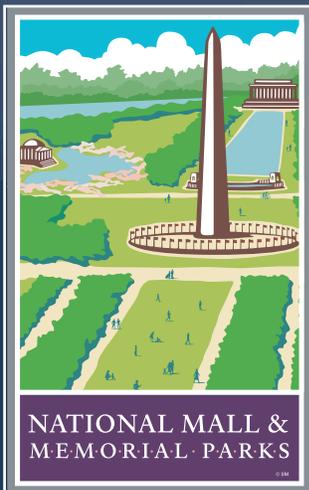




# the national mall

1901  
mcmillan plan

1791  
l'enfant plan



**Public Comments Report for Newsletter 3 Alternatives**  
**A Background Report for the National Mall Plan**  
**April 2008**



**PUBLIC COMMENTS REPORT:**  
**NEWSLETTER 3 ALTERNATIVES**

A Background Report for the National Mall Plan

Prepared by the School of Recreation, Health, and Tourism  
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for the  
National Mall & Memorial Parks

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## SUMMARY

Newsletter 3 presented preliminary alternatives for the future management of the National Mall and Pennsylvania Avenue National Historic Park. Each alternative was introduced conceptually, in the following order: (1) no-action alternative — continue current management; (2) alternative A — focus on the historic landscape and education; (3) alternative B — focus on a welcoming national civic space for public gatherings, events, and high-use levels; and (4) alternative C — focus on urban open space, urban ecology, recreation, and healthy lifestyles. Each alternative was accompanied by highlights of how the conceptual ideas would influence the management of specific sites and areas, and accompanied by a map that indicated suggested actions and improvements using a color-coded legend. Public comments were encouraged at open meetings, online at the National Mall plan website, and by e-mail, fax, or surface mail. Twenty-one open ended questions were used to encourage both site specific and global feedback regarding the alternatives.

The public comment period extended from December 15, 2007, until February 15, 2008. During this period, 17,758 comments were received by means of the National Mall website, e-mail, mail, or fax. Of these, over 13,836 comments were e-mails identified as a variation of form letters pertaining specifically to First Amendment rights, and 2,622 were First Amendment correspondence sent by fax. Of those comments containing more global feedback, 1,249 comments were submitted through the NPS website, and an additional 51 letters and e-mails were sent. The respondent pool was comprised of members of the general public and stakeholder organizations, including (in alphabetical order) the American Civil Liberties Union, Committee of the 100 on the Federal City, East Coast Greenway Alliance, Equal Honor for All, Guild of Professional Tour Guides of Washington DC, National Coalition to Save Our Mall, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Potomac Valley Track Club, Rock-

ville Bicycle Advisory Committee, and Washington Area Bicyclist Association.

Four researchers reviewed and coded the data, with the primary goal of identifying new ideas that had not been addressed during earlier public comment periods. Each piece of correspondence was assessed for distinct comments, and thus any given piece of correspondence could reflect a multitude of themes. Public comments did not always address the alternatives directly and often included general commentary on specific sites or the overall management of the National Mall and/or Pennsylvania Avenue National Historic Park.

The results first addressed two issues where extensive feedback was given by stakeholder agencies and their constituents. The most pronounced feedback came from those concerned with any changes that might compromise First Amendment rights. The National Park Service has updated their National Mall plan website to reflect and reinforce the commitment to First Amendment rights, as based on the Constitution and reaffirmed in legal decisions over the years. A second prominent area of response came from bicyclists. Following discussion and sample comments in these two areas, the remaining results systematically address the 21 items posed on the National Mall plan website.

When considering the feedback specific to the 21 items, alternative C, which focused on urban open space, urban ecology, recreation and healthy lifestyles, received support as pertaining to grounds such as the Tidal Basin area. This preference for open space, whether used for formal or informal gatherings, mimics the findings summarized in the April 2007 *Public Scoping Comments Report*, where respondents expressed a deep desire to sustain the openness and accessibility of the National Mall as well as upgrading the greenspace. However, there was support for the no-action alternative as particularly relating to spaces specific to memorials such as the Vietnam Veterans Memorial grounds, the Korean War

Veterans Memorial, and the George Mason Memorial.

In requesting feedback, the National Park Service reinforced in newsletter 3 that the alternatives could be mixed and matched. Many respondents identified with this option, and their associated comments reflected a

desire to combine the various alternatives and/or offer additional suggestions. For each of the results areas, a series of sample comments are presented to convey the range of public and stakeholder feedback offered.

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# 1. INTRODUCTION

The National Park Service's National Mall & Memorial Parks (NAMA) is developing a plan and environmental impact statement that will provide a management framework for the future of the National Mall and Pennsylvania Avenue National Historic Park for the next 50 years. As part of this planning effort, Newsletter 3 was released and made available for public comment.

Newsletter 3 presented three action alternatives for the future management of the National Mall and Pennsylvania Avenue National Historic Park, plus a description of existing conditions and management plans already in process, resulting in a fourth "No Action" alternative.

This no-action alternative provides the baseline for analysis. Alternative A focuses on the historic landscape design of the National Mall, as well as increasing educational materials and opportunities. Alternative B focuses on national civic space for public gatherings and events, reinforcing other high-use opportunities such as demonstrations. Alternative C focuses on urban open space, urban ecology, recreation and healthy lifestyles.

Twenty-one topic areas for open-ended comments pertaining to the alternatives were made available on the planning website (<http://www.nps.gov/nationalmallplan>), with public comments collected through the National Park Service website feedback as well as e-mail and mail responses. Respondents were encouraged to mix and match ideas and to present new ideas that were not mentioned in the alternatives.

The primary purpose of this report is to offer a synopsis of the themes that emerged from the public comments that were not clearly or fully identified during earlier public comment periods, with sample quotes offered to support the findings. Items 1–15 were site specific, items 16–18 allowed for general commentary on the National Mall, and items 19–21 allowed for general comments regarding Pennsylvania Avenue National Historic Park. The following report presents the results and offers management recommendations as set forth by the public and stakeholder agencies.

## 2. METHODS

In order to facilitate feedback from the public, the National Park Service posted 21 open-ended questions on the National Mall website. This public comment form is presented below.

### 2.1. PUBLIC COMMENT FORM FOR NEWSLETTER 3

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We would like to know what you think.

You are providing comments on a website for the National Mall plan. Comments provided in this manner can be analyzed efficiently and cost effectively. The National Park Service appreciates your participation and continued interest in the National Mall plan.

The alternative choices in this workbook *can be combined in different ways*. Help us explore how to combine them in what you consider the best way. The purpose of your response to these questions is to help define a preferred future for both the National Mall and Pennsylvania Avenue National Historic Park. Public comment helped to define the alternative choices in this workbook newsletter, and the National Park Service and its cooperating agencies will use your responses as they begin to develop a preferred alternative. Please answer questions for each area and use the last space to share any additional comments.

#### THE NATIONAL MALL

The National Mall is a designed historic landscape, home of presidential and other memorials, the site of First Amendment demonstrations and national celebrations as well as numerous events. It is the location of great cultural institutions of our nation. It must continue to preserve historic resources and be the civic stage for our nation, as well as provide for some level of enjoyment and recreation. Each of the alternatives describe choices that lead to different futures for the National Mall. There are many needs and opportunities to balance, and this is your time to tell us how you would combine ideas to achieve an ideal balance.

Please answer the following:

What alternative choices for each area should be included in a preferred alternative to make it just right? These ideas can be your own or from the choices listed in this workbook. Please identify specific ideas from the alternative choices that you would like to include. It would be helpful if you provide reasons why you think specific ideas should be included.

1. Union Square (Capitol Reflecting Pool and Grant Memorial)
2. Mall (3rd to 14th)
3. Washington Monument Grounds
4. World War II Memorial
5. Constitution Gardens
6. Vietnam Veterans Memorial Grounds
7. Lincoln Memorial and Reflecting Pool
8. Northwest area and Riverfront
9. Korean War Veterans Memorial
10. DC War Memorial
11. Ash Road, JFK Hockey Fields, and U.S. Park Police Stables
12. Tidal Basin Area
13. Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial
14. George Mason Memorial
15. Thomas Jefferson Memorial
16. Were there any other ideas that could be applied to all areas you feel should be in a preferred alternative, such as those addressing wayfinding, education, events and visitor facilities? Please provide reasons why these ideas should be included?
17. What ideas should not be included in a preferred alternative? Why? Please share your ideas or identify specific ideas from the alternative choices.
18. Is there anything else you'd like to share?

#### PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE NATIONAL HISTORIC PARK

Pennsylvania Avenue National Historic Park is our national main street, where we celebrate

the peaceful transfer of power in Inaugural Parades. Its parks, sidewalks, and open spaces commemorate events and offer opportunities for a lively urban environment. Each of the alternatives describe choices that lead to a different future for this grand avenue. This is your time to tell us how you would combine ideas.

Please answer the following:

19. What ideas need to be included in a preferred alternative to make it just right? These ideas can be your own or from the sets of ideas in this workbook. Please identify specific ideas from the sets of ideas that you would like to include. It would be helpful if you provide reasons why you think specific ideas should be included.
20. What ideas should not be included in a preferred alternative? Why? Please share your ideas or identify specific ideas from the sets of ideas.
21. Is there anything else you'd like to share?

Thank you for your participation in this process.

## 2.2. DATA COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS

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The public comment period extended from December 15, 2007, until February 15, 2008. During this period, 17,758 comments were received by means of the National Mall website, e-mail, mail, or fax. Of these, over 13,836 comments were e-mails identified as a variation of form letters pertaining specifically to First Amendment rights, and 2,622 were First Amendment correspondence sent by fax. Of those comments including more global feedback, 1,249 comments were submitted

through the NPS website, and an additional 51 letters and e-mails were sent.

Four researchers reviewed and coded the data with the goal of identifying new ideas that had not been addressed during earlier public comment periods. Each piece of correspondence was assessed for distinct comments, and thus any given piece of correspondence could reflect a multitude of themes.

The direct quotes provided in this report are representative of the variety of feedback offered and are presented exactly as written by the respondents, with the exception of changes made to correct spelling errors or, when words are given in brackets [ ], to clarify the meaning based on information given later in a lengthy quote. The themes are not intended to be mutually exclusive; coding was based on the primary indicator of the comment.

## 2.3. STAKEHOLDER ORGANIZATIONS FEEDBACK

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In addition to the comments received from the general public, letters from stakeholder organizations were also received and coded for this report. Organizations that submitted extensive feedback (in alphabetical order) were the American Civil Liberties Union, Committee of the 100 on the Federal City, East Coast Greenway Alliance, Equal Honor for All, Guild of Professional Tour Guides of Washington DC, National Coalition to Save Our Mall, National Trust for Historic Preservation, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Potomac Valley Track Club, Rockville Bicycle Advisory Committee, and Washington Area Bicyclist Association. Comments from these stakeholders are integrated in the discussion found in sections 3, 4, and 5 of this report.

### 3. FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHTS: RESULTS

Feedback specific to First Amendment rights comprised 92.7% of total number of comments received during the public comment period for the newsletter. Specifically, respondents felt very strongly about the importance of the National Mall as a forum for expressing democratic First Amendment rights of freedom of speech. These comments were primarily sent via email or fax to NPS offices. These views were also expressed in the online public comment form.

Many respondents referred to the January 20, 2008, *Washington Post* article (found at <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2008/01/19/AR2008011901200.html>), which suggested that the alternatives under consideration might limit freedom of speech. Individualized, stakeholder, agency, and form letters were used to reiterate the importance of First Amendment rights.

Newsletter 3 did not expressly address First Amendment rights, prompting the concern and associated feedback that somehow these rights would not be taken into consideration with the long-term management plans under consideration. However, First Amendment activities are fundamental to the overall purpose of the National Mall, as based on the Constitution and reaffirmed in legal decisions over the years. The primary mandate of management decisions pertaining to the National Mall is to support the essential of role of this space as a symbol of American freedom, with a key function of upholding First Amendment rights. The courts have supported reasonable time, place, and manner regulations of First Amendment demonstrations. Demonstrations of more than 25 people require a permit and a few areas have restrictions that are publicly listed in the *Code of Federal Regulations* (36 CFR 7.96) related to specific memorials and areas in the National Capital Region. The National Park Service has updated its National Mall plan website to reiterate the commitment to First Amendment rights and to explain the difference between events, which were the topic of the newsletter, and demonstrations.

A sampling of comments specific to First Amendment rights follows.

- It is essential that we maintain the National Mall as a civic space, and not allow a plan to be implemented which could be interpreted as leaving the door open to restricting protests. Please don't shut down the National Mall for mass protests! It's one of the few large, centrally located and richly symbolic spaces that Americans still have to express themselves as mass movements.
- Please maintain the right to express opinion publicly, including the use of organized demonstrations, in each of these areas. The public spaces of the Capitol [sic] are essential in guaranteeing that both minority and majority opinion can be made public without media control or government limitation.
- There should be NO restrictions, and NO permissions required, and NO limits on gatherings of people on the Mall.
- The ideal balance is to allow Americans to use these grounds as they see fit, as often as they wish. This is a historically significant location for demonstrations and should be maintained with that same spirit in mind. Free speech and assembly should not be curbed, restrained, or otherwise stifled in any manner. Concerns regarding maintaining the grounds, for example, for any of the listed parks is not a sufficient reason to curb assembly and/or speech.
- Preserve for exercise of First Amendment rights of free speech, association, and to petition our government for redress of grievances; need more restroom facilities and access to the disabled.
- The lawn is not important. Free speech is. There should be no government-designated protest pit or zone, to stage-manage or channel free speech activity to suit the government, or to stifle or abridge our rights to expression upon the public forum that is the National Mall.

- Protesting is an American right and should be allowed anywhere — especially those historic places that remind us why we became a nation. Our forefathers protested against what they saw as injustice and fought to make this a better place for us. Shouldn't [we] be allowed the same right?
- Anything that does not restrict any type of public access and free speech at any time, for any purpose.
- Do not make it more difficult to hold protests on the Mall. Spaces for dissent in this country are rapidly closing, and I beg you to stand up for free speech and the right to peaceably assemble to bring our grievances to the attention of the government.
- This area should also be free for protests.
- The ideal balance is to allow Americans to use these grounds as they see fit, as often as they wish. This is a historically significant location for demonstrations and should be maintained with that same spirit in mind. Free speech and assembly should not be curbed, restrained, or otherwise stifled in any manner. Concerns regarding maintaining the grounds, for example, for any of the listed parks is not a sufficient reason to curb assembly and/or speech.
- Please fund the added costs of keeping the areas safe and clean and repaired, as needed, resulting from increased usage.
- Along with thousands of Americans around the country, I demand that there be no new restrictions on free speech or protest related activities on the National Mall in Washington, D.C. The salient purpose of the Mall is not to be merely looked at, but rather to be utilized in the expression of free and unrestricted speech. I oppose any effort to restrict protest on the Mall or, as Park Service representatives have said, to implement "mandatory rest periods" between protests. Besides, if there are so few events of large scale, why would such rest periods be necessary? On the one hand the Park Service is saying there aren't many people participating in First Amendment activities on the Mall, on the other hand they're saying there are so many people participating that it's ruining the lawn. The lawn is not important. Free speech is. There should be no government-designated protest pit or zone, to stage-manage or channel free speech activity to suit the government, or to stifle or abridge our rights to expression upon the public forum that is the National Mall. I demand a moratorium on further actions by the National Park Service that would in any way channel, restrict or inhibit the people's use of the National Mall in furtherance of our First Amendment rights.
- I believe that all these areas should be accessible for political demonstrations. The right to free speech is a right that I hold dear. As a citizen and taxpayer, these areas belong to me and represent the best of the United States. That "best" is the right and responsibility to demonstrate when the one or more branches of the government take action that is not supported by large groups of citizens. I believe that the mall, the monument grounds, and all the war memorials are appropriate sites for these demonstrations.
- The protection of First Amendment rights is and must be paramount in the final plan. There needs to be more specific language in each alternative to explain how demonstrations/protests will be protected, and how such activity will be accommodated in terms of the overall scheme.
- Please do NOT segregate or isolate protesters into some sort of "free-speech zone." I understand that the government might feel that these proposals are being done in the best interests of future protests (safety, ease of use, et al). BUT no one else is going to see it that way, particularly given the hostility the current Administration has shown toward free speech. I've attended several demonstrations on the Mall, and I've never felt like there were logistical or safety problems with them. There's a saying: "if it ain't broke — don't 'fix' it!" If you truly believe in the ideals this country was found-

ed on, then you shouldn't show contempt for those ideals. Whether that contempt is only perceived, rather than real, is fairly irrelevant. If people perceive you as showing contempt — then you are showing contempt, unintentional though it may be. Our ENTIRE country is a “free-speech zone.” Your proposals should show that you understand that.

- Ideas such as “mandatory rest periods between events” to “protect natural resources and views” are just the kind of ideas that would destroy liberty in the name of aesthetics.
- I have only visited the Mall a few times, but every time I have, my first thoughts have been of the dozens of major protest marches that have happened there. I have walked from the Capitol to the Lincoln Memorial imagining that I was with Martin Luther King, or with my mother in one of the marches against the Vietnam war, or with my grandmother, who marched down the mall at about 70! To me, one of the greatest values of the Mall is that it accommodates massive marches that would not be possible on city streets. Indeed, when other cities have restricted protesters to specific zones, or kept them away from highly visible sites, I have comforted myself that there is always the Mall. When I see protesters clash with police in the U.S. and abroad, I have thought “there’s no problem with marches on the Mall; why can’t marches elsewhere be legal, unmolested, and peaceful”? I am an environmentalist, a friend of the national parks, and a historic preservationist. I sympathize with concerns about mudholes on the lawns, and such, but in the last half century the Mall has taken on marches, protests, and free speech as one of its major functions. It is a working place, not a museum piece. As we won't shut down the Capitol to prevent wear and tear, so we cannot shut down the Mall to keep it green. Channel tourists away from stressed grass if you will. Add bits of new pavement in high-traffic areas. Experiment with those plastic grills that reduce wear and tear but let the grass grow through them. But don't take away an essential part of American political culture.
- Thank you for inviting public comment as the NPS continues to develop alternatives for the Mall's future management. What makes the National Mall unique among the 391 units in the system is its use as a stage for our American democracy. Protecting and supporting this use should be a primary result of the NPS planning effort. Of fundamental importance, the NPS must communicate the Mall's mission and purpose, and develop alternatives that advance that mission and purpose. The current alternatives each focus on only one aspect of the Mall's history and use — its historic character, its urban park functions, and its role as the stage for America's democracy. These aspects must be integrated in the options presented in the next planning documents. Providing better transportation options, new concession options, and greater interpretation of America's history will dramatically change the visitor experience for the better. Please consider these alternatives as you work to devise a plan for the future of the National Mall. Thank you for considering my views.
- We are particularly concerned with proposals suggesting tending to limit the Mall's accessibility for public demonstrations in order to preserve its landscape. The Mall is where ordinary citizens and residents speak freely to power. If this role is subordinated to landscaping and ecological concerns, we risk reducing the Mall into a public garden.
- Having been to the Mall recently, I can verify that there are places where the Mall is suffering from deferred maintenance. The patches of mud where grass should be, the deteriorated condition of some of the buildings and monuments is unfortunate. But, it would be a tremendous mistake to presume that these physical limitations should in anyway be used to limit the access to the greatest public space in our country.
- I have examined the plans for the National Mall and believe it is most important to preserve the right of the people of the United States to assemble for the purpose of demonstrating support for, or opposition to, important issues. Recent changes in current

government policy regarding the right of the people to assemble and demonstrate have sent a negative message to Americans. I consider Alternative B to be the most effective and reasonable way to accomplish some much-needed renovations while supporting the constitutional right of citizens to assemble for whatever purpose they choose. It's important to remember, encouraging unrestricted free speech is the best indicator of a healthy government. If the purpose of our National Mall is simply to encourage tourism and provide a venue "promoting healthy lifestyles," it loses significance. Please, bear in mind the unique situation

and significance of the National Mall and don't trivialize or commercialize it. Instead, let's take advantage of this opportunity to demonstrate that our country is still a nation where freedom is revered.

- In order to preserve sufficient space for the exercising of First Amendment rights, the proposed "grass restoration" plans should be held one block at a time. For example, 3rd to 4th Streets on the Mall would be roped off for the amount of time needed to restore the grass, moving onto the next block and so on.

## 4. BICYCLIST COMMENTARY: RESULTS

Feedback from the bicycling community was extensive and consistent. Bicyclists were almost universally partial to alternative C and emphasized the need for separate routes for cyclists and pedestrians, increased parking, improved surfaces, better connections between areas, and wider paths. Bicyclists' comments were an expansion on what was discussed in theme 4.4d of the April 2007 *Public Scoping Comments Report*. A sample of related comments follows.

- I am particularly in favor of separated routes for cyclists and pedestrians; an upgrade to the surfaces of the existing paths along the Mall.
- There needs to be separated walk and bike lanes. Cyclists routinely travel around 12 mph without pushing, and pedestrians walk around 3 mph. I have never seen any collisions, but have heard of them.
- Better surfaces for bicycling. And bicycling lanes so that pedestrians and cyclists are not in danger of accidents.
- Do not adopt security features, such as steps and planters, that inhibit appropriate bike traffic/access to our monuments, memorials, and museums.
- Large open green areas, that are pedestrian and very bike friendly, will nicely suppress the feeling of a first-time visitor being in an asphalt, motor vehicle saturated city. (i.e., Beijing, Mexico City, Tokyo, etc.).
- Add bike paths and bike parking that connects to other areas of Mall. The National Mall is a large area and walking will only get you so far. The bike paths should be separated from pedestrian traffic to improve safety. Parking stands should be made available for bikes. Maybe autos should be banned from this area. Parking is very difficult anyway.
- Separate bike and pedestrian routes — good signage to indicate these separate routes. MORE BIKE PARKING!
- There should be a paved bike path that bypasses the monument so bikers do not have to overlap with pedestrians.
- Perhaps the widening of pedestrian/bicycle pathways or separating bike/pedestrian paths would be a nice addition.
- Alternative C is my preference because I tend to use the spaces for recreational or commuting bike riding and would like to see bike lanes as well as the preservation of historic areas.
- Alongside the reflecting pools to have some bicycling lanes/paths. Then behind the Lincoln Memorial I feel it is important to get good bicycle paths that connect to the riverside waterfront area.
- A clear path for bicycles around the south, east, and north sides of the Lincoln Memorial is needed and long overdue!
- Better bike and pedestrian connections to the Rock Creek trail and to the bridges into Virginia are needed. Commuting into the downtown area using the Rock Creek trail or from Virginia is a dangerous proposition — this must change.
- For people who actually live here, being able to jog/walk/bike in and out of the Mall area and central business district are top priorities. You will never get people out of their cars if you don't provide safe and efficient facilities for biking and walking!
- The bike and pedestrian area along the riverfront is currently lacking. If there is a way to create a safer bike path along this area without impinging on car traffic, I wholeheartedly support it.
- I strongly support the idea of SEPARATE biking and walking trails, to separate bicycle commuters and intense recreational riders from folks out for a relaxing stroll. Connections to places such a Rock Creek Park, the Georgetown Waterfront

and the CO Canal, East Potomac Park, and even the Mt. Vernon Trail across the river are HIGHLY desirable. Safe places to walk and bicycle would encourage more families and individuals to GET OUT OF THEIR CARS and do so.

- Alt C. Yes! Sustainable riverfront. Yes! Separate pedestrian and bike lanes. We have to make it easy and encourage people to visit Riverfront sites. It has such wonderful potential but as it is, it is very hard to walk or bike to and not that welcoming.
- The dock of the Georgetown riverfront is crowded and not friendly to bikes because people want to be on the river edge and cross the bike lanes. Perhaps there needs to be a route for cyclists attached (cantilevered?) to the side of the Whitehurst overhead parkway. In Ottawa (Canada) they have attached many bike/ped lanes to the side of bridges.
- Alternative C — improved bike facilities are needed for DC-area bike commuters and recreational cyclists.
- The bicycle paths in this area are very very narrow, and at times, dangerous. These paths need to be widened significantly, since this is a major entry point for cyclists entering the mall area from the northwest.
- Pedestrian connections to the Kennedy Center are long overdue. The area is currently a maze of roads so there is no apparent logic to the locations of the proposed future memorial sites. A bold pedestrian circulation idea is required.
- Improved pedestrian and bicycle access, as outlined in plan C are a much needed improvement to this area since many of the users here travel by both foot and bicycle.
- Provide a pedestrian and bicycle lane around the perimeter of the Tidal Basin. This would encourage users to enjoy the wonderful views around the Tidal Basin.
- Bike-sharing stations should be included as part of the transportation mix. Improved wayfinding showing folks which museums are nearby Metro stations are key. Showing folks more about the surrounding neighborhoods is important. Bike lanes or “cycle tracks” should be included on Madison and Jefferson drives. More bike parking is needed throughout the Mall. Consult the Association of Pedestrian Bicycle Planners “Bicycle Parking Guide” (<http://www.apbp.org/pdfsanddocs/Resources/Bicycle20Parking20Guidelines.pdf>) for the correct types of racks that should be used. Not all racks are good. Bulb-outs should be included to narrow crossing distances for pedestrians.
- I would like to see bicycle pedi-carts available to haul Mall pedestrians.
- I prefer your Alternative “C.” It focuses on open spaces, ecology and recreation, offers the best improvements for cyclists and pedestrians. The National Park Service should strongly consider that the following changes be included in the plans for the Mall, as recommended by the Washington Area Bicyclists Association: (1) Creating separated routes for cyclists and pedestrians. (2) Upgrading the surfaces of the existing paths along the Mall. (3) Improving wayfinding signage for bikes and peds. (4) Focusing on improving connections between the Mall and Rock Creek and East Potomac Parks, as well as the southwest waterfront. (5) Providing more walking and biking tours and bike rental opportunities. Many of the above recommendations were supported by WABA during the previous Mall transportation study. In addition to the above, WABA is recommending the following additions to the plan: (1) Add more bike parking to Mall destinations. (2) Stripe bike lanes on Madison and Jefferson Drives, which front many of the museums on the Mall. (3) Mandate valet bike parking at all major Mall events to help promote non-motorized transportation. (4) Install bike lanes on Pennsylvania Ave. As it is currently configured, Pennsylvania Avenue is much too wide for existing traffic volumes. A reduced width would make the Pennsylvania Avenue corridor more conducive to bicycle traffic and improve the overall pedestrian experience.

- I would like to see bicycle paths around the entire Mall area. Maps showing the paths and the distances between points would also be good. Same goes for running paths — they are all ready in place, but a few maps with the distances listed would be perfect.
- Bicycles need bikeways and accessways and parking facilities. Construction of bikeways alongside of pedestrian walkways with at least a narrow strip of non-travel surface between them is needed. They need to be constructed to enhance the laminar [sic] flow of differing velocity transport types, wide enough to allow several bicyclists of varying skill levels and velocities to pass safely and aligned to allow dedicated access from all of the major entry points to the

Mall. Bicycle, pedestrian, and motor vehicle/bus traffic should not have to merge together at restricting bottlenecks. Bicycle parking needs to be near one entrance to each destination point on the Mall with signed access to the parking. The bicycle parking should be sited consistently in relation to each of the buildings or featured sites to facilitate visibility. Including facilities and well-designed signage inviting bike access and use will enable the intergradations of bicycles safely into the National Mall as it promotes the use and enhances the amenities of the National Mall environment.

## 5. ADDITIONAL RESULTS

The results section is organized based on the items numbers, as presented above. Ideas that are unique to specific sites are presented first (5.1–5.15), followed by general feedback regarding the National Mall (5.16–5.18) and Pennsylvania Avenue National Historic Park (5.19–5.21).

Table 5.1 presents an overview of the preferences offered by the public considering the variety of alternatives associated with specific sites. For this table, issues other than the First Amendment rights and bicycling issues were tallied unless the comment was specific to something brought forth in a given alternative, as these concerns are addressed individually above, and form letters with associated variations were only counted once.

Alternative C, which focuses on urban open space, urban ecology, recreation, and healthy lifestyles, received significant support as pertaining to grounds areas, such as the Northwest, Riverfront, and Tidal Basin areas. This preference for open space, whether used for formal or informal gatherings, mimics the findings summarized in the April 2007 *Public Scoping Comments Report*, where respondents expressed a deep desire to sustain the openness and accessibility of the National Mall as well as upgrading the greenspace.

There was strong support for the no-action alternative as particularly relating to spaces specific to memorials such as the Vietnam Veterans Memorial grounds, the Korean War Veterans Memorial, and the George Mason Memorial. Those in favor of this alternative were more concerned with maintaining what is already in place rather than adding new features. These respondents appeared to be sensitive to funding considerations and worried that allocations for new projects would lead to further erosion of what was already in place. Emotional attachments to specific sites were expressed, with related comments such as “Leave it alone,” suggesting that any change could harm the current feelings brought on by these sites.

In requesting feedback, the National Park Service reinforced in newsletter 3 that the alternatives could be mixed and matched. Many respondents identified with this option, and their associated comments reflected a desire to combine the various alternatives and/or offer additional suggestions.

Following the summary table, discussion and sample quotes pertaining to each of the items posed on the National Mall website are presented.

**TABLE 5.1: RESPONDENT PREFERENCES FOR NEWSLETTER 3 ALTERNATIVES (%)**

	No-Action	Alt. A	Alt. B	Alt. C	Combined or New Ideas	Total
1. Union Square	9.43	18.87	11.32	50.94	9.44	100
2. Mall (3rd to 14th)	8.00	16.00	34.00	32.00	10.00	100
3. Washington Monument Grounds	61.91	2.38	0	28.57	7.14	100
4. World War II Memorial	11.54	9.62	21.15	50.00	7.69	100
5. Constitution Gardens	13.46	19.23	13.46	40.39	13.46	100
6. Vietnam Veterans Memorial Grounds	52.17	2.90	13.04	27.54	4.35	100
7. Lincoln Memorial and Reflecting Pool	21.54	7.69	4.61	43.08	23.08	100
8. Northwest Area and Riverfront	5.56	5.56	5.56	78.88	4.44	100
9. Korean War Veterans Memorial	44.64	3.57	7.14	42.86	1.79	100
10. DC War Memorial	20.00	17.50	17.50	42.50	2.50	100

	No-Action	Alt. A	Alt. B	Alt. C	Combined or New Ideas	Total
11. Ash Road, JFK Hockey Fields, and U.S. Park Police Stables	18.92	8.11	2.70	48.65	21.62	100
12. Tidal Basin Area	7.81	4.69	3.12	48.44	35.94	100
13. Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial	43.4	5.66	11.32	26.41	13.21	100
14. George Mason Memorial	51.72	6.9	0.00	41.38	0.00	100
15. Thomas Jefferson Memorial	19.15	6.38	4.26	38.30	31.91	100

## 5.1. UNION SQUARE

The majority of the respondents (50.94%) preferred alternative C when considering Union Square, with ideas including making the Grant Memorial a focal point, redesigning the reflecting pool, providing video screens to simulcast demonstrations, and automated public toilets. Two themes emerged from the responses to this question. One relates to the possibilities for elimination, re-design, or maintenance of the reflecting pool as a prominent feature of Union Square. The other theme deals with the suggestion to make Union Square a designated gathering place or civic plaza for demonstrations and the exercise of First Amendment rights.

### 5.1.1. Capitol Reflecting Pool

Opinions were evenly divided between support for eliminating the pool altogether, redesigning it to be a shallow, drainable water feature, and leaving it as is (with perhaps better maintenance to keep it clean and attractive). Practical concerns (especially cost) were used to argue against regular draining of the pool, but strong support for giving it a recreational function (wading / skating) was also voiced. Some felt the pool has historic significance, and others enjoy its aesthetic qualities. Arguments against removing the reflecting pool and paving over the area include heat, aesthetics, and loss of urban green-space.

- The reflecting pool is an important part of the National Mall. Enhancing the area to an urban center is a fabulous idea, but without the pool it would be much less than it is now. The pool is used to reflect. Whenever I pass the area I stop and I see many others doing the same. It is a beautiful part of the mall. I like alternative C idea of making it not just

beautiful but usable for ice-skating for example.

- Do not pave the Union Square area. The Mall should remain a continuous green area from the U.S. Capitol to the Lincoln Memorial.
- I don't like the amount of paving. As it is, the area is almost too hot to stand in the summer.
- Alternative C will retain the beautiful aesthetic of the water and the reflecting pool, while making the area more usable for events.
- Right now, the pool has a distinct odor of sewage. Improvements should remedy this. . . . I imagine this is a ripe mosquito breeding ground as well, which creates disease risk and discomfort for visitors.
- I am concerned about the periodic or permanent removal of this body of water.
- Maintain the pools in clean enough condition for kids to wade on hot days and skate on cold ones.
- The reflecting pool is too large for use (such as ice skating in winter or model boat sailing) and should be removed.
- Instead of eliminating the reflecting pool I would recommend redesigning and rebuilding it as a shallow pool that could be drained for large events and used for ice skating in the winter. I would not want to see the reflecting pool element of the historic landscape removed completely.
- I don't like the idea of a drainable area in the proposed Union Square; if the area

truly were to become a focus for events, the added cost from constant draining and refilling would drain already limited financial resources.

- Keep the reflecting pool. It is one of the most beautiful sights in the world.
- Eliminate reflecting pool. It is an eyesore and has no historical validity and serves no useful purpose here.

### 5.1.2. First Amendment Demonstrations

Many respondents were concerned about the idea of creating a plaza to which most ‘free speech activities’ might be directed. Although the utility and spatial accommodations were welcomed, the principle of directing demonstrations was generally disconcerting.

- As much as possible, special events on the Mall should be concentrated here to spare the lawns and elms of the Mall.
- Creating a non-lawn area for major public gatherings is a good idea in Alternative B.
- Please restrict protest area to the Pit area as suggested by NPS. I do not agree that this would be an abridgement of the First Amendment. Nor do I wish my visits and those of my family to the Mall to be disrupted or otherwise inconvenienced by protesters throughout the Mall.
- Opposed to the idea of making this an official protest area. Feels just a bit totalitarian to me.
- I dislike the proposed plan. I prefer the Mall be as open as possible. Corralling citizens who want to express themselves seems un-American.
- It would hardly be an infringement upon other groups to set this area aside as a protest/demonstration area. People could still use the area for other purposes when no demonstrations are taking place. However, protesters should be given priority in this area. You might want to rename it Free Speech Square.

- I like the idea of creating a ‘public square’ space for demonstrations; however, I do not think that demonstrations should be restricted to this area. I think the Mall area should be open to public events and staging.

## 5.2. MALL (3RD TO 14TH STREETS)

Upon reviewing the alternatives for the Mall (3rd to 14th streets), respondents were almost evenly divided between alternatives B (34%) and C (32%). Both of these alternatives include plans to replace soils, install an irrigation system, and remove gravel. Alternative B focuses more on event impacts, while alternative C highlights the construction of a tunnel and adding a playground. Eight themes emerged from analysis of the comments received regarding this portion of the Mall. Many of the comments emphasized the need to avoid congestion, protect the natural feel of the Mall, and facilitate a variety of activities in this space.

### 5.2.1. Walkways

A slight majority of the comments relating to the major walkways in this area supported leaving the gravel surface and not using curbs or posts and chains to demarcate the grass and gravel areas. Alternatives to traditional paving were also suggested. There was also extensive commentary on the relationship between pedestrians and bicyclists, and how cycling activities can be accommodated.

- I support the notion of paved areas but I am not sure what that means. As a runner, I don’t want you to eliminate the gravel running paths along the mall. The gravel/sand also looks much softer than a sidewalk type surface.
- Alternative A is preferable for the paths: retain gravel walks but install granite curbs to contain gravel and to define grass and tree panels.
- The gravel walks are the greatest single defect of the National Mall. They should be replaced with paved surfaces and curbs.
- The gravel walkways are frequently muddy. I think the walkways should be

- paved so that it would be easier for all walk about.
- Do not limit pedestrian access to grassy areas as suggested in Alt. A and B. Alternatives A and B propose limiting social trails by use of chain-and-post fencing. These proposals would limit the wide-open freedom that the Mall promotes.
- The current gravel walks give a sense of openness and rusticness. Pavement would make the mall seem over-developed. Paving would cause unsightly puddling off the pavement.
- The gravel paths are awful: dusty and difficult to walk on, particularly in certain types of shoes. Also, they don't really mirror the way people walk through the mall: more should be on a diagonal.
- PVA (Paralyzed Veterans Association) strongly supports the determination in Alternative C to remove gravel from walks and repave with sustainable surfacing.

### 5.2.2. Elm Panels and Grassed Areas

Respondents appreciated the benefits of trees and grassed sections, and supported protection and rehabilitation of planted areas. Some suggested that limitations on activities would be an appropriate protective practice, and others suggested additional plantings in the Mall area.

- The Elms are stressed: ban temporary facilities and staging in the elm tree panels (there is no need to ban events.)
  - More trees will shade people on hot days and act as lungs to clean downtown's air.
  - Turf renovation is critical. Explore subsurface reinforcement options. Maintain the geometry of the existing design while enhancing surfaces, textures and durability.
  - I would like to see more flowers, and park benches. Make the area more attractive.
- It is very important to preserve the elm trees and to provide a better growing situation for them. This would imply keeping demonstrations and events away from the elm tree areas. These trees are a VERY important component of the passive recreation aspect of the mall that needs to be considered — in addition to the active recreation.
  - On the Mall, there is significant room for tree plantings. The trees will keep the area cooler during the summer, as the Mall is often scorching in July and August.

### 5.2.3. Views

In addition to the east-west view, respondents identified views of surrounding buildings as being worthy of protection and/or enhancement. Restrictions on temporary events were questioned as a practical or effective way to protect the Capitol viewshed.

- The buildings along the Mall are very dark at night. Though this does focus attention on the brightly-lit Capitol and Washington Monument, the museums should not be quite as dark as they are now. Especially the Smithsonian Castle, the symbolic center of the nation's cultural institution. This building should be given some sort of lighting, and the towers' windows should appear lit from the inside.
- Preserving the line of site (Alternative A) in the center 80 feet of the Mall is a wonderful idea.
- Prohibiting temporary event facilities from blocking east-west views is also best for the Mall experience (Alt. A).
- Prohibiting the obstruction of views for even temporary events is absurd. . . . Given the need for large gathering spaces, the Mall will never rival Central Park's natural feel, so views to the surrounding buildings should be opened up and enhanced.

#### 5.2.4. Performance Space

Respondents who were supportive of the idea of facilitating performances in this part of the Mall, were most concerned about the location of such performances. Because of congestion concerns, the area close to the Smithsonian Metro Station was not favored. It was expressed that performance spaces should not interfere with the quiet contemplative or relaxing functions of the area.

- I would not add performance space or food service to the area near the Metro station, as proposed in Alternative B; that area gets congested enough just accommodating arriving and departing train passengers.
- With regard to the notion of providing performance space near refreshment stands, I do NOT support the concept of having performers all over the Mall. Maybe in two or three widely scattered spots across the entire Reserve Area would be okay, but I think that there should be large areas where one can enjoy peace and quiet, and which are conducive to contemplation/reflection. People don't ALWAYS need to be passively ENTERTAINED! This ISN'T an amusement park.

#### 5.2.5. Visitor Information and Education

The idea of a fixed information facility near the metro station held merit for many, due mostly to the perceived need for additional, better, or more accessible visitor information. However, concern was expressed about the congestion that might thereby be created at that site. Several respondents recommended improved signage and wayfinding systems as an addition or alternative to a metro station visitor information center.

- Please move information center to Metro stop.
- Do not put a structure for visitor information or for restrooms next to or across from the Metro entrance. One of the best things about emerging from the underground Metro station is seeing the expanse of the Mall around you. This area gets congested and visitors should

be encouraged to continue moving away from the Metro entrance. Provide simple signs that will direct visitors away from the Metro entrance without disturbing the view. Put the more complex signs further away on the perimeter of the Mall. Put a NPS visitor center in the old Smithsonian building — a shared use of the building for Smithsonian visitors and Mall visitors.

- A visitor orientation/contact facility near the Metro — absolutely! Add restrooms and pave the walkways to make it more visitor friendly.
- In all respects, there needs to be much better wayfinding signage.
- I LOVE the idea of using the GORGEOUS Smithsonian Arts and Industries Building as a welcome/visitor center for the National Mall.

#### 5.2.6. Special Events

Limitation of events was only viewed as acceptable (with reservation) as a measure to protect the resource for future celebrations and demonstrations.

- I support the Alternative A ban events item (3rd bulleted item for the Mall). Although the Folklife Festival is a popular event, it disrupts and dominates the central part of the Mall for too much of the year, interferes with east-west views, and is destructive of the landscape.
- Banning events and staging among the elms flanking the Mall is a good idea. I would also ban temporary facilities among the elms (Alt. B).

#### 5.2.7. Bus Parking

A few respondents noted concern over vehicular traffic around the Mall, in particular, the tour buses. Related comments usually included the recommendation to remove buses from the area by limiting access or parking.

- I hope that you will ban tour buses from idling and parking on the mall. These buses are huge and just sit and idle, spewing fumes, burning fuel and causing

traffic issues along the mall. Couldn't the RFK serve as a holding lot for these buses. Then people could take the Metro to town.

- None of the plans address the issue of tour buses. I propose a garage underneath the mall for the buses and, perhaps, for cars which currently park on Jefferson and Madison drives, easily accessible for loading and unloading for those visiting the museums. I would ban parking on the mall.

### 5.2.8. Playground

Some support for a playground near the carousel was noted. However, the most direct responses to the idea were generally not supportive. Opponents were concerned about creating a new point of crowding and/or changing the nature of the area.

- Relocating the carousel from the formal area to Constitution Gardens as a newly designated family/children-oriented area as proposed at the second public meeting is a promising idea worth some further study.
- Do not add a playground near the carousel (Alt. C). Although I have children and love to take the playground, a playground would create an unnecessary diversion. Children have many opportunities to play and run around the wide-open spaces of the Mall; they do not need to have their play structured with a playground.
- I think adding a playground near the carousel is a wonderful idea.
- Despite having small children, we do not support a playground near the carousel. A playground is not the intended purpose of this space and will only become overcrowded, full of litter, and open the potential for injuries and lawsuits.

## 5.3. WASHINGTON MONUMENT GROUNDS

By and large respondents requested the no action be taken at the Washington Monument

grounds (61.91%). Comments about this area focused on visitor services (restrooms, food concessions, information, etc.), the Sylvan Theater, open spaces and monument operations. Respondents had little to say about the condition of the grounds and instead emphasized the problems and opportunities associated with buildings and services that support those who use the grounds.

### 5.3.1. Visitor Services

There was much discussion about a visitor information center, food concessions, and restrooms near the Washington Monument. The idea of clustering these visitor services and locating them in an underground facility, as highlighted in alternative A, was met with general support. However, some questioned the appeal of subterranean facilities while others lauded the low visual impact that they would have. Maintaining a low visual impact and providing accessible facilities were considered to be important. Alternative B suggests moving the Sylvan Theater and replacing it with a multipurpose visitor services facility (also addressed in 5.3.2). Alternative C indicated that food and gifts would be relocated, but without a specific location.

- I was torn between Alternative B and C for this area, but Alternative C had more positive attributes. Alternative B offers the information booth, food, gift, restroom and parking with a multipurpose facility, which are nice, but all the streets are still connected. Alternative C does away with the streets, offers more grassy areas but does away with the parking, multi-facility, and no information booth. I suggest doing away with the streets and multipurpose facility, but keep the information booth, food, gifts, rest rooms, and the parking.
- Yes, relocate food, gifts, ticketing, and security to an underground facility.
- Remove the blue gifts and food tent, replace the bandstand area with another updated one in a different color. The bathrooms (although one of the nicer older ones) could be updated to reflect World War II (the best on the Mall). Remove the old ticket booth.

- Keep the souvenir peddlers further away.
- I favor Alternative C. I would not construct an underground facility as recommended in Alternative A. However, a small visitor center for the Washington Monument is needed
- It makes sense to have all of the amenities located together, and it's a great idea to add parking for people with disabilities right in the core of the Reserve area. Having good restrooms located close to the monument is a necessity, for those waiting to climb it, especially.
- Don't make the space too full of other things. Providing bathrooms and food are important.
- I think the food and gifts should be in a pleasant park like setting. If the underground location was designed properly, it could be attractive, but that wouldn't be my first preference.
- Installing another structure underground involves extensive excavation, and destruction of the trees, grass, and landscape that are in the way. We won't get those things back in any reasonable time frame; witness the destruction on the east side of the Capitol Building. So I am opposed to putting more things underground if we can get along without them; and an extra food and gift kiosk doesn't seem worth the destruction.
- If the Sylvan Theater was reconfigured, it could be used for Screen-on-the-Green and other arts events. Maybe carve into the hillside some amphitheater-style seating or ridges for sitting.
- Relocate food and gifts. Replace and reorient the Sylvan Theater as a performance venue, and add restrooms.
- Rehabilitate the Sylvan Theater; do not build a new center there.
- The orientation of the current stage could be changed to better utilize this space and allow for larger numbers to enjoy. I could image that this stage could be the main event stage of many a festival.
- It should be kept to a minimal footprint. The view of the grounds needs to remain open and unobstructed.

### 5.3.2. Sylvan Theater

Numerous comments about the Sylvan Theater were recorded. In general it was felt that the theater is inadequate for most contemporary uses, partly because of its condition and partly because of its orientation. From those respondents who did not suggest that the theater be removed entirely, hope was expressed that the theater could be rejuvenated to become a major focal point for events on the Mall.

- Remove Sylvan Theater (it's ugly).
- I think the Sylvan Theater should be moved. The present location isn't very useful since the grounds were refigured.

### 5.3.3. Grounds / Open Space

While most respondents liked the open space around the monument, some recommended the addition of shade areas and benches.

- Adding some casual tree clusters to the predominantly grassy areas might mitigate the visual impact of the maintenance problems being experienced in keeping the grass in top form and provide some relief from the sun.
- Open space for playing games, flying kites, running around, picnicking.
- Increased tree coverage.
- I have enjoyed playing ultimate Frisbee on the 17th/Constitution side of the monument grounds and hope that the area will be maintained for casual and formal play.
- More benches to sit on. It is a long walk.
- The preservation of all trees for shade and access to cool water is deeply important to all our visitors from all over the world, in particular during the hot, humid spring and summer seasons.
- The monument grounds are starkly devoid of trees and in the heat of the

summer this can be a brutal place to visit. Not only could trees on the grounds add shade to improve the visitor experience, increased tree canopy would also improve this area's urban ecology.

#### 5.3.4. Monument Operation

Several respondents offered suggestions about the operation of the monument and its accessibility to visitors. Extended hours were recommended, as was the practice of allowing visitors to choose to use the stairs to descend the monument.

- Allow people to take the stairs on the way back down to get an appreciation for the structure and to see the stones from each state. By allowing only one-way traffic the chance of collisions is lessened, and it is generally easier to move down than up.
- Why does this attraction have such short hours? Especially in the summer, when tickets are sold out by early morning. Why can't the Park Service expand the hours? It would be especially nice to be able to see the city at night from such a vantage point. Try having late-night hours just once a week!

### 5.4. WORLD WAR II MEMORIAL

Alternative C was the most commonly preferred option in terms of the World War II Memorial (50%), which included no major actions but still fell within a broader focus on urban open space. In fact, while none of the alternatives for the World War II Memorial suggested major actions, this site still elicited significant comment. As a fairly new memorial, the general public remains at odds regarding their opinions of the design and location. Some expressed delight at its existence and style, while others felt it to be an inappropriate or unsightly addition to the Mall. Several others wrote about ways for visitors to enjoy the memorial.

#### 5.4.1. Design and Location

While some respondents found the design of the memorial to be attractive and fitting, others were

critical of its scale and architectural style. In terms of location, several comments specifically praised the decision to build the World War II Memorial on the Mall. Some felt that the location and design were ideal. Others suggested that a more appropriate place for this and other war memorials might be elsewhere. A few expressed the opinion that the memorial should not have been built in the first place.

- Is a great asset to the Mall, my Dad fought in the war in the Italian campaign, I wish he had lived long enough to see the memorial.
- Keep the WW II looking beautiful by holding off on the erection of any further memorials in this area. The addition of this WW2 memorial was fantastic for our nation, especially with the nearby park and water ponds.
- I don't have much to say, it is nice the way it is. A jewel on the mall.
- This is one of the most beautiful and poignant spots, next to the Vietnam Wall. I think it has been tastefully done. Visitor facilities are nearby and accessible. Leave it alone.
- After the last WWII vet dies, remove this ugly eyesore and all of the war memorials from the mall to Arlington National Cemetery, where they belong.
- This is a disaster. It tells no story, inspires nobody and adds nothing. Short of removing the whole thing, I can only suggest ignoring it in planning. People will find it, but you do not need to spend scarce resources sending people to it.
- This memorial is too large, not sure why you let it grow so big. It is also uninspiring and a bad design. Do not put any more memorials on this space.
- I see no need to change anything around the WWII Memorial. It is comparatively new, it has open access, and is well thought-out.
- It looks like a monument to the individual states, and seems not to have anything to do with celebrating America's participation in the allied effort to save

our friends from Naziism. Ugh, it looks like it was designed by Nazis; brutal and overly done.

- God it's awful. Looks like a memorial to fascism. What was called for was something symbolizing or personifying how our involvement was a selfless act of epic proportions. Oh well.
- On a summer night it looks like a UFO landed. Maybe more tasteful lighting at night.

#### 5.4.2. Visitor Enjoyment

Several respondents commented on their experiences as visitors to the World War II Memorial. They were generally pleased with their experiences so far, but also had suggestions to enhance their enjoyment at the site. Improved lighting to facilitate nighttime visits, water features that visitors could use for refreshment and recreation, and shaded seating areas were recommended.

- LOVE it! BEAUTIFUL, as is. I visited this area at night on one occasion, and was disappointed that it wasn't better lit, and that some features were not lit at all. I guess that is because of concern about light pollution from very bright lights. If that concern could somehow be addressed yet still allow for brighter light on the memorial's features at nighttime, I think that would be a big improvement and enhancement of the visitor experience. Also, please consider keeping the fountains going (and lit) at night if they aren't already, especially those in the large oval in the center of the memorial. Please consider doing that even if the rest of the memorial remains unlit or dimly lit. It would be beautiful . . . another real nice feature for nighttime visitors to the National Mall to see and enjoy.
- Visitors enjoy wading in the pool, in spite of restrictions on this activity. Please consider allowing wading in part of the memorial's water feature.
- I have several WWII vets in my family, and they were very moved by the new

memorial. Nice job — but it's really, really hot in summer. Why no trees?

- While I recognize the importance of respecting the memorial and keeping it clean, I have always had the overwhelming urge to jump in the fountain, or at least put my feet in it. Maybe something nearby could accommodate the aching and tired tourist — another fountain that CAN be jumped in?
- Add benches for seating near 17th St. Improve traffic pattern on 17th St. to allow drop-off of elderly persons while the driver parks and returns.

### 5.5. CONSTITUTION GARDENS

The most commonly chosen alternative for Constitution Gardens was alternative C (40.39%). This alternative includes ideas such as lake reconstruction, relocating the lockkeeper's house, and relocating food service. Themes that emerged from comments on Constitution Gardens reflected opinions on the nature of the space, the use / location of the historic lockkeeper's house, and uses of the area by visitors. In general, this area was considered to be a quiet place with a somewhat natural feel to it, and suggestions that would increase its use for more 'urban' purposes were not favorably received. However, the possibility of leaving the area untouched was also considered inadequate, due to deteriorating conditions and a poor aquatic environment.

#### 5.5.1. Nature of the Space

Constitution Gardens was seen as a quiet place for individuals or families to enjoy with minimal programming or commercial-like activity. Redevelopment of the pond was considered to be of paramount importance for this area, and respondents mostly favored the idea of making it a natural aquatic environment that would not be drained for other uses. Redevelopment recommendations included improved walkways, new restrooms, and added seating and bicycle parking.

- Reconstruct the lake to improve water quality and be self-sustaining for fish and plants; rejuvenate soil and vegeta-

tion. Alt. B's reconstructing the lake as a shallow pool that could be drained for events is a horrible idea.

- I think it would be nice to keep this place a calm, meditative space.
- Standing water smells bad and is a big mosquito breeding ground. This area is almost hidden and is underutilized because it is smelly and buggy.
- Reinvigorating the gardens as a family-oriented area was a good idea to come out of the second public meeting.
- This is a peaceful, shaded respite among the bustle of the mall, monuments, and the city.
- Repair the walkways near and around the gardens. Keep as natural and do not add more concrete.
- The idea of restructuring the lake for use by fish and plants is really exciting. What a great opportunity for kids (as well as adults). It is a perfect option. Setting it up for draining is a terrible idea.
- Focus on vegetation management and rehabilitation and maintenance of existing infrastructure. Improve soil for tree growth. Improve the gravel walkways and trails. No new structures. Reconstruct the pond to have a natural bottom and a self-sustaining ecosystem (same for Freedom Plaza Pond).
- Please, do not make this drainable! This is the 'wild' portion of the mall, it serves as an escape from the rigidity of the rest of the mall. It should be husbanded to allow for natural growth of flora and fauna, and be tamed just enough to allow for a maximum of individual connection with nature and enjoyment at an intimate scale.
- I do not think that fish should be added. Fish add a need to enforce no fishing, they are also high maintenance. The pond in Boston Commons and Frog Pond in the City of Boston are good models of water space which serve as venue for communal and tourist attractions.

### 5.5.2. Events

There was general resistance to the suggestion that Constitution Gardens be developed and used as an event site.

- This is a peaceful, shaded respite among the bustle of the mall, monuments, and the city. It should not be turned into a place for large events (Alt. B).
- Please do not ever drain it for events. This would only create logistical problems, and events are the time when most people get acquainted with the gardens.
- Redesign and reconstruct the area to be able to accommodate LARGE-scale events such as the Folklife Festival, NOT just small events. Harden enough area so that it could accommodate a lot of events in succession without the need for constant unsightly/unattractive landscape rehabilitation work. Use this area to take most or all of the burden off of the Mall between 3rd and 14th streets, and to keep that area free and open and maintain the views.

### 5.5.3. Food Service

The suggestion to add quality food service at the site was supported by respondents. The expected level of food service included a garden-like restaurant setting, with a variety of menu selections at a mid-price range.

- The snack kiosk does not serve as an attraction. Make this place more interesting to visit by improving the food offered.
- Relocate the food service in a garden-style cafe (like at the sculpture garden) and provide Latin American and Caribbean foods to highlight the cultures of the Americas.
- I like the idea of a garden-type restaurant as proposed in Alternative B.
- I would recommend something akin to the eatery in the National Gallery Sculpture Garden for the food service facility, but be sure to offer at least some items that are affordable for those on a limited budget.

- Love the idea of a garden-like restaurant.
- Love the idea of a restaurant — SIMPLE, elegant place — perhaps high tea. Not fast-food. Keep it tranquil.
- Do not favor refreshment carts as this will add to litter problem.

#### 5.5.4. Recreational Services

The pond and surrounding areas offer opportunities for unique recreational activities. Several respondents expressed enthusiasm and support for chair rentals and remote controlled toy boat concessions. Others felt that such services would over-commercialize the area. Several respondents felt strongly that a playground for children should not be included at the site, as proposed in alternative C.

- Seems like a pretty dreary place at times. Perhaps some CLEAN outdoor fountains where kids can get their feet wet or cool off on a hot day.
- Add seating and bicycle racks and restrooms.
- But no playground! There's enough playground for kids in parks here and there. People should have a place to go to enjoy the quiet with a book without screaming babies, loud kids, and strollers littered here and there.
- Add restrooms and water fountains.
- NO PLAYGROUND! I think that is just more pain than it's worth.
- Renting chairs is too commercialized and uninviting. Free model boats would be cool — though a timer of 20 minutes should be placed on the models so others could use them. Plus there should be helpers (supervision) nearby. Different historical battles could be fought during the summer. Relocate food service and restrooms. Add a playground.

#### 5.5.5. Lockkeeper's House

Some concern was expressed about the historical integrity of the lockkeeper's house if it

was relocated or used for other purposes. However, most respondents who addressed this issue felt it was a sensible and appropriate action.

- It may also be desirable to move the lockkeeper's house for safety reasons.
- Putting the lockkeeper's house to public use is a good idea, but I would be cautious about moving it too far from Constitution Avenue; since Constitution Avenue follows the old canal route, the lockkeeper's house should not be far off.
- Great idea using the Lockkeeper's House as an information center.
- Retain the lockkeeper's house in its present location. Moving it would destroy its connection with the L'Enfant canal.
- Relocate the lockkeeper's house and provide staff for visitor information.
- Use the lockkeeper's house for visitor information, especially about the history of old Washington and the purpose of the house itself. It's a quaint-looking building, and its history will be lost if it's moved or unused.
- Relocate the lockkeeper's house to improve intersection safety and reuse. Provide staff for visitor information.

### 5.6. VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL WALL

Respondents generally indicated they preferred the no-action alternative for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial due to the need to retain its simplicity of design (52.17%). Citizen input responded frequently to the contemplative and somber nature of its design. Those responses reflecting a desire for change at the memorial noted needs for maintenance and visitor information.

#### 5.6.1. Retain Current Status

A multitude of responses clearly perceived the existing memorial to be adequate in terms of both design and function.

- Wonderful. Leave it alone.

- I wouldn't change a thing at the memorial.
- Splendid, no changes to recommend.
- This wonderful memorial should be left in all of its understated glory. A visitors' center would be catastrophic.

### 5.6.2. Contemplation

Respondents also suggested the need to preserve the quiet and contemplative nature of this memorial. Alternative B proposes providing space for contemplation near the memorial wall, which was met with mixed reactions.

- Preserving the old trees (and new ones) is highly important to this hallowed memorial, to mask the glare or nearby traffic on Constitution Ave.
- Provide seating for contemplation, along with broader walkways on permeable surfaces. Ensure that any additional lighting does not create line-of-sight glare.
- Plan B's minimal improvements to the turf, paving and furniture is preferable to the other plans' designs since this area is already a beautiful and peaceful place and should retain its current natural and reflective setting.
- It's right as is. Don't provide additional contemplation space. The wall is the contemplation space.

### 5.6.3. Maintenance

Maintenance concerns tended to address preservation of the existing memorial site's integrity.

- Alternative C: Focus on vegetation management and rehabilitation and maintenance of existing infrastructure. Improve soil for tree growth. Improve the gravel walkways and trails. No new structures.
- I would make little changes to the Vietnam Vet's area. I would just work on landscaping and path maintenance. Those areas could be improved.

- Maintenance is key to success with this area.

### 5.6.4. Vietnam Veterans Memorial Center

While not addressed in the alternatives, as this is a project already approved by Congress, respondents set forth varying opinions regarding the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Center. While outside the scope of the National Mall plan, the feedback regarding this center suggests a respondent pool very much in tune with ongoing actions taking place on the National Mall grounds.

- Can the info centers for Lincoln Memorial/Korean Memorial/Vietnam Vets and Constitution Gardens be combined? We need fewer info center and more restrooms.
- Don't add structures nearby, or underground retail venues. They detract from the real quality of the Mall. Cancel the adjacent memorial center. It is not needed, and will detract from the memorial itself.
- A visitor center for the Vietnam Memorial could be a room inside the American History museum; the Park Service should not be asked to build facilities every time it protects a memorial or a landscape.
- The expansion of the memorial to include a visitor's center defeats the purpose of the inspiring Maya Lin design. The less building of visitor centers the better.
- The new underground VC should be sufficient there. Add nothing to the outdoor area.
- I have always been disappointed in this area. The line for the Memorial is usually overlong, and the stores have been ramshackle at best. I think the shops being put in the Memorial Center to be built is a very good idea. I would prefer lots of space around the memorial, especially in the front for picture taking.

## 5.7. THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL AND REFLECTING POOL

The Lincoln Memorial and reflecting pool elicited a large number of comments suggesting change. Respondents primarily indicated a preference for alternative C (43.08%), which posed ideas such as increasing restroom availability, reconstructing the reflecting pool, repaving walkways, and reconstructing the U.S. Park Police stables. Comments reflected participants' desires to see the reflecting pool used as a national civic space as well as for recreation and urban open space. Additionally, respondents often perceived the area around the Lincoln Memorial as important for high-use and public gatherings as well as reiterating the need for access.

### 5.7.1. Surfacing

Respondents varied in terms of their perspectives toward surfacing and/or resurfacing areas around the pool and the memorial. Some respondents were interested in seeing additional paved areas to support their preferred activities, while others suggested no need for additional paving, and in some cases a reduction in paved surfaces.

- Construct a 16-foot-wide paved walk bordered by a 3-foot-wide jogging surface [around the reflecting pool].
- Less paving. The place already looks like a construction zone, if anything, more paving would exacerbate that problem.

### 5.7.2. Maintenance

Overall, respondents made note of various maintenance issues relevant to the reflecting pool. Maintenance specific to the Lincoln Memorial itself was not mentioned.

- Pool: Keep it better maintained — reconstruct if necessary
- Keep the Canada geese away during the summer months with a border collie for hire or by other means. The goose droppings are ruining the area for strolling or

reflecting. . . . The water is also very nasty smelling.

- Standing water smells bad and is a big mosquito breeding ground.

### 5.7.3. Lighting

Several people indicated their concern for the design of the current lighting at the reflecting pool. They commented not only on the design of the light fixtures, but also the design and quality of the light emitted.

- The new lights lining the reflecting pool are awful. They look cheap and cast a bad light. Darkness was preferred!
- Ensure that lighting is directed downward, with full cut-off shielding to eliminate line-of-sight glare and improve security. (Glare reduces security greatly. No lights are better than bad ones.)

### 5.7.4. Barriers

When mentioned, comments regarding safety or Jersey-style barriers generally suggested reducing or eliminating their use in favor of more attractive options.

- Replace all hideous Jersey barriers with less obtrusive barriers, to the extent such barriers are really necessary. Engage in renewed risk analysis to determine whether such extensive security measures are really appropriate and effective against perceived threats.

## 5.8. NORTHWEST AND RIVERFRONT AREAS

Analysis of responses regarding the northwest and riverfront areas revealed a general understanding that the challenges associated with this area would not necessarily be easily addressed. For those respondents choosing a particular alternative, alternative C was the most frequently identified (78.88%), which highlighted the same issues pertaining to recreation, road projects, and commemorative sites as the other alternatives, but housed these ideas within the larger emphasis on urban open space. Several respondents noted their concern regarding the current state of disrepair of the Potomac River wall. Some individuals indicated a need for

retaining the current design integrity, while others suggested the need for a higher wall due to the potential for rising water over time. Several responses also included suggestions for additional services associated with the riverfront area.

- Rebuild the river front wall. Add summertime ferry service up (Georgetown) and down (Alexandria) river.
- Reconstruct river walls to be higher. Provide bike and walking trails connecting to Rock Creek and East Potomac parks. Accommodate water taxi stops.
- Encourage a sustainable shoreline with recreation opportunities including kayak rental, fishing, picnicking, etc.

## 5.9. KOREAN WAR MEMORIAL

The Korean War Memorial elicited substantially fewer comments than other sites did, and those stating a preference were almost equally divided between the no-action alternative (44.64%) and alternative C (42.86%), which emphasized the need for more entry walks. Design issues and concerns regarding access were the most prevalently noted themes.

### 5.9.1. Design

The Korean War Memorial provoked varying perspectives from citizens in terms of its design relevance and quality.

- This is a wonderful tribute to the men and women who defended South Korea from the invasion from the north.
- Should be left as is.
- Remove this thing. It is awful and ugly.

### 5.9.2. Access

The need for additional access points to the Korean War Memorial was expressed by a multitude of respondents.

- More walkways would be good. It is kind of odd how you can't get into the memorial from the one side.

- Plan C's pedestrian improvements would greatly reduce the pedestrian congestion due to the current dead-end walk way that forces pedestrians to double back.
- Path from in front of the Lincoln Memorial down to the edge of the reflecting pool (on the side of the Korean Memorial) is very narrow, and difficult to negotiate during heavy pedestrian periods.
- I encourage the NPS to add access to the Korean War Veterans Memorial from the east and south of the memorial. At present, visitors have to go a long way out of their way to go from that memorial to the Tidal Basin and vice versa. That is very inconvenient and tiring for tourists trying to visit the two areas, as I have with friends and relatives.

## 5.10. DC WAR MEMORIAL

The DC War Memorial, unlike other war memorials, elicited frequent comments from people who indicated they were either unfamiliar with the memorial or had not realized what it represented. Those selecting an alternative were most likely to pick alternative C (42.50%), which emphasized preservation, landscaping, and additional seating. Maintenance and restoration were also often cited as concerns among responses relative to this memorial. It may be that lack of familiarity with this particular memorial resulted in fewer comments regarding it.

### 5.10.1. Awareness

Several respondents indicated that they were not familiar with the DC War Memorial. In addition, some respondents who were aware of it recognized that others may not be and suggested increasing its visibility.

- Not familiar with this. Since I've typed this comment several times, it seems the lesser known memorials should be promoted more in media.
- This hidden gem of a memorial to the district's men who fought and perished in World War I is very under-used.

Could be spruced up and attention drawn to it in subtle ways. I remember a time when plays and concerts were held there, but the mosquitoes were terrible, so if you do that, please spray for the biting bugs.

- No comments for this area as I'm not real familiar with it.

### 5.10.2. Maintain Current State

Several respondents suggested leaving the memorial in its current state as that was part of its inherent attractiveness.

- Alt. A. Leave this charming old thing be. It is the only thing on the mall that has the character of something really old. Everything else is shiny and polished. Let this be. More seating to seat whom? I hardly see anyone there and that is part of the charm.
- Maintain it in a pristine state. It is perfect just the way it was built. I would consider inviting small groups to host performances there, low key music and dramas to draw people to the serene space.

### 5.10.3. Maintenance / Restoration

Maintenance was a frequently cited theme in reference to the DC War memorial. For several of the respondents, restoration of the monument was included within the context of the need for maintenance.

- It is in need of major preservation. More seating is a good idea. Any plan needs to look at the maintenance which is needed here.
- This is neglected at this time. Clean it up but keep the park-like setting for this whole side of the Mall between the reflecting pool and Independence Ave.
- Needs upkeep and clear pathway.
- Alt C: Continue preservation work at this smaller performance or event venue, renovate landscape and paving, and provide additional seating (same as alt. B).

- Alternative B. Please restore this little jewel of a monument along with increased access but minimal additions as a restful spot in a busy area.
- Love it! It's one of my favorites. I hope it gets a cleaning.

## 5.11. ASH ROAD, JFK HOCKEY FIELDS, AND U.S. PARK POLICE STABLES

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The majority of the comments supported alternative C (48.65%). In particular, most comments liked the idea of reconstructing the U.S. Park Police stables to be part of the visitor experience.

### 5.11.1. Landscape

Landscape issues pertained to open spaces, soil conditions, and adding features.

- I'm not certain this is the right location, but I really like the gardens you see both in London and Paris. I wish we could have some of that same look in a couple of locations around the Mall.
- Preserve the OPEN spaces.
- Open space for playing games, flying kites, running around, picnicking on JFK fields.
- Improve soil condition and add trees where practical. Trees could be used to surround and mark boundaries between playing fields and provide an amenity to the people recreating in this area.

### 5.11.2. Park Police Stables

Comments regarding the Park Police Stables were mostly in favor of this area being utilized as part of the visitor experience, as proposed in alternative C, although some were opposed to this suggestion.

- Reconstruct the U.S. Park Police stables to be part of the visitor experience, but do not add parking for vehicles.
- Alternative C. I really like the idea of the Park Police Stables being part of the visitor experience as long as stable operations are not impeded in any way.

- I think tourists would find the stables interesting if there's a way to make them accessible without disrupting the work there.
- U.S. Park Police Stables: I support alternative B idea #4 under the Lincoln Memorial heading.
- Remove Park Police Stables. They get in the way. Can't Park Police use Segways or foot patrols or bus in the horses from some other stables?
- Updated stables and better access for the Park Police.
- I like the stables integrated in the mall in alt. C.
- It would be good to incorporate the stables into the visitor experience as in Alt. C if it does not compromise Park Police security or performance.

### 5.11.3. Facilities

A variety of facilities were seen as being needed to improve the area comprising Ash Road, JFK Hockey Fields, and U.S. Park Police Stables.

- Recycling receptacles are needed.
- Add restrooms. Fix fencing so pedestrians can move easily through the fields.
- Add lighting for safety concerns.

### 5.11.4. Recreation

Recreation needs were stressed in order to support the athletic pursuits of residents and visitors.

- I recommend Alternative C. In particular, the athletic fields throughout West Potomac Park should be improved to accommodate quality competition in field hockey, soccer, lacrosse, rugby, and polo. Perhaps installation of one or more artificial turf fields should be considered.
- On the JFK hockey fields, I would suggest that several fields for sports such as field hockey, Frisbee, and soccer were marked out. Then, the recreational area could be developed with benches, pavil-

ions, toilets and trashcans. This area is a perfect opportunity for additional tree plantings. In order to maintain some of the historical significance of the JFK hockey fields, I propose that a series of signs document the history of the area and the people that were involved with the tournaments that are now in Maryland.

### 5.11.5. Public Access and Wayfinding

Public access and wayfinding pertained to vehicle, bicycle, and pedestrian access and circulation.

- Calm traffic on Ash road through speed bumps.
- Cars speed around here — maybe speed bumps.
- Make them more accessible for pedestrians, perhaps with foot-bridges.
- Signs! Mark clearly what they are, where they are so those not intending to go to them do not drive into the area or go into the area.
- Refrain from expanding, or cut back on freeways, to create more pedestrian areas.
- Vehicle access road isn't in very good condition; it should be widened and paved.

### 5.11.6. Maintain Current State

Some respondents felt that this area was suitable in the current condition.

- The playing fields seem to be well used as they are. Isn't that the purpose of the space?
- Leave as is.

## 5.12. TIDAL BASIN

Most comments regarding the Tidal Basin supported alternative C (48.44%), seeking improvements of the walkways, trails, and Tidal Basin wall. However, some aspects of alternative C received mixed feedback, such as filling in the north bay. Accordingly, a combined approach

was preferred by over one-third of the respondents (35.94%).

### 5.12.1. Preservation and Maintenance

Comments specific to preservation and maintenance were sensitive to protecting the area.

- Don't obstruct the view, please. Don't provide more recreation space.
- If the water north of the Kutz Bridge is filled in, it should be planted in some way, rather than have any facilities built upon it. The Mall has plenty of facilities already.
- The water level will rise. You must prepare for this.
- If there is a way to deal with garbage entering the Tidal Basin that would be wonderful.

### 5.12.2. Landscape

Landscape issues were focused on the cherry trees.

- Many cherry trees are getting old and decrepit.
- Keep planting more cherry trees!
- Do not put in chain-and-post fencing. IF it need be done to protect the cherry trees, do not do it all over, just in selected spots. It could be an educational opportunity.
- Improve soil condition and add trees where practical.
- Signs to protect the cherry tree roots.
- Do find an aesthetically pleasing way to protect the tree roots from being trampled. I would not like seeing Keep Off the Grass signs or barriers. I liked seeing families sitting under the trees enjoying the beauty of the area. Begin by educating people about the fragility of the trees.

### 5.12.3. Public Access and Wayfinding

Comments regarding public access and wayfinding addressed the difficulty of reaching the

Tidal Basin area as well as getting around the area safely with regard to multi-use.

- Add a trolley line around the mall, from the Capitol reflecting pool to the Lincoln Memorial. Low cost, with historic trolley cars from Washington, San Francisco, Cincinnati, Pittsburgh and many other cities, it would be true living museum.
- Looks like the bus drop off areas at the west side of the Tidal Basin would overwhelm the Martin Luther King Memorial. I would pull the busses back, and give MLK access to the Tidal Basin. AKA the Jefferson Memorial. This guy is important.
- Provide suitable pathways for foot and wheeled traffic to move among and thru the area — separate from motorized vehicles. No long-term plan can reject the knowledge that single occupant motorized vehicle use will soon become restricted just due to fuel pricing. So let's plan for the responsible and predictable future.
- ALTERNATIVE C — WIDEN AND REPAVE THE WALKWAYS, PLEASE!, ESPECIALLY NEAR THE JEFFERSON MEMORIAL. When the cherry blossoms are in bloom, if it has rained, this area is a muddy mess and the sidewalks aren't wide enough for the crowds.
- I like Alternative C. Alternative A's protection of the cherry trees seems infeasible during cherry blossom time. If more space can be created, that will provide some benefit, but the best protection for that area may be some type of high-quality temporary sidewalks that can be placed over portions of the grass during cherry blossom time. The crowds are too great to be accommodated solely on the paved sidewalks.
- There is a desperate need for better pedestrian access to the Tidal Basin area, especially from Metro; it's amazing there aren't more accidents, especially during cherry blossom time.

- I live here and can not figure out how to get across the street from the mall. Safety and wayfinding here need SERIOUS help.
- Signs alerting drivers to cyclists in the area.
- Please put up a sign that says it is a multi-use path. I often get yelled at by pedestrians when I'm going on to the bridge, especially during rush hour when it's crowded. Make sure they know it is a bike path too!!!

#### 5.12.4. Recreation

Recreation in the Tidal Basin area included discussion of increasing rental options.

- Add kayak/other boat rentals (paddle boats are so last century).
- I think providing an area where visitors can rent canoes or paddleboats will be a great draw! Building two docks, one on the north and one on the south, would allow for tourists to traverse the Tidal Basin on their way to visit the Jefferson and Mason memorials.

#### 5.12.5. Tidal Basin Wall and Kutz Bridge

The controversial suggestion of filling in the north bay of the Tidal Basin area, as proposed in alternative C, was met with mixed feedback. Most respondents suggested a combined approach, with rebuilding the basin walls but not filling the north bay; however, some approved filling in the north bay to allow for additional recreation space.

- Please do not even consider filling in the north part of the Tidal Basin or taking down the Kutz bridge. This is one of the most underrated and beautiful parts of the Mall. In fact, the north part of the Tidal Basin is the piece that most people see, either driving by or walking along the Mall.
- Rebuild the Tidal Basin walls. Do not fill the north bay!!! The bridge for Independence Ave. is a very positive element to the landscape.

- Please consider putting in some park benches (oriented to get views), some beautiful flowerbeds and other attractive landscaping, and perhaps a few picnic tables and a playground, in the filled-in north bay area of the Tidal Basin.
- Alternative B. Keep the north part of the basin: the more water the better. It shouldn't be filled in to accommodate a week or two of heavy usage during the Cherry Blossom Festival. Posts and chains are a great idea to protect the trees. The walls should be rebuilt but not raised above walkway level to minimize obstruction.
- For the Tidal Basin area most of Alternative C would be best — the improved pedestrian walkways, the improved turf/trees/grass, the bike route, the closed roads. However, I would keep the Tidal Basin as it is in Alternative B and make the bike route go around the top portion of the Tidal Basin rather than drain it
- I was intrigued with the idea of filling in the north lobe of the Tidal Basin. If it really is a problem, then maybe it should be closed. Clearly the Tidal Basin edges need to be repaired and raised a few inches.
- The removal of the top of the Tidal Basin in plan C seemed radical at first but makes a lot of sense when seen through the whole plan. That would provide a lot more public space as well as more access to the future MLK Memorial.
- Removing the Kutz bridge will cause traffic back-ups unless there is another way across the Memorial Bridge.
- Relocation of the bridge seems to make the most sense. It would enable full circle pedestrian and bike pathways and cherry trees along the north side of the basin. It would also permit traffic reconfiguration that would likely reduce substantially the daily congestion along Independence Ave.

- Please remove or rebuild the Kutz bridge — it is far too narrow for pedestrians to use safely.
- I favor Alternative C, including filling in the north bay. I would raise the height of the walls, as called for in Alternative A. Higher walls would provide seating space on the land side.
- Alternative C. Fill in the north bay. Widen and repave walkways.
- If the water north of the Kutz Bridge is filled in, it should be planted in some way, rather than have any facilities built upon it. The Mall has plenty of facilities already.
- Please keep the Tidal Basin intact, and do not fill in the north end.
- Alt. B although Alt. A's call for rebuilding walls to be above tidewater makes sense; I do not believe filling in the north bay for more recreation is a good concept as called for in Alt. C.
- The idea of a food service place convenient to both the FDR Memorial and the future King Memorial (Alts. B and C in the *Post* presentation) seems unnecessary. Let's encourage our fellow Americans to enjoy and respect national memorials without thinking about how fast they can get to eat food before or afterwards.
- Nothing. Don't waste money here. Alternative A. Why are people always asking for food concessions? More food, more trash, more sticky stuff on the marbles/walk/benches. People can just bring a snack or go get food elsewhere. If people really need food this badly we should not be a nation of obese people. Anytime there is a food concession, there is always trash littered around — some people are just irresponsible, and then there's the wind, birds, and squirrels.
- Alts. B and C. Refreshment stand is good idea especially looking ahead to needs of visitors to MLK.
- I favor Alternative B. The western shore of the Tidal Basin offers a great opportunity for a food service facility overlooking the water and adjacent to both the FDR and King memorials. This facility should have both indoor and outdoor seating. I think this site and Constitution Gardens are the best locations for a restaurant (as opposed to a snack stand) on the entire National Mall.
- A space for food service (GOOD LOCAL FOOD) would be excellent on this side of the Tidal Basin but maybe a small food court with restrooms could sit at the east end of the playing fields. That would accommodate players and tourists. Re: Food service. As with other food service areas on the Mall, perhaps you could allow rotating vendors that would sell a variety of ethnic foods — sort of like a mini-Folk Life Festival all year! And this should support local small restaurants or food services, not big fast-food chains.

### 5.13. FRANKLIN DELANO ROOSEVELT MEMORIAL

The respondents primarily selected the no-action alternative for the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial (43.4%). Those comments requesting change largely pertained to food service. Comments regarding access and maintenance were also noted.

#### 5.13.1. Facilities

Strong opinions regarding food service facilities (both for and against) were given, as well as the improvement or maintenance of other facilities in the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial area.

- Do not put food service on the west side of the Tidal Basin. This is a fine picnic and recreation area as it is now. Good connections to Southwest waterfront would provide outstanding food and beverage service. Food service on the Mall (and the accompanying litter it produces) should be restricted to areas north of Independence Ave.

- Favor food service near FDR and future MLK memorials, but am very concerned this will worsen litter problem, and add to floating refuse in tidal pool. Therefore, favor minimal biodegradable packaging, and food service area design that encourages eating in place and amply provides for recycling/disposing of trash. Same goes for all Park Service food service facilities in DC.
- A restroom/food service between FDR and MLK would be a welcome addition to the Mall for the visitors.
- Provide a place for food services that is unobtrusive.
- Photo points with seating.
- Consider opening the pools to splashing. I doubt Mr. Roosevelt would have supported restricting kids from refreshing themselves in his shadow. His spirit was all about life.
- I visited this area at night on one occasion, and was disappointed that it wasn't better lit, and that some features were not lit at all. I guess that is because of concern about light pollution from very bright lights. If that concern could somehow be addressed yet still allow for brighter light on the memorial's features at nighttime, I think that would be a big improvement and enhancement of the visitor experience.

### 5.13.2. Public Access and Wayfinding

Concerns were stated regarding getting to the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial.

- I like Alternative B/C, combined with better wayfinding to the memorial. It's among the nicest memorials, but it's easy for people to miss it entirely given its location.
- Provide better access.
- This is delightful, but the trail behind it is a mess. Add access for walking and bike riding behind the memorial!

- Bike trail should lead from Riverfront/ Ohio Drive up to bike parking near the monument.
- I could only suggest slightly more parking — for handicapped patrons ONLY. (The symbolism of a handicapped president is obvious.) Do not waste valuable space on parking for able bodied patrons who can walk from Metro or bus points.

### 5.13.3. Visitor Information and Education

Some visitors requested having formalized interpretive opportunities available at the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial.

- Enjoyed very much for the first time last fall. No rangers present when daughter had a question. Only a bookstore employee.

### 5.13.4. Maintenance / Preservation

Many respondents requested that the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial be more comprehensively maintained.

- Please, please, please repair the memorial — its lights, its waterfalls.
- Maintenance!!! Some of the plantings are now overhanging the lighting — dangerous at night because it is too dark! Water should not be turned off because that is an integral part of the monument's story. Water should only be turned off if the monument would be damaged by icy water.
- More plantings, to soften [the area].
- Only repair items that are damaged.
- The best memorial in the world and a serious lesson in history for any visitor. . . . Preserve the old willow trees as much as possible. It's a rare, magnificent treat as seen from the river, looking in towards Potomac Park and the Roosevelt Memorial.

## 5.14. GEORGE MASON MEMORIAL

Regarding the George Mason Memorial, most comments were related to the lack of familiarity

with the memorial and access and directions to the site. The no-action alternative was most commonly chosen (51.72%). Many respondents indicated “No comment,” most likely due to not having any knowledge of the site.

#### 5.14.1. Awareness and Access

Public comments suggest that greater attention should be given to raising visitor awareness of the George Mason Memorial by increasing access and information regarding the site.

- It must need to be improved because I am a Virginian and I am not familiar with this memorial.
- Where is that?
- Never been there. Don’t know it.
- Never heard of it.
- I could not find this Memorial on any of the maps and I do not know where it is.
- I have never visited the George Mason Memorial because I was unaware that it existed. Additional advertisement about the Mason Memorial, in league with the Jefferson Memorial, may draw more visitors. I think the tour bus access route is important because it allows the bus to travel to two additional memorials.
- Access and directions to this site should be improved.
- No change except for easier access. Like the DC WWI Memorial, this space can be a quiet getaway.
- Put him on a map somewhere! This is an important Memorial — and quite a lovely one — that many people do not know about. Some signage and pathways would be good.

#### 5.14.2. Landscape

Those familiar with the George Mason Memorial appreciate it as a reflective area and would primarily like to see an improved landscape.

- Please reintroduce the colorful flower plantings that were there before.

- The pond needs to be regularly maintained. How about seasonal water plants there too?
- Provide landscaping that is flowering in the spring, summer, and fall but that does not require a large effort to maintain.
- This is a lovely spot. Make sure the gardens are inviting throughout the seasons.

### 5.15. THOMAS JEFFERSON MEMORIAL

When considering the Thomas Jefferson Memorial, many comments supported alternative C (38.30%) which supports rehabilitating the plaza, redesigning the tour bus area, and increasing restroom availability. However, close to one-third (31.91%) of the respondents preferred a combined approach, with specific comments about preserving an unobstructed view to White House from alternative A. There were also a number of comments regarding security barriers.

#### 5.15.1. Preservation

Preservation comments associated with the Thomas Jefferson Memorial were geared toward protecting the view of the White House.

- Alt C. But preserve views to White House as this is an important design intention.
- Don’t obstruct the view, please. Don’t provide more recreation space.

#### 5.15.2. Landscape

Landscape considerations with the Thomas Jefferson Memorial reflected back on the Tidal Basin.

- Tidal Basin flooding nearby is inconvenient when you can’t walk along the water’s edge.
- Clean up the water in front of it!

#### 5.15.3. Security Barriers

The general opinion regarding security barriers was to remove them or make them more aesthetically pleasing.

- Make the security wall well integrated architecturally.
- Get rid of the infernal Jersey walls. They are the absolute abomination of every ideal Jefferson stood for.
- The security perimeter is unattractive, surely it can be secured without using Jersey walls.
- Get rid of the ugly concrete barriers.
- Keep as few barriers as possible.
- I hope the security requirements can be built so the ugly Jersey barriers can be removed. It is pitiful that seven years after Sept. 11 they are still being used.
- Get rid of those nasty Jersey barricades and add some proper bollards and chains, or some other ornamental feature. It looks like a trailer park with those things, and has turned the monument into a national embarrassment.

#### 5.15.4. Events

Opinion was largely in favor of staging events at the Thomas Jefferson Memorial, as long as associated staging would not interfere with views.

- I favor Alternative C. While I think some performances and other public events can be held here, I would be very careful about adding infrastructure for hosting them. The focus at this site should be on the memorial and on passive recreation.
- I support the Alternative C ideas for the Jefferson Memorial. If NPS decides that it is a good idea to install infrastructure for events and performances, PLEASE keep the number of events and performances WAY DOWN, and ONLY allow events and performances (other than the National Cherry Blossom Festival) in this area that are strictly aligned with the memorial and its purpose and dignity. There are ENOUGH other general-purpose amphitheaters and performance venues around, without turning the Jefferson Memorial into one!

- Make sure that event stages don't obstruct views to or from the Jefferson Memorial. Other than that, leave the Jefferson Memorial alone.
- I like Alternative C. Alternative A's preservation of views of the White House during temporary events seems pointless, particularly given the distances separating the two.
- Alt. C plus ensure that any event stage, roof or walls do not obstruct the view to the White House (Alt. A).

#### 5.15.5. Facilities

Facility requests were associated with food and restroom requests.

- Needs more restrooms.
- The snack bar should be replaced. Maybe that would be a good spot for full service restaurant with restrooms.
- ALL restrooms should have low-flow toilets and motion activated sinks to reduce water usage.
- I do not think that a food service area is necessary right by the monument. If water recreation docks were created on the Tidal Basin, that might be a better location to put food service and toilet facilities.

#### 5.15.6. Public Access

Respondents voiced the need to improve access to the Thomas Jefferson Memorial.

- Re-open the parking.
- Add more secure bike parking.
- It is unclear to me why the Jefferson Memorial bus dropoff/pickup location has to be redesigned.
- Moving bus parking seems like a very good idea.
- Repair sidewalks.
- This is the only memorial (aside from FDR) where a handicapped person can park nearby. Or has that already been eliminated?

- Not enough parking, looks like you have taken some parking away.
- A Metro station would make this area more accessible.
- Put a small parking lot out by the road where the old lot was so there are at least a handful of close spots to park. For local people who are driving it's hard to give guests a tour of the monuments when all the parking and ability to drive any where near the monuments is being eliminated.

#### 5.15.7. Maintain Current State

Several respondents expressed the desire for the Thomas Jefferson Memorial to be left in its current state.

- It's wonderful, leave it.
- I would like to see it stay as much the same as possible. Please do not make any changes that would block the view to the White House.

### 5.16–18. OTHER IDEAS TO INCLUDE / NOT INCLUDE IN A PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE FOR THE NATIONAL MALL

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Items 16 through 18 allowed for open-ended responses regarding any of the ideas presented in newsletter 3, with emphasis on what should be included, what should not be included, as well as any additional feedback regarding the National Mall, respectively. Because of considerable overlap, the feedback for these three items was combined for analysis purposes and resulted in 15 associated themes.

The vast majority of the ideas set forth by those who responded to items 16 through 18 were reinforcements of the feedback given during the public scoping comments period, as summarized in the April 2007 *Public Scoping Comments Report*. As relevant, the associated location of the similar comments will be noted, as found in the April 2007 report. Due to the ongoing importance of these issues and the fact that many current respondents may not have given feedback during the earlier public comment period, select comments are presented to represent the associated themes.

The overall sense given in these open-ended responses was that, irrespective of the preferred alternative that is to be developed, there is a keen need to support the overall purpose of the National Mall in terms of supporting First Amendment rights (see chapter 3 of this report). Simultaneously, there was strong sentiment for a comprehensive, cohesive, and environmentally sustainable approach to all new elements that might result from the preferred alternative. The 13 related themes that follow illustrate the public's perspective on these issues.

#### 5.16–18.1. Landscape

Feedback regarding landscape issues dealt largely with greenspace, grass, soil, and maintenance. These comments were largely reflective of theme 2.1 as discussed in the April 2007 *Public Scoping Comments Report*.

- The Mall should remain the public park of the nation. It should have open fields of grass for picnicking and games. It should contain beautiful flower gardens, fountains, and pools.
- As I have visited the Mall in the last several years, I am appalled at the fact that there is no sprinkler system. If we can afford to sprinkle our golf courses, I ask that you include a sprinkler system so that the grass in the Mall can be beautiful and green rather than a dirt and dust bowl.
- This may be perceived as a sacrilegious suggestion but why not concede defeat and install synthetic turf on the mall. It's gone a long way from the days of Astro-turf. If it's durable for athletic fields it surely will handle the traffic on the mall.
- I am happy to read that organic practices will be evaluated for turf maintenance at the National Mall. My research indicates, however, that you need to be careful when using compost as a soil amendment. Application of compost at rates typically recommended can add excess phosphorus to the soil. Soils with excess phosphorus produce runoff and leachate, with concentrations of phosphorus in amounts that can cause pollution of ground and surface water. Typically

recommended rates of compost can also increase the nitrogen mineralization potential of the soil so that leaching of nitrate occurs. Extractable soil phosphorus concentrations should not exceed the agronomic critical concentration of 30 mg P/liter (ppm) for a Mehlich III soil test. If the concentrations exceed the environmental critical concentration of about 180 mg P/liter (ppm) for a Mehlich III test, no phosphorus should be applied and clippings should be removed to reduce the excess phosphorus.

- Grounds and lawn health would be improved by loosening and augmenting soils, preventing erosion, installing or replacing irrigation systems, and investigating turf varieties that can withstand intense use.

### 5.16–18.2. Pedestrian Movement and Walkways

Pedestrian movement and walkway comments dealt largely with materials and access issues. These responses reinforce theme 3.6 and theme 4.4c in the April 2007 *Public Scoping Comments Report*.

- All materials used should be of enduring quality to reduce maintenance., i.e. use granite curbs, not concrete; build with cut stone, natural stone, and brick, not drywall, drop-panel ceilings, and fiberglass; use copper gutters, wrought iron fences, and slate roofs, not aluminum downspouts, wire fence, and asphalt shingles. Provide quality horizontal surface material (granite pavers, cobblestones) to match the dignity of the surrounding monuments.
- The only significant change on the Mall that should be considered by the Park Service is making areas more pedestrian-friendly.
- Overall, I think that clear demarcation of crosswalks is important for safety and efficiency throughout the Mall. Working in league with the city, I think pedestrian crosswalks can be improved and added.

- Pedestrian Movement Control: Consideration must be given to the orderly movement of pedestrians from the park to Metro stations, parking lots and buses. In the past, situations have occurred wherein masses of pedestrians walked in streets, impacting traffic, and most importantly, the passage of emergency vehicles.
- My preference is for Plan B or C; anything that makes the mall easier to walk around is infinitely better! As a DC resident who does not own a car, I appreciate the ease of getting around the city and visiting its sights on foot.
- We are partial to Alternative C and endorse the wording under “Public Access and Wayfinding.” We particularly like the notion that circulation routes would be separated for bicyclists and pedestrians (which would include runners and joggers as well as walkers), and that paving would use “materials that are enduring and allow water infiltration, with some soft surfaces suitable for jogging.”

### 5.16–18.3. Motorized Transportation and Parking

Similar to what was discussed in themes 4.4b, 4.4c, and 4.4e of the April 2007 *Public Scoping Comments Report*, those respondents commenting on motorized and vehicular transportation were largely in favor of improving mass transit, limiting motor vehicle access, and placing restrictions on tour bus use.

- Do not allow tour buses to park with the motors running. I thought this was banned but many do it. It hardly needs to be said that the added pollution to our nearly worst-in-the-nation polluted air is completely unnecessary.
- Please include a dedicated streetcar route.
- Segways should not receive special attention.
- Quality, high capacity and frequent service circulator system is a must to allow and encourage visitors to

experience more of our national treasures.

- Motor vehicle access should be strongly curtailed. Parking in front of the museums for private motor vehicles should be limited to parking for special needs only. Access for disabled visitors should be provided. Parking for such in the interior portions of the National Mall should be limited.

#### 5.16–18.4. Food Services

Comments regarding food services, like those featured in theme 4.1 of the April 2007 *Public Scoping Comments Report*, were found to be mixed. Many respondents favored additional food service, while others felt that visitors should simply be more clearly directed to the eating and drinking establishments found near the National Mall.

- Commercial food services: visitors should be encouraged to go to restaurants in the areas surrounding the Mall. There are a wide variety restaurants from fancy to fast food outside the Mall area, and signs should direct them there. That would support the local economy and encourage better food service. Only beverages should be sold on the Mall by commercial vendors and there should be price controls so that they don't overcharge. People should not be taken advantage of because they are thirsty.
- The food / souvenir trucks should be banned from parking on Constitution and Independence Avenues. I have noticed that they are spreading their wares and their signs deeper from the curb and onto the sidewalk to attract sales, which blocks the flow of foot traffic.
- I am also supportive of providing more variety in food options. The limitations are frustrating.
- No fast-food or cheap restaurants. If there is a restaurant, it should have "class" and provide outdoor seating, and the setting should be within a garden.

- More food options on and off season nearby. It's hard finding a quick bite to eat.

#### 5.16–18.5. Bathroom Facilities

Feedback specific to bathroom facilities, like that given in theme 3.3 of the April 2007 *Public Scoping Comments Report*, was specific to availability and maintenance.

- Restrooms should be cleaned and maintained regularly. This promotes public health and safety.
- Only provide public bathrooms if NPS will be given a budget to maintain them.
- Utmost importance should be given to sanitary/public restroom facilities, a must in order to make the experience memorable and without undue discomfort. This will also minimize the attitudes that manifest when people are unduly uncomfortable.

#### 5.16–18.6. Information Services

Comments specific to visitor information services, similar to those shared in theme 4.2 of the April 2007 *Public Scoping Comments Report*, dealt with a comprehensive approach to signage, wayfinding, and technology.

- Unify signage through the entire mall area.
- I would also suggest making the signage in multiple languages to reflect the diverse population of visitors.
- I feel that the current signage on the Mall and related locations is wholly inadequate.
- Directional street signage, scenic view pull-offs, and parking near the memorials for drive-through, short-term visitors needs to be established/tremendously increased.
- I think there should be a historical sequence to how to visit the different facilities. It can educate us better on how persons honored in the memorials affect the country's history.

- The emphasis should be on the history of the National Mall and its facilities. To achieve this interpretive emphasis, I think a National Mall visitor center is needed.
- Sign lettering should be large and high-contrast for those of us who don't see so well anymore. Printed materials should be available in large type so everyone can read them.
- SIGNAGE needs to be consistent and as word-free (pic-based) as possible for visitors of all languages. When implementing, remove all old signage. There are still signs from the 60s all over the place with incorrect info, or so badly faded they are of no use. A SINGLE BROCHURE of the entire area — an overview — will reduce confusion among tourists and may reduce the amount of paper they take at all of the stops along the way.
- Take great care not to “over-sign” the Mall.
- The most important thing to me is that the National Park Service sets an example by taking a decisive stand toward environmentally friendly design. This is the direction toward which our whole world is heading and it is so important that NPS, the protector of our natural heritage, lead the effort in that direction. Please consider the impact these plans will have on the environment and make every effort to mitigate that effect.
- Solar energy and green roof technology could be integrated into underground or partially underground support facilities.
- Recycling bins on National Mall. I appreciate the efforts undertaken by NPS to work with the Environmental Protection Agency's Waste Division to develop recycling programs for daily and event use, but so far these efforts have led to no tangible results, and I would like to see the tasteful inclusion of recycling containers throughout the park. Currently, there are no separate containers for disposal of recyclable materials. Regardless of the commercial visitor services alternative chosen, it is clear that many visitors will need to dispose of recyclable food and beverage waste, most notably water bottles. The inclusion of recycling facilities on the National Mall will have both real and symbolic importance, as it will not only allow visitors to dispose of their trash in a more sustainable manner. The placement of tasteful and well-designed recycling containers will, by itself, be a statement of the priority of more sustainable waste management throughout the nation.
- Special care should be taken to evaluate the environmental impacts of plans for maintenance and redesign, with a goal of long-term environmental sustainability.

### 5.16–18.7. Sustainable Practices

Public comments specific to sustainable practice mirrored ideas shared in theme 2.2 of the April 2007 *Public Scoping Comments Report*, offering reinforcement of the importance of recycling and conservationist approaches to any new design elements.

- Please add recycling containers to all outdoor and indoor areas.
- Recycling bins next to trash cans. When we walk the Mall every weekend, the vast majority of trash is plastic bottles. The few current bins are too few and far between and are the same design and color as the trash cans; there is no way to distinguish between the two. They should be together side-by-side.
- Please add recycling containers to all outdoor and indoor areas.
- For the health of this city and its citizens, it is vitally important that we choose options that will keep our environment and air clean.

### 5.16–18.8. Maintenance

Maintenance issues, reflective of themes 2.1c and 3.1e in the April 2007 *Public Scoping Comments Report*, dealt with trash removal as

well as focusing on the upkeep of the current facilities.

- Please focus cost-efficiently through renovation and improvement of visitor comfort rather than installing lots of bells and whistles. I would much rather know that the monuments will have all their working parts in order — from lightbulbs to water fountains to working toilets to soap containers with soap, as well as enough NPS staff to manage the park appropriately — than the kinds of “upgrades” suggested in the alternatives.
- Many national parks have installed wildlife friendly trash cans that disallow (mostly bear) animal access to the contents of the garbage. On many occasions I have seen squirrels and birds pulling trash out of the cans to forage for food. This is a danger to the animals, and they often end up “littering” the ground with garbage that has already been thrown out.
- Please install better trashcans. The squirrels and birds pick through the trash and pull things out, scattering it on the mall green space. It’s disgusting!
- A cheap way to improve the Mall would be by simply cleaning it up and maintaining it.

#### 5.16–18.9. Water

Comparable to theme 3.7 of the April 2007 *Public Scoping Comments Report*, comments pertaining to water dealt with water fountains, specialized features, and stormwater management.

- Don’t forget about water. As life-cycle replacement approaches on water fountains all around these public areas, please upgrade the water fountains and possibly add more.
- I am grieved to learn of the plan to cement the reflecting pool for the purpose of accommodating activists and adding public bathrooms for visitors. I think it is important to maintain the reflecting pool for historical purposes as well as maintaining the beauty the reflecting pools adds to the landscape.

- Stormwater management is a critical issue in the District, as stormwater runoff contributes to the degradation of its waterways. Using permeable pavement, which allows water to infiltrate through a pervious surface and recharge groundwater, reduces runoff in a low-impact manner.

#### 5.16–18.10. Public Safety

Similar to themes 3.5a and 6.1 of the April 2007 *Public Scoping Comments Report*, feedback specific to public safety was concerned with protective measures that would not compromise a welcoming environment.

- Increase nighttime security, not by installing powerful lights or new fences but by increasing the police presence. Have the horses and officers out at night. I didn’t read about this in the alternatives, but increase funding for the mounted police and have them out there every day and night, patrolling and meeting and greeting, they are another aspect that makes DC unique, kids love them, the horses are impressive.
- I am disturbed by how unwelcome I feel on the national mall compared with years past. If changes are made, they must not exacerbate this problem.
- Plan for the Identification and Operation of Safe Havens: In the event of severe weather conditions or a terrorist incident, the general public must be permitted access to safe havens in proximity to the park. However, to date, there has not been a satisfactory plan to implement emergency ingress to federal facilities. Generally, weeks before an event, the law enforcement community asks agencies to “volunteer space” to receive and care for the general public. Little or no guidance is provided relative to the many scenarios that could evolve from taking in the public. A plan should be developed that fully incorporates the many factors that must be considered prior to permitting public access to federal facilities during an emergency, such as, impact on security and government

operations, medical assistance, food and comfort, length of stay, supporting logistics, law enforcement support, etc.

- I would recommend that any upgrades to the National Mall should include an increase in Federal Law Enforcement Officer presence through the inclusion of facilities to allow these individuals to better serve the public. These recommendations could include facilities for blast-resistant fixed posts, dedicated, marked parking spaces for LE vehicles, highly-visible base stations, emergency phones, etc.
- One assumption is that the NPS lacks the commitment to protect the citizens and our national treasures for it will not commit to exploring and the process of certifying other approaches to implementing security.
- Needs more lights for safety.
- Consideration should be given to improving the lighting in the park. In the past two years, criminal incidents have occurred after dark in the early evening when the tourist population is still active. Low level security lighting could be installed, and lighted pathways could be established that provide for the safer movement of pedestrians about the park.
- New, independently designed security measures for individual museums, monuments and memorials — as well as temporary, ad hoc security changes to protect, for example, trees or driveways — best illustrated the need for a coordinated, unified vision and management plan for the National Mall. To enhance the visitor experience of the Mall as a coherent, single destination, security modifications should be appropriate for each resource, but also be coordinated under a larger design vision.

### 5.16–18.11. Entertainment and Recreation

By and large, public input was supportive of entertainment and recreation, although some expressed concerns with user conflicts. Feed-

back was also provided for introducing new entertainment options. In keeping with themes 5.1 and 5.3 of the April 2007 *Public Scoping Comments Report*, respondents had opinions regarding both free play and organized recreation.

- Include some occasional fun things to do and be sure at least some of them are educational. The merry-go-round is nice. What happened to the triceratops the kids could climb on? That was a simple feature of the mall that got a lot of interest from kids. Give the kids a giant sculpture park to play in — something fun and educational, yet whimsical and dignified.
- Create a “scavenger hunt” based on various areas of DC and various things (such as buildings, sculpture, memorials, monuments). These could take place twice per year, spring and fall, and prizes could be awarded such as restaurant gift certs, tour passes, lodging gift cards.
- Skate rental for ice skating, better snack facilities, a water recreation playground pool with water accents.
- While I believe that the Constitution provides for free speech, I don’t believe that it mandates that the Capital be made available for recreational purposes.
- Have you considered placing a Floating stage in the Mall pond that is movable up and down the pond.
- Keeping the mall grounds available to athletic clubs for recreation is very important component in your plans, in my opinion.
- I suggest that one way to attract folks to the Mall is to allow model boat sailing clubs (and others) to sail on the reflecting pools (the big one between the Washington and Lincoln Monuments and the little one near the Capitol.) You could also allow concessioners to rent r/c (and free sailing) models on these pools as well as the one in Constitution Gardens (tho that one often is clogged with water flowers) If you are afraid of

R/C models you could limit the usage to free sailing models.

- Plan C includes a very important and desirable component — the construction of a playground on the Mall. This would be attractive to children, and be great for making the mall a multi-dimensional experience for young kids — visit the museums, and at the same time, have a place to expend the kind of energy that kids need to work off!
- We would agree that foot races generally are not compatible with other uses of the Mall. However, if land can be found for organized recreational activities such as ball games, it should be possible also to find suitable locations for occasional races. Races have been allowed west of 17th Street in the past.

#### 5.16–18.12. Photography

As many visitors to the National Mall like to document their stay, comments regarding structured and unstructured photography were noted.

- On a slightly different issue, because all these areas are public land, I don't think permits for photography should be required or at least not cost much when the amount of time at the monument is just a few minutes (always under an hour). It's not like we're filming a movie or having a protest that takes up the entire area for a long amount of time.
- More photo "turn-outs" to reduce bottlenecks along sidewalks and paths while providing safe spots for photography where people won't be run over if they stop briefly to take photos.
- The mall should be a place of special occasion, serving as a backdrop for photo-ops of recent graduates or married couples, a place to celebrate birthdays and life's accomplishments.

#### 5.16–18.13. Process Comments

Many respondents took the time to comment on the nature of newsletter 3 as well as the feedback

process. Both positive feedback and constructive criticism were noted.

- THANK YOU SO VERY MUCH for affording average citizens such as myself an opportunity to participate in this process in a meaningful way. It seems to me that this system that you have set up for collecting and incorporating input from the public into the National Mall plan process is a pretty cool example of our democratic system in action. I'm sure that in many other countries the government could care less about what the average Joe thinks about how they should do things and what should or should not be included in areas of national significance. I trust that you will carefully consider the comments and suggestions that you receive, and use them to help you arrive at the BEST mix of ideas/alternatives possible. And please don't rule out ideas/opinions solely on the basis that they haven't received a lot of "votes." I would urge you to consider each and every idea not only on its "popularity," but also on its own independent and objectively evaluated merits.
- Please move on some plan, any plan, as soon as possible. The Mall is in embarrassingly bad shape.
- WHY am I just hearing about this from the POST? Where have been your ads or other attempts to contact us, the citizens of the United States.
- First, I want to mention that this form is needlessly confusing and overly complicated. As such, it seems to discourage comment in this online format, which seems to be the only sanctioned way to register comments. I think the lack of a public awareness campaign about the fate of this space is shameful, and the idea of not notifying any of the groups who regularly file for permits to demonstrate in that space is bizarre. These actions raise suspicions regarding the motives of the NPS that may or may not be well-founded. The public comment period should be extended further, and

the NPS should make a good-faith effort to spread the word about this “National Mall Plan” to get diverse opinions from all the people affected by the proposed plans.

- The views of first-time tourists should carry far more weight than those of residents of the region. The primary purpose of the Mall and its surrounding monuments and museums should be to showcase this nation’s capital to people from around the country and from other nations. Substantial efforts should be made to solicit input and initial impressions from visitors.
- I do not believe that this format is friendly democratic commentary. I believe alternative C is the best plan for the future development of the mall, but I don’t have specific things to say about specific monuments or streets. Please make the mall more friendly toward recreational use—it should inspire healthy living by being very walkable and bike-able. I am from DC, and I don’t have specific comments about the particular parts of the mall. How do you expect people from across the country to comment on places they may have visited once or perhaps never, especially given the lack of clarity about what the options include? The only way to make this process truly democratic is to make the options clear. As it stands, the descriptions of the alternatives are overly wonky and difficult to get through. A multiple choice option for expressing what direction people would like the mall to move would be much more straightforward and inclusive.
- The presentation of three action “alternatives” for future management of the National Mall may be understood to presume that only one of these alternatives should represent the primary management objective for the National Mall. That is a false choice: The National Mall is a unique public space that is also a historic landscape, a public recreation area, and a place of distinct natural beauty. All of these “action alternatives” have a historical place in America’s “front yard” and the NPS should acknowledge this multiplicity of functions rather than force arbitrary choices between equally important uses. All of these functions should be accommodated on the National Mall, and facilities to support one function must necessarily be assessed to ensure that they do not unduly constrain other legitimate activities. In light of those views, we caution that the three alternatives presented may unduly inhibit future planning efforts. The historic landscape, civic space, recreation opportunities and ecology all should be part of any planning undertaken.
- The superficial, exclusionary, and dismissive review process used by NPS is its worse enemy. Moving forward with projects without taking into consideration the negative effect on existing memorials, NPS cannot continue totally ignoring and/or using tactics to prevent citizens and veterans from participation and being disrespectful to other federal agency representatives. Such was the case of the Section 106 process for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Visitors Center (VVMVC), and it seems that this Master Plan review has some of the same misgivings.
- We appreciate the NPS’s presentation of multiple alternatives with an “a la carte” approach to design features, arranged according to the themes of preservation and education, public gatherings, and recreation. [However,] it is unclear to us how the proposed “Action Alternatives” relate to long-term master planning for the National Mall. A master plan would address the historic and future vision for the Mall; temporary and permanent security modifications; and management, maintenance and changes to the Reserve and its adjacent museums and government buildings, which fall under multiple jurisdictions.
- Although the NPS has held three public meetings on the plan in January 2008, we feel strongly that NPS’s public outreach

needs to be broadened both locally and nationally before a full range of reasonable alternatives can be developed as part of the NEPA process. The scope of public outreach is inadequate given the national prominence of the area covered by the plan. The NPS describes the present document as a “National Mall Plan” but the boundaries of the study area do not include the entire National Mall or correlate to the historic McMillan Plan of 1901–1902, which is the basis of today’s Mall. The scope of the plan is ambiguous and creates a misleading impression of what the agency is actually evaluating and deciding. It is called a plan for “the future of the National Mall” but it is more accurately a standard NPS management plan that accepts the status quo as baseline and focuses on improved maintenance and incremental upgrades. Management is an important goal, but it should not be confused with the larger need for a forward-looking vision for the National Mall in the 21st century, which the Coalition has been advocating for several years. The scope of the analysis fails to match the stated purpose of the analysis or the actual needs of the area covered by the analysis. The alternatives do not incorporate other Mall and Mall-related plans and projects that have a critical bearing on the future of the National Mall. The plan fails to take cognizance of inextricably interrelated actions by NPS and other entities. As such, it is not a proper basis for decision-making. By excluding or ignoring the many individual projects proposed for the Mall, some of which will have adverse impacts (such as the Vietnam Veterans Memorial visitor center), the NPS plan fails to look at collective impacts and cumulative effects on the National Mall as a whole. The proposed action alternatives cannot be considered true alternatives since each one — historic landscape, civic space, urban recreation, and ecology — is a critical component of the Mall’s historic identity and modern purpose. The plan fails to properly analyze the

interrelationships among different uses of the Mall area and, as such, creates an inaccurate and unreasonable set of alternatives. Certain key planning topics are missing or not given due consideration, including transportation, security, climate change, and flood control. The plan omits consideration of environmental variables and human-caused impacts that are essential to understanding the environmental baseline conditions of the Mall area, reasonably foreseeable actions, and interrelated impacts. The plan is thus a fragmentary portrait of certain potential future aspects of certain segments of the Mall area.

- As a DC resident/taxpayer, I found your public notice adequate and did not expect to receive personal notice, nor do I think any group or person should have received personal notice of the hearings and comment period. I really appreciate all of the time and effort that went into the very thoughtful plans and alternatives.
- What are you asking? What is a “Preferred alternative”? I’ve been looking at this for about an hour and can’t figure out what this process, this questionnaire is supposed to do. I have ideas, but the bureaucracy speak makes it impossible to figure out how to say anything.

#### **5.19–21 OTHER IDEAS TO INCLUDE / NOT INCLUDE IN A PREFERRED ALTERNATIVE FOR PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE**

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Items 19 through 21 allowed for open-ended responses regarding any of the ideas presented in newsletter 3 pertaining to Pennsylvania Avenue National Historic Park, with emphasis on what should be included, what should not be included, and any additional feedback, respectively. Because of considerable overlap, the responses for these three items were combined for analysis purposes.

The bulk of the ideas set forth by those who responded to items 19 through 21 were reinforcements of the feedback given during the public

scoping comments period, as summarized in theme 7.1 of the April 2007 *Public Scoping Comments Report*. Respondents reinforced the importance of treating Pennsylvania Avenue as a separate entity from the National Mall. Both the function and character of this corridor were stressed.

- I found that suggestions in Alternative B relating to improving both the pedestrian experience and the tourist experience as a whole to be very cogent. Until more is done south of Independence Avenue, visitors will migrate north from the Mall. Pennsylvania Avenue is the best place to provide more services for them — as well as for the greatly increased number of office workers in the area. Here the Old Post Office should be re-thought — as well as some of the spaces in and around the Reagan building. There should be more amenities along the street, particularly after 5 PM. Any way that can be devised to moderate the hostility of the FBI building to the street and passersby would be a huge plus. Murals, pavilions, a shallow fountain, anything would help.
- Add a dog park off Penn Ave for the Penn Quarter residents. Can be as simple as a fenced-off area at Marshall Park in front of the Canadian Embassy. We have no green space in the neighborhood — and this central meeting place will work for many.
- As for the Pennsylvania Ave National Historic Park, I'd like to see Alternative C with new pocket gardens, combined with Alternative B that envisions a colorful lively urban street. This would bring additional pedestrian traffic and life to the corridor.
- I think it is important to give some attention to Pennsylvania Avenue National Historical Park, especially improved pedestrian links and some landscape improvements. It may be beneficial to pave some of the mall paths as some of the alternatives show — depending on the intended uses. From a cost standpoint, paved areas would

require less maintenance in the future. Paved areas are easy for elderly, strollers, etc. to use.

- The Pennsylvania Avenue National Historic Park's defining characteristic is the street corridor. To allow ceremonial events and civic activities, Pennsylvania Avenue is a notably wide street with exceptionally wide sidewalks. While it is important to ensure that important ceremonial and civic activities can continue on Pennsylvania Avenue, it is equally important to realize that this excess capacity, while ideal for inaugural parades and other events, is unused the vast majority of the year. Most of the time — despite business development on Pennsylvania Avenue and in surrounding neighborhoods — much of the capacity of the wide street and sidewalks is unused. During these times, this excess capacity continues to produce stormwater runoff, which enters the combined sewer system and contributes to overflows into local waterways.
- The most important point is that planning for the public space along Pennsylvania Avenue (the Pennsylvania Avenue National Historic Park for which comments are being requested) cannot be undertaken in isolation, separated from the larger land use and transportation considerations involving the adjacent areas (the Downtown area to the north and the Federal Triangle to the south). The National Park Service needs to view the Pennsylvania Avenue corridor as a whole and acknowledge the critical role of the immediate adjacent areas, and the role of other federal and District agencies and the private sector.
- Although we understand that both the National Mall and Pennsylvania Avenue National Historical Park fall within the NPS's National Mall & Memorial Parks unit, we strongly recommend that the NPS separate the planning efforts for these unique and distinct resources. Given the public's familiarity with and

substantial interest in the National Mall, we are concerned that planning for Pennsylvania Avenue will be underserved or overlooked in dual-purpose discussions. The National Mall and Pennsylvania Avenue each deserve a focused effort that takes into account the resources' specific, character-defining features and uses.

- Pennsylvania Avenue Park has a different history and function from the National Mall and needs a separate and focused approach as well as public meetings dedicated to its future. This avenue, unlike the park setting of the Mall, is a busy urban boulevard that serves multiple functions from federal ceremonial use to everyday city activity.
- Pennsylvania Avenue is an urban street. It is not a park in the traditional sense. It should be enhanced as such. Pennsylvania Avenue should be a colorful, lively urban street, with space for additional commemoration, public art, cultural fairs / activities, public entertainment, and markets. It should connect with the “downtown” of D.C. Sidewalks and furnishings should be expanded to include items such as newsstands, foodcarts, tables/chairs, and seasonal banners. Urban recreation and enjoyment should be emphasized. Activities, and educational programs, and waysides should showcase the diversity of civic activities, along with temporary exhibits and permanent works of public art. Keep the “Actions Common to All Alternatives.” Sidewalk cafes and community activities should be encouraged. Install automated public toilets. Redesign Pershing Park; retain the memorials, but add small commercial kiosks (bike rental, flower stand, newsstand). Keep the tree boxes, but don't go overboard; there is no need for game tables, flower baskets, and flower pots.
- Install bike lanes on Pennsylvania Ave. As it is currently configured, Pennsylvania Avenue is much too wide for existing traffic volumes. A reduced width would make the Pennsylvania Avenue

corridor more conducive to bicycle traffic and improve the overall pedestrian experience. I think this will make the mall a slower, more biker/pedestrian friendly place for locals and tourists to enjoy.

- Improve pedestrian safety on Pennsylvania Ave. Reduce auto travel lanes and add bike lanes. Freedom Plaza is unusable 5 months out of the year because it is too exposed to the sun — change it by adding trees or a sun canopy. Keep the Temperance Union statue on Pennsylvania Ave. — it is a unique and beautiful part of history.
- Please let's put a stop to Pennsylvania Avenue as a corridor for tour bus parking.
- Something needs to be done about Freedom Plaza. It can be quite hot in the summer and cold and windy in the winter. It needs trees and less concrete.
- Pennsylvania Avenue has become a hazardous area for pedestrians. It is wide, relatively dark and busy with vehicular traffic. We suggest design improvements to promote pedestrian safety, including improving lighting. . . . Include improvements to John Marshall Park, Mellon Fountain, Constitution Avenue Triangle, Indiana Plaza, Freedom Plaza and Pershing Park in the National Mall plan. We recommend including or improving commercial food service wherever NPS would deem appropriate. Our specific recommendations, on which we would be glad to partner: John Marshall Park — To be rehabilitated in cooperation with the John Marshall Society and enlivened with programming in cooperation with the John Marshall Society and the park's neighbors, the Canadian Embassy to the west and the judiciary to the east. Indiana Plaza — To be rehabilitated in cooperation with the Indiana Society. Freedom Plaza — In addition to accommodating a future national memorial, to be improved as a prime site for some First Amendment and other events. The plaza is sun-baked in the summer, and shade alternatives

should be considered, while preserving the Capitol vista. Pershing Park — To be redesigned with small commercial kiosks and as a programmable event space, in keeping with the ambience of the adjacent Willard Hotel and surrounding historic buildings. The water feature must be repaired, if not redesigned. The skating rink should be considered for removal, given the current, excellent rink at the National Gallery of Art nearby. Plan further animation of Pennsylvania Avenue with first-floor retail businesses, sidewalk cafes, kiosks, street furniture, and the like.

- Space for art, fairs and activities, entertainment and markets. Add small stands. Provide skateboard park at a location.
- There is no need for game tables, flower baskets, and flower pots. Keep maintenance low. While a laudable goal to protect historic resources, a skateboard park developed at another location to provide a challenging alternative recreational venue might not be sufficient. Use subtle anti-skate board design.
- This stretch of Penn Ave is not a place where people hang out. It's loud, it's full of traffic. The existing parks are nice and they have trees and benches. The NPS should not sink its already limited funding into improving something that does not need to be improved.
- Streetcars! Streetcars! Streetcars!
- The designation "Pennsylvania Avenue National Historic Park" is little known and can be confused with "Pennsylvania Avenue National Historic Site." I would go with one or the other designation and have the area include the larger area included in Pennsylvania Avenue NHS. This park should have a better interpretive scheme (a wayside exhibit on each block?) and a small visitor center (probably in the Old Post Office). The visitor center could have exhibits and a bookstore focused on the history of the avenue and adjacent blocks (particularly the Federal Triangle) and could be the starting point for walking tours.
- Indiana Plaza is an integral part of Pennsylvania Avenue and is a beautiful plaza. It is, however, degraded by skateboarders and the homeless. Since we cannot expect the National Park Service to constantly monitor the Plaza, might I suggest an inexpensive method of preserving it. If dividers were installed along key surfaces — and the five yards length of low wall outside the Argentine Naval Commission's building on Indiana Avenue would be key — skateboarders might be dissuaded from using the Plaza as a Mecca.
- Dividers on the benches on Indiana Plaza would discourage the homeless from sleeping there and preventing tourists and neighbors from sitting there.
- Please be sure that whatever plan you develop does not restrict freedom of political and civic expression through demonstrations in this important public space.
- On Pennsylvania Avenue, with even a slightly greater allocation of funds for actual maintenance, light fixtures could be painted and missing parts replaced, tree grates could be returned after cutting back the center area as the trees grow, as the grates were designed to have happen, bricks could be reset (and fewer would need to be replaced with non-matching bricks), replacement trees when actually planted (none have been replanted in front of the National Archives) could be the same caliper as those originally planted, lawns could be kept up, weeds could be pulled, light globes could be replaced with those of the same style, light ballasts could be replaced, light bulbs could be replaced on a more frequent schedule, fountains could be maintained, not to mention the mundane such as grass being cut and watered when needed. Today, the condition of the avenue is a disgrace.

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