

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

National Mall and Memorial Parks
Washington, D.C.



**Photographs of First Amendment
Demonstrations and Special Events
on the National Mall**

Summer 2009

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All photographs were taken by Greg Sorensen, September 7–12, 2009.

FIRST AMENDMENT DEMONSTRATIONS



First Amendment demonstrations are an essential purpose of the National Mall and will continue. Here a demonstration on the west grounds of the U.S. Capitol extends into Union Square.



First Amendment activities include demonstrations, picketing, speech-making, marching, holding vigils or religious services, and all other like forms of conduct which involve the communication or expression of views or grievances and are engaged in by one or more persons.



Protecting memorials during events is a concern.



Demonstrations usually last for a few hours, with minimal impacts on turf areas.





The size of the Capitol Reflecting Pool affects how Union Square can be used.

Routine maintenance operations for the National Park Service include removing additional trash after demonstrations.

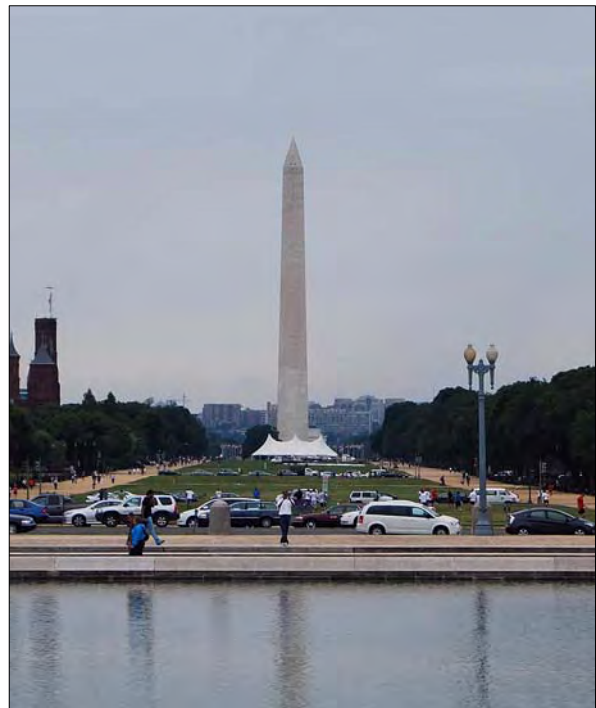


Access during large demonstrations is always a logistical challenge. Here people participating in a demonstration at the U.S. Capitol are unloading at the World War II Memorial.

SPECIAL EVENTS



The National Mall is frequently the site of multiple events at the same time. On September 12, 2009, a First Amendment demonstration on the west grounds of the U.S. Capitol overflowed into Union Square and onto the Mall, while the Black Family Reunion was setup on the Mall in front of the Smithsonian Castle.



Setup for some special events begins several days before the actual event.



The elm tree panels have been used for event infrastructure.



Rubber matting is intended to help reduce soil compaction by more evenly distributing weight.





Setup for the National Triathlon in West Potomac Park.

Extensive temporary fencing was used to separate different parts of the event.





A walkway and temporary fencing provide access to a dock for the third part of the triathlon.

Hundreds of portable toilets were brought in for attendees.

