

National Mall Plan — Preferred Alternative: Summary of Civic Stage Actions

1. First Amendment regulations and locations do not change.
2. Three types of civic uses occur — demonstrations, national celebrations, and special events. Hosting demonstrations and national celebrations is an essential function of the National Mall. The *Code of Federal Regulations* (36 CFR 7.96(g)(1)) defines each of these activities for the National Capital Region of the National Park Service as follows:
 - *Demonstrations* — The term includes demonstrations, picketing, speechmaking, marching, holding vigils or religious services, and all other like forms of conduct that involve the communication or expression of views or grievances, engaged in by one or more persons, the conduct of which has the effect, intent, or propensity to draw a crowd or onlookers. This term does not include casual park use by visitors or tourists which does not have an intent or propensity to attract a crowd or onlookers.
 - *Special events* — The term includes sports events, pageants, celebrations, historical reenactments, regattas, entertainments, exhibitions, parades, fairs, festivals, and similar events (including such events presented by the National Park Service), which are not demonstrations as previously defined, and which are engaged in by one or more persons, the conduct of which has the effect, intent, or propensity to draw a crowd or onlookers. This term also does not include casual park use by visitors or tourists which does not have an intent or propensity to attract a crowd or onlookers.
 - *National celebration events* — The term means the recurring special events regularly scheduled by the National Capital Region, including the Lighting of the National Christmas Tree and Christmas Pathway of Peace, Cherry Blossom Festival, Fourth of July celebration, Festival of American Folklife, Columbus Day Commemorative Wreath-Laying, and Inaugural ceremonies.
3. Develop civic infrastructure to facilitate First Amendment demonstrations, national celebrations, and special events and make setup and takedown quicker. (Civic infrastructure includes power, communications, media connections, and mass notification systems, as well as additional paving to withstand heavy uses).
4. Accommodate about 230,000 more people, primarily as the result of improvements at four venues — Union Square (up to 190,000 additional people for short periods of time at 3 sf/person, nearly tripling the square's present capacity of 100,000), Constitution Gardens (4,000 at 200 sf/person), Tidal Basin walks (25,000 additional people at 3 sf/person for short periods of time during the National Cherry Blossom Festival, doubling the current capacity), and Thomas Jefferson south (10,000 at 10 sf/person).
5. Make desirable civic venues with symbolic backdrops more sustainable, with flexible spaces designed for repeated high-use levels; improve public and operational access; judiciously use additional paving to reduce impacts; provide office and logistical spaces; provide flexible permanent restrooms with sections that can be opened as needed; and plan locations for portable toilets to limit visual impact and smells as well as facilitate servicing.
 - a. *Union Square* — Redevelop as a flexible foreground to U.S. Capitol with more capacity, use more hardscape for repeated civic use; consider drainable water sheet to accommodate more people.
 - b. *Mall* — Rehabilitate the historic landscape for sustainable civic use; restore/replace soils to withstand compaction; provide durable irrigation to support quick recovery; widen walks to accommodate stages and easier access; provide flexible events office; develop flex space over the 12th Street tunnel to accommodate events logistics/staging.
 - c. *World War II Memorial* — No change; continue to accommodate special events.
 - d. *Constitution Gardens* — Develop flexible stage at east end of lake, with hillside seating; widen walk intersections to better accommodate periodic temporary facilities.
 - e. *Lincoln Memorial* — Provide civic infrastructure at the memorial's lower approachway; continue to periodically use the JFK hockey fields for events.
 - f. *Washington Monument* — Replace the Sylvan theater function with a flexible multipurpose facility with seating for 3,000+ on the hillside; provide civic infrastructure in well-used locations (NW, NE and SW grounds)
 - g. *Potomac Riverfront* — Add civic infrastructure in well-used locations for road-based activities.
 - h. *Tidal Basin Area* — Provide civic infrastructure on the Thomas Jefferson Memorial plaza and south of the memorial; use Room 4 at the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial as designed for public programs.
6. Improve permitting and scheduling with a computerized system; increase monitoring; use intense landscape recovery methodologies; restore smaller areas more frequently.