

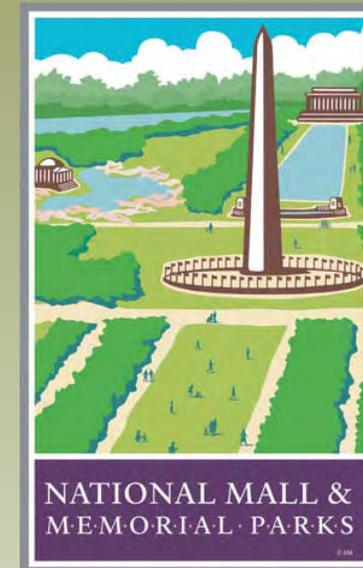
# THE NATIONAL MALL PLAN

## Preliminary Preferred Alternative

Commission of Fine Arts Informational Briefing - February 19, 2009



NPS proactively plans to preserve the American treasures it manages for our citizens.



# National Park Service Role on the National Mall - Managing America's Cultural Treasures



**CULTURAL RESOURCES** – national symbols, places of history, pride and inspiration

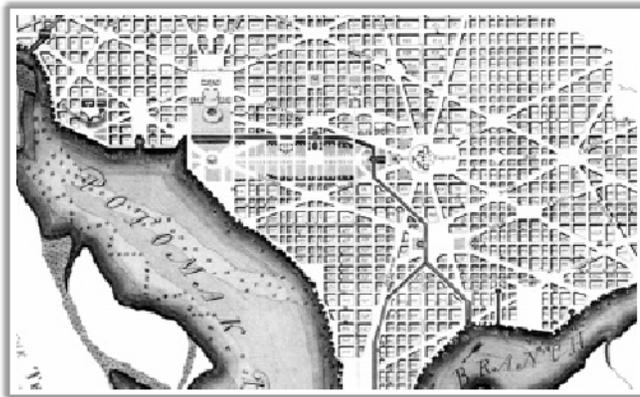
- The designed landscape
- Monuments and Memorials
- Commemorative Areas
- Historic structures
- Small scale features
- Constructed water features
- Cultural landscapes



# NPS Role on the National Mall - Managing America's Treasured Natural Resources



**On the National Mall** natural resources are cultural - the designed historic landscape of our capital city.



# National Park Service Role on the National Mall - Managing America's Civic Treasure



**THE CIVIC STAGE** – An essential space for a democracy. The National Mall is America's gathering place for national celebration, First Amendment activities, and special events.



# Our Responsibility: Leaving the National Mall to the future generations in better condition.



## THE TASK IS ENORMOUS.

- Our Civic Stage must welcome all, be designed for use, and be able to recover quickly.
- We must return this designed historic landscape to the beauty that is expected for this highly valued and symbolic civic realm.
- We must make a unified and distinguished public realm out of many spaces.
- A quality experience is essential for this American pilgrimage destination that inspires pride and patriotism.
- The American public expects the National Mall to be a role model for sustainable use, high quality and universal design.

# Action is Needed to Preserve the National Mall's Treasured Memorials and Landscapes



***Current levels of use cannot be sustained without resource damage.***

***The area was not designed for current or expected levels of public use.***

***Deferred maintenance is nearly \$400 million.***

While enhancing the ability to support First Amendment demonstrations and national celebrations plan goals are to:

1. Improve resource conditions
2. Raise the standard of care
3. Establish quality that invites respect and fosters stewardship
4. Ensure the National Mall can recover quickly after high levels of use
5. Provide facilities for the enjoyment, comfort and convenience of visitors
6. Improve operational efficiencies



# Inauguration 2009 – shows need to design for high use levels to perpetuate our national public stage.



5,000 portable toilets, high levels of dust, utilities connections, public information needed, multiple staging areas, 100 tons of trash removed overnight, screening areas, first aid/EMT 7

# The National Mall — Enriching Your Experience on America's Civic Stage



**WELCOME** FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHTS  
**MEMORIALS** **SYMBOLISM** **HISTORY**  
GOVERNMENT **YEAR ROUND BEAUTY**  
**DEMOCRACY** AMERICAN VALUES  
CULTURE INSPIRATION **CEREMONIES**  
**EVOCATIVE NIGHTTIME CHARACTER**



“WE THE PEOPLE” come here to demonstrate our rights  
and celebrate our freedoms, our history and culture, our  
unity and diversity, and our way of life.

# Primary Concepts: a Distinguished, Inspiring, High-quality, Sustainable Public Realm



Civic space worthy of the high symbolic value of the National Mall.

Improve ability to support First Amendment civic gatherings.

Welcoming to citizens and guests.

Flexible, respectful spaces designed for high levels of use: civic gatherings, national celebrations, events, tour groups, programs and performances.

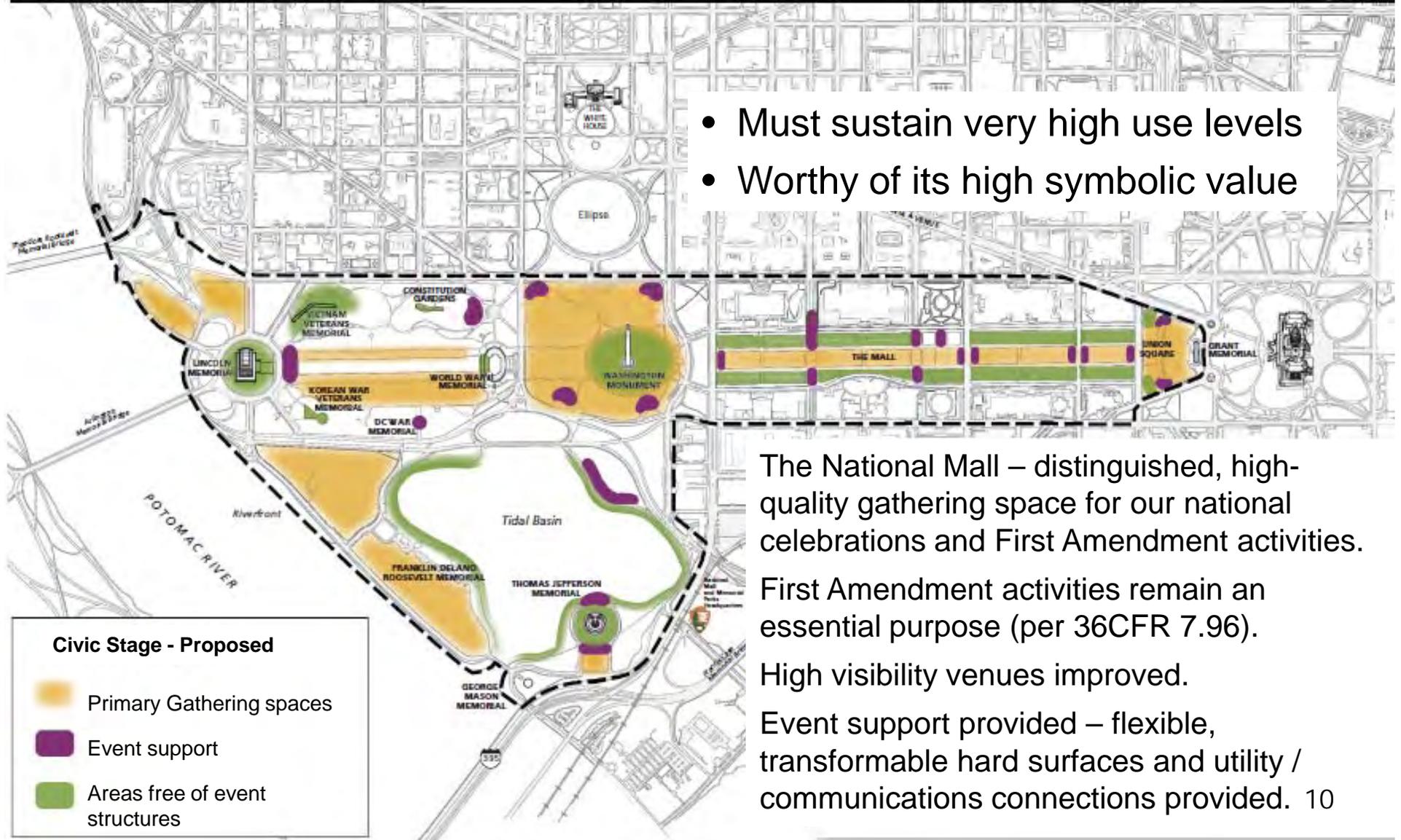
Inspire and educate about the American themes related to the National Mall.

- Civic space and the First Amendment
- Monuments and Memorials
- Development of the Capital City, Government and National Symbolism
- Sustainability and NPS Stewardship of America's Treasures

# The Civic Stage: premiere public space is welcoming, sustainable, flexible and transformable



- Must sustain very high use levels
- Worthy of its high symbolic value



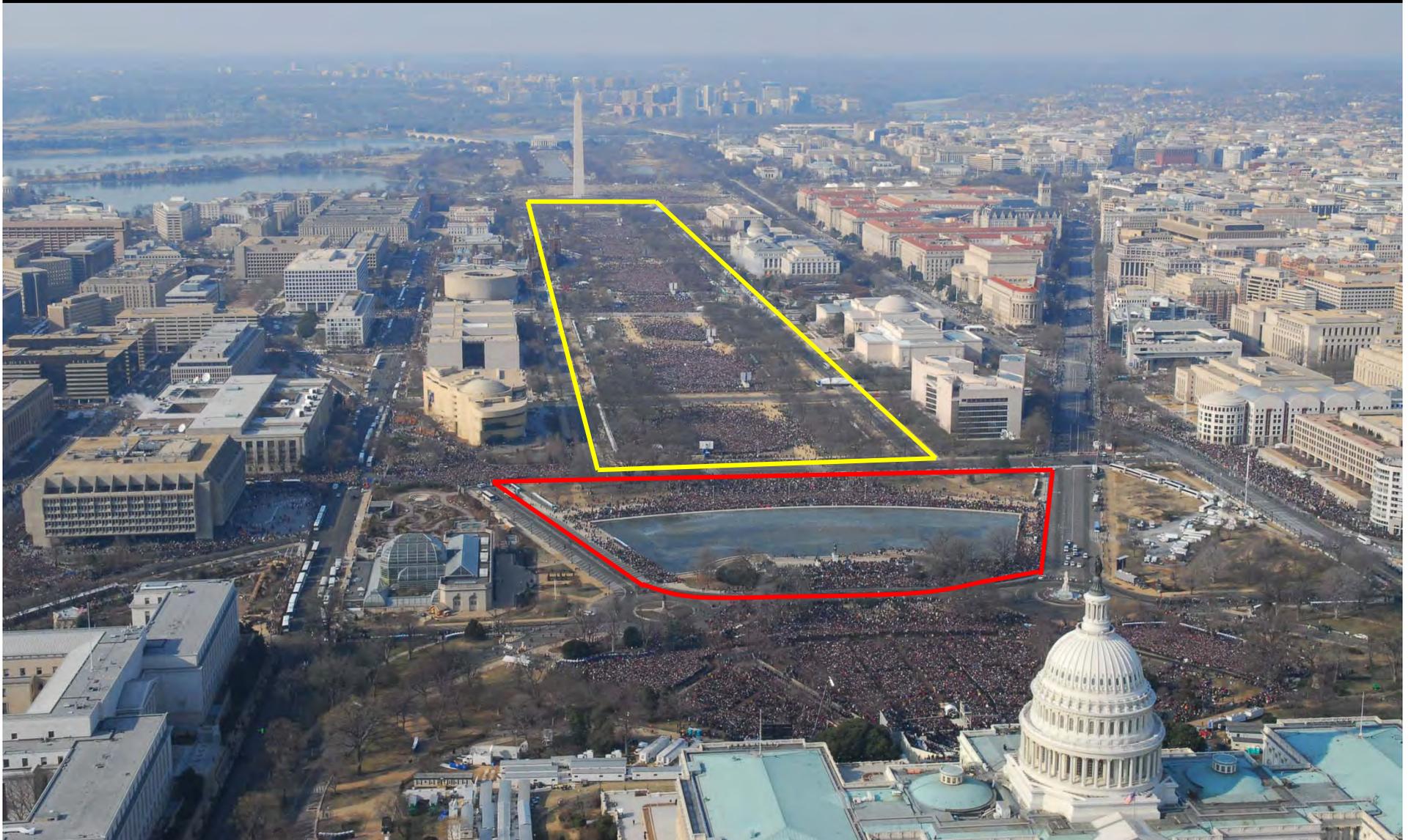
The National Mall – distinguished, high-quality gathering space for our national celebrations and First Amendment activities.

First Amendment activities remain an essential purpose (per 36CFR 7.96).

High visibility venues improved.

Event support provided – flexible, transformable hard surfaces and utility / communications connections provided. 10

January 20, 2009 - 1.8 million people. **Union Square** and the **Mall** — use concentrates around view corridors and facilities such as large video screens





# National Mall Resources: Better Protected and Able to Sustain Use



# Circulation: Improved Circulation for Pedestrians and Bicyclists

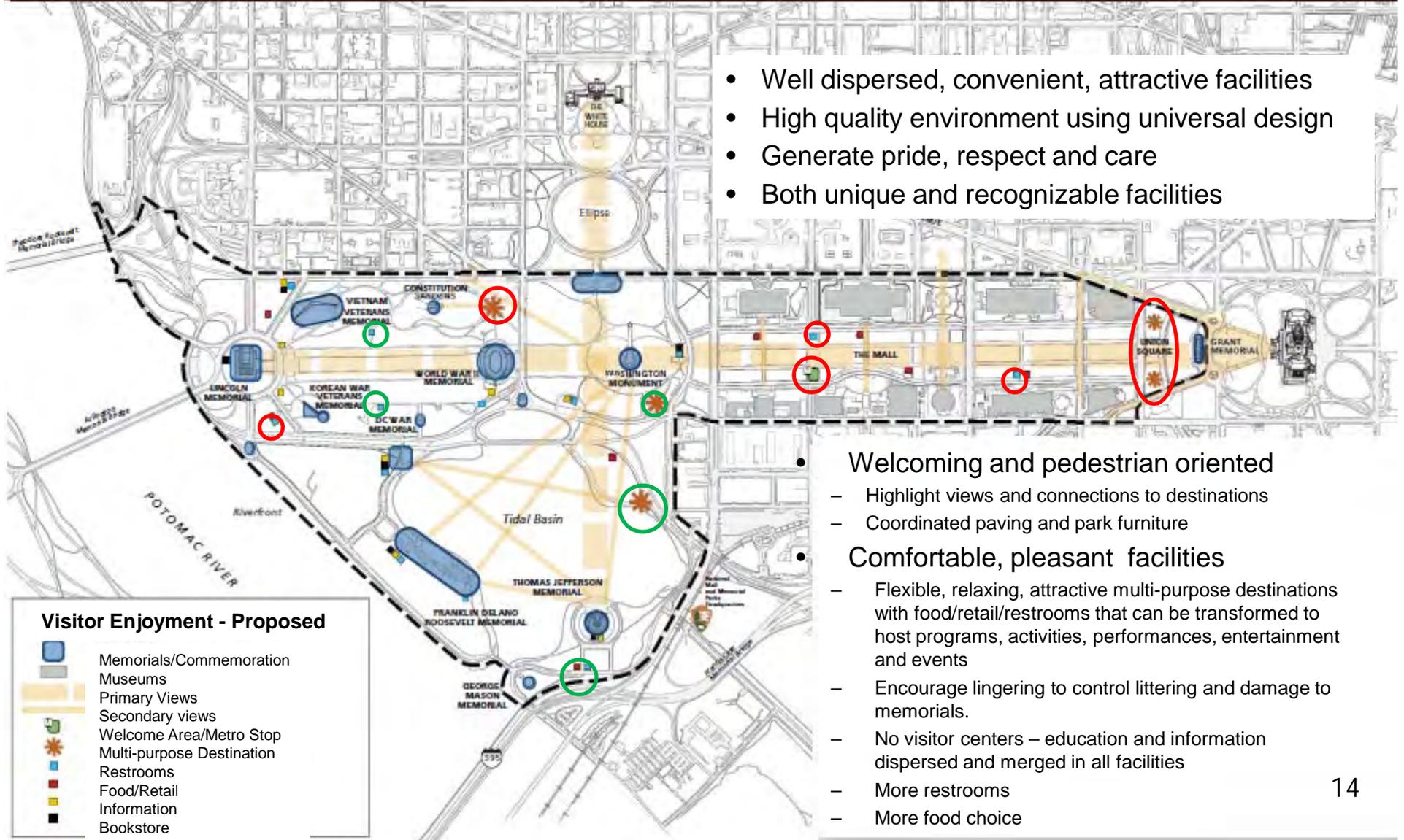


- Increase pedestrian and bicycle equity with vehicles.
- Coordinated pedestrian environment, amenities, pedestrian lighting, and crosswalk improvements.
- Pedestrian connections to locations off the National Mall

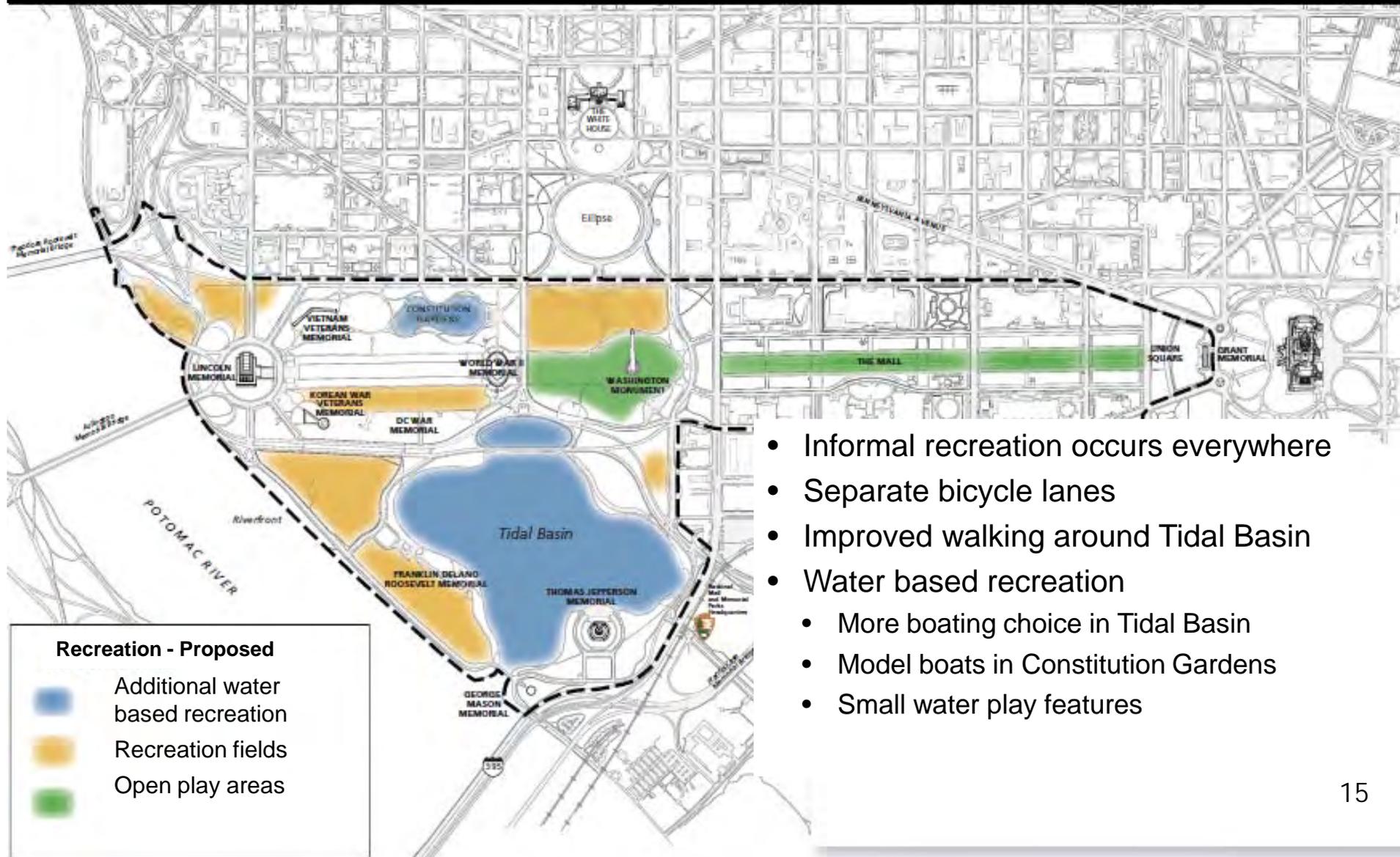


- Add National Mall name to Smithsonian Metro
- Meter visitor parking
  - Coordinate visitor parking with local garages; provide shuttles or valet service
- Separate bicycle lanes
- Provide supplementary services
  - Roving courtesy shuttles
  - Electric scooters
- Circulation revisions at pinch points (walking, roads, bicycles)

# Visitor Enjoyment: Improved Amenities and Flexible Facilities, Year Round Variety and Programs



# Recreation and Visitor Enjoyment: More Opportunities, Improved Walking and Bicycling



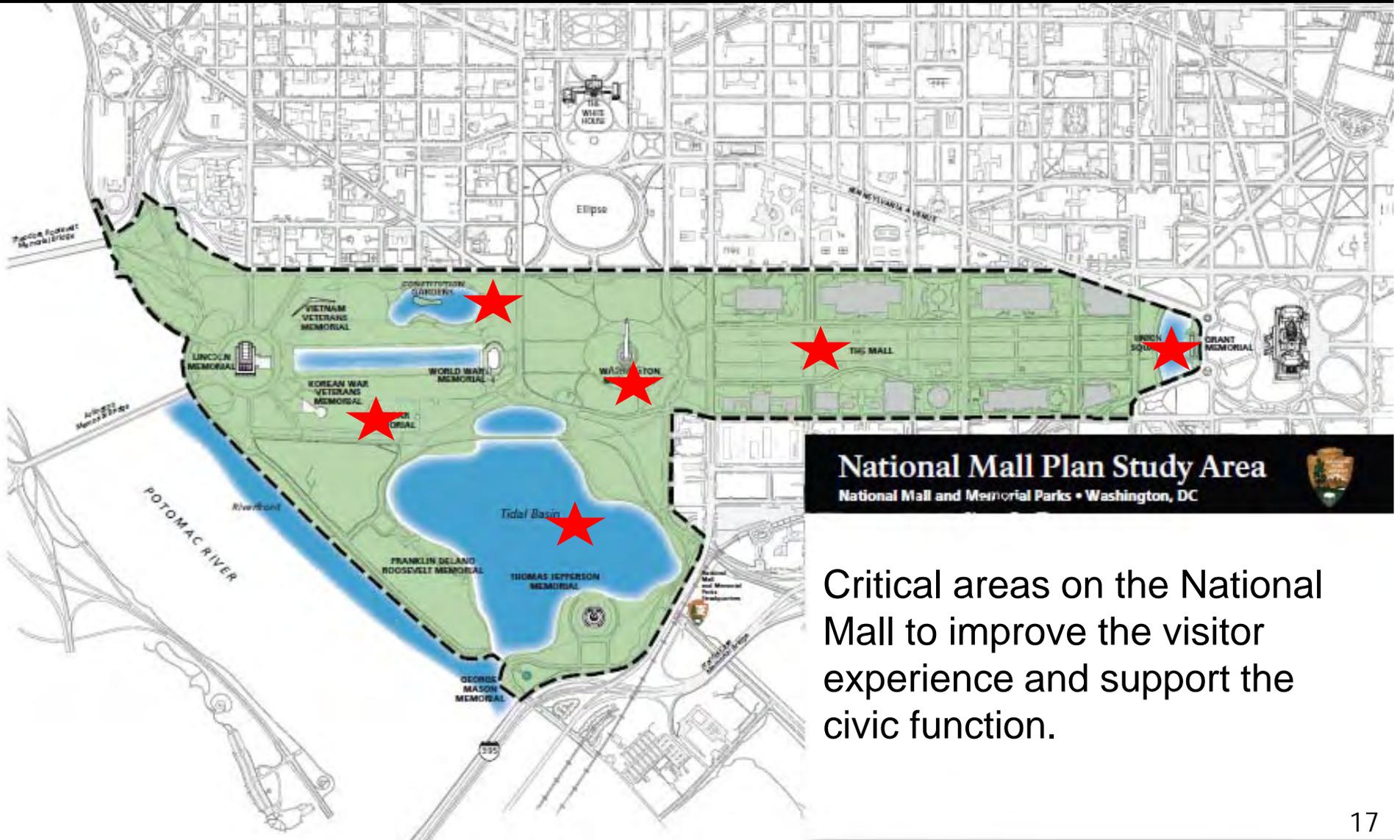
- Informal recreation occurs everywhere
- Separate bicycle lanes
- Improved walking around Tidal Basin
- Water based recreation
  - More boating choice in Tidal Basin
  - Model boats in Constitution Gardens
  - Small water play features

# Sustainability – NPS Policy Mandate



- Sustainable water
  - Sustainable Potomac shoreline
  - Seek non-potable water sources, improve water quality, reduce volume, reuse gray water
- Seek and interpret renewable energy sources
- Meet or exceed green standards
  - Meet highest LEED standards
  - Utilize sustainable sites initiative benchmarks
- Incorporate best practices for solid waste and recycling

# Preliminary Preferred Alternative Map – The National Mall: America’s Civic Stage



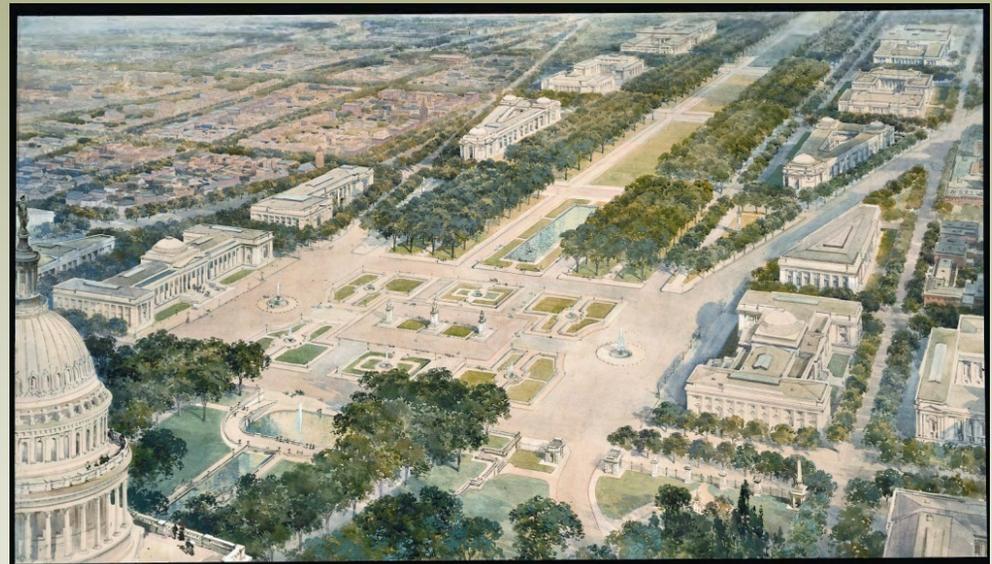
Critical areas on the National Mall to improve the visitor experience and support the civic function.



# Union Square — great opportunity.



- Austere backdrop reflecting the U.S. Capitol.
- No visitor amenities.
- Obstacles to pedestrian connections with the Mall and adjacent public facilities.
- Water quality, volume and pool condition issues.
- Ulysses S. Grant Memorial

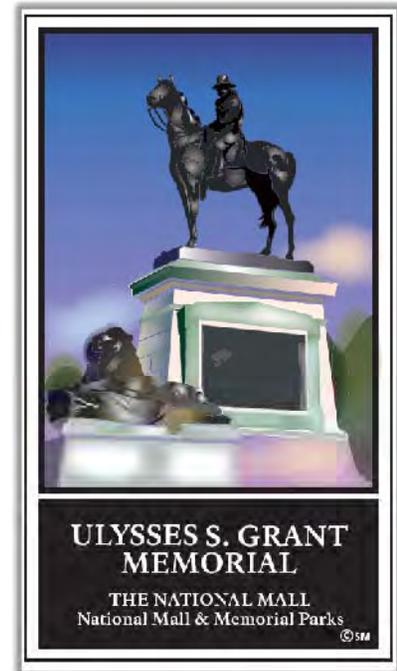


*Original vision for Union Square.*

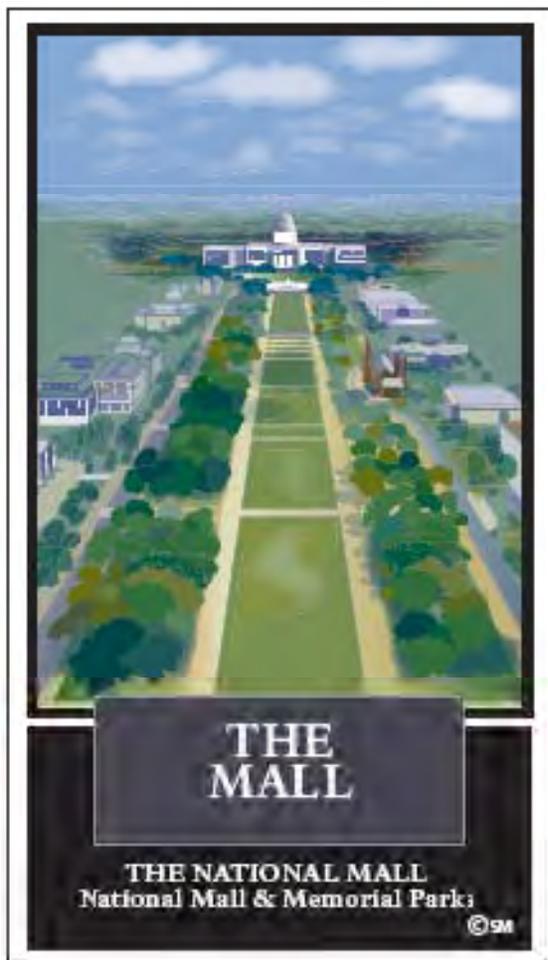
# Union Square — A Lively Destination for Relaxation, Celebration and Inalienable Rights



- Provide relaxing public square to enjoy historic views — the Grant Memorial, the Capitol, the Mall, and the Washington Monument.
- Create active destination with flexible multi-purpose visitor facilities that can be transformed to accommodate programs, activities, performances, events, national celebrations and demonstrations.
- Protect historic trees and respect formal, symmetrical character.
- Remove reflecting pool. New water elements or features showcase sustainable water management practices.



# The Mall — Welcoming Historic Landscape and Sustainable Venue for Demonstrations / Events



- Protect and restore historic landscape that frames the iconic views.
- Improve conditions and appearance. Design improvements to withstand heavy use.
- **Permit events facilities only in the center grass panels; No events in tree panels.**
- Add “National Mall” name to Metro stop
- Meter parking.
- Provide comfortable attractive visitor amenities outside view corridors.



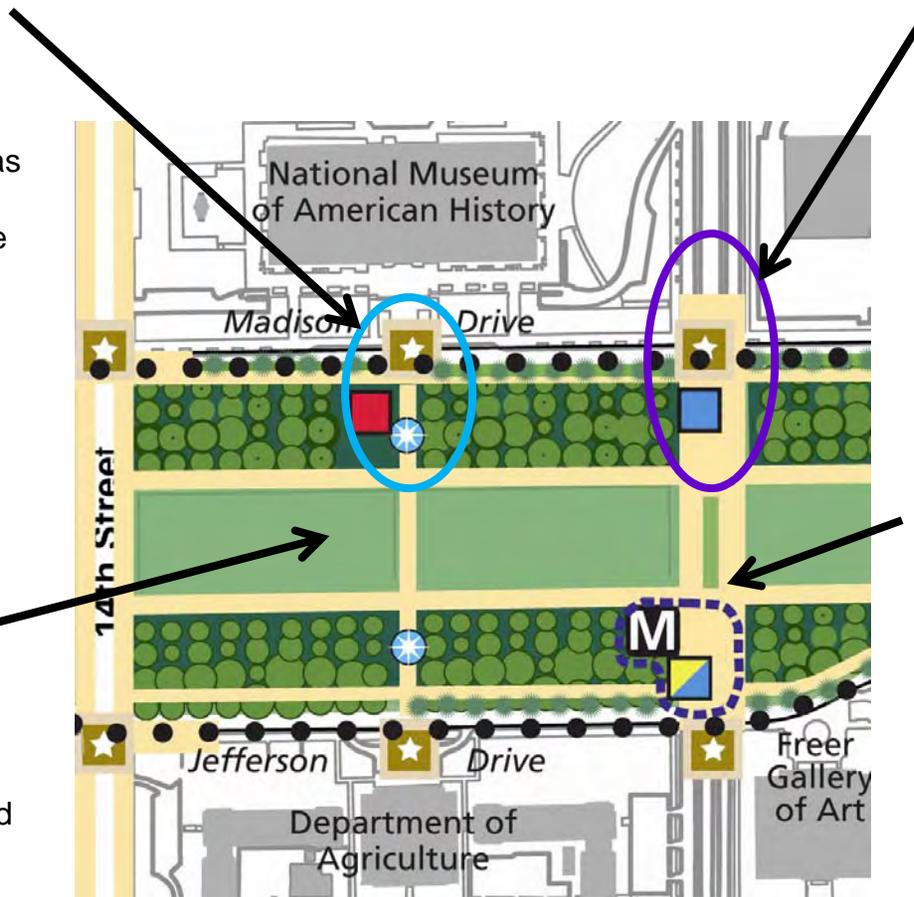
# The Mall — 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> Sustainable Venues for Demonstrations / Events; Enjoyable Connections



## Visitor Facilities / Museums

### Connections

- Refreshments areas improved
- Shady, comfortable seating
- Crosswalk improvements
- Emphasize north south views



## Event Support Area

- Utility hookups
- Paved staging / temp. facilities
- Improve access
- Restrooms / drinking fountain
- Flexible work stations
- Create new staging space over 12<sup>th</sup> street tunnel

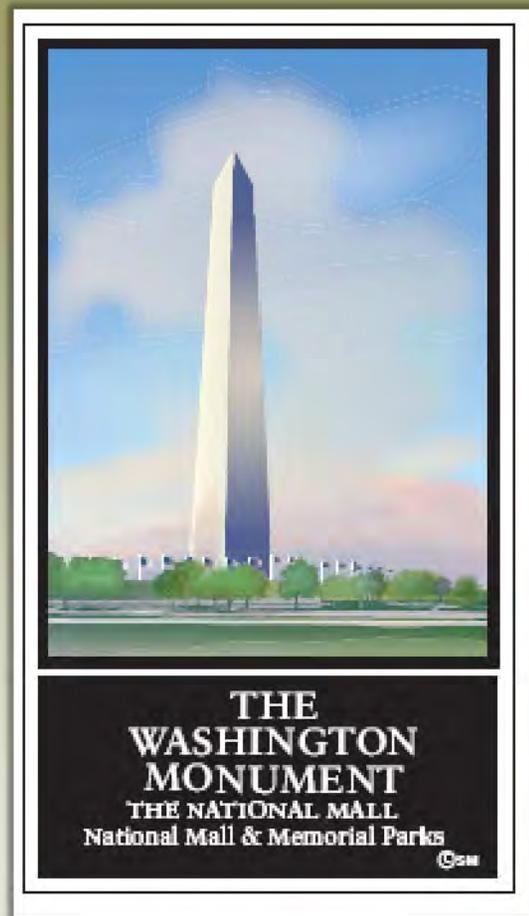
## Welcome area / Metro Stop

- Staffed information
- Orientation maps / model / interactive information
- Restrooms / drinking fountain
- Education
- Group seating / shade
- Cooling water elements
- Crosswalk improvements

## Center grass panels

- Re-engineer soils
- New water systems
- Irrigation designed for events

# The Washington Monument — Visible Symbol and Center for Visits to the National Mall



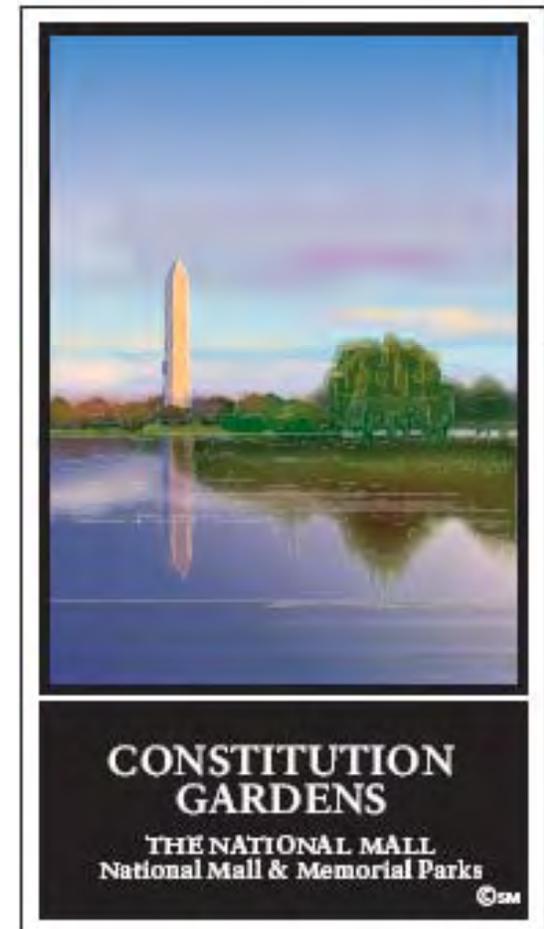
- Multi-purpose Visitor Services Destination
  - Food, retail, seating, restrooms, performance
  - Convenient, attractive location with views near Sylvan Theater
  - High-quality, architecturally unique facility
  - Preserves Sylvan Theater performance function
- Survey Lodge Visitor Services
  - Additional parking and services for visitors with disabilities
  - Supplementary transportation services
  - Information, exhibits, and recreation equipment rentals such as kites or bicycles



# Constitution Gardens — A Rejuvenated Garden Destination for Reflection and Enjoyment



- Provide an architecturally unique, high-quality full service restaurant w/indoor/outdoor seating/restrooms. Relocate/adaptively reuse the Canal Lock House.
- Provide program, performance / entertainment stage in or near the east end of the lake while respecting nearby memorials.
- Improve lake water quality and recirculation, develop a non-potable water source.
- Celebrate our founding documents — the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution.
- Provide more urban play opportunities.



# DC War Memorial and Ash Woods – Improvements for visitors and Park Police



## DC WAR MEMORIAL

- Rehabilitate memorial and landscape.
- Continue to use as a bandstand or performance venue.
- Higher visibility and improved pedestrian connections.

## ASH WOODS / USPP STABLES

- Rebuild USPP stables with Independence Avenue vehicular access.
- Visible horse paddock enhances visitor experience;
- Ash Woods road becomes primarily pedestrian walk.
- Relocate restroom for better distribution.
- Continue recreational uses.



# Tidal Basin — Highlighting Views, Enhancing the Sense of Arrival, and Improved Experiences



- Improve pedestrian arrival.
- Enhance visitor comfort and convenience with wider walks, pedestrian lighting, seating and education.
- Retain character and appearance. Rebuild seawalls a few feet into the Tidal Basin to allow wider pedestrian walks and protect cherry trees.
- Redesign pedestrian, bike and vehicular circulation to improve access.



- Improve pedestrian, bicycle, and boating experiences:
  - Provide more boating choices; boat service between sites
  - Provide separate bike lanes
  - Promote walking – highlight connections to other areas

# THE NATIONAL MALL PLAN

## Future steps

### GENERAL SCHEDULE

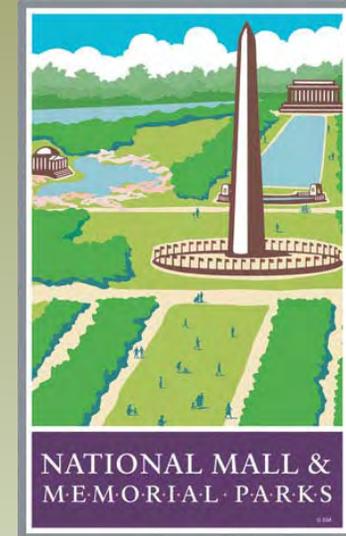
- Newsletter 4 – March 2009
- Section 106 consultations begin again in March 2009
- Draft Plan – Summer 2009
- Final approved plan winter 2010

NPS will return for additional briefings as the planning proceeds.

Projects that result from planning will come before the Commission.

NPS will continue working with local and federal cooperating agencies.

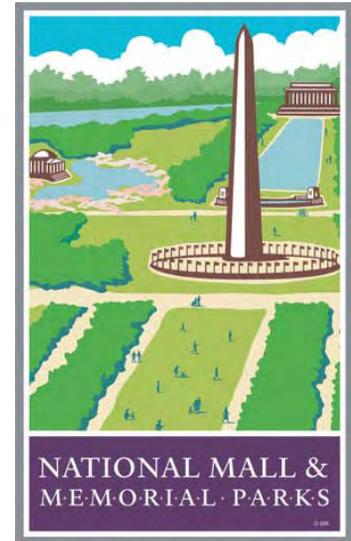
NPS will continue to work with Section 106 consulting parties.





# Progress - common to every alternative:

- Congressionally approved projects underway
  - Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial
  - National Museum of African American History and Culture
  - Vietnam Veterans Memorial Center
  - Potomac Park Levee per FEMA / USACE
- CFR 7.96 regulation updates
- Visual quality improvements – resulting in better appearance
- Wayfinding sign system – a Centennial project
- Thomas Jefferson plaza seawall
- NCR design consultants selection – criteria, RFQ, qualifications vetting and selection of multiple consultants for 5 year contracts. NAMA projects include:
  - Lincoln Reflecting Pool Landscape
  - Thomas Jefferson security perimeter
- Recycling and solid waste management studies and demonstration projects
- Visitor Transportation Study – an identified preferred alternative is summarized



# The National Mall - this generation of American's has a responsibility to the next



The civic stage holds an essential role in a democracy.

We must re-invest in our heritage, our symbols, our values and our democratic way of life.

The National Mall represents our country to the world.

Only the highest quality is worthy of our national history, aspirations and our future.