

National Mall Plan - Preferred Alternative Summary of Sustainability and Park Operations Actions

1. Lower energy and water use ranking - National Mall and Memorial Parks ranks #1 in usage of electricity and water within the national park system.
 - a. Cut energy use; increase energy efficiency and use of renewable sources of energy.
 - b. Reduce volume of water and potable water; increase use of reclaimed or gray water.
2. Advance principles of sustainability.
 - a. Participate in EPA's "Climate Friendly Parks Program"
 - b. Maximize use of public transit and bicycling; increase use of alternate fuels and vehicles.
 - c. Achieve highest U.S. Green Building Council LEED standards practicable.
 - i. Exceed silver minimum (NPS policy); be a national role model for green practices.
 - ii. Green facilities provide additional education opportunities.
 - d. Implement "Sustainable Site Initiative"© to achieve and support a healthy ecosystem
 - i. Improve human health and mental restoration – equitable design, safety and accessibility, views, physical activity opportunities, social interaction in outdoor spaces
 - ii. Protect unique cultural and historic attributes; preserve special status trees
 - iii. Reduce use of water and potable water; increase water cleansing and storage capacity
 - iv. Create soils management plan; restore soils/ increase infiltration; reduce compaction
 - v. Reduce greenhouse gases and carbon footprint (NPS policy goals); seek renewable sources for site energy.
 - vi. Select sustainable materials and approaches; reduce heat island effect.
3. Improve solid waste management and recycling.
 - a. Increase messaging to support recycling and park stewardship.
 - b. Reduce volume of solid waste, improve solid waste collection, storage and hauling.
 - c. Increase recycling in program coordinated with others; increase recycling at permitted activities. Increase use of biodegradable or recycled materials.
4. Quality and Maintenance
 - a. Manage to high standards commensurate with importance to our nation; customize written maintenance and management standards with conservation zoning.
 - b. Highest quality standards for facilities and landscapes generate respect and stewardship.
 - c. Important design considerations are operational as well as public access; ergonomics; ease of maintenance; durability; vandal resistance; controlling or deterring damage or inappropriate use; visitor convenience and stewardship education.
 - d. Locate drinking water near restrooms; design restrooms for use levels and partial opening. Develop flexible facilities that can serve visitor, park, demonstration/event or other uses.
 - e. Align maintenance to use; use technology to reduce or monitor maintenance or needs.
 - f. Standardize parts and systems when feasible.
 - g. Continue to seek an easy to install, attractive, durable temporary fencing system.