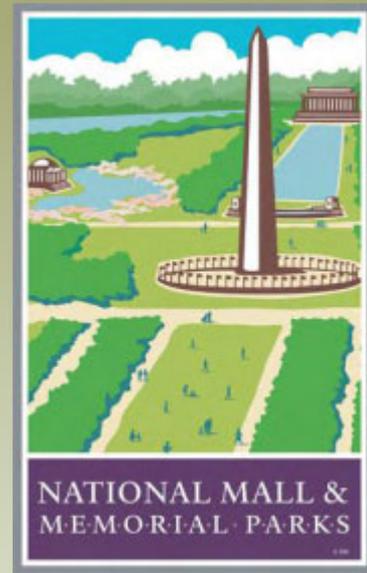


# THE NATIONAL MALL PLAN

## Preliminary Preferred Alternative

Public Meetings March 11 & 14, 2009

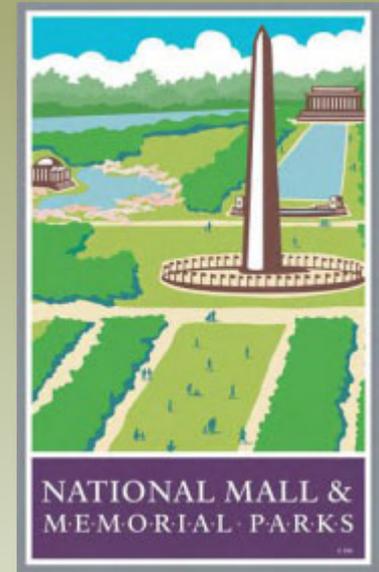
NPS proactively plans to preserve the American treasures it manages for our citizens.



# Meeting purpose

March 11 -14, 2009

- Present a summary of the preliminary preferred alternative and let you know what the government is considering.
- To hand out newsletters to those not on the mailing list.
- Encourage public participation in planning. Public comment should be submitted online by April 20, 2009 at [www.nps.gov/nationalmallplan](http://www.nps.gov/nationalmallplan).
- Public comment can refine or alter the agency preferred alternative.



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



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

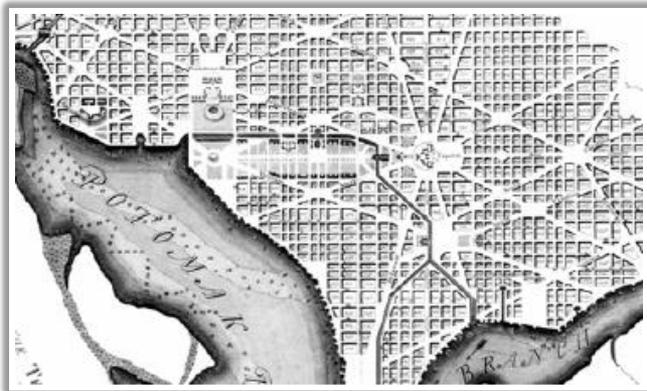
- The designed landscape
- Monuments and Memorials
- Commemorative Areas
- Historic structures
- Small scale features
- Constructed water features
- Cultural landscapes



# 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 Primary Civic Space



**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 8

# 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: Provide a Distinguished, Inspiring, High-quality, and Sustainable Public Realm



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

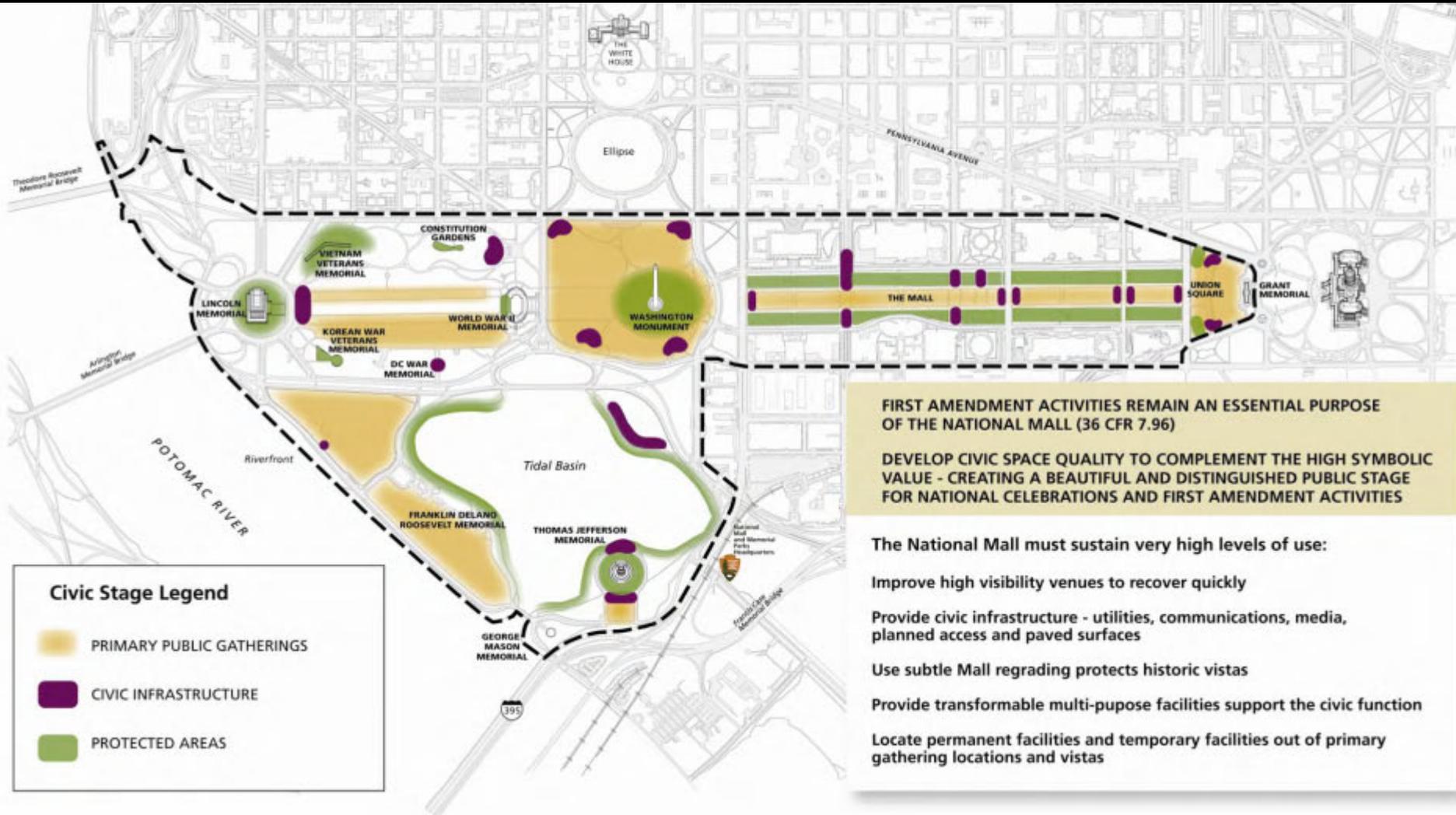
The civic space should be worthy of the high symbolic value of the National Mall to our country.

Improve the ability to support First Amendment civic gatherings.

Be welcoming to citizens and guests.

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

# The Civic Stage: America's Public Space is Welcoming, Sustainable, Flexible and Transformable



FIRST AMENDMENT ACTIVITIES REMAIN AN ESSENTIAL PURPOSE OF THE NATIONAL MALL (36 CFR 7.96)

DEVELOP CIVIC SPACE QUALITY TO COMPLEMENT THE HIGH SYMBOLIC VALUE - CREATING A BEAUTIFUL AND DISTINGUISHED PUBLIC STAGE FOR NATIONAL CELEBRATIONS AND FIRST AMENDMENT ACTIVITIES

The National Mall must sustain very high levels of use:

Improve high visibility venues to recover quickly

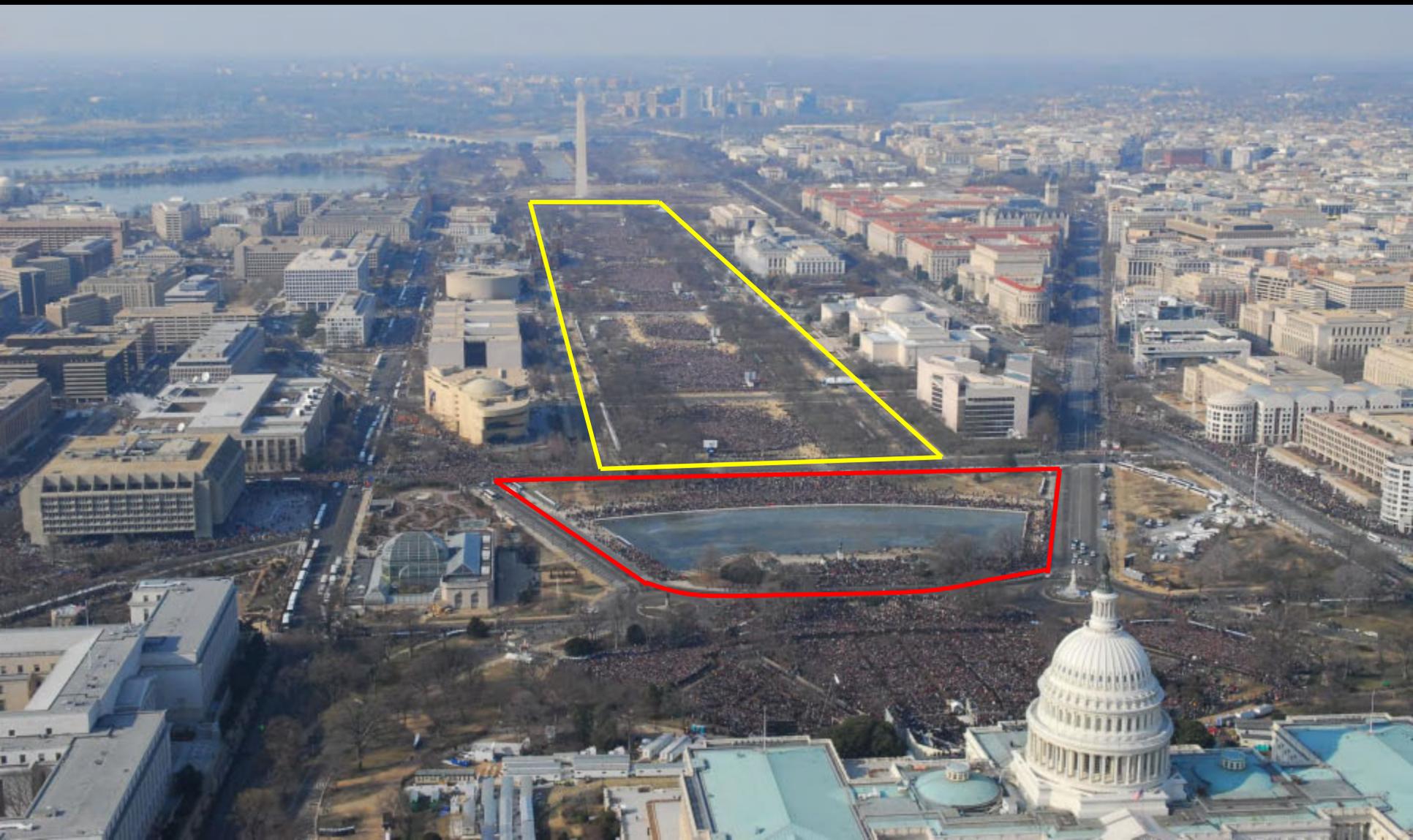
Provide civic infrastructure - utilities, communications, media, planned access and paved surfaces

Use subtle Mall regrading protects historic vistas

Provide transformable multi-purpose facilities support the civic function

Locate permanent facilities and temporary facilities out of primary gathering locations and vistas

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

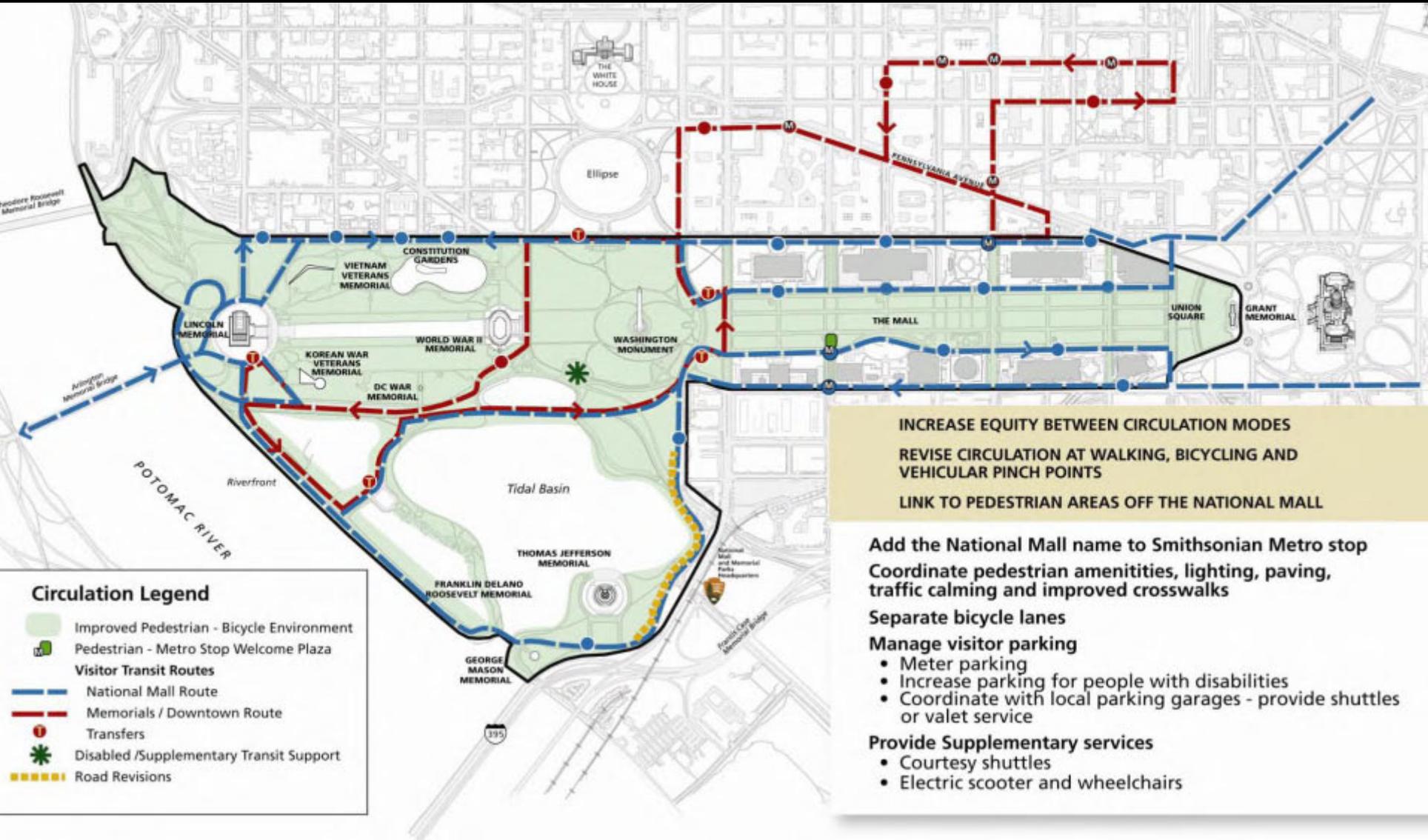




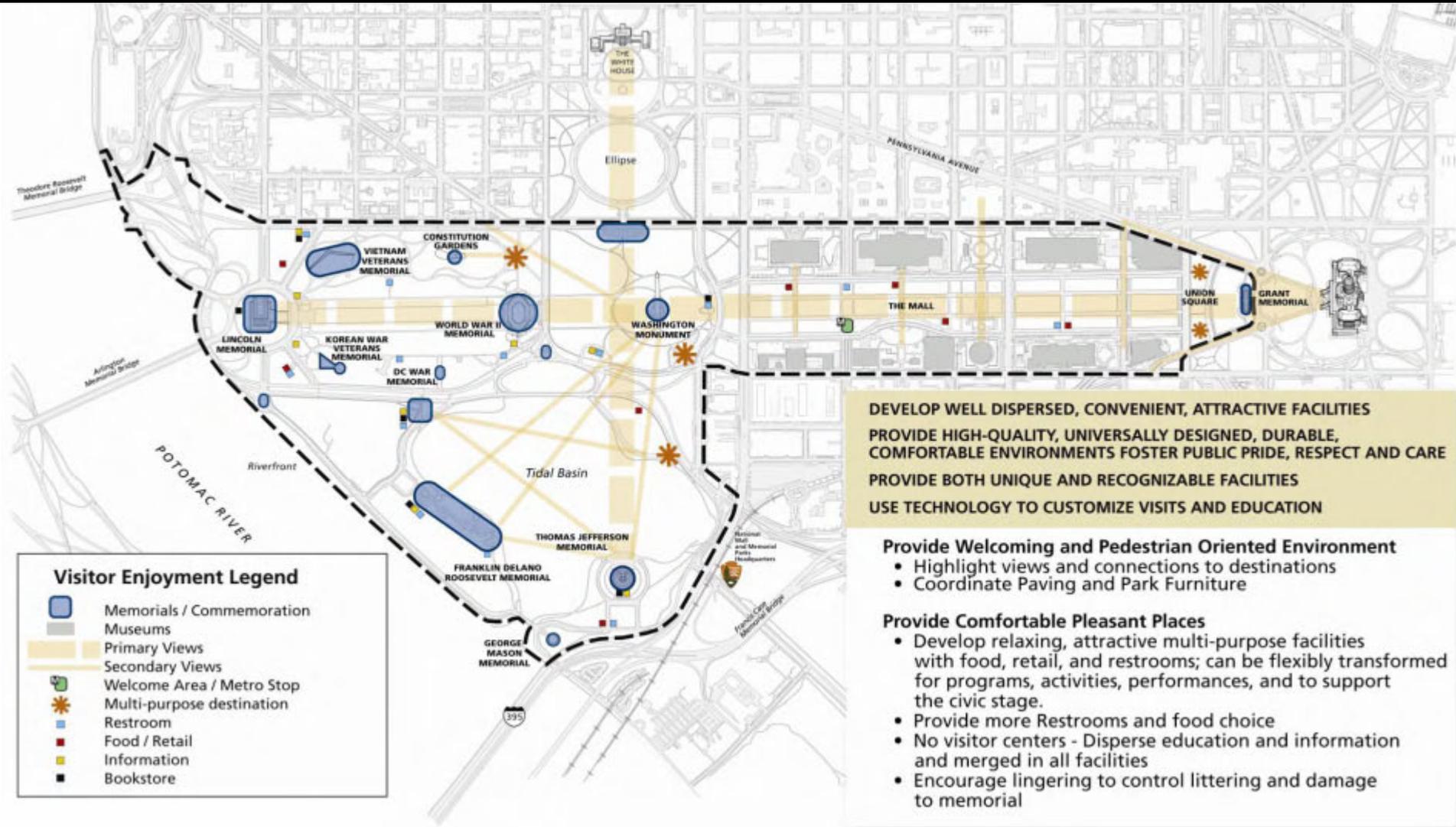
# National Mall Resources: Better Protected and Able to Sustain High Levels of Use



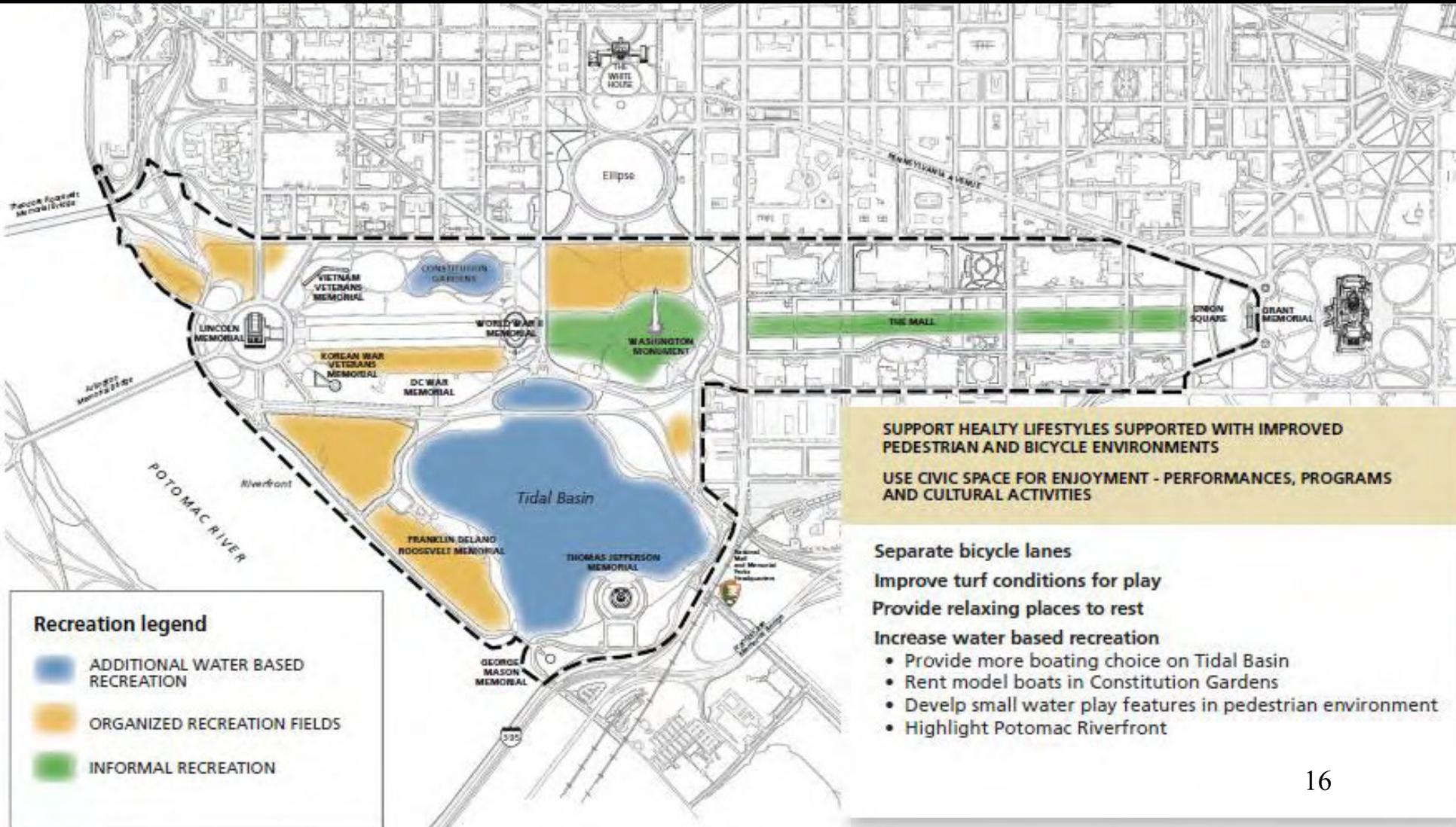
# Circulation: Coordinated to Conveniently Meet User Needs



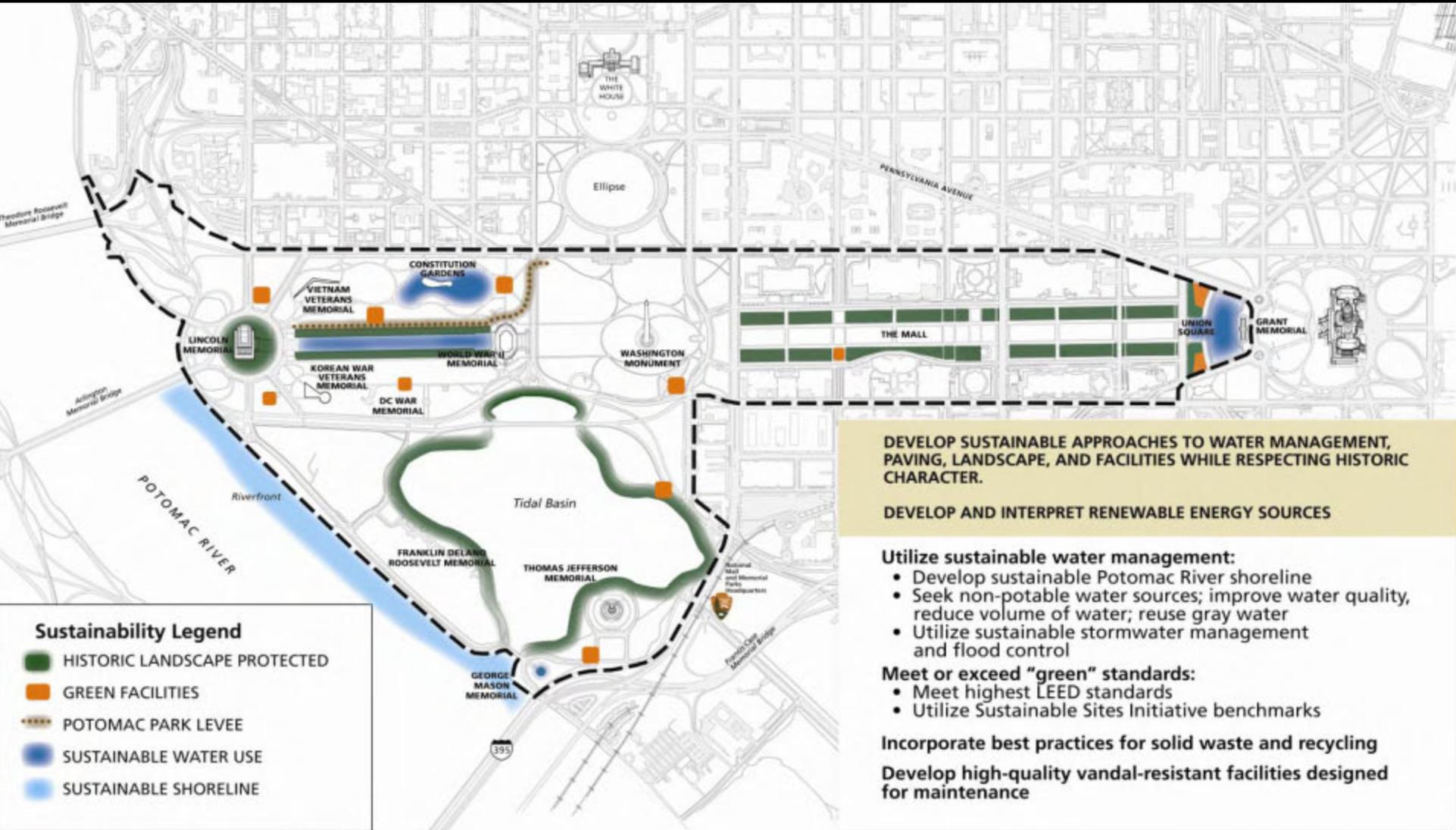
# Visitor Enjoyment: Inspiring Experiences, Improved Amenities, Flexible Facilities, Year Round Variety and Programs



# Recreation and Visitor Enjoyment: Opportunities, for Informal Recreation and General Enjoyment



# Sustainability – The National Mall is a Role Model that Exceeds NPS Policy Mandate



**Sustainability Legend**

- HISTORIC LANDSCAPE PROTECTED
- GREEN FACILITIES
- POTOMAC PARK LEVEE
- SUSTAINABLE WATER USE
- SUSTAINABLE SHORELINE

**DEVELOP SUSTAINABLE APPROACHES TO WATER MANAGEMENT, PAVING, LANDSCAPE, AND FACILITIES WHILE RESPECTING HISTORIC CHARACTER.**

**DEVELOP AND INTERPRET RENEWABLE ENERGY SOURCES**

**Utilize sustainable water management:**

- Develop sustainable Potomac River shoreline
- Seek non-potable water sources; improve water quality, reduce volume of water; reuse gray water
- Utilize sustainable stormwater management and flood control

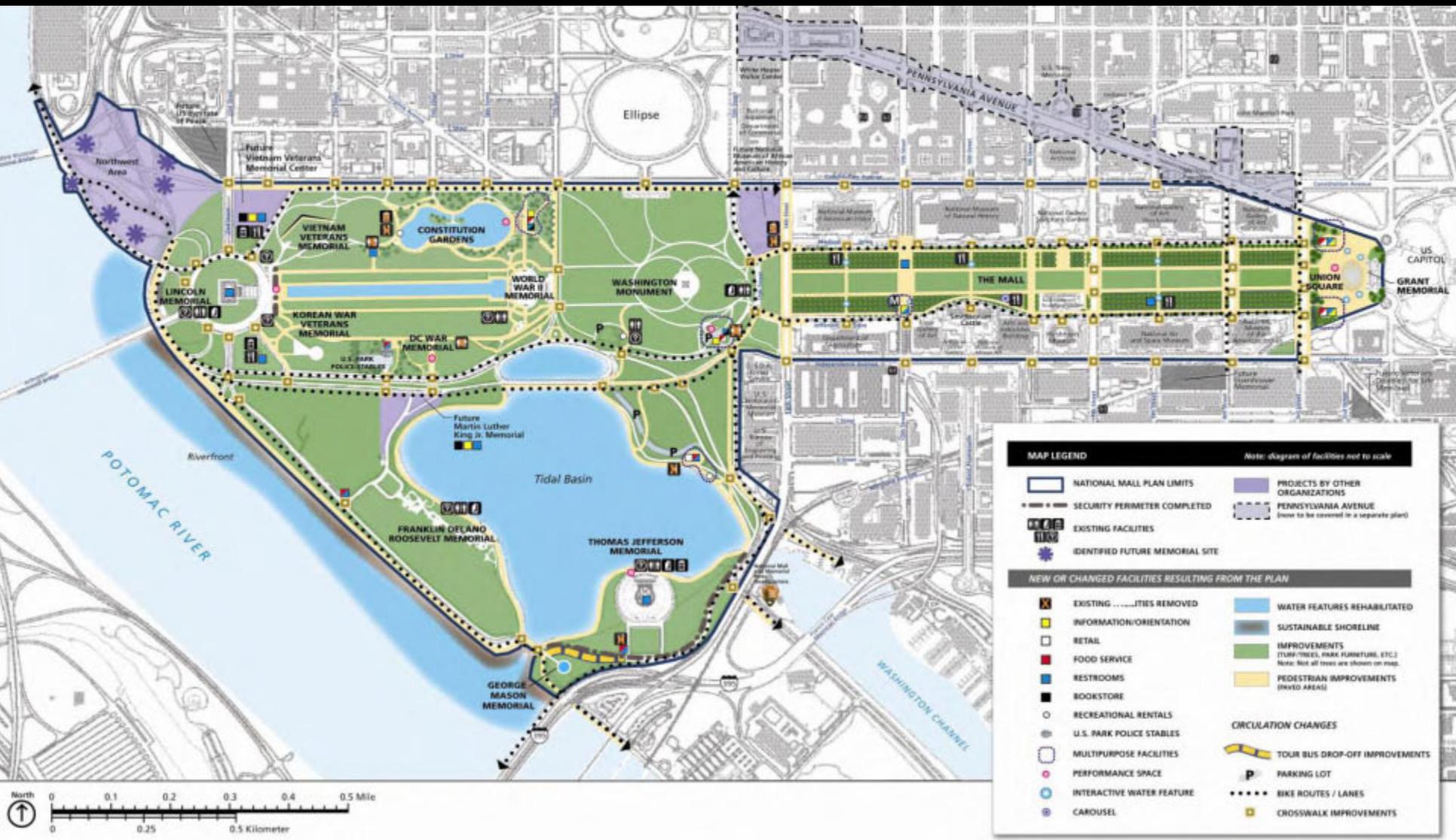
**Meet or exceed "green" standards:**

- Meet highest LEED standards
- Utilize Sustainable Sites Initiative benchmarks

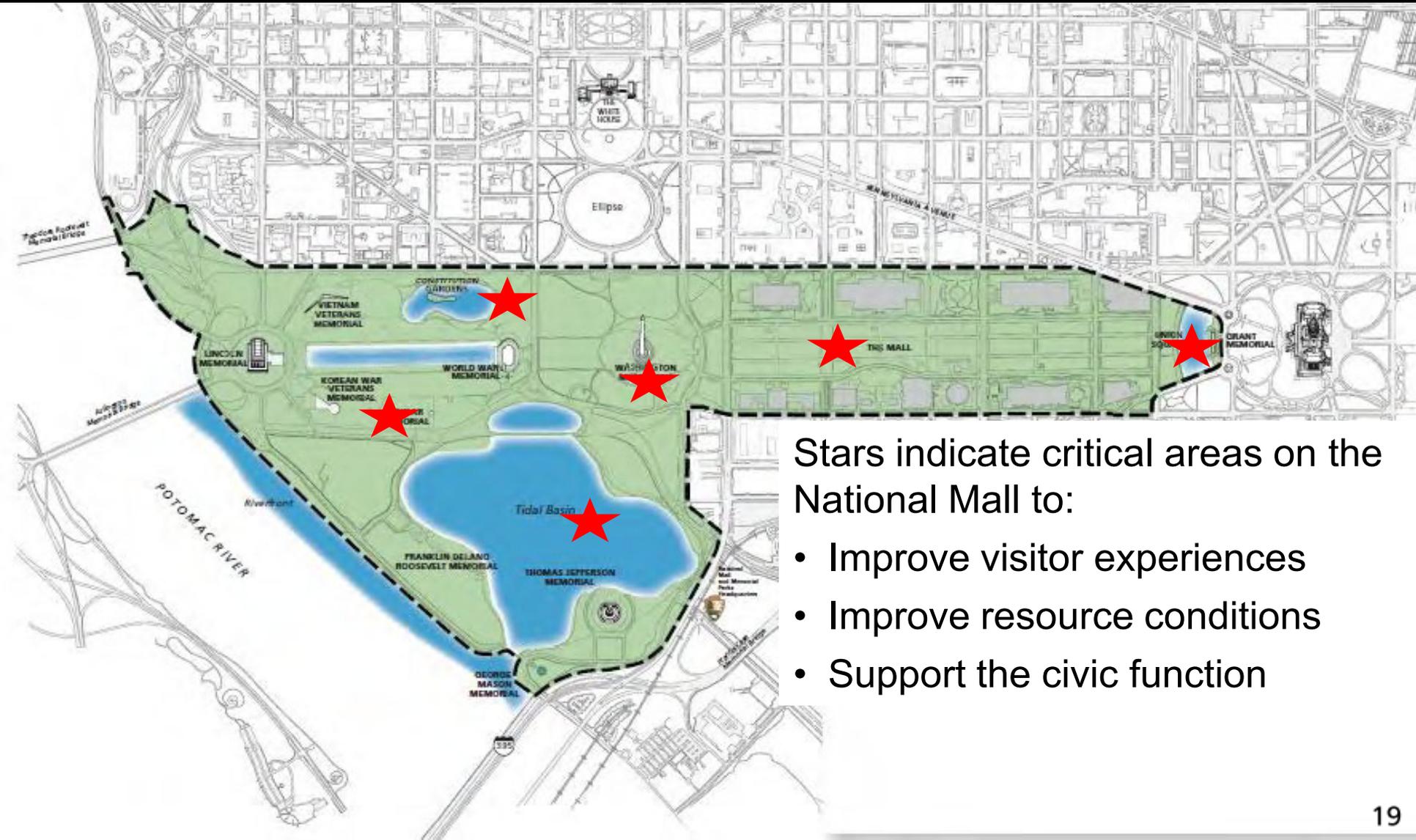
**Incorporate best practices for solid waste and recycling**

**Develop high-quality vandal-resistant facilities designed for maintenance**

# The National Mall Plan – A Preliminary Preferred Alternative for Public Comment



# A Preliminary Preferred Alternative – Summary of Focal Areas for The National Mall



Stars indicate critical areas on the National Mall to:

- Improve visitor experiences
- Improve resource conditions
- Support the civic function



# Union Square — great opportunity.



- Currently the austere backdrop reflects the U.S. Capitol.
- No visitor amenities.
- Size of pool is an obstacle to pedestrian connections with the Mall and adjacent public facilities.
- Water quality, volume and pool condition issues.
- Ulysses S. Grant Memorial – a presidential memorial.

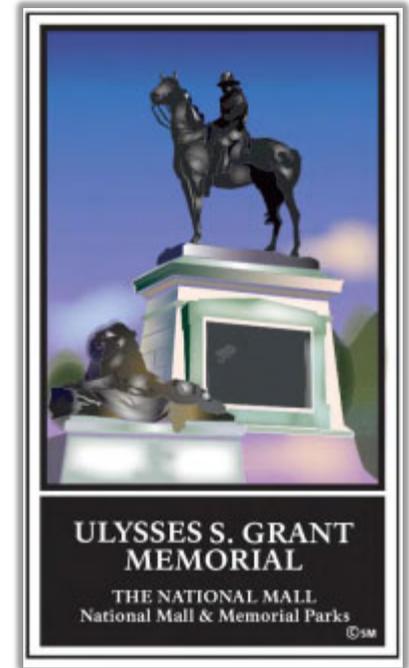


*Original vision for Union Square.*

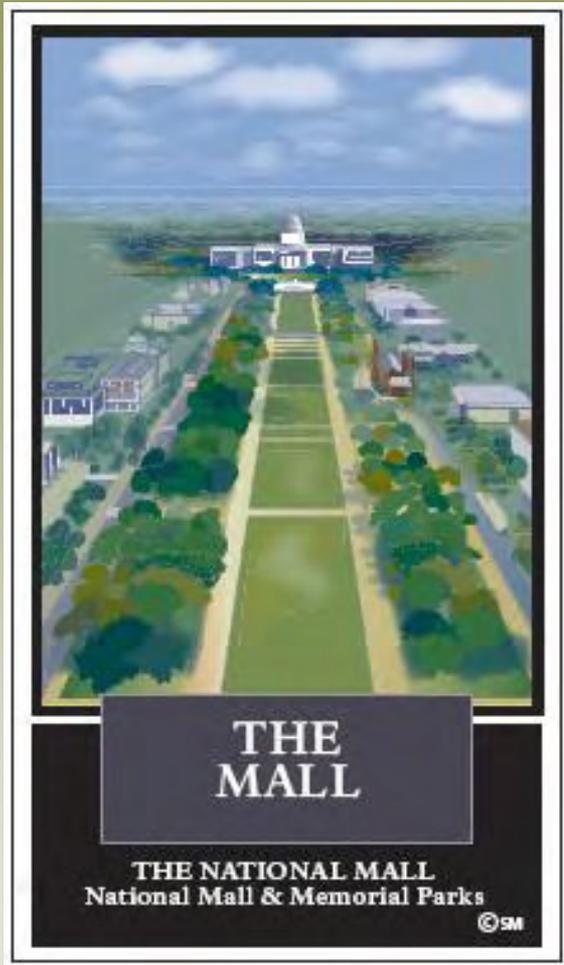
# Union Square — A Lively Destination for Relaxation, Celebration and Inalienable Rights



- Provide relaxing public square to enjoy historic views — the U.S. 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 – but 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. This does not affect First Amendment gatherings.**
- Add “National Mall” name to Metro stop
- Meter parking.
- Provide comfortable and attractive visitor amenities outside view corridors.



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

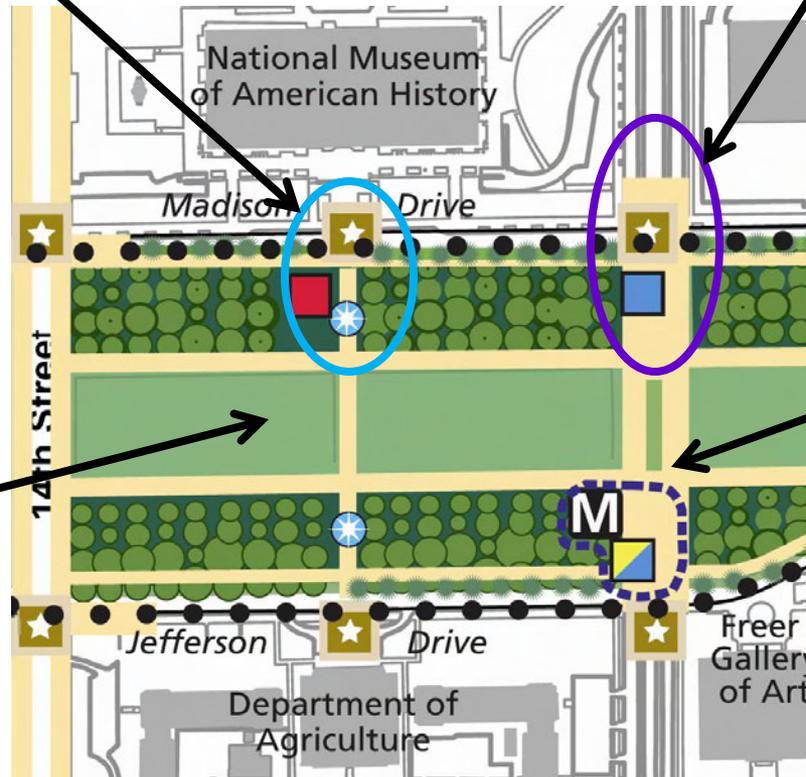


## Visitor Facilities / Museums Connections

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

## Center grass panels

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



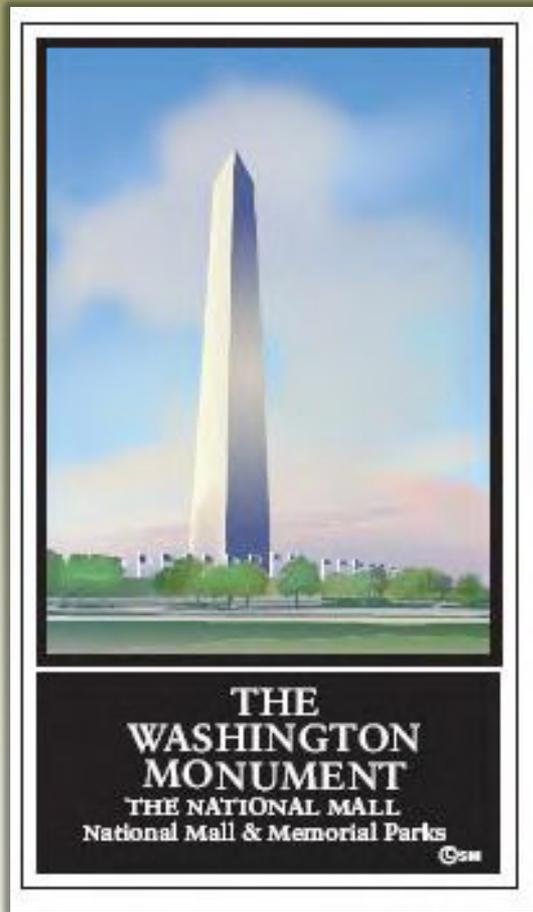
## Event Support Area

- 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

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



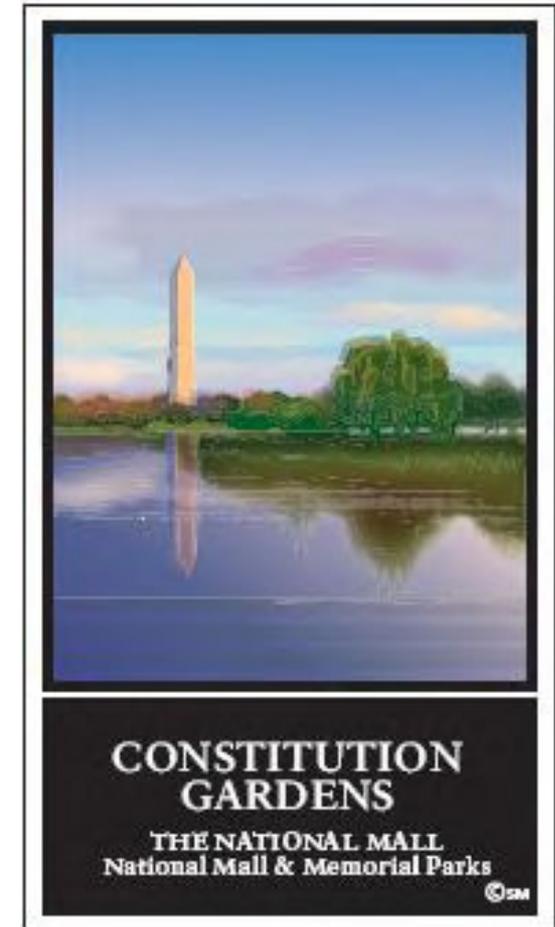
- Replace visitor services tent
- Develop a Multi-purpose Visitor Services Destination
  - Food, retail, seating, restrooms, performance
  - Convenient, attractive location with views near Sylvan Theater
  - High-quality, architecturally unique facility
  - Preserves Sylvan Theater performance function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



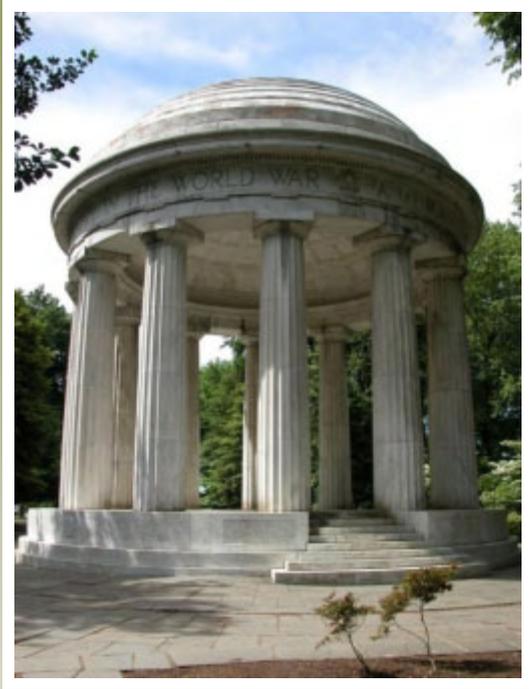
# Constitution Gardens — A Rejuvenated Garden and Destination for Relaxation and Enjoyment



- 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 – halfway to the Lincoln Memorial.
- Continue recreational uses.



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



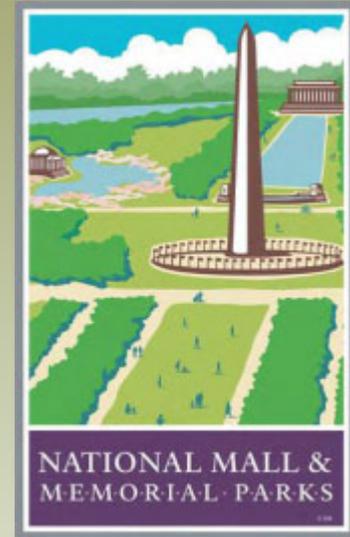
- Improve pedestrian arrival.
- Enhance visitor comfort and convenience with wider walks, pedestrian lighting, seating and education.
- Retain character and appearance. Rebuild seawalls a few feet into the Tidal Basin so wider pedestrian walks can protect cherry trees.
- Redesign pedestrian, bike and 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 GENERAL SCHEDULE

- Newsletter 4 – March 2009
- Public meetings – March 2009
- Section 106 consultations begin again in March 2009
- Public comment received April 20, 2009
- Comment incorporated
- Draft Plan Published – Summer 2009
- Public meetings around country
- Final approved plan - Winter 2010



# 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 – clarify times for national celebrations
- 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.