National Park Service
U. S. Department of the Interior

Existing Landscape Conditions

The National Mall & Pennsylvania Avenue National Historic Park • Washington, D.C.

Elm walk south of Lincoln Reflecting Pool, wayside sign placement results in destruction of turf, and trails are created by runners adjacent to walkways to provide a softer surface for jogging. However, these visitor created trails often have a soil density similar to concrete.

Visitors' desire to walk along Lincoln Reflecting Pool results in dirt paths making it difficult to restore grass.

Narrow walks surrounding the Tidal Basin contribute to damage to cherry trees with branches broken, root systems trampled and soil compacted.

West of Thomas Jefferson Memorial, regular Tidal Basin flooding results in visitors creating an unplanned pathway.

Aging, damaged Tidal Basin sea wall west of Thomas Jefferson Memorial in an area that frequently floods.

Looking toward Museum of Natural History, the Mall center grass panel and elm tree panels show impacts from events.

Visitor created trails near Smithsonian Castle are further compacted by gravel that migrates off Mall walkways.

Adjacent to Washington Monument walkways visitors, runners and bicycle riders obliterate grass.

Looking west toward Washington Monument, worn turf on the center Mall grass panel following an event.

Orientation signs are outdated, visitors obliterate grass, gravel that migrates onto walks can be slippery and is difficult for users of wheelchairs and strollers.

Event turf damage.

Capitol Reflecting Pool aging pavement and pool coping edges are damaged and decorative drain covers get blocked by gravel.

Mall elm tree panels turf often show turf damage at corners, gravel from walks makes paved aggregate walks slippery. Stakes are installed to support snow fence used to control crowds for major events.