

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

ALTERNATIVE A — FOCUS ON THE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE AND EDUCATION	ALTERNATIVE B — FOCUS ON A WELCOMING NATIONAL CIVIC SPACE FOR PUBLIC GATHERINGS, EVENTS, AND HIGH-USE LEVELS	ALTERNATIVE C — FOCUS ON URBAN OPEN SPACE, URBAN ECOLOGY, RECREATION, AND HEALTHY LIFESTYLES
3.6 Air Quality: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative, except <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Eliminate gravel as a paving material. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative, except <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Eliminate gravel as a paving material.
3.7 Noise: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative plus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Use the sound of water features to muffle urban traffic noise in additional areas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as alternative B.
3.8 Effects of Climate Change: <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as the no-action alternative plus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Consider raising the height of the seawalls. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Same as alternative A plus <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Coordinate with others to undertake a comprehensive approach to address the impacts of climate change. ◦ Develop a natural shoreline.
4. THE CIVIC STAGE See facing page.		
4.1 Demonstrations (First Amendment): <i>Opportunities, Problems, and Concerns (Existing Conditions)</i> — See facing page.		

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

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

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

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