



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

National Capital Region
Office of
Communications
Washington, D.C.

Department of the Interior
National Park Service
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20242
202 ● 619 ● 7400 phone
202 ● 619 ● 7302 fax

Office of Communication Media Advisory

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Contact: Bill Line, Toni Braxton, 202- 619- 7222; Brittany Feinson, 202- 659- 5899

National Park Service Hosts Public Symposium for Long- Term Planning Effort for the National Mall; Public Input Sought to Develop Framework for National Mall's Future

WHAT: The National Park Service (NPS) will host a day- long public symposium to discuss preserving and caring for the National Mall while meeting the needs of more than 25 million visitors each year. The symposium will set the stage for the National Mall Plan and will feature local, national, and international professionals experienced in visitor service provision, urban place making, events management, First Amendment activities, and partnership management. Also to be discussed are lessons learned from best management practices studies. The public is invited to join in, submit questions, and provide feedback to the planning process. The National Mall Plan will address how to enrich this American experience for years to come. The American public also has the chance to weigh in on the use, appearance and landscape of the National Mall on the project website: www.nps.gov/nationalmallplan. The NPS has already received comments from hundreds of Americans in 27 states.

The Planning Process. Over the next several months, the National Park Service will compile and examine public opinion. In early 2007, the NPS will develop a range of alternatives, and will provide additional information via newsletters and the website. A draft National Mall Plan will then be prepared (summer 2007) and additional public meetings will be held to present this plan and receive feedback. The goal is to complete a forward- looking plan, detailing how the National Mall will be managed and enjoyed by today's visitors and future generations at the end of 2007. This is a unique opportunity for all Americans to help celebrate the past, improve the present and work to ensure a sustainable future for the National Mall.

WHO: **Juan Williams**, Senior Correspondent, National Public Radio (moderator); **Anthony Williams**, Mayor, District of Columbia, "The Changing Face of Washington, D.C." (scheduled to speak at 2:15 p.m.); **National Park Service** officials, professionals in visitor service provision, urban place making, events management, First Amendment activities, and partnership management.

WHEN: Wednesday, November 15, 2006; 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. E.S.T.

WHERE: Naval Heritage Center at the U.S. Navy Memorial auditorium (downstairs).
701 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.

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EXPERIENCE YOUR AMERICA

The National Park Service cares for special places saved by the American people so that all may experience our heritage.

BACKGROUND:

More than 25 million people visit the National Mall each year. That's more than the number of visitors to Yellowstone, Yosemite and Grand Canyon National Parks combined, and that results in much wear and tear. The National Park Service is committed to ensuring that the appearance of the National Mall reflects its value, so all can enjoy its open spaces, monuments and memorials. The National Park Service invites the American public to play a part in determining how generations of Americans will continue to honor, commemorate, celebrate and enjoy this national treasure.

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