

National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior

National Mall and Memorial Parks  
Washington, D.C.

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# **Photographs of Existing Conditions on the National Mall**

Summer 2009 and Spring 2010

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All photographs were taken by Greg Sorensen, July 26–28 and September 7–12, 2009, and May 20–21, 2010.

# VIEWS AND VISTAS

## VIEWS FROM THE WASHINGTON MONUMENT

Views from the Washington Monument show the L'Enfant and McMillan plan vistas.



Looking east to the U.S. Capitol.



Looking west to the World War II Memorial, the reflecting pool, the Lincoln Memorial, the Potomac River, and Arlington Memorial Bridge. Constitution Gardens is to the right.



Looking south to the Tidal Basin, the Thomas Jefferson Memorial, and the Potomac River, with the 14th Street and I-395 bridges.



Looking north to the Ellipse and the White House.

## THE CLASSIC VISTAS



The U.S. Capitol from Union Square.



The Washington Monument from the U.S. Capitol.



The White House from the grounds of the Washington Monument.

The Thomas Jefferson Memorial from the grounds of the Washington Monument.



The Washington Monument and the Thomas Jefferson Memorial from the Ellipse in President's Park.



The World War II Memorial and the Lincoln Memorial from 17th Street.



The Washington Monument from the Lincoln Memorial.



The U.S. Capitol, the Washington Monument, and the Library of Congress from the Lincoln Memorial.



The Washington Monument from the Thomas Jefferson Memorial.

The Washington Monument from the Tidal Basin.





The Thomas Jefferson Memorial from the Franklin Delano Roosevelt Memorial.



The U.S. Capitol from the Thomas Jefferson Memorial.



The White House from the Thomas Jefferson Memorial.

## VIEWS FROM NEARBY AREAS



The National Mall from the U.S. Marine Corps Memorial.



Arlington Memorial Bridge and the Lincoln Memorial from Arlington National Cemetery.



The Thomas Jefferson Memorial from Arlington National Cemetery.

## **NORTH-SOUTH VIEWS FROM THE CENTER OF THE MALL**

### **6TH STREET, NW / SW**



The National Gallery of Art (West Building) to the north.



The Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum to the south.

**BETWEEN 8TH AND 9TH STREETS, NW / SW**



The National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden to the north. The equipment is removing the last materials from the Festival of American Folklife.



The Hirshhorn Museum and Sculpture Garden to the south.

**10TH STREET, NW / SW**



The National Museum of Natural History to the north.



The Smithsonian Castle to the south. A security project for the Smithsonian Institution will move the Jefferson Drive closer to the center of the Mall.

**13TH STREET, NW / SW**



The National Museum of American History to the north.



The Jamie L. Whitten Building of the U.S. Department of Agriculture to the south.

# UNION SQUARE



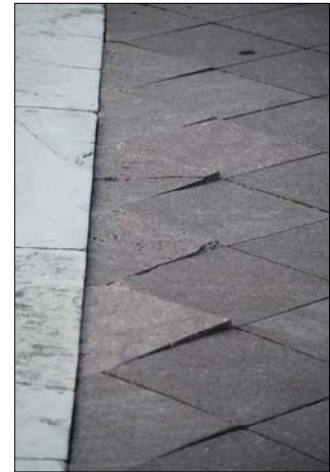
Looking northeast toward the Ulysses S. Grant Memorial.

The Capitol Reflecting Pool, to the west of the Ulysses S. Grant Memorial, occupies a large portion of Union Square.





The Ulysses S. Grant sculpture stains the marble pedestal, and pavers are out of alignment, creating a tripping hazard.



The Cavalry monument (right) is north of the Grant statue and the Artillery monument (below) is to the south.



People climbing on the Cavalry monument during a recent demonstration.

Graffiti on the base of the Artillery monument.





Union Square is used frequently for First Amendment demonstrations and events because of its prominent location. No utilities or other infrastructure are provided to facilitate such uses. Grade level changes make the square difficult to access for visitors with disabilities.



The pavement has deteriorated since the square was constructed in the 1970s.



Drainage grates can be trip hazards.



Information signs are being replaced with a new coordinated sign system.

Walks do not align with those on the Mall, resulting in social trails and damage as people find more direct routes. This summer temporary fencing was used to keep pedestrians off turf areas that were being rehabilitated.



Massive concrete security bollards are out of character with Union Square's design.

Visitors sit on the edge of the reflecting pool. The large square and the lack of amenities such as seating do not create a welcoming atmosphere.



# THE MALL



The Mall seen from the Washington Monument two weeks after the Festival of American Folklife. Bare and brown turf areas do not easily recover because of compacted soil conditions and a nonfunctioning irrigation system.

Most events on the Mall last for only a few hours and have minimal impact.





The most distinctive building facing the Mall is the Smithsonian Castle, which is where 10th Street would cross the Mall.

A carousel has been on the Mall northeast of the Smithsonian Castle since 1967. The present carousel dates from 1981.



The Smithsonian Arts and Industries Building is currently vacant. Structural repairs are being undertaken as a result of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. A use has not been determined for the structure.



The turf is a mix of weeds and grass.

Wide graveled pathways are difficult for visitors pushing strollers or in wheelchairs to maneuver, gravel is scattered onto the lawns, and dust is an irritant for many.



The Smithsonian Metro station has minimal information about the National Mall and orientation to nearby destinations. A new sign system is scheduled to be installed.





The loss of American elms affects the design and view corridor between the U.S. Capitol and the Washington Monument. Turf dies out in areas covered by tents.



Smaller trees require decades to reach the size of mature elms.





One of four NPS refreshment stands on the Mall. The facilities have limited seating and tables. There are no restrooms near food service locations.



The NPS Washington bench.