


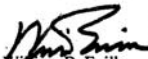
# CONTENTS: SPECIFIC COMMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTAL RESPONSES

## Regional Governments and Organizations

Regional Governments .....	156
Letter 24. City of Alexandria, Virginia.....	156
Letter 25. Loudoun County, Virginia .....	158
Letter 26. Maryland Department of Transportation.....	158
Organizations .....	159
Letter 27. American Institute of Architects.....	159
Letter 28. American Restroom Association .....	160
Letter 29. Association of the Oldest Inhabitants of The District of Columbia .....	161
Letter 30. Detroit Model Yacht Club (DMYC).....	165
Letter 31. Gold Star Mothers National Monument Foundation, Inc. ....	165
Letter 32. National Turfgrass Federation .....	165
Letter 33.1. Public Hygiene Lets Us Stay Human .....	166
Letter 33.2. Public Hygiene Lets Us Stay Human .....	167
Letter 34. Stars Unlimited .....	168
Letter 35. University of Colorado .....	173



REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS

Comment	Letter 24. City of Alexandria, Virginia	Response
	 <p style="text-align: center;"><i>City of Alexandria, Virginia</i> 301 King Street, Suite 2300 Alexandria, Virginia 22314</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>William D. Euille</i> Mayor</p> <p style="text-align: right;">City Hall: (703) 838-4500 Home: (703) 836-2680 Fax: (703) 838-6433 alexamayor@aol.com</p> <p>March 5, 2010</p> <p>National Mall Plan National Mall and Memorial Parks 900 Ohio Drive S.W. Washington, D.C. 20024</p> <p>On behalf of the Alexandria City Council, I want to thank the National Park Service for their initiative in developing this plan to guide rehabilitation of the National Mall, to help it function better as our country's primary civic space, to address visitor needs for access, recreation, facilities and services, and to improve park operations and sustainability. We appreciate the opportunity to offer comments.</p> <p>The <i>Draft National Mall Plan and Environmental Impact Statement</i> thoughtfully addresses many of the challenges facing the National Mall. Our comments will focus on a few specific but very important aspects of the plan that concern <i>access</i> – to and from the National Mall, and the surrounding region generally, and Alexandria in particular.</p> <p>A The City recommends that the following access issues be addressed in the Plan: bike and pedestrian connectivity to bridges across Potomac River, including wayfinding to the Mount Vernon Trail and other destinations; vehicular and transit access across the Potomac during peak traffic periods including large events on the Mall; adequate vehicular circulation and access within the Mall area so as not to impact roadways across the Potomac. The City recommends that parking and shuttle bus options to the National Mall from Alexandria should be addressed in the plan.</p> <p>B The City supports a greater emphasis in the plan on a water taxi stop. In the past few years, water taxi service on the Potomac River has expanded significantly and there is clear evidence of growing demand. Among the locations now connected by water taxi are Georgetown, Old Town Alexandria, National Harbor, and Nationals Park. Work is progressing on a proposed water taxi stop at National Airport, and possibly a commuter service from Prince William County. In addition, there are a number of planned waterfront development projects in Washington, D.C. that will increase the number of residents, workers, and visitors in close proximity to marina facilities that could serve as water taxi stops. It is not difficult to imagine that many Washington, D.C. area visitors would enjoy arriving to the National Mall by water taxi, or using a water taxi to continue their tour of the area by water.</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>"Home Town of George Washington and Robert E. Lee"</i></p>	<p>A. Potomac River bridge projects will be undertaken by others, and the <i>Draft Environmental Impact Statement</i> evaluated the interrelationships of these ideas. Improved bicycle and pedestrian access on all Potomac River bridges is compatible with the proposed National Mall plan and would encourage sustainable circulation methods. The proposed plan would improve bicycle or pedestrian access to the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Bridge, which is recommended by the <i>Monumental Core Framework Plan</i> (see DEIS, p. 44).</p> <p>Together, the <i>Monumental Core Framework Plan</i>, the proposed National Mall plan, and D.C. pedestrian and bicycle plans have defined a cohesive vision for improved pedestrian and bicycle access and connections for the areas you mention. One step to improve pedestrian and bicycle connections over Potomac River bridges is the Ohio Drive roadwork project, which is underway. The 14th Street bridge corridor would also address these issues. As you note, other actions will take a much longer time.</p> <p>Parking and shuttle bus options need to be part of a larger tour bus management approach, as described in the <i>Draft Environmental Impact Statement</i> on pages 70, 85, and 168 (actions for row 5.8).</p> <p>B. While it is not the intent of the National Park Service to provide water taxis, the proposed plan would accommodate them; see the <i>Draft Environmental Impact Statement</i>, pages 94 and 240 (actions for row 24.2). Water taxi service with transfers to other transit modes is included in the <i>Monumental Core Framework Plan</i>, as it was in the <i>Legacy</i> plan, and this has been clarified in the final document.</p>

Comment	Letter 24. City of Alexandria, Virginia (cont.)	Response
C	<p>The National Mall has limited opportunities for additional parking and access is an issue. Water taxis apparently can provide substantive increases in transportation capacity: the Old Town Alexandria - National Harbor Water Taxi reports that it carried about 100,000 person-trips in its first year of operation and that number is increasing.</p> <p>The City notes that the proposed location in West Potomac Park is likely the best option, as a water taxi stop at the foot of the Lincoln Memorial steps is undesirable for historic and esthetic reasons. The City suggests a location either near the John Ericsson National Memorial (where there is a direct pedestrian connection to the Lincoln Memorial) or where Ohio Drive SW meets West Basin Drive SW. This second location is farther from the Mall itself but very close to the entrance of the FDR Memorial, which is designated as a transportation hub.</p> <p>Alexandria is currently preparing a new plan for our waterfront area, including our public spaces, and we are encountering many of the same issues that are addressed in the <i>Draft National Mall Plan and Environmental Impact Statement</i>. We appreciate the significant undertaking it is to collaboratively develop a plan for the future of this national treasure. We are pleased to provide additional information and answer questions regarding any of our comments.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>  <p>William D. Euille Mayor</p> <p>cc: The Honorable Members of City Council James K. Hartmann, City Manager Mark Jinks, Deputy City Manager Faroll Hamer, Director, Planning and Zoning Rich Baier, Director, Transportation and Environmental Services James Spengler, Director, Recreation, Parks and Cultural Activities</p>	<p>C. Your suggestion for a water taxi stop near the John Ericsson Memorial is noted. Appropriate locations and design of nodes would require further study and approvals as proposals were made.</p>

Comment	Letter 25. Loudoun County, Virginia	Response
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Loudoun County, Virginia</b></p> <p>Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the above referenced project. Loudoun County has no comments at this time.</p> <p>Sincerely, Marie Genovese</p> <p>Marie Genovese, AICP Planner, Community Planning 1 Harrison Street, 3rd Floor Leesburg, VA 20177 Phone (703) 777-0246 Fax (703) 777-0441</p>	<p>[EDITOR'S NOTE: Loudoun County, Virginia, submitted its comment by e-mail.]</p>
Comment	Letter 26. Maryland Department of Transportation	Response
	<p>TSO Secretary MDOT &lt;Secretary@mdot.state.md.us&gt;</p> <p>To &lt;<a href="mailto:nationalmallplan@nps.gov">nationalmallplan@nps.gov</a>&gt; cc 02/12/2010 01:20 PM Subject: Thank You for Contacting Secretary Swaim-Staley</p> <p>On behalf of Governor O'Malley and Lieutenant Governor Brown, I want to thank you for contacting the Maryland Department of Transportation. Your input is very important. Either a member of my staff or I will contact you shortly.</p>	<p>[EDITOR'S NOTE: The Maryland Department of Transportation submitted comments by e-mail.]</p>

# ORGANIZATIONS

Comment	Letter 27. American Institute of Architects	Response
<p>A</p> <p>B</p>	 <p><b>AIA Washington DC</b> The Washington Chapter of the American Institute of Architects 1777 Church Street, NW - Washington, D.C. 20036 - 202.567.1795 - Fax: 202.567.4327 - www.aiaetc.com</p> <p>March 16, 2010</p> <p>National Mall and Memorial Parks ATTN: National Mall Plan 900 Ohio Drive, SW Washington, DC 20024</p> <p>Dear National Mall Plan Team:</p> <p>On behalf of the Board of Directors of the Washington DC Chapter of the American Institute of Architects I am delighted to have the opportunity to comment on the <i>Draft Mall Plan/Environmental Impact Statement</i>. The Mall as we know it today is due in no small part to the efforts of one of the founders of our Chapter, Glenn Brown. It was Mr. Brown who convinced Senator McMillan to call for a plan and the rest, as they say, is history.</p> <p>It is therefore, with a sense of this Chapter's role in the history of this important civic space that we let you know that while we generally support the Preferred Alternative, we believe this plan offers the opportunity to do more: the Mall should be a showcase for sustainable design.</p> <p>This is not without precedent. The formal design of landscape and plazas in the McMillan Commission plan influenced many civic spaces in this country and around the world. It would be appropriate in this current review of the Mall to be as forward-thinking and influential as the Commission was by using the best design tools of the day.</p> <p>Therefore, we strongly urge you to supplement your Preferred Alternative by incorporating sustainable design features. For example, as most visitors arrive by Metro or bus to the Mall, you could emphasize the importance of public transportation by keeping your visitor contact station connected to the Metro Station as outlined in Alternatives B and C. The plan should also favor the pedestrian whenever possible, by providing appropriate sustainable paving, keeping the crosswalks across the Mall, and reducing the danger of crossing from the Mall to the Tidal Basin Area. In addition, water features that are sustainable, such as those suggested in Alternative C for the Union Square Area, would add greatly to visitor comfort and provide an opportunity to educate on the importance on water conservation.</p> <p>We believe that making sustainable design practices a key element of the plan will not only improve it, but will show the Federal Government leading the country forward on this important global issue.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p>  <p>Steven Spurlock, AIA, LEED AP President</p> <p>2010 OFFICERS   Steven Spurlock, AIA, LEED AP, President   Yolanda Cole, AIA, President Elect   Jonathan Penndorf, AIA, LEED AP, Treasurer   David Haresign, AIA, Secretary   David Daileda, FAIA, Past President   Mary Fitch, AIA, Mon. AIA, Executive Director</p>	<p>A. We agree that the National Mall should be a showcase or influential role model for sustainable design. Several other topics where the National Mall should set an example have been suggested in the plan or by the public, including civic space, universal accessible design, pedestrian environment/walkability, and visitor facilities such as restrooms.</p> <p>B. The proposed plan sets a vision and describes sustainable goals, which would be required criteria for subsequent designs. The plan embraces maximizing principles established by both LEED and the Sustainable Sites Initiative™. It includes the ideas you support, such as the importance of public transportation, pedestrian improvements, and sustainable water use. We agree that the federal government can and should lead on this important global issue. Sustainability is required by Executive Orders 13423 and 13514, as well as NPS policies. Language related to sustainability has been updated and expanded, and information has been added about Executive Order 13514. Also, please see response 6.1D and letter 9 from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.</p>

Comment	Letter 28. American Restroom Association	Response
A	<p>Robert Brubaker  robert.brubaker@americanrestroom.org  American Restroom Association</p> <p>[Comment pertaining to question 1 ("Indicate the extent to which you agree with the overall Preferred Alternative Vision to restore the National Mall.")]</p> <p>When one Googles 'national mall restrooms' the first link they see is the American Restroom Association National Mall Restroom web page. <a href="http://americanrestroom.org/gov/nps">http://americanrestroom.org/gov/nps</a> This has resulted in our organization getting significant feedback about the problems people face finding restrooms when they visit the Mall. For the most part this plan addresses the issue, with one glaring exception. It appears to ignore the problem people face when they are on the east side of the mall before or after the museums are open. A majority of the National Mall Restroom feedback our organization receives on the subject relates to this problem. I would strongly encourage that some limited number of proper sanitation facilities be added to the plan for the east side of the Mall to address the serious deficiency. For the most part this plan addresses the issue with one glaring exception.</p>	<p>[EDITOR'S NOTE: Comment submitted online.]</p> <p>A. Concern about the lack of restrooms on the east end of the National Mall after museums close for the day was addressed in the plan for both Union Square and the Mall. See the <i>Draft Environmental Impact Statement</i>, pages 89, 90, 200 (actions for row 10.9), and 208-10 (actions for row 11.7).</p>

# The Association of the Oldest Inhabitants of The District of Columbia

Established Dec. 7, 1865

**Officers:**

*President –*  
William N. Brown

*Vice-president –*  
John Gill, Sr.

*Treasurer –*  
Hulit Pressley Taylor

*Secretary –*  
Seymour Selig

*Historian –*  
Nelson Rimensnyder

*Fire Dept. Liaison –*  
John Breen

**Directors:**

A.L. Wheeler –  
Past-president

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**The Association of the Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia – the District's oldest civic organization – was established on December 7, 1865, to preserve memories and matters of historic interest. By virtue of our long presence and participation in the city's prosperity and improvement, we continue to work and strive for the city's stability, security and advancement – to aid in every way the prosperity and well-being of the District while preserving the heritage of its past.**

March 10, 2010

National Mall and Memorial Parks  
Attn: National Mall Plan  
900 Ohio Drive, SW  
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Superintendent Piltzecker:

As the District's oldest civic organization – founded in 1865 – and dedicated to the maintenance and preservation of both the L'Enfant and McMillan Plans, the Association of the Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia is pleased to comment on the Draft National Mall Plan and EIS.

First, we would like to commend Ms. Spain, her team, you and your staff for your research, documentation, attention to detail and thoroughness in your efforts to restore, improve and plan for the National Mall.

Second, of great concern to the AOI (but now somewhat ameliorated by the availability of funding through the American Recovery & Reinvestment Act of 2009) were the deteriorating conditions of the Reflecting Pool, World War I Memorial, Tidal Basin sea walls and other locales requiring immediate attention. We are pleased that these repairs will be addressed outside the scope of the Plan but we feel their needs must continue to be addressed, their maintenance ensured and their sight-lines preserved.

Third, the following will address our support and/or concerns for the National Mall Plan and our hope that our input will be given great consideration as the plan progresses:

– The AOI supports many of the concepts and recommendations under the Preferred Alternative. We are first, and foremost, concerned about the immediate appearance of the green spaces of the Mall. We firmly believe that priority should be given to restoring (including re-engineering, irrigation, protection of) the grassy areas of the Mall. We believe the Mall's unique green space and vistas can benefit from a prohibition of all recreational activities (sporting events) on the Mall proper (soccer, rugby, football, baseball, etc.) which should be relegated to designated areas which currently exist in other locations on the Mall (West Potomac Park, the Ellipse, the area just northwest of the Lincoln Memorial or East Potomac Park). We believe that healthy life styles and recreation should be a part of the plan but not at the expense of the grassy areas of the

A


B

A. We agree that maintenance needs to be ensured and sight lines preserved.

B. Vital to the health and long-term sustainability of the turf is the restoration of soils and the installation of an irrigation system. The plan proposes that small areas be restored more frequently. At the same time there have been agreements with the city since 1949 allowing recreational uses on the National Mall. As shown in the *Draft Environmental Impact Statement* on page 331, league activities occur in designated areas; these activities are occasionally superseded by permitted activities or weather conditions.

Comment	Letter 29. Association of the Oldest Inhabitants of The District of Columbia (cont.)	Response
	<p><b>The Association of the Oldest Inhabitants of The District of Columbia</b> Established Dec. 7, 1865</p> <p>Mall – its vistas and views so striking and worthy of protection. Without prohibiting recreational activities on the Mall’s lawns, we believe the Park Service will continue to expend extraordinary efforts and unnecessary maintenance funds attempting to maintain and repair the damage inflicted by sporting activities.</p> <p>– We believe the Preferred Alternative incorporates and addresses the goals of all the alternatives: Historic Landscape &amp; Education; a Welcoming National Civic Space for public Gatherings, Events &amp; High-Use Levels; and, Focus on Urban Open Space, Urban Ecology, Recreation and Healthy Lifestyles. In order to address all of these goals, visitor amenities, safety and a positive visitor experience must serve the visitors but not distract from the memorials, historic views and vistas. However, we do not want to see an array of pavilions, information kiosks, restrooms and snack bars polluting these vistas while, at the same time, we recognize the need for food, comfort, information, shelter and safety. We believe the National Park Service should work with its partners (the National Coalition to Save the Mall, the Trust for the National Mall, the Smithsonian Institution and others) to share space in either the Smithsonian’s Arts and Industries Building or the Agriculture Departments building on the Mall to design and establish a National Mall Visitors’ Welcome Center. We picture the Park Service’s Independence National Historical Park pavilion in Philadelphia, PA. Such an amenity could provide visitor services, a food court, orientation videos, a theatre, ticket acquisition for timed tours, First Aid Stations and restroom facilities. Both locations are convenient to Metro, Metro Bus, DC Circulator service and tour bus drop-offs. A facility such as this could provide not only the aforementioned amenities but would be a ‘first stop’ for the first-time or casual visitor to discover the many, varied programs, memorials and activities along the National Mall. It is somewhere a visitor could ask, “I have only three hours to spend on the Mall... our interests are democracy and history.” With that, Park Service Rangers and volunteers could help that visitor construct a series of walks and activities that would address their specific needs within their time limitations. Smaller information kiosks, combined with snack bar/restroom facilities could still remain available throughout the Mall; but, there should be one, comprehensive, full-service facility that would be the visitor’s first point of contact. Both of these wonderful facilities (the Arts and Industries Building and the Agriculture Department Annex) command the grandeur of architecture and location that the National Mall and its visitors deserve.</p> <p>– We support the improvements envisioned for Union Square, Constitution Gardens, the Washington Monument grounds, the Lincoln Memorial, the Jefferson Memorial, Viet Nam Memorial, Korean Memorial, World War II Memorial, World War I Memorial and the soon-to-be Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial; but, while we would welcome food services, additional or improved restrooms and information kiosks at or near all of these sites we are concerned that the Mall will be dotted with structures that interfere with its great open spaces. We recognize that locating these facilities and amenities underground would be nearly impossible, if not cost prohibitive, but every effort should be made to ensure they blend into the Mall’s environment and do not distract from its grandeur, space or story.</p> <p><b>The Association of the Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia – the District’s oldest civic organization – was established on December 7, 1865, to preserve memories and matters of historic interest. By virtue of our long presence and participation in the city’s prosperity and improvement, we continue to work and strive for the city’s stability, security and advancement -- to aid in every way the prosperity and well-being of the District while preserving the heritage of its past.</b></p>	<p>C. We agree that visitor facilities should not distract from memorials, historic views, or vistas. Facilities will undergo design reviews and additional historic preservation consultations.</p> <p>D. The National Park Service will continue to work with agencies such as the National Capital Planning Commission, the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts, the Smithsonian Institution, and our fund-raising partner The Trust for the National Mall. As shown on the inside front cover of the <i>Draft Environmental Impact Statement</i>, a number of agencies have worked with the National Park Service to develop the proposed plan. Other groups, such as the National Coalition to Save Our Mall, are not partners but advocacy groups, and they have participated in NHPA section 106 consultation meetings about historic preservation.</p> <p>Regarding the Arts and Industries Building, please see 14.2H from the D.C. Preservation League. The addition of a visitor center within the Reserve is prohibited by the Commemorative Works Act (see the definitions of a visitor center and visitor facilities on page 584 of the <i>Draft Environmental Impact Statement</i>, as well as the discussion on page 130 and on pages 571–75). However, a welcome area at the Smithsonian Metro station near 12th Street and Jefferson Drive would accomplish many of your objectives.</p> <p>E. Please see response C to your letter.</p>




Comment	Letter 29. Association of the Oldest Inhabitants of The District of Columbia (cont.)	Response
	<p><b>The Association of the Oldest Inhabitants of The District of Columbia</b> Established Dec. 7, 1865</p> <p>F -- In the interest of visitor safety and comfort, we agree that appropriate seating should be provided in shaded areas (to address heat issues during the summer months). Lighting consistent with 'green' technology that does not contribute significantly to light pollution to promote night time/after hours safety and sufficient drinking fountains should be available. We also believe that the Park Service should work diligently to ensure that visitors can navigate the long expanses of the National Mall based on their ability and time constraints. All efforts should be made to encourage, promote and welcome non-Park Service-contracted transportation providers (DC Circulator, 'pedicabs', hop on/off sightseeing providers, et al.) to facilitate the movement of visitors in and around the National Mall. Walking surfaces should be designed with sustainability in mind, ease on which wheelchairs and 'scooters' can traverse and walking surface maintainability. Gravel surfaces certainly have proved to be un-workable... concrete and/or asphalt is expensive to install, maintain and repair. We think that there should be alternatives in today's marketplace, sufficiently innovative to meet the 'traffic' requirements of the National Mall. Recycled automobile tires, assembled into large, easily replaceable sections, simulated wood planking from recycled materials (boardwalks and pedestrian bridges on the George Washington Memorial Parkway trails come to mind...) laid on a defined, slightly 'curbed' surface could replace all of the major walkways throughout the National Mall. All efforts should be made to discourage/prohibit social trails that cause so much damage and contribute to the maintenance nightmare of maintaining the lawns.</p> <p>We genuinely hope that you will consider our comments, observations and recommendations and give great weight to the many other innovative, creative and visionary recommendations you receive in response to the draft plan so that as you move forward it is, in fact, a National Mall Plan and not just the National Park Service's plan for the national mall.</p> <p>Sincerely,    William N. Brown, President</p> <p>Attachment</p> <p>Cc: National Coalition to Save Our Mall The Trust for the National Mall</p> <p>The Association of the Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia -- the District's oldest civic organization -- was established on December 7, 1865, to preserve memories and matters of historic interest. By virtue of our long presence and participation in the city's prosperity and improvement, we continue to work and strive for the city's stability, security and advancement -- to aid in every way the prosperity and well-being of the District while preserving the heritage of its past.</p>	<p>F. The plan proposes additional seating in shaded areas; access to shady turf areas would remain.</p> <p>G. We share your concern for visitor safety and comfort, as well as lighting that does not contribute to light pollution.</p> <p>H. The National Mall lends itself to being a role model for a walkable urban park, and we share your concern that surface materials should be both sustainable and accessible. The plan proposes that the National Mall be a role model for sustainability. As stated in the <i>Draft Environmental Impact Statement</i> on pages 88, 190, and 514-16, the National Park Service is required to meet green and sustainable standards. A new Executive Order 13514 ("Federal Leadership in Environmental, Energy and Economic Performance") was published as the draft document was being printed, and it has been added to the final document under "Environmental Consequences: Park Operations — Methodology for Impact Analysis."</p>

Comment	Letter 29. Association of the Oldest Inhabitants of The District of Columbia (cont.)	Response
	<p style="text-align: center;"><b>The Association of the Oldest Inhabitants of The District of Columbia</b> Established Dec. 7, 1865</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Summary of Comments by The Association of the Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia on the Draft National Mall Plan and EIS</b></p> <p>I      ❖ Restore, repair &amp; maintain the lawns and grassy areas of the National Mall</p> <p>J      ❖ Prohibit sports &amp; competitive recreational activities on the National Mall proper; relegate to existing recreation areas in East/West Potomac Park and the Ellipse</p> <p>K      ❖ Establish a National Mall Visitors' Center utilizing the existing structures of the Arts and Industries Building of the Smithsonian Institution or US Agriculture Department</p> <p>L      ❖ Limit unsightly/uncoordinated visitor amenity structures (information kiosks, snack bars and restroom facilities)</p> <p>M      ❖ Provide shaded, seating areas where visitors can find shelter in the summer heat</p> <p>N      ❖ Replace/improve pedestrian walkways by utilizing 'green,' sustainable walking surfaces (appropriate for wheel chairs/scooters) manufactured from recycled tires or plastic by-products</p> <p>O      ❖ Provide ample, 'green technology,' non-light polluting illumination</p> <p>P      ❖ Install an emergency notification/public address system throughout the National Mall to warn visitors of emergencies or severe weather events</p> <p>Q      ❖ Promote and support non-Park Service transportation providers (DC Circulator, Metro Bus, hop-on/off buses, pedi-cabs, tour/charter bus operators) to ensure mobility/transportation along and around the National Mall</p> <p><b>The Association of the Oldest Inhabitants of the District of Columbia -- the District's oldest civic organization -- was established on December 7, 1865, to preserve memories and matters of historic interest. By virtue of our long presence and participation in the city's prosperity and improvement, we continue to work and strive for the city's stability, security and advancement -- to aid in every way the prosperity and well-being of the District while preserving the heritage of its past.</b></p>	<p>I. Please see response B to your letter.</p> <p>J. Please see response B to your letter.</p> <p>K. Please see response D to your letter.</p> <p>L. Please see response C to your letter.</p> <p>M. Please see response F to your letter.</p> <p>N. Please see response H to your letter.</p> <p>O. Please see response G to your letter.</p> <p>P. The plan proposes this action.</p> <p>Q. A wide variety of transportation modes are already available on the National Mall, and transportation options were the focus of the <i>Visitor Transportation Study</i>, which has now been approved. The National Park Service has begun discussions with public transportation providers, such as the DC Circulator.</p>

Comment	Letter 30. Detroit Model Yacht Club (DMYC)	Response
A	<p>Frank Vella fvrcerone1@aol.com Detroit Model Yacht Club</p> <p>[Comment pertaining to question 1 ("Indicate the extent to which you agree with the overall Preferred Alternative Vision to restore the National Mall.")]</p> <p>i woud like to see the instiution of the Mall's pond for recreational and competetive model boat races, perhaps the National Championships.....</p>	<p>[EDITOR'S NOTE: Comment submitted online.]</p> <p>A. The plan proposes that a new recreational activity, model boating and rentals, could occur at Constitution Gardens Lake.</p>
Comment	Letter 31. Gold Star Mothers National Monument Foundation, Inc.	Response
A	<p>Judith Young &lt;jcyoung83@yahoo.com&gt; 02/13/2010 11:42 AM</p> <p>As Chairman of the Gold Star Mothers National Monument Foundation Inc. I would like to know where a half acre site could be set aside for our Monument. The Foundation currently has a Bill in the House and will be working for one in the Senate. Our Monument project has a dual purpose. One to recognize the sacrifice of America's mothers who have lost their children defending our Country. Second is to educate the public that these mothers not only lose their most precious gift but have donated time, monies and energy in the veterans community. The backbone of our Country has been the strength of woman to raise, educate, nurture, and instill in their children goals more important than life itself. Knowing you received thousands of emails, I would sincerely like to hear from someone in the NPS.</p> <p>Judith Young, Chairman Gold Star Mothers National Monument Foundation Inc. 30 Eraser Road, Moorestown, NJ 08057</p>	<p>[EDITOR'S NOTE: Comment submitted by e-mail.]</p> <p>A. Your question has been forwarded to the NPS regional office, which will provide you information about the Commemorative Works Act and procedures for proposing memorials. The Commemorative Works Act prohibits any new memorials on the National Mall; however, the National Capital Planning Commission has identified more than 100 sites for memorials and museums throughout the city.</p>
Comment	Letter 32. National Turfgrass Federation	Response
A	<p>Kevin Morris kmorris@turfresearch.org National Turfgrass Federation</p> <p>[Comment pertaining to question 1 ("Indicate the extent to which you agree with the overall Preferred Alternative Vision to restore the National Mall.")]</p> <p>The National Mall is a treasure that needs to be protected, enhanced and cherished. Sufficient funding needs to be available to develop the appropriate facilities and resources to handle the number of visitors, yet maintain the park at a high level. The Preferred Alternative is the proper vision to accomplish this.</p> <p>[Comment pertaining to question 2 ("Within each category, indicate the extent to which you agree with the specific elements of the Preferred Alternative vision to restore the National Mall?")]</p> <p>We agree that to manage the soils and turf at the Mall, significant renovation needs to first take place. With the level of traffic that the Mall turf receives, this area, especially the main panels from 7th St. to 14th St., need to be designed and maintained the way a high performance athletic field would be. To that end, damage from tents and other cultural events need to be minimized or controlled in the highest traffic areas. This may mean that events on the central panels of the Mall need to be controlled or reduced, to all some level of adequate turf performance. Otherwise, if events and use are not controlled in some manner, the condition of the turf will not improve significantly.</p> <p>[Comment pertaining to question 3 ("Indicate the extent to which you agree with the description of how the Preferred Alternative (which is also the environmentally preferred alternative) compares with other alternatives in meeting National Environmental Policy Act goals.")]</p> <p>We feel that preserving the environmental character and safety of the National Mall is critical. The Preferred Alternative is the only vision that adequately accomplishes this while preserving Freedom of Speech, cultural and historic aspects of the Mall.</p>	<p>[EDITOR'S NOTE: Comments submitted online.]</p> <p>A. We agree that if events and use are not controlled, the condition of the turf will not improve significantly.</p>

Comment	Letter 32. National Turfgrass Federation (cont.)	Response
<p>C</p>	<p>[Comment pertaining to question 4 ("Indicate the extent to which you agree with the comparison of how the alternatives meet the plan objectives laid out in Table 6.")]</p> <p>Again, the Preferred Alternative vision is the only option to meeting ALL the Plan Objectives. As turfgrass scientists and leaders in the industry, we know that growing turf, and any plant for that matter, requires adequate resources, attention to detail and some the applications of basic biology/agronomy knowledge. The Preferred Alternative is the only option that contains adequate steps and provisions to meeting the objective that is most familiar to our industry, National Resource Protection.</p> <p>[Comment pertaining to question 6 ("Is there anything else you think NPS needs to consider with respect to the Draft National Mall Plan?")]</p> <p>We applaud the National Park Service for their diligence in developing this very comprehensive plan. The Preferred Alternative option of the Plan is what is needed to enhance and protect the National Mall, in all its many facets. As a group and industry, National Turfgrass Federation is most concerned with the conservation of the natural resources. We feel much can be done to preserve those resources, while enhancing the other aspects and not diminishing any aspects. If we can be of service to the National Park Service in any way, our representatives of the turf seed and sod production, irrigation, equipment, golf, landscape, and sports turf industries are willing and able to assist. Thanks for this opportunity to comment. Kevin Morris, President, National Turfgrass Federation</p>	<p>C. We want to thank the National Turfgrass Federation as leaders in the turfgrass industry for supporting the proposed actions related to improved conditions.</p> <p>D. Thank you for your offer.</p>
<p>Comment</p>	<p>Letter 33.1. Public Hygiene Lets Us Stay Human</p>	<p>Response</p>
<p>A</p> <p>B</p>	<p>Carol McCreary phlush@oldtownchinatown.com Public Hygiene Lets Us Stay Human</p> <p>[Comment pertaining to question 1 ("Indicate the extent to which you agree with the overall Preferred Alternative Vision to restore the National Mall.")]</p> <p>Permanent restrooms should be integrated with food and other facilities. Temporary facilities are best kept outside view corridors with landscape to suit.</p> <p>[Comment pertaining to question 2 ("Within each category, indicate the extent to which you agree with the specific elements of the Preferred Alternative vision to restore the National Mall?")]</p> <p>Be extremely careful of leaving sites such as Union Square without restrooms. Group unisex stalls around open or landscaped areas with handwashing facilities and drinking fountains. This way families can keep an eye on their youngsters and elders as they safely use the toilets. Make the majority of stalls small enough to "not really comfortable" but efficient because people will not spend much time in them. Work for a balance of required privacy and ongoing communication with the street so users do not feel trapped or vulnerable. Of course ADA stalls will be large enough to accommodate wheelchairs, scooters and care attendants. Please consult the PHLUSH Public Restroom Design Principles at www.phlush.org</p> <p>[Comment pertaining to question 3 ("Indicate the extent to which you agree with the description of how the Preferred Alternative (which is also the environmentally preferred alternative) compares with other alternatives in meeting National Environmental Policy Act goals.")]</p> <p>Your description of how they compare seems fine. Not sure what input this question requires?</p> <p>[Comment pertaining to question 4 ("Indicate the extent to which you agree with the comparison of how the alternatives meet the plan objectives laid out in Table 6.")]</p> <p>It's clear that new standards of everyday cleanliness and usability as well as programmed maintenance need to be developed to meet the needs of increased numbers of visitors. These standards need to meet the needs of today's diverse society. For example, the standards of open space public restrooms built in the mid-20th century are no longer appropriate. Be sure to do extensive user research to get restroom design right. This is uncharted territory for most architects and planners.</p>	<p>[EDITOR'S NOTE: Comments submitted online.]</p> <p>A. We agree with your recommendation that restrooms should be integrated with food service and other facilities.</p> <p>B. Thank you for recommending public restroom design principles. We will encourage others to visit your website.</p>

Comment	Letter 32.1. Public Hygiene Lets Us Stay Human (cont.)	Response
C	<p>[Comment pertaining to question 6 (“Is there anything else you think NPS needs to consider with respect to the Draft National Mall Plan?”)]</p> <p>As the American Restroom Association and Public Hygiene Lets Us Stay Human (PHLUSH) have long advocated, the Mall needs state of the art restroom facilities. This does not mean the elegance of hotel restrooms nor the rusticity of most park restrooms. Mall planners have multiple opportunities to do something really outstanding in restroom design for a considerable range of users and this can reverberate throughout urban America. The working goal of PHLUSH is the following: Cost effective public restrooms that provide maximum function in minimum space and are safe, accessible, available, attractive and easy to keep clean. We hope that the work we are doing will be of use to you and would welcome any opportunity to collaborate. Contact us at <a href="http://www.phlush.org">www.phlush.org</a> or <a href="mailto:phlush@oldtownchinatown.com">phlush@oldtownchinatown.com</a></p>	C. We agree with your statement about the need to carefully consider urban public restrooms for the 21st century.
Comment	Letter 33.2. Public Hygiene Lets Us Stay Human	Response
A	 <p><b>Public Hygiene Lets Us Stay Human</b>  c/o Old Town Chinatown Neighborhood Association  115 SW Ash Street, #400G Portland, Oregon 97204  <a href="mailto:phlush@oldtownchinatown.com">phlush@oldtownchinatown.com</a> <a href="http://www.phlush.org">www.phlush.org</a></p> <p>Susan Spain, Project Executive  The National Mall Plan  National Mall &amp; Memorial Parks  900 Ohio Drive, S.W.  Washington, DC 20024-2000</p> <p>Subject: Comments on National Mall Plan</p> <p>Dear Ms. Spain:</p> <p>Thank you for your inquiry following our online comments on the National Mall.</p> <p>Public Hygiene Lets Us Stay Human (PHLUSH) has done considerable research on public restroom design which we feel will be helpful to Mall planners.</p> <p>Please refer to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Public Restroom Planning section of our website <a href="http://www.phlush.org">www.phlush.org</a></li> <li>• “Public Restroom Design for 21<sup>st</sup> Century US Cities: The PHLUSH Principles” Barbara Lescher. World Toilet Summit, Singapore, Dec 2009.</li> <li>• “Sustainable Design: Case Studies from Portland, Oregon.” Carol McCreary. World Toilet Summit, Singapore, Dec 2009.</li> <li>• <i>Public Toilets for Old Town Chinatown: A Report to the Community</i>. PHLUSH Feb 7, 2006.</li> <li>• Above three documents may be downloaded at <a href="http://public.me.com/carol.mccreary">http://public.me.com/carol.mccreary</a></li> </ul> <p>Currently we are collaborating with the International Code Council, the World Toilet Organization and experts worldwide to draft a Global Guideline on Public Toilet Design.</p> <p>The National Mall redesign project will undoubtedly influence the restroom design in open and civic spaces throughout the United States. Therefore, it’s important to get it right and to do so with a view to social changes and environmental imperatives.</p> <p>The number of restrooms proposed creates an opportunity to use various approaches for different areas of the mall. We encourage planners to include full-service (attended and heated) restrooms, rows of single-door direct entry unisex stalls, waterless urinals for men and women, and ecosanitation demonstration projects.</p> <p>We would be honored to respond to inquiries from National Mall architects, planners and designers.</p> <p>Best wishes,</p> <p>Carol McCreary</p> <p>Co-Founder  Public Hygiene Lets Us Stay Human (PHLUSH)  c/o Old Town Chinatown Neighborhood Association  115 SW Ash Street #400G, Portland, OR 97204  503.984.4081 <a href="mailto:phlush@oldtownchinatown.com">phlush@oldtownchinatown.com</a>  <a href="http://phlush.org/">http://phlush.org/</a></p>	A. Thank you for additional links to information that can be used during design.

Comment	Letter 34. Stars Unlimited	Response
<p>A</p>	<p>2010 March 18</p> <p>From: Daniel J. Costanzo            Founder &amp; Public Relations Officer (PRO)            Stars Unlimited            900 N. Jacksonville St.            Arlington, VA 22205-1326</p> <p>To: National Park Service (NPS)            National Mall Plan            National Mall &amp; Memorial Parks            900 Ohio Drive SW            Washington, DC 20024</p> <p>Subject: Comments On The NPS's National Mall Plan Draft Environmental Impact Statement (NMP DEIS)</p> <p>NPS:</p> <p>In order for the NMP DEIS to be complete, it must adequately incorporate the key points listed below.</p> <p>These key points need to be incorporated into the NMP DEIS by incorporating them into its appropriate parts, so as to enhance the National Mall's (NM's) visitor orientation, interpretation, and education opportunities, improve the scope of NM resources, and retain the current scope of NM visitor uses.</p> <p>These key points do not duplicate any points previously made by Stars Unlimited about the NMP DEIS because this is the first – and so far only – time that Stars Unlimited has commented about the NMP DEIS.</p> <p>More specifics about each key point below are available upon request:</p> <p>1. The NMP DEIS must officially recognize that the sky is part of the Park, i.e., part of the NM. (And, conversely, it must also recognize that the Park – i.e., the NM – is part of the sky, both figuratively and literally.) For, when the NM is considered in its full extend, the sky comprises fully half of it, the other half being the grounds, monuments, trees, etc., as shown in any image of the NM capturing the view of the viewshed looking down the NM's long axis.</p> <p>Likewise, the NM represents – by far – the largest expanse of open ground offering the most unobstructed view of the sky in the Federal City of Washington, D.C.</p>	<p>A. The sky and unobstructed views are important, and as a planned open space within the federal city, the National Mall does hold a unique relationship to the sky. The National Mall may be one national park that is significantly enjoyed from the air by many visitors landing at Reagan National Airport. On page 14 of the <i>Draft Environmental Impact Statement</i> the visibility day and night of the National Mall's architecture and designed landscapes from the sky is listed as a fundamental value.</p> <p>As you note, the National Mall is within an urban environment. Planned façade and commemorative lighting affects one's ability to look at the night sky. Other nontraditional sky watching related opportunities include fireworks celebrations for the National Cherry Blossom Festival, the Fourth of July, and inaugural festivities. See the impact discussion about nighttime character related to the preferred alternative on page 480 in the draft document.</p>

Comment	Letter 34. Stars Unlimited (cont.)	Response
B	<p>This means that the NMP DEIS must include the sky (that is, both the daytime sky and the nighttime sky) as one of the Park resources that the public can use by experiencing it on the NM.</p> <p>For example, it is truly inspirational to be outdoors on the NM to witness with unaided eyes a bright, round gibbous Moon floating among the afternoon's clouds above the Capital Dome, or a young, thin crescent Moon bathed in Earthshine hovering next to the Washington Monument in the crisp, clear, and colorful evening twilight. This is especially inspirational after visitors have just stepped outdoors onto the NM after recently exiting the Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum (SI-NASM) after touching a piece of that very Moon in the form of a Moonrock brought back by America's Apollo astronauts.</p> <p>Similarly, being outdoors on the NM shortly after dark and witnessing with unaided eyes the <i>International Space Station (ISS)</i> sailing overhead, with the Capital Dome in the background, brings home the fact that it is the American people who pay the taxes, and elect the presidents and legislators so that their elected members in the United States Congress legislating under that Capital Dome approve the money to build that <i>ISS</i> and keep her operating in orbit.</p> <p>Likewise, it also is truly inspirational to be outdoors on the NM at night and witness with unaided eyes the planet Mars hovering among the stars above the SI-NASM (or above the Smithsonian Castle), and serving as a beacon calling on America to reach out towards those stars (and pay the taxes to fund doing so) by sailing off on a voyage to Mars in the continuing human adventure of Cosmic Discovery.</p> <p>These are but three examples of how the sky from the NM in both daytime and nighttime is an integral component of the NM's Park resources that fosters the NPS's overall theme of "Experience Your America." Thus, the sky needs to be officially recognized as such in the NMP DEIS.</p> <p><b>2. The NMP DEIS must officially include outdoor sky watching (astronomy) on the NM as part of the NM's visitor profile, and include it in both the NM's list of appropriate activities comprising the wide spectrum of the NM's recreational and educational opportunities, and within the current scope of visitor uses that NM visitors can participate in.</b></p> <p>These activities/opportunities need to include both facilitating visitors conducting informal sky watching (astronomy) by themselves, as well as participating in public programs, crafted, organized, and conducted by the NPS, and modeled after the long-running, outdoor, volunteer-led, public sky watching (astronomy) program "Exploring The Sky" that the NPS has conducted for over half a century at the Rock Creek Park (RCP). (This makes "Exploring The Sky" the longest, continuously running public program in the entire National Capital park system.) Conducting these same kinds of public programs on the NM would make them more accessible to a much larger number of visitors because the NM is readily accessible by Metrorail, unlike the NPS's RCP</p>	<p>B. Programs related to sky watching could be developed; however, they do not fall within the primary proposed interpretive themes (see DEIS, p 14).</p>

Comment	Letter 34. Stars Unlimited (cont.)	Response
	<p>Nature Center/Planetarium, where "Exploring The Sky" is conducted. These programs could be crafted, organized, and conducted by the NPS at little additional cost to taxpayers by the NPS's utilizing the resources available at the SI-NASM, and the cadre of expert volunteers available through the SI-NASM.</p> <p>Since the International System of Units (SI Units) is an integral part of understanding the sky (through understanding the space technology, astronomy, and related sciences involved with the sky that they are asked to pay for as taxpayers), the NPS needs to include innovative ways to facilitate educating the American public – particularly citizens in Grades K-12 – about the SU Unit-dominant, competitive, globalized World that they have to deal with. The current SI-NASM outdoor exhibit at the NM's edge, consisting of a scale model of the Solar System ("Voyage – A Journey Through Our Solar System"), is an example of this that is already on the NM (or at least on its edge). The NPS could facilitate this education by making sure that the NMP DEIS incorporates such low cost/no cost (including environmental cost) innovations as constructing walkways to dimensions in SI Units (e.g., make a walkway three meters wide instead of nine feet wide; and putting up an interpretative sign stating so), allowing a temporary SI Unit sculpture garden to be created during the annual Folklife Festival (where sculptures were constructed in SI Unit dimensions), etc.</p> <p>The NPS also needs to incorporate the sky into the Park (i.e., the NM) by taking advantage of the fact that the Washington Monument is inadvertently a giant Sundial by placing completely unobtrusive markers and interpretative signs on the grounds around the Washington Monument. (Apparently, in the 1970s, the NPS allowed a group of artists to temporarily turn the Washington Monument into such a Sundial. This needs to be a permanent feature of the Washington Monument.) This could be incorporated into the Solar Decathlon during the years it is held on the NM. Additionally, this Sundial would also serve a public health role year-round (at almost no cost to taxpayers, except for the initial cost of interpretative markers and signage) by serving as a gigantic educational tool concerning the public health dangers of exposure to being in an environment on the NM of relatively Solar ultraviolet radiation (UV), in an attempt to educate them about skin cancer (the most common cancer; now at epidemic levels), as well as other UV caused health problems (e.g., cataracts). This would recognize the adverse environmental impact to the public from its receiving a great deal of UV exposure while on the NM (particularly around the June Solstice around Local Solar Noon), and encourage that public to take steps to minimize such exposure. The NPS could create such a Sundial through consulting with experts at SI-NASM, and facilitate its public health educational aspects through consulting with experts at local medical research facilities in government and academia, as well as with the American Cancer Society (ACS).</p> <p>3. The NMP DEIS must officially both mention and recognize that light pollution is another component of the NM's adversely affected environment, and describe its consequent adverse environmental impacts concerning the NM (e.g., primary impacts, like destruction of the relatively dark sky that originally existed above the NM; secondary impacts, like air pollution over the NM from fossil fueled power plants generating</p>	



Comment	Letter 34. Stars Unlimited (cont.)	Response
C	<p>electricity for wasted lighting causing the light pollution; tertiary impacts, like deaths of migratory birds flying over the NM; and quaternary impacts, like possibly contributing to increases in breast cancer and other adverse human health consequences of "dark deprivation" – both physical and psychological – of MN visitors and residents of surrounding communities).</p> <p>Thus, light pollution must be specifically identified in the NMP DEIS, just like the NMP DEIS does (or should do) for air pollution, water pollution, noise pollution, and other forms of pollution.</p> <p>This means that, just like the NPS does for other forms of pollution, it must also start measuring and tracking light pollution on the NM in a quantitative manner. This now is possible using relatively low cost, digital Sky Quality Meters (SQMs), with the light pollution level measured and quantified in SQM readings of visual magnitudes per square arc-second. A light pollution measurement program could be crafted, organized, and conducted by the NPS, at little additional cost to taxpayers, by the NPS's utilizing the expertise available at the SI-NASM, and the cadre of expert volunteers available through the SI-NASM. This A light pollution monitoring program could be augmented – and the public involved – (again, at almost no additional cost to taxpayers) through use of volunteers in citizen-science programs, such as – but not limited to – the Citizen Sky program of the American Association of Variable Star Observers (AAVSO), Globe at Night Program, and Dark Skies Rangers Program.</p> <p>Light pollution also must be both incorporated into, and prominently featured in, the NM's orientation, interpretation, and education programs. The above-mentioned "Exploring The Sky"-type public programs are the best mechanism for doing so.</p> <p>4. The NMP DEIS must incorporate the light pollution avoidance and abatement recommendations of the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) as a specific, clearly identified component of all the NM's outdoor lighting policies and practices for all current lighting (including through retrofitting existing lighting) and future outdoor lighting on the NM and – if possible – surrounding areas, which will not compromise safety, security, and utility (compromising them is not a problem as the light at issue is wasted light). The IDA can put the NPS in touch with knowledgeable experts to assist it in meeting this need at little or no additional cost to taxpayers. And the NPS (or at least parts of it) have already consulted with IDA about other parts of the National Park system.</p> <p>This the light pollution avoidance and abatement effort also must include the NPS annually publishing the amount of energy saved (in "negawatt"-hours), Global Warming carbon not spewed into the atmosphere, nuclear waste not generated, and taxpayer money saved by following these policies and practices.</p> <p>This effort also needs to include the NPS's encouraging surrounding facilities and communities around the NM to control their light pollution trespassing into the MN's viewshed, particularly through shielding all fixed outdoor lights otherwise directly visible from within that viewshed.</p>	<p>C. The need for visitors to appreciate the beauty of the National Mall at night is included in the plan objectives (DEIS, pp. 4 and 142). The plan proposes that the National Mall be a role model for sustainability, and reducing light pollution is related to that goal. The NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> also address lightscape management (NPS 2006b, sec. 4.10).</p>

Comment	Letter 34. Stars Unlimited (cont.)	Response
	<p>Under normal circumstances, while it clearly is not possible to achieve a truly light pollution-free dark sky above the NM, much can be done by the NPS to minimize light pollution using quality lighting technology and engineering. In fact, the NPS has an opportunity here that turn its NMP DEIS for "the Nation's Front Yard" into a model for incorporating light pollution avoidance and abatement practices as an integral component of general management plans and environmental impact statements for local, state, and national parks throughout the Nation, and around the World, while at the same time saving taxpayers money.</p> <p>The NPS must take advantage of this opportunity and make it so.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>– Daniel J. Costanzo      Founder &amp; Public Relations Officer (PRO)      Stars Unlimited</p> <p><b>Acronyms &amp; Abbreviations Used In These Comments:</b></p> <p>AAVSO – American Association of Variable Star Observers</p> <p>ACS – American Cancer Society</p> <p>DEIS – Draft Environmental Impact Statement</p> <p>IDA – International Dark-Sky Association</p> <p><i>ISS – International Space Station</i></p> <p>NM – National Mall ("the Park")</p> <p>NMP – The National Mall Plan</p> <p>NPS – National Park Service</p> <p>PRO – Public Relations Officer</p> <p>RCP – Rock Creek Park</p> <p>SI-NASM – The Smithsonian Institution's National Air and Space Museum</p> <p>SI Units - The International System of Units</p> <p>SQM – Sky Quality Meter</p> <p>UV – Solar ultraviolet radiation</p>	

Comment	Letter 35. University of Colorado	Response
<p>A</p> <p>B</p> <p>C</p> <p>D</p> <p>E</p> <p>F</p> <p>G</p>	<p>Jack DeBell debell@colorado.edu University of Colorado</p> <p>[Comment pertaining to question 1 ("Indicate the extent to which you agree with the overall Preferred Alternative Vision to restore the National Mall.")] I agree with the overall Preferred Alternative Vision because it seems to most thoroughly satisfy the goals of the National Environmental Policy Act.</p> <p>[Comment pertaining to question 3 ("Indicate the extent to which you agree with the description of how the Preferred Alternative (which is also the environmentally preferred alternative) compares with other alternatives in meeting National Environmental Policy Act goals.")] More than the other alternatives, the Preferred Alternative more fully enhances the quality of renewable resources and approaches the maximum attainable recycling.</p> <p>[Comment pertaining to question 5 ("Do you agree with the actions common to all alternatives?")] It is important that actions toward improving waste reduction and recycling remain common to all alternatives. (Citation: Actions Common to All Alternatives including Park Operations: "Make waste management more efficient; expand recycling at events, page 77)</p> <p>[Comment pertaining to question 6 ("Is there anything else you think NPS needs to consider with respect to the Draft National Mall Plan?")] I appreciate the opportunity to provide comments on several aspects of the National Mall Plan including waste reduction and recycling. My comments are abbreviated from previous meetings I have attended and presentations I have made at the request of the US EPA, National Park Service, and the Washington DC Public Works Department. In summary, my comments focus on the need to:</p> <p>1) move ahead rapidly to study and implement cost-effective, code-compliant, and convenient, waste management and recycling systems. This study should recognize the need for the variety of concession operations and other large generators of solid waste to take more active responsibility than in the past for funding, promoting, and actively participating in waste reduction, recycling, and disposal activities.</p> <p>2) issue standards as soon as possible for waste reduction, recycling, composting, and solid waste management to set reasonable expectations and apportion roles and responsibilities in ways that increase understanding and proper participation among National Park Service departments, contracted vendors, concessionaires, and organizers of events and demonstrations. These standards should, at a minimum, include detail on the type(s) of proper recycling containers and their placement. These standards should endeavor to reach parity with the number, placement, and capacity of trash containers.</p> <p>3) restrict private company presence on the National Mall. If the private sector participates in funding, operating, or promoting improved programs, that these private entities are recognized but are restricted from promoting themselves in overt, visible ways which "commercialize" their presence on the National Mall.</p> <p>4) oversee private operations. If the private sector provides operational service for collecting recyclables and trash from the Mall, that these services be awarded through a competitive bidding process with clear roles and responsibilities in a fixed duration contract with opportunities for public review as part of any renewal or extension process.</p> <p>5) reduce soil compaction, water use/irrigation requirements, and improve soil tilth by amending soils with appropriate grades and quantities of compost.</p> <p>6) continue to educate and increasingly mandate sustainable and low-impact events. This might require revisions to event permits, concession contracts, and improved educational information. I would also comment that improvements for waste reduction, recycling, composting, and solid waste management remain included in any of the alternatives considered and that the agency's preferred alternative is most advantageous for prompt and thorough implementation of these improvements.</p>	<p>[EDITOR'S NOTE: Comments submitted online.]</p> <p>A. We appreciate the fact that several years ago the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency brought you into discussions about recycling and solid waste management as a respected leader in the field. The insight provided by lessons learned at the University of Colorado has been invaluable to the National Mall. We also appreciate that you have put your commitment and expertise into action by repeatedly volunteering on the National Mall, giving you a realistic sense of the challenges.</p> <p>B. Your comments on the National Mall plan are helpful. While the plan deals at a vision level with the topic, park staff have been moving ahead with cost-effective, code-compliant, and convenient waste management and recycling programs.</p> <p>C. Your suggestions are compatible with NPS policy and recent executive orders related to waste reduction, recycling, composting, and solid waste management.</p> <p>D. There are limits on commercial advertising and promotion related to this area.</p> <p>E. Any contracted services need to be awarded through processes that do include competitive bidding and durations.</p> <p>F. We agree that soil compaction needs to be reduced, and that composting and/or other amendments can be useful.</p> <p>G. We agree that education about waste reduction, recycling, and composting is essential. The National Park Service has participated in local and regional discussions about recycling, where all agencies agreed on the importance of consistent, coordinated educational messages to the long-term success of the programs.</p>