United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
National Mall and Memorial Parks
900 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20024

Record of Determination
for a Partial and Temporary Closure
of a Portion of the National Mall for Turf Renovation

The National Mall and Memorial Parks is closing certain parkland on the National Mall for renovation. Specifically, beginning at 12:01 a.m., August 16, 2016 through 8:00 a.m., September 10, 2016, the center panels of the Mall will be closed between 3rd Street and 7th Street for turf restoration.

The park closure is necessary for the protection of environmental and scenic values and natural and cultural resources. Less restrictive measures will not suffice due to the necessity for the turf to properly be protected from a high impact event in the adjacent area. This temporary and partial closure is not of a nature, magnitude and duration that will result in a "significant alteration in the public use pattern". Indeed, other nearby park areas will remain open to the public. The closure will not adversely affect the park's natural, aesthetic or cultural values; nor require significant modification to the resource management objections; nor is it of a highly controversial nature. Accordingly, the National Park Service determines publication as rulemaking in the Federal Register is unwarranted Under 36 C.F.R. § 1.5(c). This is consistent with hundreds of earlier partial and temporary park closures, the legal opinion of the Office of the Solicitor, and judicial adjudications.
Picciotto v. United States, No. 99-2113 (D.D.C.); Picciotto v. United States, No. 94-1935 (D.D.C.); Picciotto v. Lulan, No. 90-1261 (D.D.C.); Picciotto v. Hodel, No. 87-3290 (D.D.C.); Spiegel v. Babbitt, 855 F.Supp. 402 (D.D.C. 1994), affld in part w/o op. 56 F.3d 1531 (D.C. Cir. 1995).

Pursuant to 36 C.F.R.§ 1.7, notice of this temporary and partial closure will be made through fencing and posting of signs at conspicuous locations in the affected park area. Finally, pursuant to 36 C.F.R. § 1.5(c), this determination is available to the public upon request.

Gay Vietzke
Superintendent, National Mall and Memorial Parks

15 Dec 2015
Date