

THE NATIONAL MALL PLAN

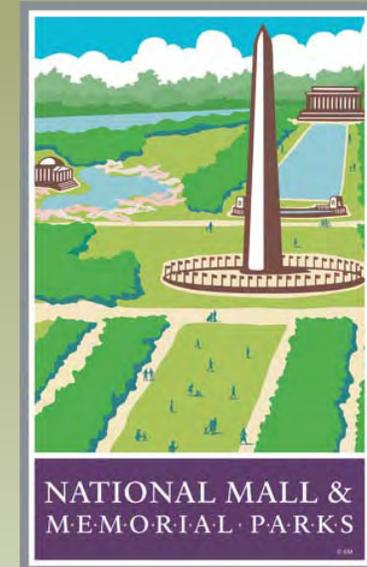
Preliminary Preferred Alternative

NCPC Informational Presentation April 2, 2009



Planning Goals:

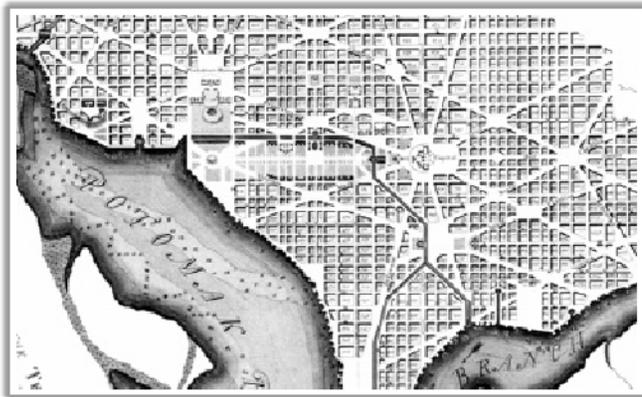
- Restore beauty of the National Mall,
- Enhance our national public space, and
- Improve visitor experiences



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 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



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.

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High level of public interest



3 Newsletters to date

- More than 27,000 comments
- Every state represented
- Comment focus
 - Does not look good enough for what it means to our nation
 - Hard to find way around – improve signs and orientation maps
 - Need restrooms
 - Provide more food choice
 - More than 80% related to the importance of First Amendment demonstrations in a democracy
 - Improve bicycling



FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane



“Another thing I like about Washington is their yummy food and neat places to eat.”

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 9

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

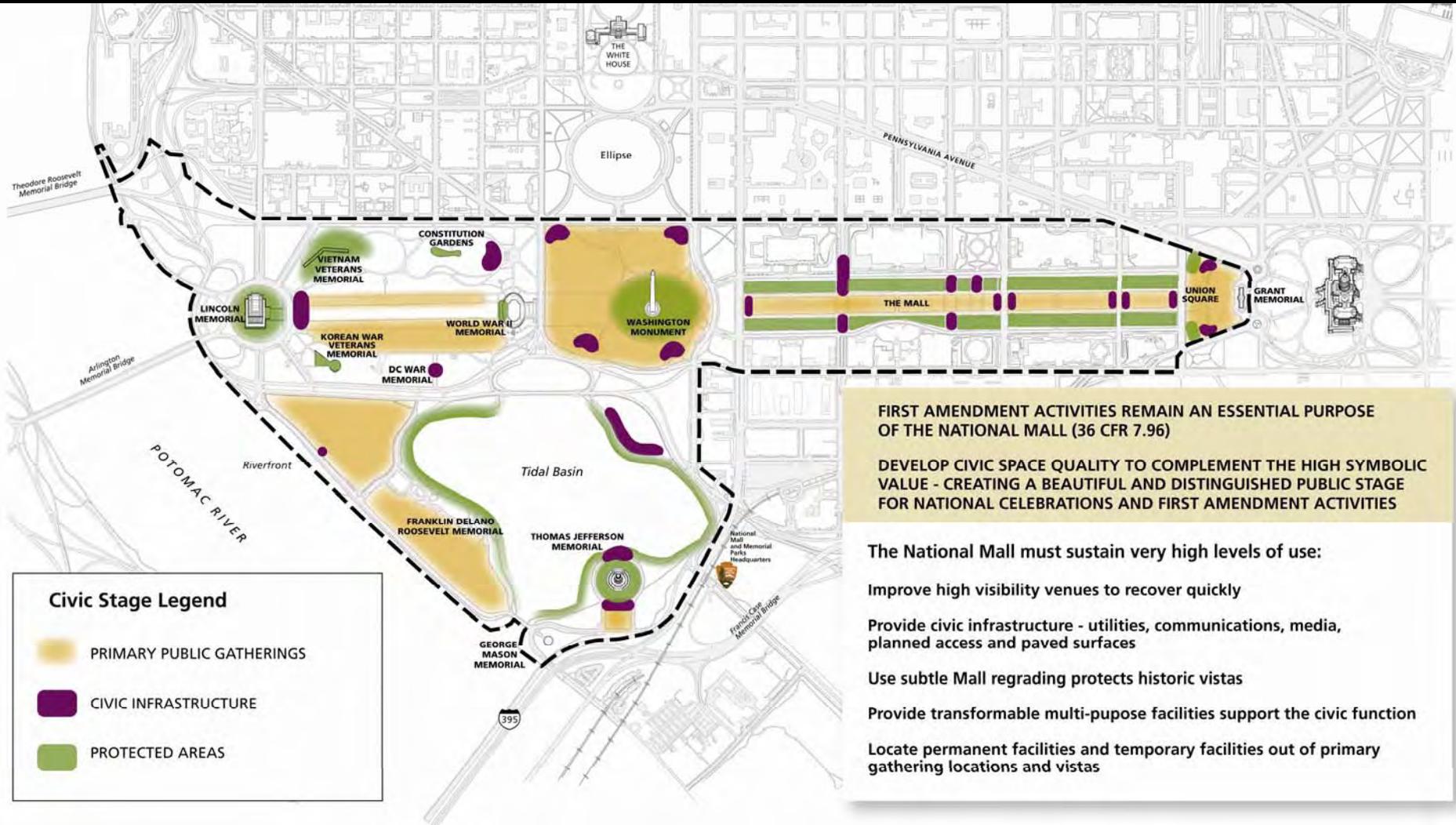
The civic space should be worthy of the high symbolic value of the National Mall to our country.

Improve the ability to support First Amendment civic gatherings.

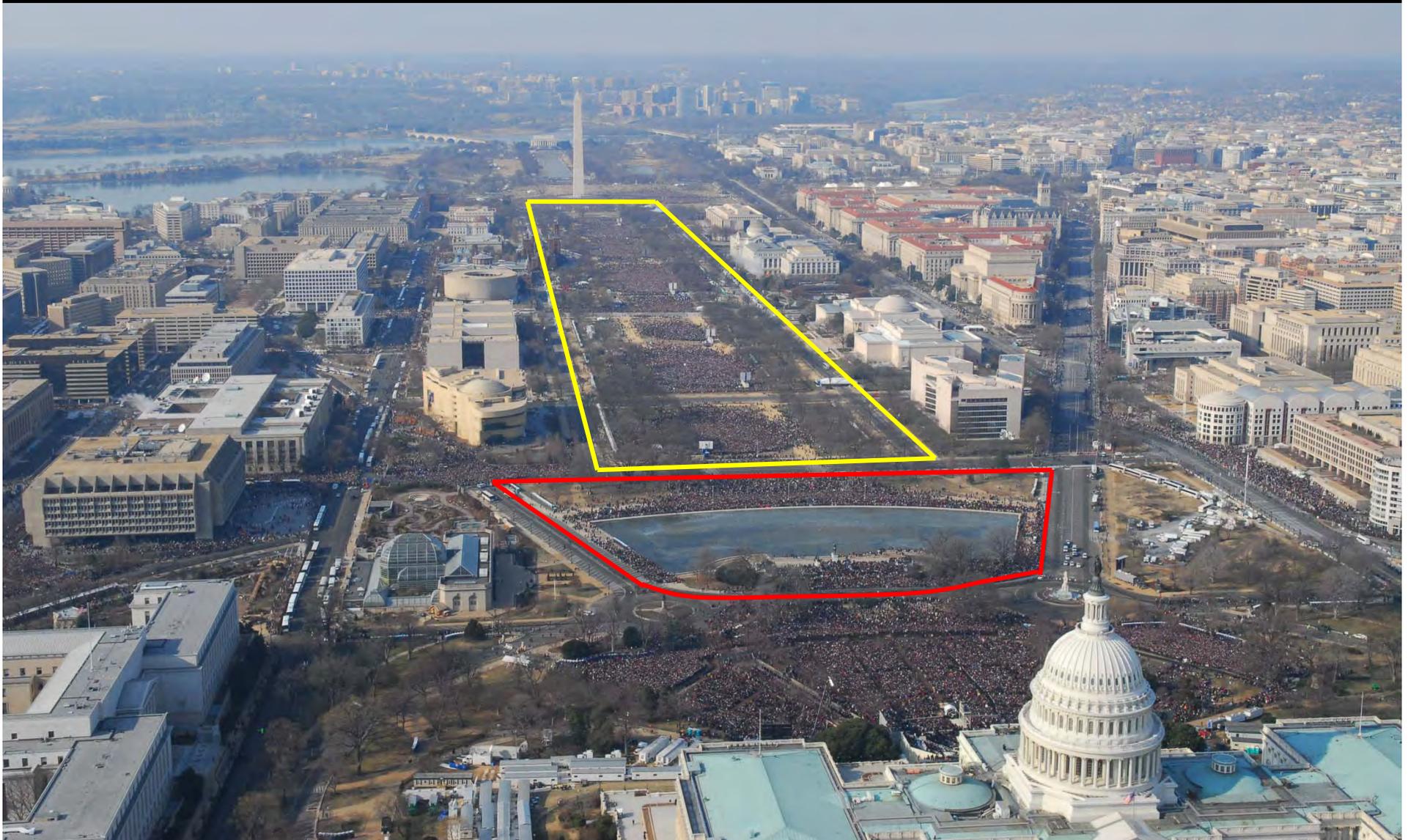
Be welcoming to citizens and guests.

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

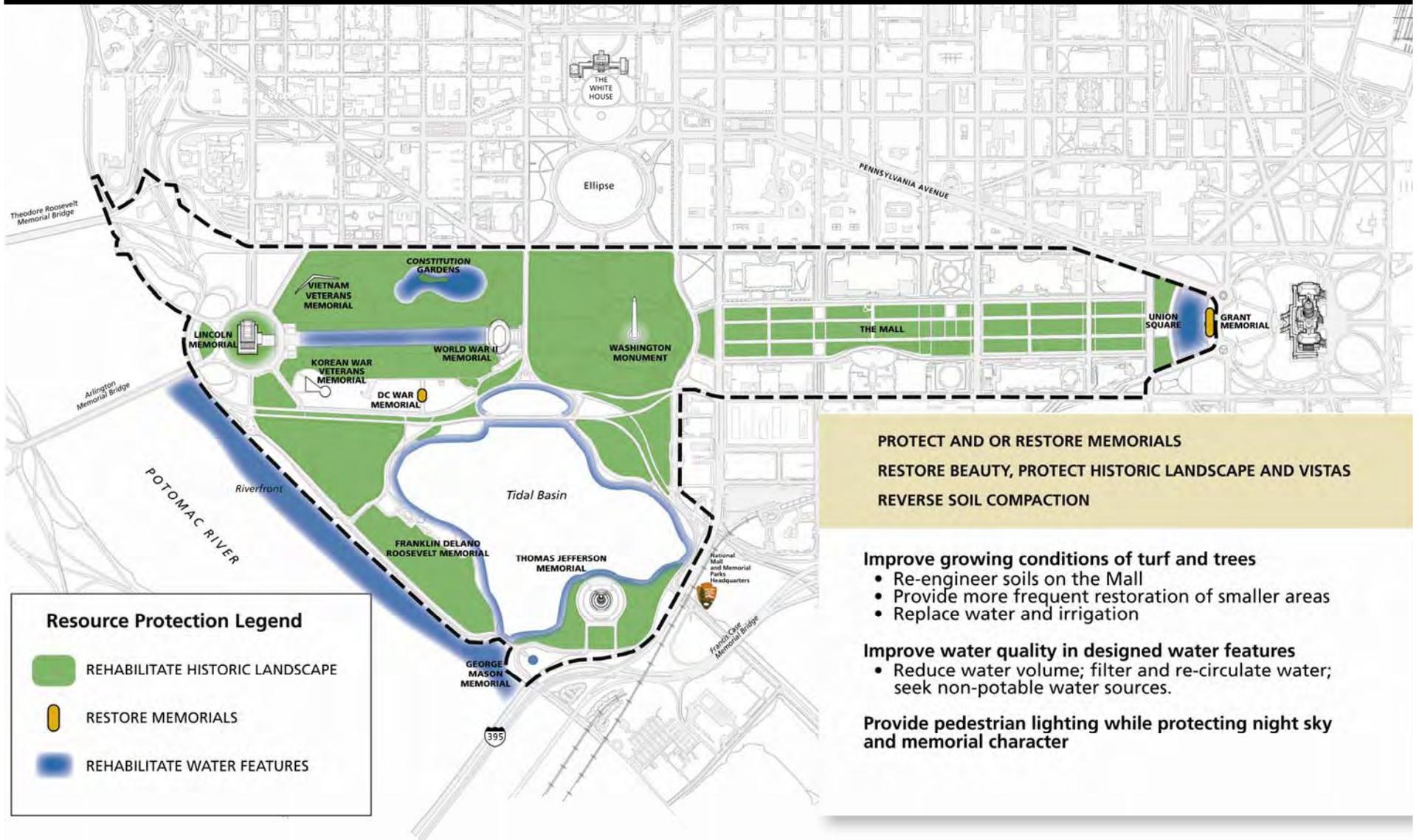
The Civic Stage: America's Public Space is Welcoming, Sustainable, Flexible and Transformable



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



PROTECT AND OR RESTORE MEMORIALS
RESTORE BEAUTY, PROTECT HISTORIC LANDSCAPE AND VISTAS
REVERSE SOIL COMPACTION

Improve growing conditions of turf and trees

- Re-engineer soils on the Mall
- Provide more frequent restoration of smaller areas
- Replace water and irrigation

Improve water quality in designed water features

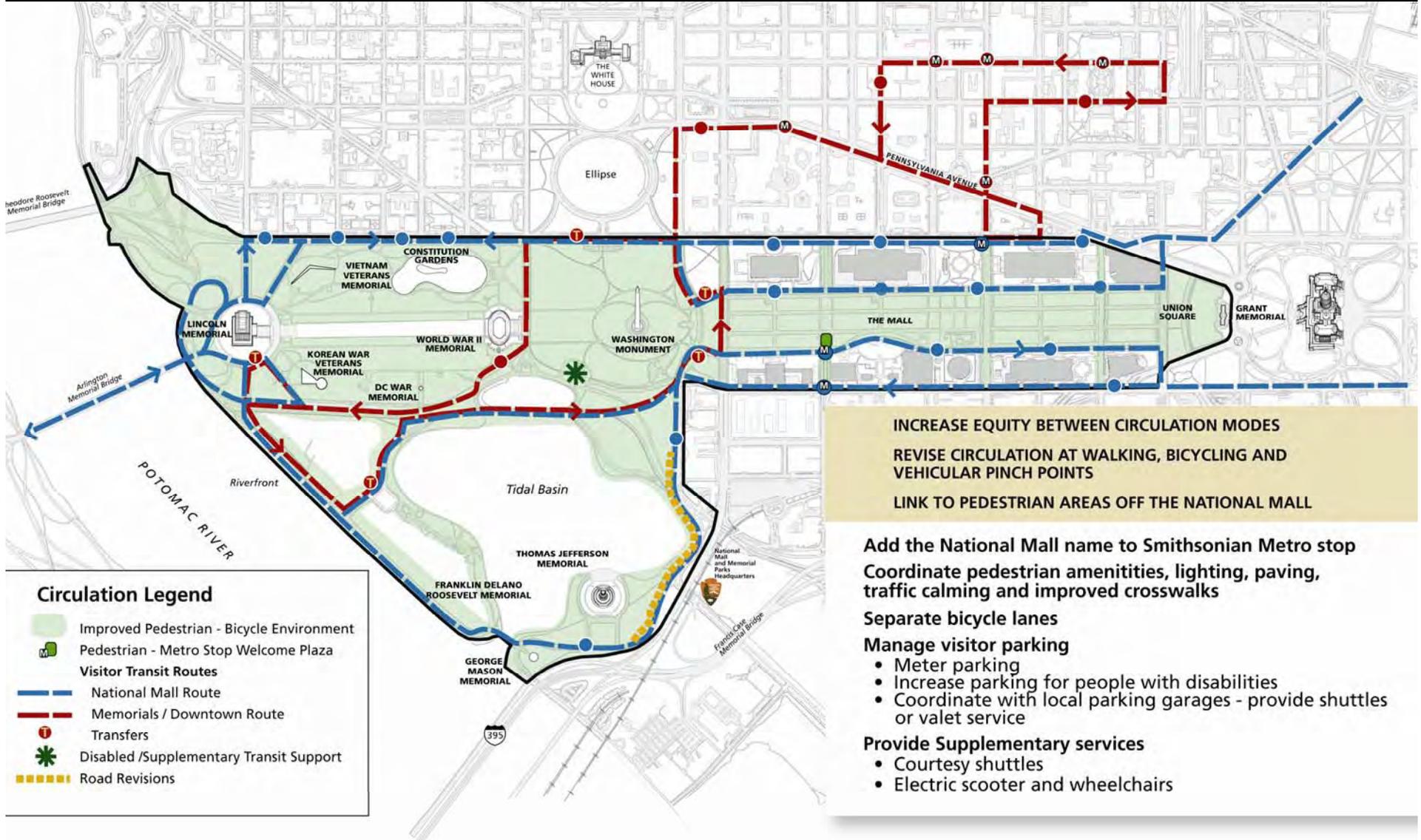
- Reduce water volume; filter and re-circulate water; seek non-potable water sources.

Provide pedestrian lighting while protecting night sky and memorial character

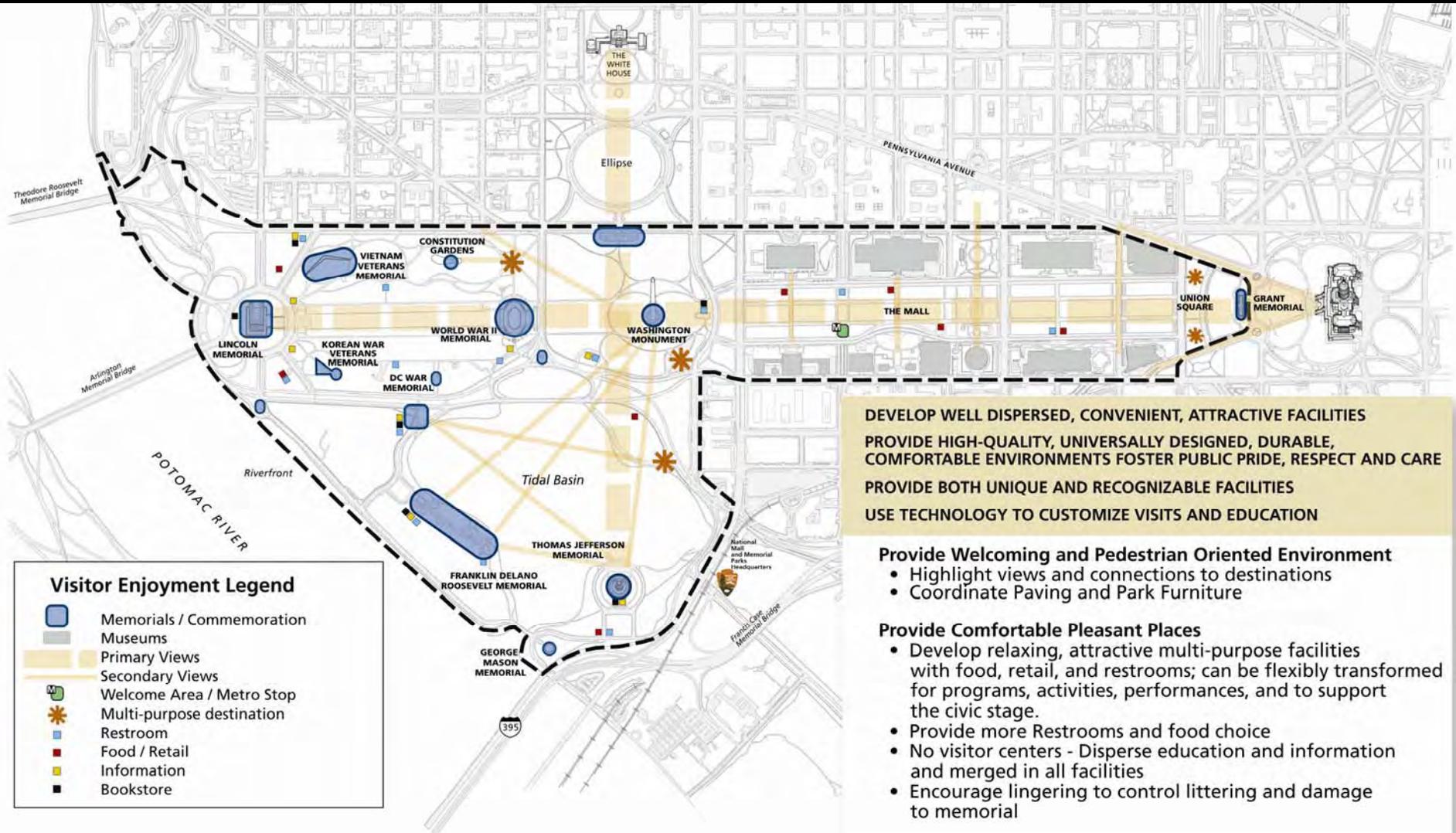
Resource Protection Legend

-  REHABILITATE HISTORIC LANDSCAPE
-  RESTORE MEMORIALS
-  REHABILITATE WATER FEATURES

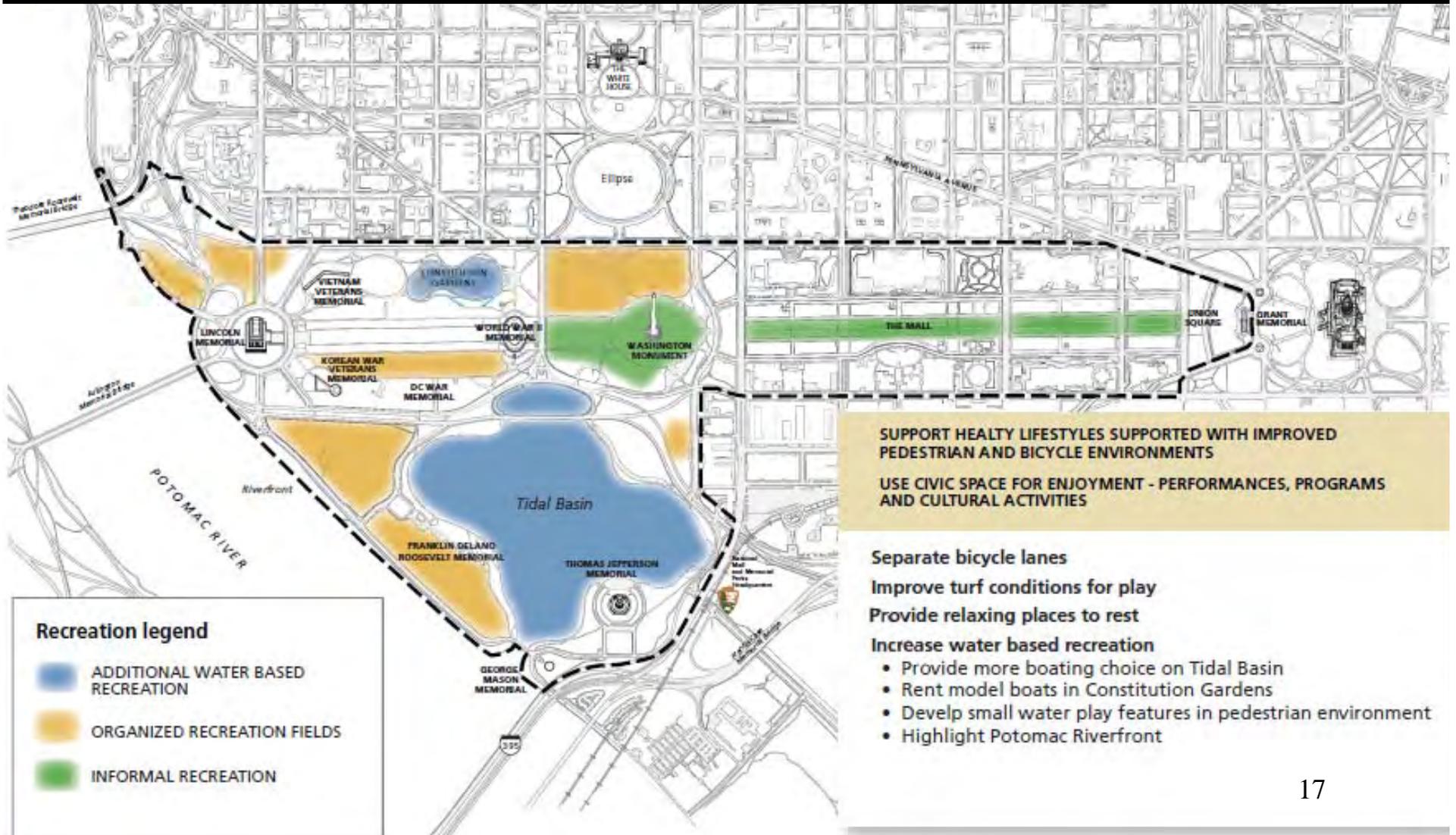
Circulation: Coordinated to Conveniently Meet User Needs



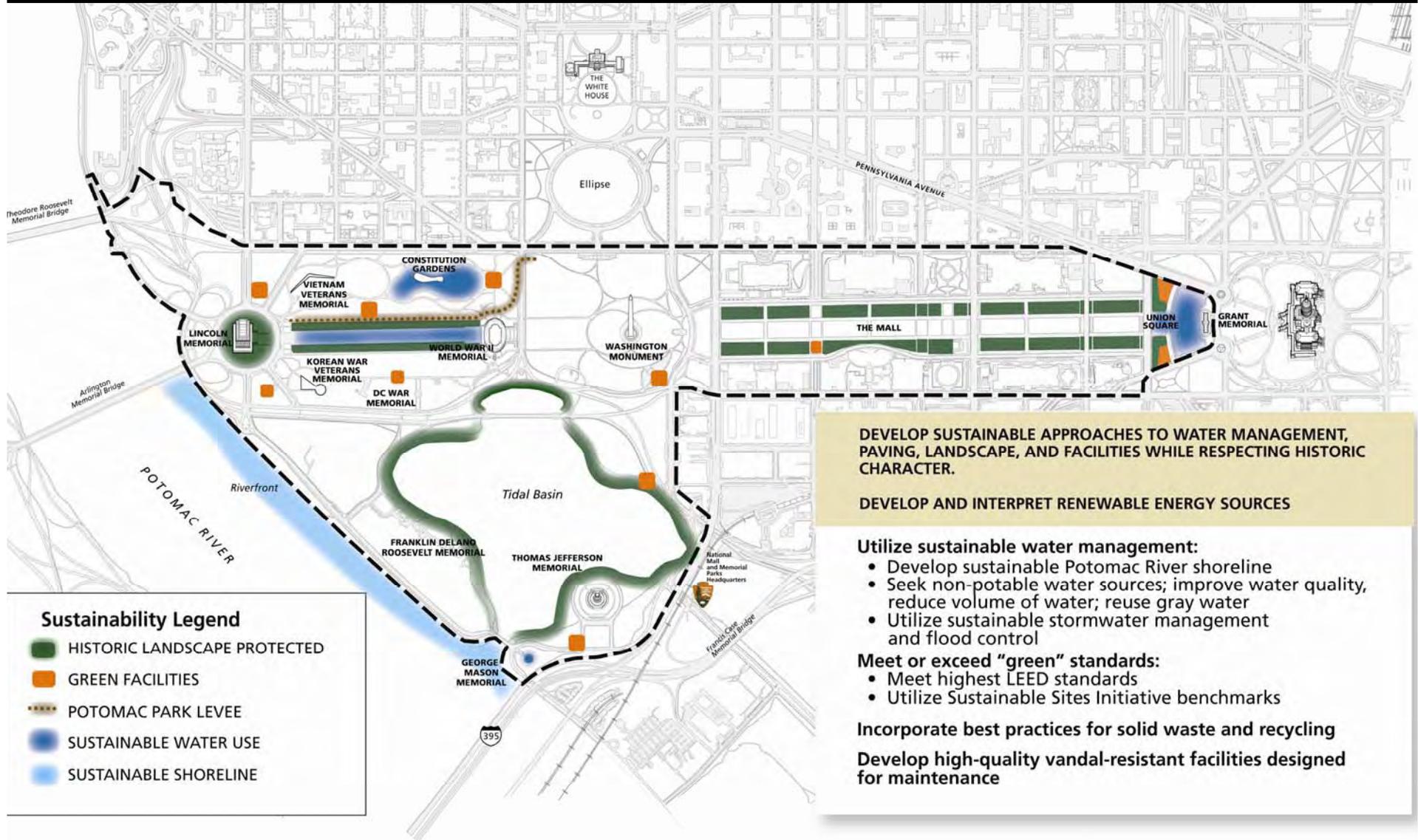
Visitor Enjoyment: Inspiring Experiences, Improved Amenities, Flexible Facilities, Year Round Variety and Programs



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

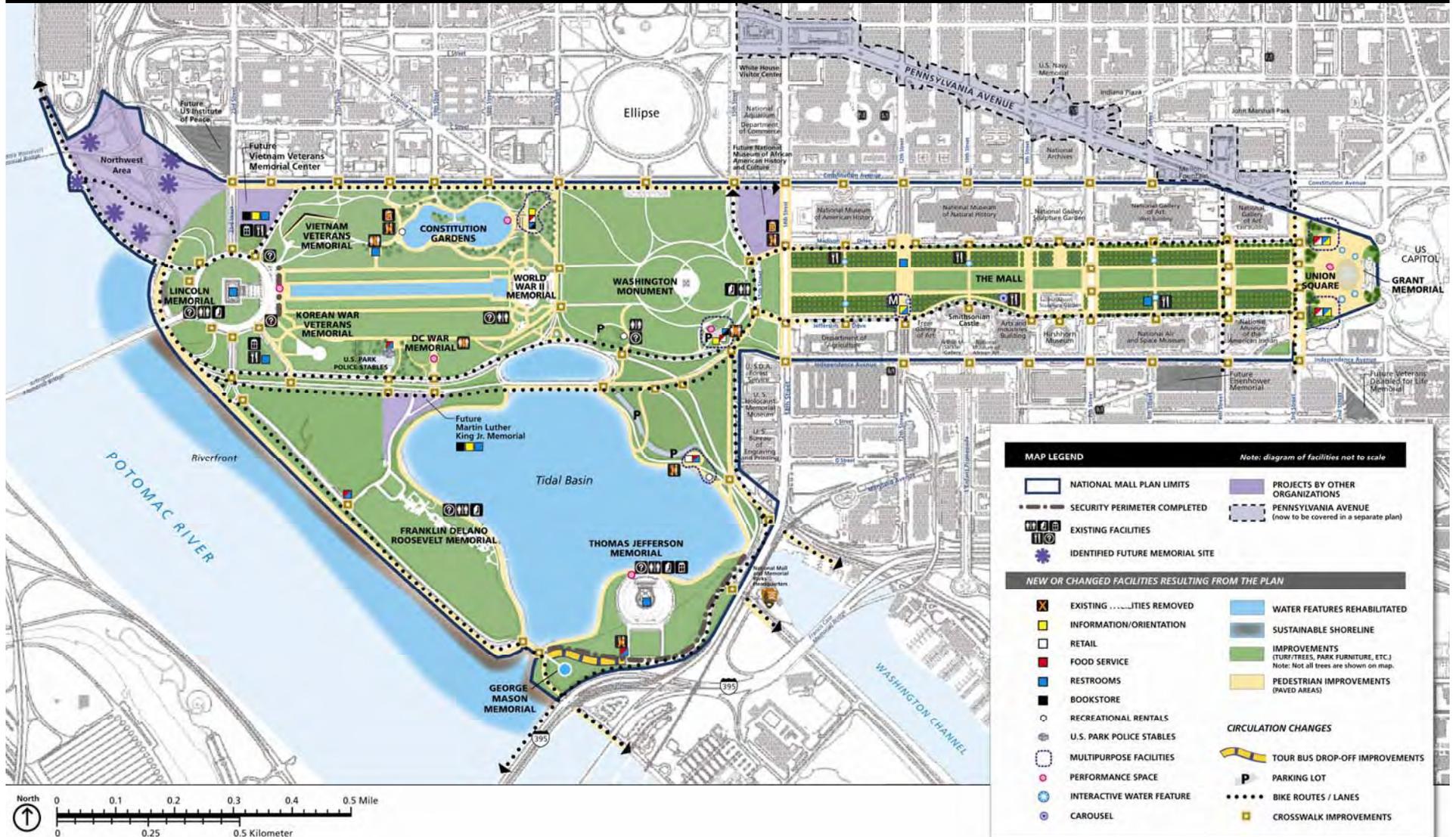
Meet or exceed "green" standards:

- Meet highest LEED standards
- Utilize Sustainable Sites Initiative benchmarks

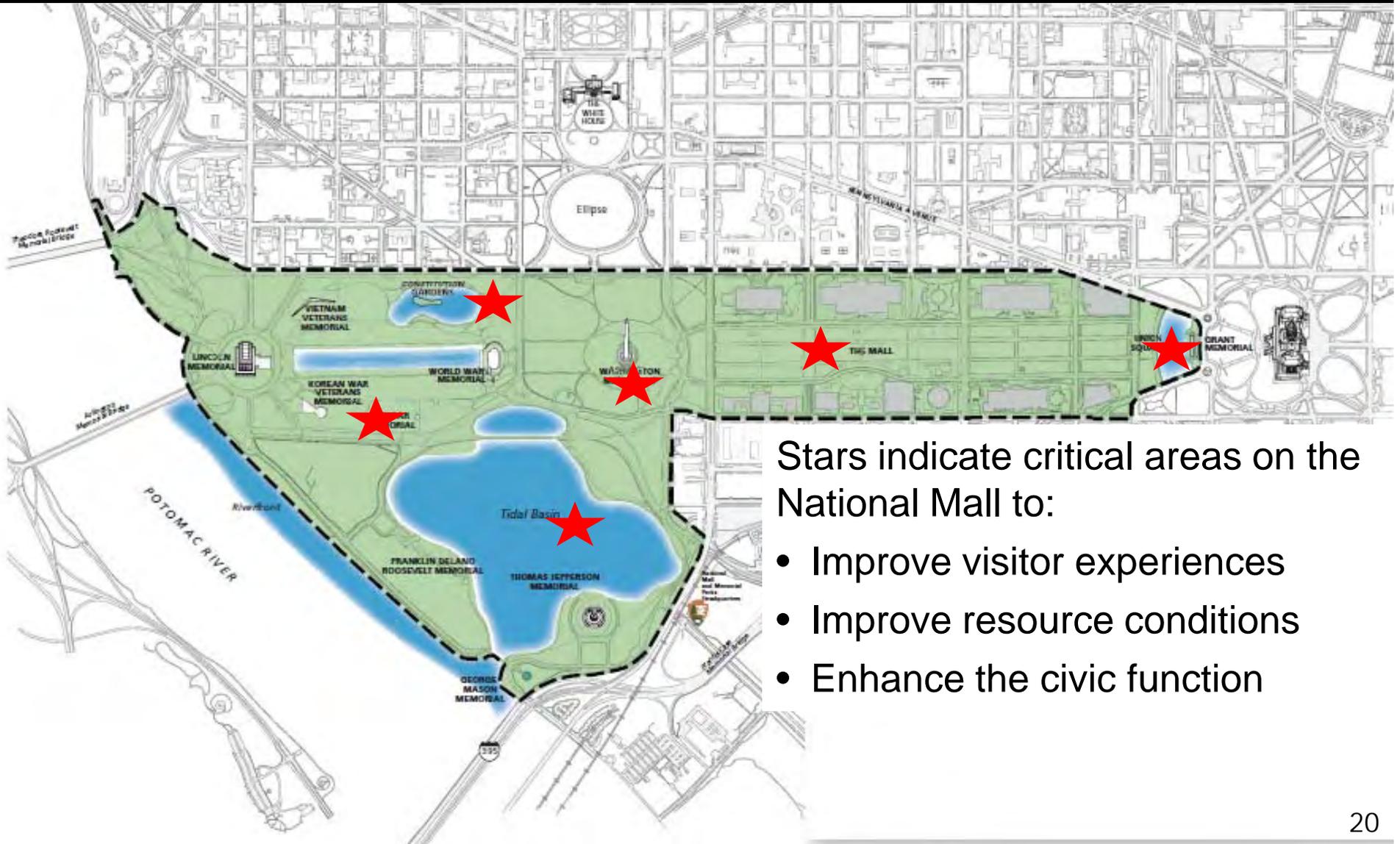
Incorporate best practices for solid waste and recycling

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



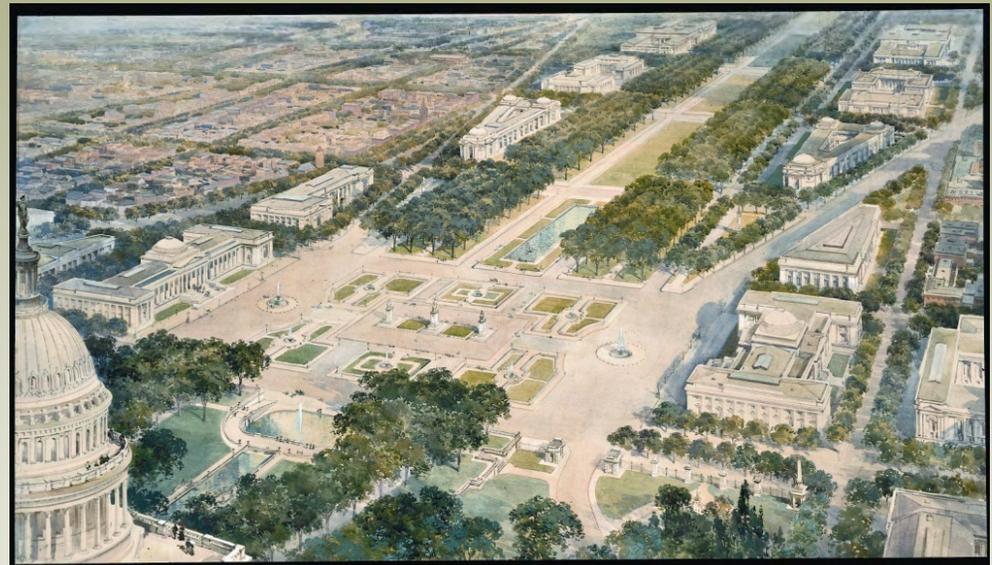
Stars indicate critical areas on the National Mall to:

- Improve visitor experiences
- Improve resource conditions
- Enhance 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.

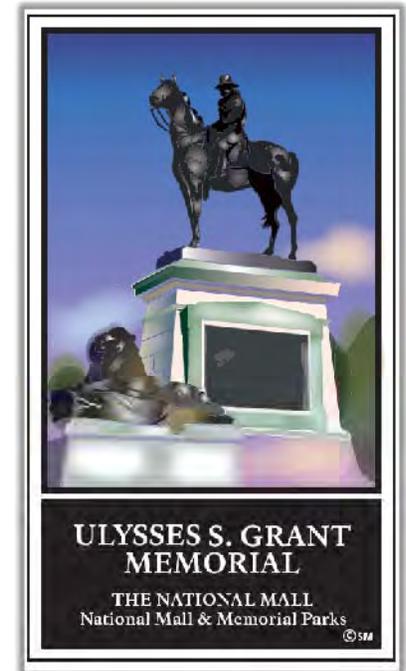


Original vision for Union Square.

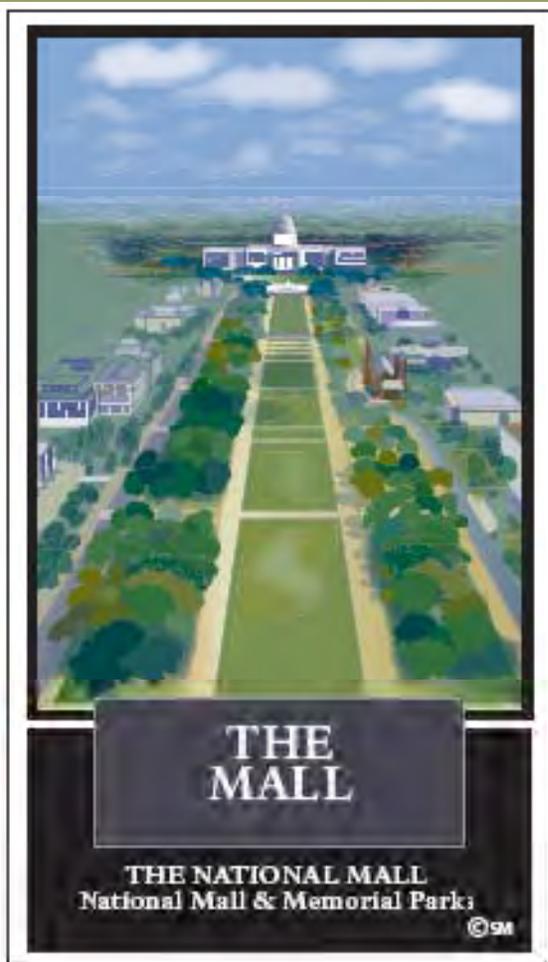
Union Square — A Lively Destination for Relaxation, Celebration and Inalienable Rights



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



- Replace visitor services tent with 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

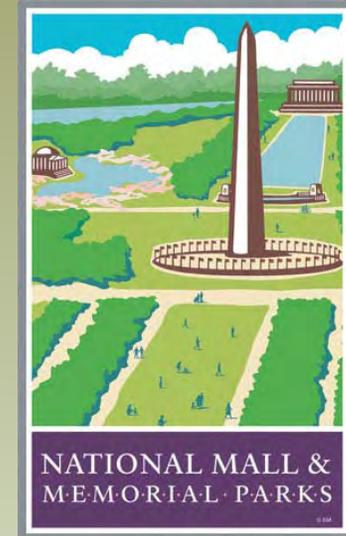
- Improve pedestrian arrival.
- Enhance visitor comfort and convenience with wider walks, pedestrian lighting, seating and education.
- Retain character and appearance. Rebuild seawalls a few feet into the Tidal Basin so wider pedestrian walks can protect cherry trees.
- Redesign pedestrian, bike and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

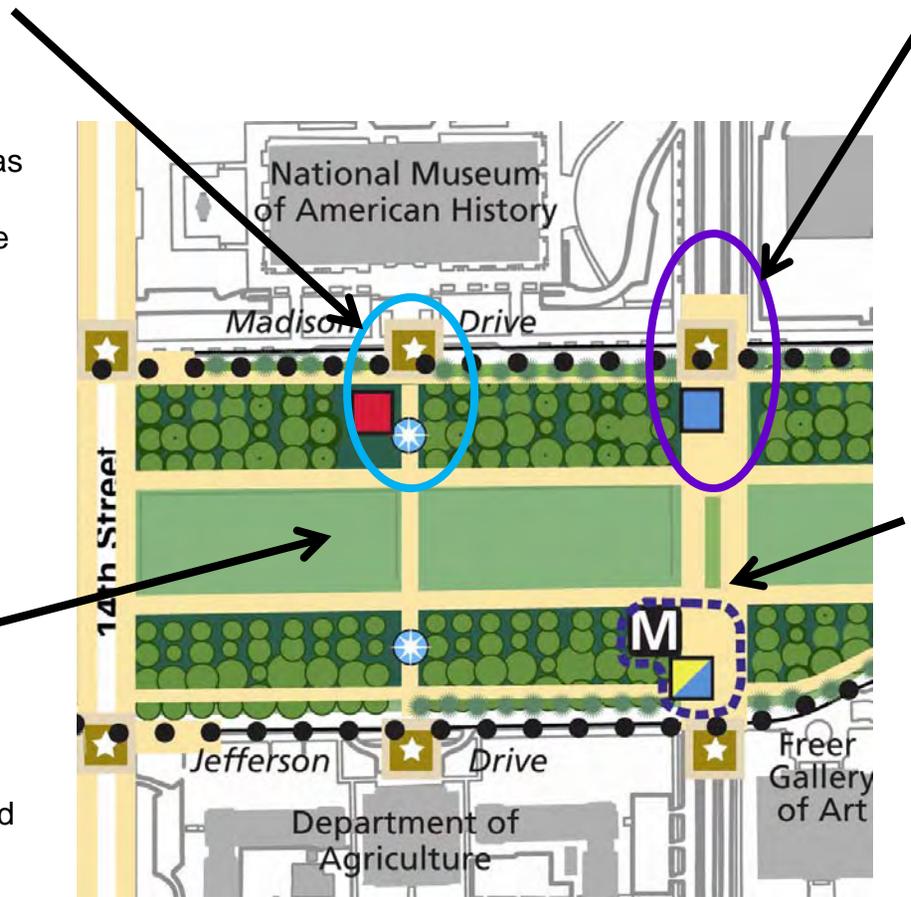
The Mall — 12th to 14th Sustainable Venues for Demonstrations / Events; Enjoyable Connections



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 12th 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