Consistent with federal regulations, continue to accommodate special events.</li> <li>• Revise the <i>Lincoln Memorial Guidelines</i> to reflect current conditions as the result of construction since 1996 (security perimeter and visitor facilities).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consistent with the First Amendment and federal regulations, continue to fully accommodate demonstrations.</li> <li>• Consistent with federal regulations, continue to accommodate special events.</li> <li>• Expand the <i>Lincoln Memorial Guidelines</i> to address the availability and use of proposed infrastructure designed to facilitate demonstrations and events (utilities, communication systems).</li> </ul>
<b>18. LINCOLN MEMORIAL GROUNDS: MEMORIAL CIRCLE AND RADIAL ROADS</b>		
18.1 Historic Resources	<i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> The historic landscape retains its integrity.	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rehabilitate the historic landscape.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Mitigate impacts on historic plantings when a restroom is constructed south of the memorial.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
18.2 Demonstrations, Special Events, and National Celebrations	<i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> First Amendment demonstration sites related to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial (small structures with displays) are present along the sidewalk, but do not block the east-west view. Also see row 17.2.	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consistent with the First Amendment and federal regulations, continue to accommodate structures and displays related to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative except               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Ensure that demonstrations are conducted in a manner and location that is consistent with improved circulation, security, and use.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

ALTERNATIVE A — FOCUS ON THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE AND EDUCATION	ALTERNATIVE B — FOCUS ON A WELCOMING NATIONAL CIVIC SPACE FOR PUBLIC GATHERINGS, EVENTS, AND HIGH-USE LEVELS	ALTERNATIVE C — FOCUS ON URBAN OPEN SPACE, URBAN ECOLOGY, RECREATION, AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLES
<b>17. LINCOLN MEMORIAL GROUNDS</b> See facing page.		
17.1 Historic Resources: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Implement recommendations of the <i>Cultural Landscape Report</i>.</li> <li>◦ Respect the integrity of historic planting plans.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative A.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative A.</li> </ul>
17.2 Demonstrations, Special Events, and National Celebrations: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative except                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Expand the <i>Lincoln Memorial Guidelines</i> to address the availability and use of proposed infrastructure designed to facilitate demonstrations and events (utilities, communication systems).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative B.</li> </ul>
<b>18. LINCOLN MEMORIAL GROUNDS: MEMORIAL CIRCLE AND RADIAL ROADS</b>		
18.1 Historic Resources: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Mitigate impacts on historic plantings when a restroom is constructed south of the memorial.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>
18.2 Demonstrations, Special Events, and National Celebrations: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>

TOPIC OR AREA	NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE: CONTINUE CURRENT MANAGEMENT	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE — PROVIDE A QUALITY VISITOR EXPERIENCE, PROTECT THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE, AND ACCOMMODATE HIGH-USE LEVELS
18.3 Access and Circulation	<p><i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> Multiple tour bus arrivals can result in crowding at the memorial during the peak season. There are 18 tour bus drop-offs, 8 parking spaces for visitors with disabilities, and 4 taxi stands. Elevator access for visitors with disabilities can be challenging.</p>	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No further action.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as the no-action alternative plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Better define pedestrian crossings.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
18.4 Visitor Information, Education, and Enjoyment	<p><i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> Staffed information stations are provided for the Korean War Veterans Memorial and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.</p>	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue staffed information stations.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consider removing the Vietnam Veterans Memorial information station once the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Center has been completed.</li> <li>Consider replacing the Korean War Veterans Memorial information station.</li> </ul>
18.5 Visitor Amenities		
<i>South Concession Refreshment Stand</i>	<p><i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> The south concession refreshment stand (opened summer 2007) has food and retail but no restrooms.</p>	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Retain the recently opened stand, which provides food and retail, but no restrooms.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construct a small restroom in the vicinity designed to appear as if it were part of the original facility design while respecting historic planting patterns.</li> </ul>
<i>North Concession Refreshment Stand</i>	<p><i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> The north concession building (opened fall 2006) has food and retail but no restrooms. The future Vietnam Veterans Memorial Center will have restrooms, an information desk, and a bookstore.</p>	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Retain the recently opened concession refreshment stand, which provides retail and food, but no restrooms.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Retain the concession refreshment stand (restrooms at the planned Vietnam Veterans Memorial Center).</li> </ul>
<p><b>19. LINCOLN MEMORIAL GROUNDS: WATERGATE AREA</b></p>		
<p>The Watergate area includes historic features and recreation areas (volleyball and softball). Adjacent to and north of Constitution Avenue is Braddock’s Memorial Rock Well, which is within intertwined nonhistoric access roads (Rock Creek Parkway, the Kennedy Center parking area, U.S. Highways 50 and 66, and Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Bridge).</p>		
19.1 Historic Resources	<p><i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> The Watergate steps were originally conceived as the ceremonial entrance to the city. Once used for concert seating, the steps are now used as a training site by runners. The belvedere is not identified as the terminus of Constitution Avenue (as envisioned by the McMillan plan). High stone-faced walls at this location are not overtopped by river flooding or debris. The John Ericsson Memorial is near 23rd and Independence Avenue SW. Other historic features include the Rock Creek Parkway entrance and abutments (flanked by the <i>Arts of Peace</i> statues), entrance to Arlington Memorial Bridge, walks, views, and trees.</p>	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain the Watergate steps, Constitution Avenue belvedere, John Ericsson Memorial, and <i>Arts of Peace</i> statues. Maintain Arlington Memorial Bridge and the <i>Arts of War</i> statues in cooperation with other national park units.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as the no-action alternative plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use educational panels to enhance public understanding of the steps and the belvedere.</li> <li>Develop a ceremonial use for the Watergate steps.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>



ALTERNATIVE A — FOCUS ON THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE AND EDUCATION	ALTERNATIVE B — FOCUS ON A WELCOMING NATIONAL CIVIC SPACE FOR PUBLIC GATHERINGS, EVENTS, AND HIGH-USE LEVELS	ALTERNATIVE C — FOCUS ON URBAN OPEN SPACE, URBAN ECOLOGY, RECREATION, AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLES
18.3 Access and Circulation: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Better define pedestrian crossings.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>
18.4 Visitor Information, Education, and Enjoyment: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rehabilitate both facilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove the Vietnam Veterans Memorial information station once the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Center has been completed.</li> <li>• Consider replacing the Korean War Veterans Memorial information station.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>
18.5 Visitor Amenities		
<i>South Concession Refreshment Stand: Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Construct a nearby restroom facility.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative B.</li> </ul>
<i>North Concession Refreshment Stand: Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Retain the refreshment stand (restrooms at the planned Vietnam Veterans Memorial Center).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide restrooms adjacent to the concession refreshment stand.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative A.</li> </ul>
<b>19. LINCOLN MEMORIAL GROUNDS: WATERGATE AREA</b> See facing page.		
19.1 Historic Resources: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Use educational panels to enhance public understanding of the steps and the belvedere.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative A plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Develop a ceremonial use for the Watergate steps.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative A plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Possibly accommodate water taxi stops at the Watergate steps, with a redesign of Ohio Drive for safe pedestrian access.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

TOPIC OR AREA	NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE: CONTINUE CURRENT MANAGEMENT	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE — PROVIDE A QUALITY VISITOR EXPERIENCE, PROTECT THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE, AND ACCOMMODATE HIGH-USE LEVELS
19.2 Commemorative Sites	<i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> The area has been identified in the NCPC <i>Memorials and Museums Master Plan</i> for several future national commemorative sites. This area is outside the Reserve that was designated by Congress.	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accommodate future national memorials authorized by Congress, and reinforce this area as a commemorative landscape.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>
19.3 Access and Circulation	<i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> This area on the northwest corner serves as a major vehicular gateway to the city and the National Mall from Virginia and Maryland. Access to the Potomac Freeway, I-66, Ohio Drive, and Rock Creek Parkway are prominent parts of the road network, which is scheduled to be redesigned and simplified, with planning, compliance, and construction done by others. There are 70 public parking spaces along Parkway Drive. (See the <i>Framework Plan</i> for circulation and strengthening visual and physical connections to the Kennedy Center.)	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Accommodate road projects and circulation improvements by others to simplify traffic patterns and to improve pedestrian connections from the Kennedy Center and neighborhoods.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>
<i>Arlington Memorial Bridge / Rock Creek Parkway Access</i>	<i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> The nonhistoric off-ramp cloverleaf configuration dominates bridge access — the south off-ramp leads to Rock Creek Parkway and the north ramp onto Arlington Memorial Bridge.	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain existing circulation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as the no-action alternative plus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve pedestrian crossings and access to Arlington Memorial Bridge.</li> <li>Adapt access to accommodate future road network improvements.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
19.4 Visitor Enjoyment	<i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> The area provides space for recreational activities such as volleyball and softball.	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue recreational activities.</li> <li>Improve condition of volleyball courts and softball fields.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>
19.5 Operations		
<i>Jurisdictional Agreements</i>	<i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> Following 1960s road work that altered the historic character, jurisdictional boundary lines were not adjusted to conform to new circulation patterns. The National Park Service and the city have maintenance agreements for the area. The National Park Service takes care of the Braddock Memorial Rock Well and surrounding turf.	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to maintain areas outside NPS jurisdiction through agreements with the city.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Make jurisdictional adjustments to correspond to new road and circulation improvements.</li> </ul>
<i>Storage and Maintenance Facilities</i>	<i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> Storage and maintenance facilities have been built into the structures for the Rock Creek Parkway and the roads north of Constitution Avenue. Roadway realignments would affect these uses, and they might not be compatible with future memorial sites proposed for this area.	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue present storage and maintenance facilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Address storage and maintenance areas as roads are realigned.</li> </ul>

ALTERNATIVE A — FOCUS ON THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE AND EDUCATION	ALTERNATIVE B — FOCUS ON A WELCOMING NATIONAL CIVIC SPACE FOR PUBLIC GATHERINGS, EVENTS, AND HIGH-USE LEVELS	ALTERNATIVE C — FOCUS ON URBAN OPEN SPACE, URBAN ECOLOGY, RECREATION, AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLES
19.2 Commemorative Sites: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>
19.3 Access and Circulation: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>
<i>Arlington Memorial Bridge / Rock Creek Parkway Access: Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Remove the south ramp cloverleaf and redirect traffic to 23rd Street.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Improve pedestrian crossings and access to Arlington Memorial Bridge.</li> <li>◦ Adapt access to accommodate future road network improvements.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Reestablish a north ramp and access to Constitution Avenue.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
19.4 Visitor Enjoyment: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>
19.5 Operations		
<i>Jurisdictional Agreements: Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make jurisdictional adjustments to correspond to new road and circulation improvements.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative A.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative A.</li> </ul>
<i>Storage and Maintenance Facilities: Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Address storage and maintenance areas as roads are realigned.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative A.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative A.</li> </ul>

TOPIC OR AREA	NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE: CONTINUE CURRENT MANAGEMENT	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE — PROVIDE A QUALITY VISITOR EXPERIENCE, PROTECT THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE, AND ACCOMMODATE HIGH-USE LEVELS
<b>20. KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEMORIAL</b> The Korean War Veterans Memorial commemorates the veterans and international coalition that fought the Korean War in the 1950s. Living history programs are provided, and annual special events take place at the memorial.		
20.1 Access and Circulation	<i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> Narrow entry walks are frequently congested or may be inadequate for groups; changes in visitor walking patterns suggest pedestrians would like an east-side entry.	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue present circulation patterns, with the entry approach from the west.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On the west side widen the walks; improve pedestrian connections between the memorial, the Lincoln Memorial reflecting pool, and Independence Avenue to accommodate changing circulation patterns and group visitation.</li> </ul>
20.2 Visitor Information and Education	<i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> There is a visitor contact station with interactive computer displays (see row 18.4).	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take no further action.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide educational information about the Korean War, commemoration, and National Mall history.</li> </ul>
<b>21. ASH WOODS</b> Ash Woods, which is between Independence Avenue and Ash Road, was planned to be a naturalized, thickly wooded area with little understory vegetation. The area contains the U.S. Park Police stables, a restroom, and recreation fields.		
21.1 Access and Circulation — Ash Road	<i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> Ash Road, originally designed as a service road, provides pedestrian access between memorials and to recreation areas and facilities, as well as the U.S. Park Police stables. Visitor pedestrian traffic along this service road is likely to continue to increase when the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial is built.	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to provide access to recreation areas and facilities in addition to the U.S. Park Police stables.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Make Ash Road primarily a pedestrian walk with a secondary function as a service road (e.g., emergency, law enforcement, and maintenance access); provide amenities such as seating and lighting.</li> </ul>
21.2 Visitor Information, Education, and Enjoyment	<i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> The multiuse JFK recreation fields are used daily and are closed during the off-season. They have been used infrequently for large events.	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to maintain recreation fields and allow infrequent large events.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as the no-action alternative plus               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Soften the strong geometric edges of the JFK recreation fields.</li> <li>Provide educational exhibits at the U.S. Park Police stables.</li> <li>Make the horse paddocks part of the visitor experience, and provide information about the U.S. Park Police and horse patrols.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
21.3 Visitor Amenities	<i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> The restroom facility is outdated and difficult to maintain.	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Upgrade the restroom as funds become available.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Demolish the restroom facility and construct a new facility near the U.S. Park Police stables to better distribute restrooms, using the visitor services architectural style.</li> <li>If feasible, provide nearby food service to meet expected increased visitation and changed circulation patterns when the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial is finished.</li> </ul>

<b>ALTERNATIVE A — FOCUS ON THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE AND EDUCATION</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVE B — FOCUS ON A WELCOMING NATIONAL CIVIC SPACE FOR PUBLIC GATHERINGS, EVENTS, AND HIGH-USE LEVELS</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVE C — FOCUS ON URBAN OPEN SPACE, URBAN ECOLOGY, RECREATION, AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLES</b>
<b>20. KOREAN WAR VETERANS MEMORIALS</b> See facing page.		
20.1 Access and Circulation: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assess changes in visitor use patterns due to the development of new memorials.</li> <li>• Provide additional east-side entry walks to accommodate changing circulation patterns.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative B.</li> </ul>
20.2 Visitor Information and Education: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replace and upgrade computer screens as technology improves.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative A.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative A.</li> </ul>
<b>21. ASH WOODS</b> See facing page.		
21.1 Access and Circulation — Ash Road: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make Ash Road primarily a pedestrian walk with a secondary function as a service road (e.g., emergency, law enforcement, and maintenance access).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative B.</li> </ul>
21.2 Visitor Information, Education, and Enjoyment		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Soften the strong geometric edges of the JFK recreation fields.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrade recreation field conditions with backstops, etc., to avoid leagues leaving their equipment on the fields.</li> <li>• Make the horse paddocks part of the visitor experience, and provide information about the U.S. Park Police and horse patrols.</li> </ul>
21.3 Visitor Amenities		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replace the restroom facility.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Demolish the restroom and construct a new facility closer to the U.S. Park Police stables (halfway between the World War II and Lincoln memorials).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative B.</li> </ul>

TOPIC OR AREA	NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE: CONTINUE CURRENT MANAGEMENT	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE — PROVIDE A QUALITY VISITOR EXPERIENCE, PROTECT THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE, AND ACCOMMODATE HIGH-USE LEVELS
21.4 Operations — United States Park Police Stables	<i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> The U.S. Park Police stables provide a necessary law enforcement facility. Utilitarian grapestake wood fencing, truck and horse trailer parking, and the mobile office at the U.S. Park Police facilities are not in keeping with the historic character of the National Mall.	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain the stables in their current location, with access from Ash Woods road.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reconstruct the stables to be compatible with the historic character and quality of the National Mall.</li> <li>Redesign the area so that operational functions remain fairly inconspicuous on the south side.</li> <li>Construct a new stables parking area and vehicle access road from Independence Avenue.</li> </ul>
<b>WEST POTOMAC PARK (SOUTH OF INDEPENDENCE AVENUE)</b>		
<b>22. TIDAL BASIN AREA</b> The Tidal Basin area, a designed water area of a little more than 100 acres, is the beautiful setting for several memorials, the cherry trees that were a gift from Japan, historic monuments, and visitor facilities. It provides spectacular views and reflected views of the Thomas Jefferson Memorial and the Washington Monument. The Tidal Basin area is used for demonstrations, national celebrations, and special events.		
22.1 Vision Emphasis	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Tidal Basin offers a pleasant strolling and viewing experience.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A sense of arrival at the Tidal Basin would be created by redesigning pedestrian circulation.</li> <li>Around the Tidal Basin the highest quality recreational experiences would be provided, including strolling/sightseeing, bicycling, and boating. Improved circulation patterns, high-quality paving, additional seating, and more pedestrian stopping points would enhance the strolling and viewing experiences. New visitor services would provide pleasant interludes for enjoyment.</li> <li>Based on engineering recommendations, the Tidal Basin seawalls would be rebuilt above tidewater to retain the historic appearance while accommodating wider walks.</li> </ul>
22.2 Historic Resources	<i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> The historic Tidal Basin has been altered in the past and was reduced by 4 acres to build the Thomas Jefferson Memorial. Inlet, Outlet, and Kutz bridges are historic resources.	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain the Inlet, Outlet, and Kutz bridges as historic features within a naturalistic environment.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Widen and separate pedestrian/ bicycling walks near Inlet, Outlet, and Kutz bridges.</li> </ul>
22.3 Natural Resources		
<i>Tidal Basin Function and Walls</i>	<i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> The Tidal Basin was designed to help flush the Washington Channel to support navigation. Over the last 100 years the flushing capability has been reduced and the basin has silted in. The Tidal Basin gates were replaced in 2007 to help restore the flushing function to the basin, but additional studies and improvements are needed. The Tidal Basin walls are deteriorating. High tides overtop the walls between the Jefferson Memorial to the north of Inlet Bridge and spill onto the walkways, resulting in social trails as visitors try to avoid the water.	

ALTERNATIVE A — FOCUS ON THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE AND EDUCATION	ALTERNATIVE B — FOCUS ON A WELCOMING NATIONAL CIVIC SPACE FOR PUBLIC GATHERINGS, EVENTS, AND HIGH-USE LEVELS	ALTERNATIVE C — FOCUS ON URBAN OPEN SPACE, URBAN ECOLOGY, RECREATION, AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLES
21.4 Operations — United States Park Police Stables: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Renovate the U.S. Park Police stables.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Screen the stables with a wall or fence appropriate for the historic design of the National Mall.</li> <li>Construct a new parking area and vehicle access road from Independence Avenue.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reconstruct the stables to be compatible with the historic character and quality of the National Mall.</li> <li>Construct a new parking area and vehicle access road from Independence Avenue.</li> </ul>
<b>WEST POTOMAC PARK (SOUTH OF INDEPENDENCE AVENUE)</b>		
<b>22. TIDAL BASIN AREA</b> See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Tidal Basin area would be upgraded with improved paved walks and facilities to enhance strolling and viewing experiences.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Tidal Basin area would be upgraded with high-quality, paved walks, improved circulation, furniture, facilities, and services to provide opportunities for more visitors to enjoy strolling and viewing experiences.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Tidal Basin area would be upgraded with high-quality, paved walks, improved circulation, and facilities, as well as more recreational opportunities, to allow more visitors to enjoy strolling and viewing experiences.</li> </ul>
22.2 Historic Resources: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reconfigure Kutz Bridge traffic lanes to widen walks on the south side.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Widen walks around the Tidal Basin and add pedestrian bridges near Inlet, Outlet, and Kutz bridges to reduce congestion.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Fill in the north lobe of the Tidal Basin for additional recreation space.</li> </ul>
22.3 Natural Resources		
<i>Tidal Basin Function and Walls: Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		

<b>TOPIC OR AREA</b>	<b>NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE: CONTINUE CURRENT MANAGEMENT</b>	<b>PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE — PROVIDE A QUALITY VISITOR EXPERIENCE, PROTECT THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE, AND ACCOMMODATE HIGH-USE LEVELS</b>
<i>Tidal Basin Function and Walls: Actions</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake engineering studies to improve Tidal Basin flushing and to ensure seawall stability.</li> <li>• Sign high-water conditions in areas overtopped by water.</li> <li>• Maintain the walls and make temporary repairs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement the recommendations of engineering studies and rebuild the Tidal Basin seawalls to be above tidewater according and to allow wider walkways to protect the cherry trees.</li> </ul>
<i>Soils and Vegetation</i>	<i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> Soils are compacted at the base of cherry trees and along some social trails that have been created either for convenience or to avoid high water.	
<i>Actions</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Address soil compaction and social trails as budgets and staffing allow.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve soil conditions, thwart social trail development, and address erosion / soil compaction under trees.</li> </ul>
<i>Cherry Trees</i>	<i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> Thousands of cherry trees define the character of the Tidal Basin. Trampling by visitors spilling off narrow walkways causes soil compaction and erosion near tree roots and a decline in the health of the trees.	
<i>Actions</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Address adverse effects on cherry tree health as budgets and staffing allow.</li> <li>• Install post-and-chain fencing in some areas to reduce trampling, compaction, and erosion near cherry trees.</li> <li>• Increase stewardship messages about how to reduce damage to the trees.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Similar to the no-action alternative except               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Reduce trampling of tree roots by widening walkways.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
22.4 Demonstrations, Special Events, and National Celebrations	<i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> The National Cherry Blossom Festival is the most attended annual event in the national park system.	
<i>Actions</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consistent with the First Amendment and federal regulations, continue to fully accommodate demonstrations.</li> <li>• Consistent with federal regulations, continue to accommodate special events.</li> <li>• Continue to examine current operations and use best management practices to improve operations for demonstrations and special events.</li> <li>• Close the Tidal Basin parking lot during the National Cherry Blossom Festival; concentrate facilities on hard surfaces and outside the north-south viewshed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Use more roving educational ambassadors during the National Cherry Blossom Festival and more educational signs to prevent resource damage.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
22.5 Access and Circulation	<p><i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> Roads provide convenient access to the Tidal Basin area. Access to the Tidal Basin parking lot is from Independence Avenue SW by way of Maine Avenue; it has 132 parking spaces and 9 spaces for people with disabilities.</p> <p>Three facilities (paddleboat rental, refreshment stand, and public parking) in one small location result in periodic pedestrian / vehicular congestion.</p> <p>During the National Cherry Blossom Festival the parking area is closed to public parking to provide a location for temporary event facilities.</p>	



<b>ALTERNATIVE A — FOCUS ON THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE AND EDUCATION</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVE B — FOCUS ON A WELCOMING NATIONAL CIVIC SPACE FOR PUBLIC GATHERINGS, EVENTS, AND HIGH-USE LEVELS</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVE C — FOCUS ON URBAN OPEN SPACE, URBAN ECOLOGY, RECREATION, AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLES</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement the recommendations of engineering studies and rebuild the basin walls in their current location so they are above tidewater.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implement the recommendations of engineering studies and rebuild the basin walls to allow wider walkways to protect the cherry trees.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Seek a sustainable solution to comprehensively address hydrology and flooding in the Tidal Basin area.</li> <li>Implement the recommendations of engineering studies and maximize the ability of the basin to flush and absorb tidal surges. Rebuild the basin walls to allow wider walkways, and eliminate the bay north of Kutz Bridge to provide additional recreation space.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Soils and Vegetation: Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve soil conditions, thwart social trail development, and address erosion / soil compaction under trees.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as alternative A.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as alternative A.</li> </ul>
<p><i>Cherry Trees: Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Similar to the no-action alternative except                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continually assess the effectiveness of tree protection measures and continue to implement the most effective.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Similar to the no-action alternative except                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Reduce trampling of tree roots by widening walkways.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as alternative B.</li> </ul>
<p>22.4 Demonstrations, Special Events, and National Celebrations: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as the no-action alternative plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Utilize roving educational ambassadors and more educational signs to prevent resource damage.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>22.5 Access and Circulation: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.</p>		

TOPIC OR AREA	NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE: CONTINUE CURRENT MANAGEMENT	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE — PROVIDE A QUALITY VISITOR EXPERIENCE, PROTECT THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE, AND ACCOMMODATE HIGH-USE LEVELS
22.5 Access and Circulation: Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue parking lot access from Maine Avenue.</li> <li>Close the Tidal Basin parking lot during the National Cherry Blossom Festival.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as the no-action alternative plus               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Redesign roads and parking areas for more efficient access and use.</li> <li>Redesign circulation to separate bicyclists, pedestrians, and vehicles.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<i>Walkways</i>	<p><i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> Walkways continue to deteriorate, and they are too narrow for current use. Congested areas include Kutz, Inlet, and Outlet bridges.</p> <p>There is an opportunity to enhance the meandering, strolling experience through the area.</p>	
<i>Actions</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Maintain walks as budgets and staffing allow.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Widen and repave walkways as part of a coordinated paving system for the National Mall, widen walkways for pedestrians and bicyclists near Inlet, Outlet, and Kutz bridges.</li> </ul>
22.6 Visitor Information, Education, and Enjoyment	<p><i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> Seasonal paddleboat rentals are provided on the east side of the Tidal Basin. Private boat access is not allowed in the Tidal Basin. Visitor enjoyment is primarily informal recreation, such as enjoying views, picnicking, and strolling along the Tidal Basin walks.</p>	
<i>Actions</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue current management for informal recreation.</li> <li>Continue to provide seasonal paddleboat rentals.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide educational information about cherry tree history and the Tidal Basin, the development of the Potomac parks, as well as history of the National Mall.</li> <li>Provide additional boat choices for visitors, such as rowboat and kayak rentals.</li> <li>Consider providing boat service between the Thomas Jefferson, Franklin D. Roosevelt, and Martin Luther King Jr. memorials, as well as the Tidal Basin parking lot.</li> </ul>
22.7 Visitor Amenities	<p><i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> Seasonal refreshment and recreation equipment rental facilities near the Tidal Basin parking lot are outdated and are occasionally inadequate for demand. There are no restroom facilities. The appearance of some facilities is out of character with the National Mall.</p>	
<i>Actions</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Retain the recreation equipment rental area with public parking and a refreshment stand, but without restrooms.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Replace the Tidal Basin refreshment stand with a stand similar to those on the Mall or at the Lincoln Memorial, including outdoor seating (some shaded) and a few restrooms. Design the new facility to blend with the historic character of the National Mall and to reduce congestion.</li> <li>Add seating along walks.</li> <li>Provide additional locations for visitors to enjoy views.</li> <li>Install pedestrian lighting so that it would not impact the evening lighting ambience of memorials.</li> <li>Replace the recreation equipment rental facilities.</li> </ul>

<b>ALTERNATIVE A — FOCUS ON THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE AND EDUCATION</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVE B — FOCUS ON A WELCOMING NATIONAL CIVIC SPACE FOR PUBLIC GATHERINGS, EVENTS, AND HIGH-USE LEVELS</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVE C — FOCUS ON URBAN OPEN SPACE, URBAN ECOLOGY, RECREATION, AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLES</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Remove the parking lot if and when new underground parking garage provided on the south Washington Monument grounds (see actions for row 13.4).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Redesign roads and parking areas for more efficient access and use.</li> <li>◦ Separate bicyclists, pedestrians, and vehicles.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><i>Walkways: Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Upgrade/rebuild walkways.</li> <li>• Widen sidewalks at Kutz Bridge by moving all traffic lanes to the north side.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Widen and repave walkways as part of a coordinated paving system for the National Mall, construct three pedestrian bridges near vehicular bridges to reduce congestion.</li> <li>• Install railings between the walkway and the water for visitor safety, particularly for evening walks.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Widen and repave walkways as part of a coordinated paving system for the National Mall, construct three pedestrian bridges near vehicular bridges to reduce congestion.</li> </ul>
<p>22.6 Visitor Information, Education, and Enjoyment: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Provide rowboat and sea kayak rentals as an additional choice of boating experiences for visitors.</li> <li>◦ Develop recreation fields when the north bay has been filled in.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>22.7 Visitor Amenities: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Redesign facilities to blend with the historic character of the National Mall and to reduce congestion.</li> <li>• Replace the recreation equipment rental and refreshment facilities; add restrooms.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Add seating.</li> <li>• Redesign facilities to reduce congestion and to complement the National Mall’s historic character.</li> <li>• Replace the refreshment stand with a multipurpose facility (small-scale, year-round facility with a unique character, indoor/outdoor seating, open views) with restrooms.</li> <li>• Provide additional locations for visitors to enjoy views.</li> <li>• Install pedestrian lighting so that it would not impact the evening lighting ambience of the memorial.</li> <li>• Upgrade the recreation equipment rental facilities.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replace visitor facilities to complement the historic character of the National Mall and to reduce congestion.</li> <li>• Replace the refreshment stand; add restrooms.</li> <li>• Provide additional locations for visitors to enjoy views.</li> <li>• Install pedestrian lighting in a manner that would not impact the evening lighting ambience of the memorial.</li> <li>• Replace the recreation equipment rental facilities.</li> </ul>

TOPIC OR AREA	NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE: CONTINUE CURRENT MANAGEMENT	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE — PROVIDE A QUALITY VISITOR EXPERIENCE, PROTECT THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE, AND ACCOMMODATE HIGH-USE LEVELS
<b>23. FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT MEMORIAL</b> One of five presidential memorials on the National Mall, this memorial tells important stories of mid-20th century history — the Great Depression, the Roosevelt presidential legacy, and World War II. The adjacent area to the north is the site of the future Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial.		
23.1 Access and Circulation	<i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> A visitor transit stop is provided. There are 18 tour bus drop-offs, 12 tour bus parking spaces, 10 parking spaces for visitors with disabilities, and 4 taxi stands. West Basin Drive will be realigned when the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial is built.	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide access and parking in coordination with the plans for the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>
23.2 Visitor Information, Education, and Enjoyment	<i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> Room 4 is designed for programs.	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Room 4 not used for programs.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake a comprehensive condition assessment of the memorial, including visitor use patterns.</li> <li>• Increase education and programs by using Room 4 as it was intended.</li> </ul>
23.3 Visitor Amenities	<i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> Visitor facilities include an information station, bookstore, and two restrooms.	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maintain present facilities; renovate restrooms as needed.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If warranted by demand, provide a small food service / restroom facility convenient to both the Franklin Delano Roosevelt and the future Martin Luther King Jr. memorials. Use an identifiable visitor services design, similar to the Lincoln Memorial refreshment stands, and consider providing themed food menus and space for programs and performances.</li> </ul>
<b>24. WEST POTOMAC PARK RIVERFRONT</b> Stretching south from the John Ericsson Memorial to the I-395 corridor, the Potomac Riverfront includes the First Airmail Flight Plaque, cherry trees, walks, views, and parking. This is primarily an informal area. Athletic fields are east of Ohio Drive SW. The riverfront trail system connects to Georgetown and East Potomac Park, as well as to the National Mall.		
24.1 Historic Resources (south of Arlington Memorial Bridge)	<i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> Dry-laid stone river walls south of Arlington Memorial Bridge are deteriorating and are overtopped in some areas by tidewater and debris. Current riprap is an emergency repair.	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue to make stabilization repairs to the stone river walls.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where feasible, establish a sustainable, vegetated shoreline; in other areas construct stone-faced river walls.</li> </ul>
24.2 Demonstrations, Special Events, and National Celebrations	<i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> The recreation fields west of the Tidal Basin are regularly used for special events and for stages and seating. The area may be used as a staging area during runs, walks, and marathons.	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consistent with the First Amendment and federal regulations, continue to fully accommodate demonstrations.</li> <li>• Consistent with federal regulations, continue to accommodate special events.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>

ALTERNATIVE A — FOCUS ON THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE AND EDUCATION	ALTERNATIVE B — FOCUS ON A WELCOMING NATIONAL CIVIC SPACE FOR PUBLIC GATHERINGS, EVENTS, AND HIGH-USE LEVELS	ALTERNATIVE C — FOCUS ON URBAN OPEN SPACE, URBAN ECOLOGY, RECREATION, AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLES
<b>23. FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT MEMORIAL</b> See facing page.		
23.1 Access and Circulation: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>
23.2 Visitor Information, Education, and Enjoyment: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake a comprehensive condition assessment of the memorial, including visitor use patterns.</li> <li>• Increase programming.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Undertake a comprehensive condition assessment of the memorial, including visitor use patterns.</li> <li>• Increase education and programs by using Room 4 as it was intended.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative B.</li> </ul>
23.3 Visitor Amenities: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Provide food service that would also be convenient to the future Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Similar to alternative A except                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Construct a refreshment stand without restrooms that would also be convenient to the future Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>24. WEST POTOMAC PARK RIVERFRONT</b> See facing page.		
24.1 Historic Resources (south of Arlington Memorial Bridge) : <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Restore the dry-laid stone river walls.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reconstruct the river walls as higher, stone-faced structural walls so they are not regularly overtopped by tidewater and floating debris.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Where feasible, establish a sustainable, vegetated shoreline; reconstruct river walls where necessary; add trees; emphasize river views.</li> </ul>
24.2 Demonstrations, Special Events, and National Celebrations: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Develop a small staging area for demonstrations and events (grass pavement, utilities) south of 23rd and Independence Avenue.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>

TOPIC OR AREA	NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE: CONTINUE CURRENT MANAGEMENT	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE — PROVIDE A QUALITY VISITOR EXPERIENCE, PROTECT THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE, AND ACCOMMODATE HIGH-USE LEVELS
24.2 Demonstrations, Special Events, and National Celebrations: Actions (cont.)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to allow the recreation fields to be occasionally used as staging for demonstrations, events, and filming; but limit other uses during recreation seasons.</li> </ul>	
24.3 Access and Circulation	<i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> There are 170 public parking spaces along Ohio Drive.	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to provide parking along Ohio Drive.</li> <li>Limit access or the direction of traffic during some events.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as the no-action alternative plus               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Possibly reconfigure visitor parking areas for more efficient use but retain similar parking levels.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Pedestrian and Bicycle Trails	<i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> Recreational and commuter bike traffic use the riverfront. The Rock Creek <i>Trail Plan</i> calls for widening the trail and Parkway Drive.	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to allow recreational and commuter bike traffic use.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as the no-action alternative plus               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve walks and provide additional seating (see actions for row 24.1).</li> <li>Develop a system of separate bicycle lanes or trails along Ohio Drive and river walks.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
24.4 Visitor Information, Education, and Enjoyment	<i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> Informal or passive recreation occurs, such as picnicking, play, and walking. Recreation ballfields west of the Tidal Basin are highly sought after for league and recreational games. The fields are occasionally used as staging areas for events and commercial filming.	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue current use policies for recreation fields, including using areas as staging for demonstrations, special events, and filming.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as the no-action alternative plus               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide 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).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>25. GEORGE MASON MEMORIAL</b> The memorial to this Founding Father emphasizes the rights of citizens in a democracy and is built around an existing water feature. It contains perennial gardens. No additional actions other than routine maintenance are planned.		
25.1 Historic Resources	<i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> The George Mason Memorial incorporated an existing historic fountain.	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Rehabilitate the historic fountain to improve water quality.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>
<b>26. THOMAS JEFFERSON MEMORIAL</b> 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. This memorial to our third president includes the terrace wall and related plantings, the circular terrace roadway, and the north plaza. It is the site for demonstrations, national celebrations, special events, and civic activity.		
26.1 Demonstrations, Special Events, and National Celebrations	<i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> The memorial plaza provides a stage for the National Cherry Blossom Festival and other events, and its hard surfacing make it a sustainable location for demonstrations, special events, and the media. Management changes in 2008 recommend that stages must be located so they do not block views between the White House and the memorial.	

ALTERNATIVE A — FOCUS ON THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE AND EDUCATION	ALTERNATIVE B — FOCUS ON A WELCOMING NATIONAL CIVIC SPACE FOR PUBLIC GATHERINGS, EVENTS, AND HIGH-USE LEVELS	ALTERNATIVE C — FOCUS ON URBAN OPEN SPACE, URBAN ECOLOGY, RECREATION, AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLES
24.3 Access and Circulation: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reexamine and redesign roads and parking as separate bike lanes are provided.</li> </ul>
Pedestrian and Bicycle Trails: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide separate bike and walking trails, and emphasize recreational trail connections to East Potomac Park and Rock Creek Park, as well as the southwest waterfront.</li> </ul>
24.4 Visitor Information, Education, and Enjoyment: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Provide lockers for temporary personal storage.</li> <li>◦ Develop children’s play areas.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>25. GEORGE MASON MEMORIAL</b> See facing page.		
25.1 Historic Resources: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>
<b>26. THOMAS JEFFERSON MEMORIAL</b> See facing page.		
26.1 Demonstrations, Special Events, and National Celebrations: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		

TOPIC OR AREA	NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE: CONTINUE CURRENT MANAGEMENT	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE — PROVIDE A QUALITY VISITOR EXPERIENCE, PROTECT THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE, AND ACCOMMODATE HIGH-USE LEVELS
26.1 Demonstrations, Special Events, and National Celebrations: Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Consistent with the First Amendment and federal regulations, continue to fully accommodate demonstrations.</li> <li>Consistent with federal regulations, continue to permit special events on the plaza and nearby areas.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as the no-action alternative plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Improve utilities on the plaza and south of the memorial for demonstrations and special events.</li> <li>Allow no special event stage, roof, or walls to obstruct the view to the White House from the plaza.</li> <li>Convert the southside parking area (now closed) to accommodate demonstrations and events; provide utilities.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
26.2 Visitor Information and Education	<i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> There is a contact station on the chamber level, and exhibits and a short movie in the lower level.	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to provide exhibits and information about Thomas Jefferson.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Update exhibits (focusing on Thomas Jefferson, the memorial’s development, and the history of the Tidal Basin, as well as the history of the National Mall).</li> </ul>
26.3 Visitor Amenities	<i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> A bookstore, retail area, and restrooms are located under the memorial.	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue bookstore and restrooms inside the memorial.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as the no-action alternative plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Renovate and expand the restrooms in the memorial.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<b>27. THOMAS JEFFERSON MEMORIAL GROUNDS</b> The memorial grounds include 19.2 acres immediately south of the Tidal Basin, with tall shade trees and cherry trees.		
27.1 Historic Resources	<i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> Plantings on the grounds (deciduous trees, including cherry trees) have historic integrity.	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Preserve historic plantings.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>
27.2 Access and Circulation	<i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> There are about 300 public parking spaces in three lots a short distance from both the George Mason and Thomas Jefferson memorials. There are 8 tour bus parking spaces and 5 spaces for visitors with disabilities.	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Retain the present tour bus drop-off area and public parking.</li> <li>Improve sign system from parking lots A, B, and C.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Redesign the tour bus drop off to improve pedestrian circulation.</li> <li>Improve sign system from parking lots A, B, and C.</li> <li>Provide bicycle lanes or trails for safer or improved access near the memorial and to the I-395 bridges.</li> </ul>
27.3 Visitor Amenities	<i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions):</i> A concession refreshment stand is near East Basin Drive.	
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue the present concession refreshment stand.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Replace the concession refreshment stand with a new facility providing food, restrooms, and retail; consider traffic and circulation patterns, as well as views to and from the memorial, in siting the new facility.</li> </ul>



<b>ALTERNATIVE A — FOCUS ON THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE AND EDUCATION</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVE B — FOCUS ON A WELCOMING NATIONAL CIVIC SPACE FOR PUBLIC GATHERINGS, EVENTS, AND HIGH-USE LEVELS</b>	<b>ALTERNATIVE C — FOCUS ON URBAN OPEN SPACE, URBAN ECOLOGY, RECREATION, AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLES</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative. plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Allow no special event stage, roof, or walls to obstruct the view to the White House.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Install utilities and infrastructure (e.g., power, microphones, tent anchors) on the plaza for use during demonstrations and special events.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative B.</li> </ul>
<p>26.2 Visitor Information and Education: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative A.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Increase ranger programs.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>26.3 Visitor Amenities: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative plus                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Renovate and expand the restrooms in the memorial.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative B.</li> </ul>
<p><b>27. THOMAS JEFFERSON MEMORIAL GROUNDS</b> See facing page.</p>		
<p>27.1 Historic Resources: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>
<p>27.2 Access and Circulation: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Redesign the tour bus drop off to improve pedestrian circulation.</li> <li>• Improve sign system from parking lots A, B, and C.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative A.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as alternative A.</li> </ul>
<p>27.3 Visitor Amenities: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.</p>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Same as the no-action alternative.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Replace the outdated refreshment stand.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Relocate the refreshment stand closer to primary bicycle, pedestrian routes, and the tour bus drop-off.</li> </ul>

**TABLE 8: SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES**

NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE	ALTERNATIVE A	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C
<b>CULTURAL RESOURCES</b>				
<i>Impacts common to all alternatives:</i> Long-term, negligible to minor, and beneficial as the result of protecting and preserving contributing features, along with actions at the Lincoln Memorial (regular preventive maintenance, renovation of the exhibit area and restrooms, and protection of associated features), protection of cherry trees at the Tidal Basin, and rehabilitation of the historic fountain at the George Mason Memorial. No impairment of cultural resources.				
<i>Direct and indirect impacts:</i> Long-term, negligible to minor, and either adverse or beneficial. <i>Cumulative impacts:</i> Long-term, major, and beneficial, with a very small contribution from this alternative.	<i>Direct and indirect impacts:</i> Long-term, negligible to major, and adverse; and long-term, negligible to moderate, and beneficial. <i>Cumulative impacts:</i> Long-term, major, and beneficial, with a noticeable contribution from this alternative.	<i>Direct and indirect impacts:</i> Long-term, negligible to major, and adverse; and long-term, negligible to minor, and beneficial. <i>Cumulative impacts:</i> Long-term, major, and beneficial, with a very small contribution from this alternative.	<i>Direct and indirect impacts:</i> Long-term, minor to major, and adverse; and long-term, minor to moderate, and beneficial. <i>Cumulative impacts:</i> Long-term, major, and beneficial, with a small contribution from this alternative.	<i>Direct and indirect impacts:</i> Long-term to permanent, negligible to major, and adverse, and long-term, negligible to moderate, and beneficial. <i>Cumulative impacts:</i> Long-term, major, and beneficial, with a noticeable adverse contribution from this alternative.
<i>NHPA section 106 summary:</i> Potential adverse effects.	<i>NHPA section 106 summary:</i> Potential adverse effects; further consultation required to make a final determination of effect and to identify appropriate mitigation measures.	<i>NHPA section 106 summary:</i> Potential adverse effects; further consultation required to make a final determination of effect and to identify appropriate mitigation measures.	<i>NHPA section 106 summary:</i> Potential adverse effects; further consultation required to make a final determination of effect and to identify appropriate mitigation measures.	<i>NHPA section 106 summary:</i> Potential adverse effects; further consultation required to make a final determination of effect and to identify appropriate mitigation measures.
<b>NATURAL RESOURCES: WATER QUALITY</b>				
<i>Impacts common to all alternatives:</i> Long-term, negligible, and beneficial impacts from addressing water quality problems and algae growth in designed water features. Continued monitoring of conditions affected by global climate change (e.g., temperature, rainfall, and sea level) and development of strategies to mitigate the effects of climate change, especially sea level rise. No unacceptable impacts or resource impairment.				
<i>Direct and indirect impacts:</i> Continued short- and long-term, minor to moderate, adverse impacts on potable water use, groundwater, and surface water resources. <i>Cumulative impacts:</i> Long-term, moderate, and adverse.	<i>Direct and indirect impacts:</i> Short-term, moderate, adverse impacts during construction at the Tidal Basin and along the Potomac River, but long-term, minor, beneficial impacts on potable water use and on groundwater and surface water resources. <i>Cumulative impacts:</i> Long-term, moderate, and adverse, with a slight beneficial contribution from this alternative.	<i>Direct and indirect impacts:</i> Short-term, negligible, adverse impacts during construction of new Tidal Basin seawalls. Long-term, negligible to minor, beneficial impacts. <i>Cumulative impacts:</i> Long-term, moderate, and adverse, with a slight beneficial contribution from this alternative.	<i>Direct and indirect impacts:</i> Short-term, moderate, adverse impacts during construction at the Tidal Basin and along the Potomac River. Over the long-term, both adverse and beneficial impacts on groundwater and surface water resources, with combined impacts being neutral. <i>Cumulative impacts:</i> Long-term, moderate, and adverse, with slight adverse and beneficial contributions from this alternative.	<i>Direct and indirect impacts:</i> Short-term, moderate, adverse impacts during construction at the Tidal Basin and along the Potomac River. Long-term, negligible to minor, beneficial impacts on potable water use, and on groundwater and surface water resources. <i>Cumulative impacts:</i> Long-term, moderate, and adverse, with a slight beneficial contribution from this alternative.
<b>NATURAL RESOURCES: SOILS</b>				
<i>Impacts common to all alternatives:</i> Long-term, moderate, and beneficial from restoring natural processes and functions.				
<i>Direct and indirect impacts:</i> Continued short- and long-term adverse impacts ranging from minor to major because of heavy daily foot traffic, recreational activities, and large events, affecting soil quality and productivity. <i>Cumulative impacts:</i> Long-term, moderate to	<i>Direct and indirect impacts:</i> Short-term, minor, and adverse from construction; and long-term, moderate, and beneficial from soil augmentation or replacement. <i>Cumulative impacts:</i> Long-term, moderate to major, and adverse, with a modest adverse and beneficial contribution	<i>Direct and indirect impacts:</i> Short-term, negligible, and adverse from construction; and long-term, moderate, and beneficial from soil augmentation or replacement. <i>Cumulative impacts:</i> Long-term, moderate to major, and adverse, with a modest beneficial	<i>Direct and indirect impacts:</i> Short-term, negligible, and adverse; and long-term, moderate, and beneficial from soil augmentation or replacement. <i>Cumulative impacts:</i> Long-term, moderate to major, and adverse, with a modest beneficial contribution from this	<i>Direct and indirect impacts:</i> Short-term, negligible, and adverse; and long-term, moderate, and beneficial from soil augmentation or replacement. <i>Cumulative impacts:</i> Long-term, moderate to major, and adverse, with a modest beneficial contribution from this

NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE	ALTERNATIVE A	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C
<p>major, and adverse, with a large adverse contribution from this alternative.</p> <p>Impacts considered unacceptable because they would continue to impede the attainment of the park's desired future conditions for natural and cultural resources, but no impairment of a key park resource.</p>	<p>from this alternative.</p> <p>No unacceptable impacts or resource impairment.</p>	<p>contribution from this alternative.</p> <p>No unacceptable impacts or resource impairment.</p>	<p>alternative.</p> <p>No unacceptable impacts or resource impairment.</p>	<p>alternative.</p> <p>No unacceptable impacts or resource impairment.</p>
<b>NATURAL RESOURCES: VEGETATION</b>				
<p><i>Impacts common to all alternatives:</i> Long-term, moderate, and beneficial due to improved appearance of vegetation.</p>				
<p><i>Direct and indirect impacts:</i> Continuation of short- and long-term, major, adverse impacts.</p> <p><i>Cumulative impacts:</i> Long-term, moderate to major, and adverse, with a large contribution from this alternative.</p> <p>Impacts considered severe enough to be unacceptable because of continued impedance to the attainment of desired future resource conditions and diminished opportunities for current or future generations to enjoy or be inspired by park resources. Impairment of a key park resource could result unless successful mitigating measures employed.</p>	<p><i>Direct and indirect impacts:</i> Long-term, minor, and adverse from new or widened sidewalks; and long-term, moderate, and beneficial from actions to improve growing conditions for park vegetation.</p> <p><i>Cumulative impacts:</i> Long-term, minor, and adverse, with a modest adverse and beneficial contribution from this alternative.</p> <p>No unacceptable impacts or resource impairment.</p>	<p><i>Direct and indirect impacts:</i> Long-term, negligible, and adverse due to new construction; and long-term, moderate, and beneficial from actions to improve growing conditions for park vegetation.</p> <p><i>Cumulative impacts:</i> Long-term, minor, and adverse, with a small beneficial contribution from this alternative.</p> <p>No unacceptable impacts or resource impairment.</p>	<p><i>Direct and indirect impacts:</i> Long-term, negligible, and adverse from new and widened sidewalks; potential long-term, major, and adverse from the continued use of the Mall elm tree panels if turf/root zones and soils not properly protected. Overall, long-term, moderate, beneficial impacts from improved growing conditions for park vegetation.</p> <p><i>Cumulative impacts:</i> Long-term, minor, and adverse, with a slight beneficial contribution from this alternative.</p> <p>No unacceptable impacts or resource impairment.</p>	<p><i>Direct and indirect impacts:</i> Long-term, negligible, and adverse from new and widened sidewalks; and long-term, moderate, and beneficial from improved growing conditions for park vegetation.</p> <p><i>Cumulative impacts:</i> Long-term, minor, and adverse, with a small beneficial contribution from this alternative.</p> <p>No unacceptable impacts or resource impairment.</p>
<b>NATURAL RESOURCES: FISH AND WILDLIFE</b>				
<p><i>Direct and indirect impacts:</i> Continuation of long-term, moderate, adverse impacts to native and naturalized fish and wildlife populations.</p> <p><i>Cumulative impacts:</i> Long-term, moderate, and adverse.</p> <p>No unacceptable impacts or resource impairment.</p>	<p><i>Direct and indirect impacts:</i> Long-term, minor, and beneficial from stewardship messages to visitors, a self-sustaining pond/ wetland ecosystem at Constitution Gardens Lake, higher seawalls along the Tidal Basin, and a naturalized Potomac River shoreline.</p> <p>Short- and long-term, negligible to moderate, and adverse from various projects throughout the National Mall.</p> <p><i>Cumulative impacts:</i> Long-term, moderate, and adverse, with a slight but adverse contribution from this alternative.</p> <p>No unacceptable impacts or resource impairment.</p>	<p><i>Direct and indirect impacts:</i> Long-term, negligible to minor, and beneficial from actions at Constitution Gardens Lake and along the Tidal Basin; and short- and long-term, negligible to minor, and adverse from construction projects at other sites.</p> <p><i>Cumulative impacts:</i> Long-term, moderate, and adverse, with a slight adverse contribution from alternative A.</p> <p>No unacceptable impacts or resource impairment.</p>	<p><i>Direct and indirect impacts:</i> Short- and long-term, negligible to minor, and adverse from a drainable lake at Constitution Gardens, modifications of the Tidal Basin, and various construction projects; long-term, minor, and beneficial from a more natural Potomac River shoreline in some areas.</p> <p><i>Cumulative impacts:</i> Long-term, moderate, and adverse, with a small contribution from this alternative.</p> <p>No unacceptable impacts or resource impairment.</p>	<p><i>Direct and indirect impacts:</i> Long-term, negligible to minor, and beneficial from stewardship messages to visitors, a self-sustaining pond/ wetland ecosystem at Constitution Gardens Lake, and higher seawalls along the Tidal Basin. Short- and long-term, negligible to moderate, and adverse from various projects throughout the National Mall.</p> <p><i>Cumulative impacts:</i> Long-term, moderate, and adverse, with a slight but adverse overall contribution from this alternative.</p> <p>No unacceptable impacts or resource impairment.</p>

NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE	ALTERNATIVE A	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C
<b>DEMONSTRATIONS, SPECIAL EVENTS, AND NATIONAL CELEBRATIONS</b>				
<i>Impacts common to all alternatives:</i> No change in permit regulations under any alternative. Short- and long-term, minor to moderate, and beneficial or adverse impacts to public access depending on distance to public transportation. Short- to long-term, minor, adverse impacts on event organizers from periodic closings of areas for construction, restoration, or maintenance.				
<p><i>Direct and indirect impacts:</i> No change in impacts on demonstration and event participants and organizers from the continued use of current venues, including the Mall elm tree panels. Likely continued demand for space on the National Mall (particularly the Mall, the Washington Monument grounds, and the Lincoln Memorial) because of the status and visibility conferred on events due to the presence of national icons in the background. But long-term, moderate to major, adverse impacts because of inadequate venues and the lack of visitor facilities and amenities.</p> <p><i>Cumulative impacts:</i> Long-term, moderate to major, and adverse because of increasingly inadequate venues and visitor services and amenities, with a substantial adverse contribution from this alternative.</p>	<p><i>Direct and indirect impacts:</i> Long-term, major, beneficial impacts because of changes in the permitting, scheduling, and management process; equitable requirements for all organizers; additional and more sustainable venues in highly desirable locations; conveniently located civic infrastructure to facilitate event operations; permanent visitor facilities such as restrooms; a redesigned Union Square that could accommodate larger crowds; a flexible multi-purpose space at the Sylvan Theater location; and a new venue at Constitution Gardens. Long-term, major, adverse impacts on the few organizers who could no longer use the elm tree panels on the Mall for temporary event facilities (such as tents and stages).</p> <p><i>Cumulative impacts:</i> Long-term, major, and beneficial for all organizers and participants, with a substantial beneficial contribution from this alternative.</p>	<p><i>Direct and indirect impacts:</i> Long-term, minor, and beneficial because of changes in the permitting, scheduling, and management process; somewhat improved venue conditions; and permanent small visitor facilities such as restrooms. However, no increase in user capacity of desirable venues, and fewer events in high visibility venues such as the Mall and the Washington Monument grounds because of mandated recovery time between events. Long-term, major, adverse impacts on the few organizers who could no longer use the elm tree panels on the Mall for temporary event facilities (such as tents and stages).</p> <p><i>Cumulative impacts:</i> Long-term, moderate, and beneficial, with a small beneficial contribution from this alternative.</p>	<p><i>Direct and indirect impacts:</i> Long-term, major, and beneficial because of changes in the permitting, scheduling, and management process; more sustainable venues in highly desirable locations; conveniently located civic infrastructure to facilitate event operations; permanent visitor facilities such as restrooms; a redesigned Union Square that could accommodate larger crowds; a flexible multi-purpose space at the Sylvan Theater location; and a new venue at Constitution Gardens.</p> <p><i>Cumulative impacts:</i> Long-term, major, and beneficial, with a substantial beneficial contribution from this alternative.</p>	<p><i>Direct and indirect impacts:</i> Long-term, major, and beneficial because of changes in the permitting, scheduling, and management process, additional and more sustainable venues in highly desirable locations; conveniently located civic infrastructure to facilitate event operations; permanent visitor facilities such as restrooms; a redesigned Union Square that could accommodate larger crowds; a reoriented Sylvan Theater to improve viewing from the hillside; and a new venue at Constitution Gardens. Long-term, major, adverse impacts on the few organizers who could no longer use the elm tree panels on the Mall for temporary event facilities (such as tents and stages).</p> <p><i>Cumulative impacts:</i> Long-term, major, and beneficial, with a substantial beneficial contribution from this alternative.</p>
<b>ACCESS AND CIRCULATION</b>				
<i>Impacts common to all alternatives:</i> Long-term, moderate to major, beneficial impacts from adding the National Mall name to the Smithsonian Metro station, continuing to redesign tour bus drop-offs and pickups, addressing trash impacts from tour bus passengers, and working with the city and local businesses to provide an appropriate amount of convenient parking for tour buses and visitors. However, temporary to long-term, minor to major, adverse impacts from constructing previously approved projects, which could interrupt the local transportation system.				
<p><i>Direct and indirect impacts:</i> No change to access and circulation, with long-term, moderate to major, adverse impacts from more difficult visitor access with increased use; a less desirable pedestrian environment from inadequate walkway surfaces and amenities and more traffic impacts; no improved bicycling facilities; and more traffic congestion.</p> <p><i>Cumulative impacts:</i> Long-term, major, and</p>	<p><i>Direct and indirect impacts:</i> Long-term, major, and beneficial from a greater emphasis on a pedestrian-oriented environment; improved, safer, and more comfortable walking and bicycle environments; separate bicycle routes or lanes; improved roadway access in the southeast area of the Tidal Basin; and more options and access for people with disabilities.</p> <p><i>Cumulative impacts:</i></p>	<p><i>Direct and indirect impacts:</i> Long-term, moderate, beneficial impacts from increased crosswalk timing and additional pedestrian amenities; but long-term, moderate, adverse impacts on bicycle users because of continued unsafe riding conditions.</p> <p><i>Cumulative impacts:</i> Long-term, major, and beneficial largely as a result of an improved visitor transportation service, as well as pres-</p>	<p><i>Direct and indirect impacts:</i> Long-term, major, and beneficial from improved access, underground parking garages, a safer pedestrian environment (including safer road crossings), and reduced conflicts with traffic. Long-term, moderate, and adverse impacts on bicycle users because of not meeting either the needs of bicyclists or local planning goals.</p> <p><i>Cumulative impacts:</i></p>	<p><i>Direct and indirect impacts:</i> Long-term, major, and beneficial due to improved access and parking, a greater emphasis on safer and pleasanter pedestrian and bicycling environments, and more options for families and people with disabilities.</p> <p><i>Cumulative impacts:</i> Long-term, major, and beneficial due to better wayfinding aids for pedestrians, an improved visitor transpor-</p>

Comparison of Alternatives: Table 8: Summary of Environmental Consequences

NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE	ALTERNATIVE A	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C
beneficial due to improved maps and wayfinding signs, an improved visitor transportation service, and better access to the National Mall for motorists, Metro users, and bicyclists, affecting a very large number of motorists, as well as bicyclists and pedestrians and offsetting adverse impacts under this alternative.	Long-term, major, and beneficial because of better wayfinding aids, an improved visitor transportation system, future road improvements for motorists and Metro users, and more convenient access for pedestrians, bicyclists, families with children, and people with disabilities, with a substantial beneficial contribution from this alternative.	ent and future projects occurring outside the National Mall with a small beneficial contribution from this alternative because of a somewhat improved pedestrian environment on the National Mall.	Long-term, major, and beneficial from better wayfinding aids for pedestrians, an improved visitor transportation service, and future road improvements for motorists and Metro users, with a substantial beneficial contribution from this alternative.	tation service, future road improvements for motorists and Metro users, and more convenient access for pedestrians, bicyclists, families with children, and people with disabilities, with a substantial beneficial contribution from this alternative.
<b>VISITOR EXPERIENCE</b>				
<i>Impacts common to all alternatives:</i> Long-term, moderate to major, and beneficial as a result of continued educational opportunities about First Amendment rights; cooperative efforts with local tourist organizations and the tour bus industry to ensure they have accurate information and to facilitate access to areas on the National Mall (affecting 20%–30% of visitors); and applying conservation zones and standards to ensure that visitor expectations are consistently met.				
<p><i>Direct and indirect impacts:</i> Continued long-term, moderate to major, and adverse despite the fact that visitors would continue to be inspired by the National Mall and its memorials. Visitor expectations for quality experiences not met because of the degraded condition of natural resources, inadequate information and education about park resources and opportunities, insufficient facilities (such as restrooms and food service) for present user volumes, and continued public health and safety challenges.</p> <p><i>Cumulative impacts:</i> Long-term, major, and beneficial, with a slight adverse contribution from the no-action alternative.</p>	<p><i>Direct and indirect impacts:</i> Long-term, major, and beneficial due to well-maintained areas that would meet desired National Mall conditions, enhanced website information, a more welcoming atmosphere (including a welcome plaza on the Mall and daily interpretive program listings), more opportunities to understand core American values through expanded educational themes, well-dispersed and pleasant visitor facilities that are adequately sized to meet user needs, more food service choice, an improved pedestrian and bicycling environment, increased opportunities for informal enjoyment, additional recreational opportunities and improved playing fields, more shaded seating, additional pedestrian lighting, and an emergency notification system.</p> <p><i>Cumulative impacts:</i> Long-term, major, and beneficial, with a substantial beneficial contribution from this alternative.</p>	<p><i>Direct and indirect impacts:</i> Long-term, moderate, and beneficial due to substantially improved resource conditions and the appearance of the National Mall, better website information, educational themes focused on memorials and the development of the capital city, improved visitor facilities supplemented by small visitor facilities and food service at refreshment stands, a better pedestrian environment, improved playing field conditions, and an emergency notification system. But the needs of high volumes of users not met.</p> <p><i>Cumulative impacts:</i> Long-term, major, and beneficial, with a modest beneficial contribution from this alternative.</p>	<p><i>Direct and indirect impacts:</i> Long-term, major, and beneficial due to well-maintained areas that would meet desired conditions for the National Mall, better website information, educational themes focused on the memorials and the civic function of the National Mall, well-dispersed and pleasant visitor facilities that are adequately sized to meet user needs, more food service choice, an improved pedestrian environment, increased opportunities for informal enjoyment as well as additional recreational opportunities and improved playing fields, more shaded seating, additional pedestrian lighting, and an emergency notification system.</p> <p><i>Cumulative impacts:</i> Long-term, major, and beneficial, with a substantial beneficial contribution from this alternative.</p>	<p><i>Direct and indirect impacts:</i> Long-term, major, and beneficial due to improved conditions on the National Mall, better website information, educational themes focused on memorials and healthy lifestyles, well-dispersed and pleasant facilities that are adequately sized to meet user needs, more food service choice, an improved pedestrian and bicycling environment, increased opportunities for informal enjoyment, additional recreational opportunities and improved playing fields, more shaded seating, additional pedestrian lighting, and an emergency notification system.</p> <p><i>Cumulative impacts:</i> Long-term, major, and beneficial, with a substantial beneficial contribution from this alternative.</p>
<b>SOCIOECONOMIC ENVIRONMENT</b>				
<i>Impacts common to all alternatives:</i> Long-term, minor, and beneficial on the local and regional economy from visitation to existing monuments and memorials on the National Mall, commercial business opportunities in and around the National Mall, as well as in the metropolitan area, new business opportunities for retail and food service near the National Mall, and ongoing use of businesses in nearby areas. Short-term, minor, beneficial impacts on the local and regional economy from the construction of previously approved projects.				
<i>Direct and indirect impacts:</i> Long-term, negli-	<i>Direct and indirect impacts:</i> Long-term, minor,	<i>Direct and indirect impacts:</i> Long-term, minor,	<i>Direct and indirect impacts:</i> Long-term, minor,	<i>Direct and indirect impacts:</i> Long-term, minor,

NO-ACTION ALTERNATIVE	PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE	ALTERNATIVE A	ALTERNATIVE B	ALTERNATIVE C
<p>gible, and beneficial because of slightly increased visitation levels to the National Mall and related visitor expenditures at commercial businesses.</p> <p><i>Cumulative impacts:</i> Long-term, minor, and beneficial due to increased visitation, plus business and construction opportunities, with a slight beneficial contribution from this alternative.</p>	<p>and beneficial from longer visitor stays due to better resource conditions and new and improved visitor services and facilities, increased and diversified commercial business opportunities that would meet visitor needs on the National Mall and in surrounding areas, and minor increases in construction-related expenditures.</p> <p><i>Cumulative impacts:</i> Long-term, minor, and beneficial, with a slight beneficial contribution from this alternative.</p>	<p>and beneficial from enhanced visitor experiences due to improved conditions of the historic landscape and vistas, but only slight increases in visitation. Slight increase in commercial business opportunities on the National Mall with improved food service facilities. Minor increase in construction-related expenditures.</p> <p><i>Cumulative impacts:</i> Long-term, minor, and beneficial, with a slight beneficial contribution from this alternative.</p>	<p>and beneficial from longer visitor stays due to better resource conditions, improved services and facilities, increased and diversified commercial business opportunities that would meet visitor needs, and minor increases in construction-related expenses. Long-term, minor, adverse impacts of parking costs for underground garages (if determined feasible).</p> <p><i>Cumulative impacts:</i> Long-term, minor, and beneficial, with a slight beneficial contribution from this alternative.</p>	<p>and beneficial from longer visitor stays due to better resource conditions, improved services and facilities, and more year-round recreational opportunities; diversified commercial business opportunities that would meet visitor needs; and minor increases in construction-related expenses.</p> <p><i>Cumulative impacts:</i> Long-term, minor, and beneficial, with a slight beneficial contribution from this alternative.</p>
<b>PARK OPERATIONS</b>				
<p><i>Impacts common to all alternatives:</i> Short- and long-term, moderate to major, and beneficial due to written standards and criteria, visual quality and response teams to identify and address high-profile problems and concerns, staffing levels aligned with essential operations, less intrusive temporary fencing, a solid waste and recycling plan, and increased use of renewable energy sources and recycling practices. Construction-related impacts on the National Mall would generally be short-term, minor to moderate, and adverse.</p>				
<p><i>Direct and indirect impacts:</i> Long-term, moderate to major, and adverse because of not meeting desired standards (including a deferred maintenance backlog; difficult-to-maintain landscapes, systems, and infrastructure; and lack of venues designed to accommodate intensive levels of use), inefficient operations, and unsustainable practices. Continued funding gap at about 54% of need. Any benefits to park operations or sustainability from past, present, and future projects overwhelmed by additional facilities and ongoing high-priority demands because of the park's highly prominent and visible location. Continued operational challenges despite the long-term, moderate to major, beneficial impacts of actions common to all alternatives.</p> <p><i>Cumulative impacts:</i> Long-term, major, and adverse, with a slight adverse contribution from this alternative.</p>	<p><i>Direct and indirect impacts:</i> Long-term, major, and beneficial as a result of improved park conditions, a reduced deferred maintenance backlog, increased maintainability of mechanical systems and infrastructure, improved operational access, a streamlined permitting process for demonstrations and special events, a reduced funding gap between desired conditions and park budgets, appropriate staffing levels aligned to core operations, and exceedance of sustainability standards for development, renewable energy, and water use.</p> <p><i>Cumulative impacts:</i> Long-term, major, and adverse from past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions, plus long-term, major, and beneficial from the preferred alternative, resulting in long-term, moderate, beneficial cumulative impacts.</p>	<p><i>Direct and indirect impacts:</i> Long-term, moderate, and adverse because impacts of high use not fully addressed, such as developing more sustainable venues for demonstrations, national celebrations, and special events or seeking sustainable water sources for large water features. However, long-term, moderate to major, beneficial impacts from actions common to all action alternatives because of better maintenance of desired park conditions, a reduced deferred maintenance backlog, a reduced funding gap between desired conditions and park budgets, some more efficient park operations, and some use of renewable energy sources.</p> <p><i>Cumulative impacts:</i> Long-term, moderate, and adverse even though park operations improved and deferred maintenance addressed; no sustainable solutions for high-use areas or water features, resulting in a considerable beneficial contribution from this alternative.</p>	<p><i>Direct and indirect impacts:</i> Long-term, major, and beneficial as a result of improved park conditions, a reduced deferred maintenance backlog, increased maintainability of mechanical systems and infrastructure, improved operational access, a streamlined permitting process for demonstrations and special events, a reduced funding gap between desired conditions and park budgets, appropriate staffing levels aligned to core operations, and greater reliance on renewable energy sources. However, no measures taken to make water use more sustainable or to support local goals to encourage greater use of alternative modes of access.</p> <p><i>Cumulative impacts:</i> The Long-term, moderate, and adverse as a result of treated water use and underground parking garages not meeting sustainability goals, with a large adverse contribution from this alternative.</p>	<p><i>Direct and indirect impacts:</i> Long-term, major, and beneficial as a result of improved park conditions, a reduced deferred maintenance backlog, increased maintainability of mechanical systems and infrastructure, improved operational access, a streamlined permitting process for demonstrations and special events, a reduced funding gap between desired conditions and park budgets, appropriate staffing levels aligned to core operations, and exceedance of sustainability standards for development, renewable energy, and water use.</p> <p><i>Cumulative impacts:</i> Long-term, major, and adverse from past, present, and reasonably foreseeable actions, plus long-term, major, beneficial impacts from alternative C, resulting in long-term, moderate, beneficial cumulative impacts.</p>