

# CONTENTS: SPECIFIC COMMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTAL RESPONSES

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## INDIVIDUALS

| Comment | Letter 36. Anonymous Comments Online — Question 1 (40 Individual Comments)   | Response   |
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|         | <p>Comments pertaining to question 1: "Indicate the extent to which you agree with the overall Preferred Alternative Vision to restore the National Mall." [The number in brackets at the end of a comment is only for tracking purposes to ensure that every substantive comment has been addressed.]</p> <p>I like how the plan aims to make Union Square more of a focal point. The Grant statue is one of the most beautiful but overlooked monuments in the city, and the reflecting pool in front of it is not the best use of that space. I like the idea of either making the pool smaller or even eliminating it altogether. [20100103095448]</p> <p>I like how the mall is being kept more as it is not. I would make the whole capital reflection pool drainable for large gatherings. [20100103193723]</p> <p>Keeping the natural state of the National Mall is important, but it never hurts to make a few changes. I believe though that there should be more areas, such as bricked-in sitting areas with built-in landscaping options, so plants and trees can be changed, depending on longevity, etc. I believe benches would only attract some of the homeless. Everybody can't sit down on the ground, because of physical challenges, elderly, etc. [20100104121801]</p> <p>Take NO-ACTION. If it's not broke, don't "fix" it. I somehow feel that this is all a subversive measure to stifle FREE SPEECH. We don't have to have grass growing everywhere. News alert - when it rains, there is mud. Big deal. Mud will not suppress FREE SPEECH, but I think the Trust for the National Mall might be trying to. [20100104160503]</p> <p>I believe the Preferred Plan will enhance the experience for all visitors, including my mother who is wheelchair dependent. [20100106185948]</p> <p>While I understand the need to restore the Mall and make improvements, too many of the suggestions within the plan threaten the historical nature of the Mall and in some cases will drastically alter it's current character. [20100107100634]</p> <p>My main concern is cost. The expense may be into the hundreds of millions, according to some estimates. With the city and national budget in bad shape, bad idea. Some things might be done on the cheap. E.g., I've heard out-of-town friends complain about lack of food and restrooms on the Mall. Could contract such services out to food vendors and portapotty firms with little budget burden. Grass does get destroyed sometimes from overuse; need to keep fencing off scuffed areas at times. This work could be contracted out too. (Mall museums might be opened up at night as in past through fee charged night-time visitors.) Re tri-related stuff, would like to see the running paths kept open, instead of forcing runners onto streets as sometimes happens. Running past moonlit monuments is one of city's best athletic experiences. [20100107120059]</p> <p>The key issues for me are sustainable use and pedestrian-friendly access for all citizens and visitors. Annual use of the Mall for the SolarFest and the 4th of July, for example, is a top priority for me. The NPS can do a better job of providing recycling guidance and containers, especially for large public events. [20100108120338]</p> <p>The mall is a representation of who and what we are as a people. It should be welcoming, green, and accessible. Shoring up the sea wall, greening the mall, even allowing more commercial opportunities are all good things as the net result is more comfort and accessibility. [20100110180153]</p> <p>I prefer option C. It is my opinion that the National Mall should be a retreat from the urban landscape and provide as much recreation as possible. [20100117155332]</p> <p>What I disagree with specifically is the policy that appears to be consistent in all the alternatives to continue using the Mall as it has been in recent years for so-called 1st Amendment activities. The National Mall is America's front yard, not some backwater fairground. Its use as a staging ground</p> | <p>A. A number of improvements to visitor amenities are proposed. The goal of universal access is to recognize that the National Mall is a location where everyone, regardless of ability, should be able to visit, enjoy, participate in activities, sightsee, and demonstrate.</p> <p>B. As stated in the <i>Draft Environmental Impact Statement</i> (pp. 3, 20–30), the National Mall — the home to the great symbols of our nation — was not designed for the level of use it receives, and many facilities and much of its infrastructure are aging. When planning began in 2006, the National Park Service had identified a backlog of deferred maintenance of around \$450 million.</p> <p>C. As has been repeatedly stressed in this planning process, the National Park Service does not propose limiting First Amendment rights or restricting demonstrations to specific areas of the National Mall. Rather, First Amendment gatherings will be enhanced by the plan, and demonstrations will continue to occur throughout the National Mall, as they do today and in accordance with the regulations at 36 CFR 7.96 (see DEIS, pp. 16–18). Indeed, the importance of First Amendment demonstrations is repeatedly emphasized throughout the document; for example, see pages vi, viii, 10, 70, 160, and 303–5. As stated in the "Summary" on page vi, "The National Mall is the most prominent space in our country for the demonstration of First Amendment rights, and that is an essential purpose of the National Mall. Consistent with the First Amendment and federal regulations, demonstrations will continue to be fully accommodated on a first-come, first-served basis throughout the National Mall."</p> <p>D. The National Mall will continue to change and evolve, reflecting the history of our country. Despite landmark plans for Washington, D.C., it was clear by the beginning of the 21st century that the National Mall was never designed for present levels of civic use, tourism, recreation, and cultural activities.</p> <p>E. The plan proposes developing a palette of paving materials to meet a variety of uses, including running.</p> <p>F. We agree.</p> <p>G. The preferred alternative emphasizes sustainable uses for First Amendment demonstrations or gatherings, as well as national celebrations.</p> |

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| <p>H</p> <p>I</p> <p>J</p> <p>K</p> | <p>for tens of thousands of people to trample upon should be restricted to infrequent events, like holiday celebrations (4th of July), presidential inaugurations, and other events of that magnitude. I grew up in the area and remember the green grass stretching from the Capitol to the Washington Monument. I recently moved back and took my family down to the museums. I was disgusted by what greeted us. Dirt and dead grass everywhere. Yes, I know it's winter, but there were patches of green grass that were fenced off, so I know it's possible to make it look nice. As of now though, it's a national embarrassment. [20100127160530]</p> <p>During the worst economic situation in modern times we cannot afford to be spending any money on unnecessary expenses. Leave the Mall the way it currently is. [20100128221310]</p> <p>February 8, 2010<br/>National Park Service U.S. Department of the Interior<br/>Washington, D.C.</p> <p>Dear Decision Makers: National Mall Refurbishment Plan, I work as a schoolteacher in Chesterfield County, Virginia. For over twenty years now, near the end of each March, we bring our 8th graders to Washington, D.C., for their 8th grade field trip. The students tour various museums and monuments, and have a bus tour of government buildings. Weather permitting, we have a picnic on the Mall. The past few years it seems to me that the public grounds around the Mall and the Monuments have greatly deteriorated. For example, along the Mall and also at the Reflecting Pool near Lincoln Memorial, there are a lot of muddy areas (due to foot traffic) where grass should be growing. This general deterioration saddens me. It seems to me that a nation should have beautiful public areas in it's nation's capitol. I presume that the deterioration is due to Republican/Bush-Era strategies to defund Federal agencies, therefore weakening them. I remember hearing perhaps a year ago about ideas to refurbish these public areas in D.C.. It seems to me like a very good idea. Refurbishing these areas would put people to work, and it would not only repair damage caused by general wear-and-tear the past many years, but new designs and structures could make these areas really "world class"! So, I write during this public comment period to say that refurbishment of our national Mall and Monuments' areas has my hearty support. I've read that there is "No Action" alternative, which would continue the current management plan. It seems to me that, due to disrepair and the need for redesign, much more than "No Action" is needed at this time. It seems to me that we need to be able to safely handle large numbers of citizens for public demonstrations, concerts and presidential inaugurations, etc. We need recreation areas (frisbee, soccer, softball, etc.) with many drinking water fountains and restrooms. We need attractive snack shops for tourists visiting museums and monuments, shady areas for them to cool-off, and pretty water fountains. We need areas for education (e.g., Park Ranger programs about the historic monuments). It seems there should be a lot of flower gardens, and solid-surface footpaths, everything accessible for people with challenges, of course. Signage could be written in Braille, also, so people without sight would feel included. Lots of restrooms !!! Perhaps lots of plaques about rights and responsibilities of U.S. citizenship, to serve an educational function. I certainly hope that a Mall Improvement Plan is implemented. As I said, it would provide people with jobs; repair, maintain and beautify our Mall and Monuments Areas; and return to it to "world-class" status for the 21st Century. I do thank you for your work towards this end. With my warmest regards for The National Park Service. [20100208182535]</p> <p>We need to keep our heritage but we also need to be able to give the public access to their nation's capitol. The plan is far-reaching but necessary. [20100212113631]</p> <p>Having been to the Mall and walked it often, it is great need of multiple repairs as noted in the Draft Impact Statement. [20100216230343]</p> <p>We are in a great recession. Cost for such a project at this juncture in time is not justified UNLESS funds will be by private donations. The lawn should be replaced with artificial turf such as is used in ball parks. [20100217143004]</p> | <p>H. We agree with the need to safely accommodate large numbers of people.</p> <p>I. The plan proposes a better distribution of visitor facilities.</p> <p>J. New educational programs include excerpts from Franklin Delano Roosevelt's fireside chats and Martin Luther King Jr.'s "I Have a Dream" speech, more program listings, and a new brochure entitled <i>The First Amendment on the National Mall</i>.</p> <p>K. Your comment has been noted. The National Park Service has received many private donations, and The Trust for the National Mall is the authorized fund-raising partner. We have explored using artificial turf, but it does not meet the criteria for durability, maintainability, and sustainability. Artificial turf is hotter than natural turf, and it does not meet objectives to improve water infiltration. We will continue to examine the use of new technologies to increase durability in natural turf. This topic has been added to the considered but dismissed section for the following reasons: technical infeasibility, inability to meet project objectives, and duplication of other less damaging alternatives.</p> |

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|         | A Mall "revision" is a MUST. Update is necessary.... [20100217151329]  |  |
| L       | I would like to see the Smithsonian Castle and Smithsonian Arts Industries Buildings remain where they are currently locating and be refurbished. [20100217151520]   | L. These facilities are managed by the Smithsonian Institution, which has started repair and preservation work in the Arts and Industries Building.  |
| M       | Cut down the trees, dig up the grass and use concrete to replace it! If people are going to use it so much, make it friendly for the purposes intended. It was fine in the days of Washington, but those days are gone. Pave the whole mess and quit worrying about the grass. [20100217153815]  | M. The preferred alternative proposes increased paving to accommodate the level of use and to protect the historic landscape and views; however, the broad green lawns have become historically significant. |
|         | Leave the mall alone. The only way to keep the grass green and beautiful is to keep the people (to whom the mall belongs). It is ours to fly kites, picnic, throw a blanket and enjoy a good book. Most of all it is our gathering point and the grass means nothing at all. [20100217154138]  |  |
| N       | instead of wasting tax payers money let the high paying CEOS and high paying officials donate their money to the cause.... they use our tax dollars and waste it... or have the people visiting pay a greens fee like the golfers do!!!!!!!!!!!! [20100217154721]  | N. Public law stipulates that no fees may be charged for any unit of the national park system in Washington, D.C. (16 USC 6802).   |
|         | Beautification is asthetically appealing, but due to our internal economic strife, taking funds that should go toward other internal humanitarian projects should take priority. The Park Service like alot others, should have been wiser over the years in protecting the Mall area. Again, it shows how our "Mental Midgets" are again controlling the purse strings. Shame on the those who should have had enough sense to have contingencies in place. Take funds directly from a bureaucrats pockets, how see how easily they would want to spend. How many times do well allow the "tax payer's" well to be drained? [20100217162338]                                  |  |
|         | We really need to refocus our efforts on what is REALLY important for our Nation's vision, and it certainly isn't the Mall. Take the money you envision spending, which is wasteful and NOT what taxpayers really WANT or NEED and help our struggling US Citizens, our Economy, our US Citizens who can't afford to pay a medical bill. Just reassess what our real issues are and stop dressing up dirt and grass. Who honestly cares if it grows or doesn't grow. Unless you plan on blocking off this often walked-on land, anything you envision will just be a waste of millions of dollars that could really be best served somewhere else. Thank you. [20100217164218] |  |
| O       | I dont think we should be spending money that we don't have! I would wait until we can afford it. Has anyone thought about using synthetic grass that looks like real grass, and it requires no maintenance. [20100217165806]  | O. Regarding artificial turf, please see response K above.   |
|         | I Belive the grass on the mall should only be used during large events. the rest of the time it's "KEEP OF THE GRASS". [20100217170052]  |  |
|         | The mall is large althrought it is beautiful and sends a semi-message of our nations power, it is enlargly wasted property... cut down the back end and remodel to a historical venue that generates cash for our nation to benifit all up keep of our nations monuments in the D.C. area... [20100217171408]  |  |
|         | Save money. Nothing should be done until we (United States) is out of debt. The national mall should reflect the state of our country and right now we are poor and in debt. There should be no upkeep until our national debt is retired and we start living within our means. [20100217172235]   |  |
|         | If Congress can come up with nearly \$100 billion to "bail out" AIG, they can come up with more than \$36 million to repair, preserve, and improve a national landmark. [20100217173047]   |  |
|         | i fell it just should be kept up. put spriklers and replace sod when needed if all fails put green color spray till you can replace it. so what disney theme parks do. there's no excuse. [20100217180322]   |  |
|         | Obviously the socio-historical-economic-political timeline of the United States of America is witnessed there. Sometimes very passionately, sometimes very softly. [20100217182654]  |  |
| P       | Keep the gravel, no concrete, asphalt. No commercialization, just a few snack stands, a few  | P. Please see response to 8D, as well as the discussion of gravel walkways under "Summary of Comments and Responses," beginning on page 12.  |

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|         | restrooms added. No sit down restaurant. There are plenty elsewhere. Keep grant statue the way it is, just fix the pavers that are loose. Can plant a few replacement trees for the elms. Keep union square and reflecting pool the same size as before. [20100219075950]  |   |
| Q<br>R  | My family and I spent 9 days in Washington DC during June 2009. I loved the city. we stayed in the Smithsonians and walked the mall from one end to the other. My biggest disappointment was the reflecting pool at the Lincoln Memorial! It was nasty, ducks all in it, and it smelt AWFUL! I didn't even take a picture of it. If you are gana spend money I would definately clean out the pools and put a filtration system or something on them I would not touch the grass! What really sold me on the Mall was the way people used it. every where we went there was a softball game or soccer or people running or just setting and reading. I wouldnt waste our money on trying to get that to look fancy for someone's only time to the DC because all the people who lived there used it. America is NOT some fancy, manicured, dont touch place. If you go to putting in some restaurants and souvenir shops you will loose the historical feel of the place and turn it into a commercial retail center. the train depot is a great place to go eat if someone wants to eat. Clean up the water, preserve the monuments from corrosion and deterioration but don't waste our money on the fancy upgrading looks of the place! And I never had a problem in finding a bathroom. And I have two children. Thanks - disappointed in Alabama. [20100219091936]  | <p>Q. We too have been concerned about water quality in large pools because of the lack of filtration or recirculation. As explained in the <i>Draft Environmental Impact Statement</i> (pp. vi and 20), the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool will be rehabilitated as a separate project, and improved water quality will be one result.</p> <p>R. As you point out, the National Mall is very well used for a variety of purposes. Many people enjoy playing in the shadow of great American symbols.</p> |
| S<br>T  | If you are contemplating changing the walkways from gravel, there are now many pervious materials to choose from. For future plantings, how about choosing plants native to the region? Modern bicycle parking racks are a must. I think a bathroom by the Smithsonian Metro stop would be a very good idea. The elms are beloved, but if their care is too expensive, consider replacing them with trees (hopefully native) that aren't susceptible to disease and can tolerate the inevitable foot traffic. [20100220062504]   | <p>S. There are more pervious materials today and there are many different ways to accomplish more sustainable walks and water use. Also see response 8D and the discussion of gravel walkways under "Summary of Comments and Responses," beginning on page 12.</p> <p>T. It has been the National Park Service's experience that native elms are generally quite tolerant, and a disease-resistant strain has been developed.</p>  |
| U       | I am for a plan that improves and expands the features of Mall and unifies the Mall into a comprehensive pedestrian friendly area. In particularly, I support the improvements to the sand volleyball court area. The nets and courts are in need of repairs and upgrades. More sand is needed on the courts and new, more modern drainage system. The area is a great place for locals and visitors to hang out and mingle and enjoy the park beyond the Monuments. [20100221150700]  | <p>U. Descriptions about improvements for the volleyball area have been updated.</p>  |
| V       | While I do agree that the Mall needs to be upgraded, please do not take away the gravel paths! It is my favorite running spot and it adds a natural beauty to the space - not another concrete jungles like New York! [20100221150938]   | <p>V. Please see response 8D about gravel paths, as well as the discussion of gravel walkways under "Summary of Comments and Responses," beginning on page 12. You may be interested to know the gravel surfacing can be as hard and impervious as concrete.</p>  |
| W       | The Park Service should be applauded with recognizing that the Mall area is utilized by local residents and visitors for recreation, including flag football, rugby, volleyball, ultimate frisbee, softball and kickball. While it is true, that many of the users bring their own equipment, some recreational facilities cannot be supplied by the participants which would include rugby goalposts and sand volleyball courts. As a frequent user of the volleyball courts in the western end of the Mall (the area bounded by Rock Creek Parkway and Northwest Parkway Drive), the courts are in terrible shape. I strongly endorse and support the preferred alternative including its recognition on page 143 of the need to improve the conditions of the volleyball courts. That also will improve the functioning of the bicycle path that bisects the area where the courts are located. In carrying out such changes, the Park Service mentioned the possibility of including water misters to cool individuals. Given the fact that many bicyclists and runners use the area near the volleyball courts to take a break, the misters would be utilized by a variety of recreational users of the Mall. The Park Service also should ensure that a water fountain is located in the area to ensure that volleyball players, bicyclists, runners, etc. do not have to go to the Lincoln Memorial for a drinking fountain. The Service also should probably ensure the placement, beginning at the commencement of daylight savings time for a portable toiler facility in the area since bicyclists and volleyball players could use that facility. [20100222180406] | <p>W. Descriptions about improvements for the volleyball area have been updated.</p>  |
| X       | There is absolutely nothing wrong with the Mall. I have been there many times and I must say, things seem to be done for the benefit of Marriott, like building kisoks and so forth that they seel souvenirs from. They are too in-bed with the park Service, so I smell a rat. I can see from the plans that this would greatly benefit Marriott vendors. Aside from that, we Americans are tightening our belts...why can't you do so? It ODES NOT COST that many hundreds of millions of dollars to polish  | <p>X. Marriott is not a vendor on the National Mall.</p>  |

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| Y       | <p>a few statues and dig up soil and aerate it. Get a few rented rototillers and let the park Service employees do the work. They do a great job around the White House. I suspect that "renovating" an area down by the Lincoln Memorial for the purpose of enhancing demonstrations is simply a ploy to move them away from the Supreme Court and Capitol Building. Can't you find a better use for your budget money than wasting it on these plans? How about producing some jobs that provide more parking palces for tourists and filling in pot holes? That is what our taxes should be paying for. SERVICES to the public. Thes so-called beautification projects are cover ups for the Park Service's own failure to think creatively and caringly with OUR MONEY in this economy. THE MALL IS FINE LIKE IT IS ...we are in a darn depression. Get over the spending addiction. COLD TURKEY. [20100223121907] [EDITOR'S NOTE: Similar responses to questions 2, 3, and 6.]</p> <p>In my several visits to the Mall I was disappointed in its condition. The grass was brown and the lawns were trampled to a hard pack condition. Also, it was decidedly unparklike in its flat, unfeatured design. It desperately needs renovation. [20100223131101]</p> <p>A commendable job on the committees. Have only one interjection: Please support the move to include WWI veterans somewhere in this great Memorial. Keep up the the good work; the rest of the world is watching. [20100224003414]</p> <p>I have lived in the DC area since 62 and the grounds look like there has been little money put into it since my arrival. There are so many people who come here to see our Nations Capitol and it's awful that they see the conditions that our sites are in.... please add seating, its a very restful place to sit. Please put in some grass, and flowers... bushes would be nice... clean the monuments... and the tidal basin sidewalk, need I say more... This isn't Brain Surgery... spend a little money and fix it up. My son and I will go there reguardless, but its embarassing when folks come in and see the conditions... they do remark. Grass, fertilizer, flowers, bushes, safe walking paths, and some seating for those visiting that have difficulty making it from monument to monument... you know so they don't have to "stand in line" just to sit down. [20100304171037]</p> | <p>Y. As explained in the <i>Draft Environmental Impact Statement</i> (pp. vi and 20), the D.C. War Memorial is being restored as a separate project.</p> |

| Comment             | Letter 37. Anonymous Comments Online — Question 2 (13 Individual Comments)  | Response  |
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| A<br><br>B<br><br>C | <p>[Comment pertaining to question 2 ("Within each category, indicate the extent to which you agree with the specific elements of the Preferred Alternative vision to restore the National Mall?")]</p> <p>Again, the focus should revolve around enhancing civic participation and making the mall pedestrian friendly and accessible. All amenities, including food, playgrounds, new benches and redesigned sidewalks shoud contribute to this. [20100102145111]</p> <p>I am particularly concerned with the plan to pave the gravel sidewalks. This would be a terrible decision and in no way should be pursued. The gravel has numerous benefits: It is beneficial for commuters, walkers and joggers; it supports perception and feeling of the space as a park and not just a city sidewalk; and it is easy to maintain in the winter (if you pave it, the park service is goign to have to come out routinely in the winter and shovel and salt the ENTIRE MALL to keep people from slipping and falling). PLEASE DO NOT PAVE THE GRAVEL!!!!!! I have many reservations about altering the reflecting pool. there is more than enough space around the capitol for demonstrations, etc. I have never, ever been to the capitol at a time when more standing room was needed. Additional, this greatly threatens the historical nature of the space. Please do not detract from Pierre L'Enfant's original vision for our city. It was specifically chosen by GEORGE WASHINGTON himself and I believe we should honor that vision. Lastly, I strongly disagree with any efforts to discourage events or demonstrations from taking place on the Mall (or in any other part of d.c.). this is the NATION'S CAPITOL and it's very essence is to host those type of events. that is our responsibility as americans. And it is my responsibility as a D.C. resident to discourage the Park Service from doing anything that would rob this city of the character that makes it so incredibly special. [20100107100634]</p> <p>The National Mall is a remarkable resource, and NPS does a fine job of oversight and protection for future generations of Americans. This plan shows an enormous amount of excellent planning and thinking. I support most of it. Thanks. [20100108120338]</p> | <p>A. Please see response 8D about gravel paths, as well as the discussion of gravel walkways under "Summary of Comments and Responses," beginning on page 12.</p> <p>B. Gravel dates from the 1970s, not from the George Washington era, and it replaced concrete walks. In the 1930s four parallel asphalt roadways had adjacent concrete paved walkways.</p> <p>C. As has been repeatedly stressed in this planning process, the National Park Service does not propose limiting First Amendment rights or restricting demonstrations to specific areas of the National Mall. Rather, First Amendment gatherings will be enhanced by the plan, and demonstrations will continue to occur throughout the National Mall, as they do today and in accordance with the regulations at 36 CFR 7.96 (see DEIS, pp. 16-18).</p> |



| Comment           | Letter 37. Anonymous Comments Online — Question 2 (13 Individual Comments)   | Response  |
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| <p>D</p> <p>E</p> | <p>The people who came up with this plan did so after months and months of research, debate, and thought. Why in the world would I, who have been to the mall only three times in my life, think I could do better. We asked these people to come up with the best plan they could, I think we should trust that they did. [20100110180153]</p> <p>Please, do not pave the gravel walkways. One of my favorite things about the national mall is the gravel. It's perfect. [20100117155332]</p> <p>The federal deficite needs to be reduced by eliminating excessive spending like this. This is what was said in President Obama's State of the Union Speech. [20100128221310]</p> <p>It seems like a comprehensive plan at best. [20100212113631]</p> <p>Cost. At this juncture in time it is not in my opinion a cost that the tax payer should need to pay for. [20100217143004]</p> <p>We have a government who is just worried about the facade of our capital we should set our sites on more important issues.... our seniors and disabled people did even get an increase with the COLA this year but the prices with the cost of living medication and insurance still rose for those people now they are debating on food or paying their insurance or heat or electric how about getting to the issues that are important instead of wasting time socializing with other governments and take care of the PEOPLE in our own country [20100217154721]</p> <p>Waste of tax dollars. Our Country is at its worst time right now and only getting worse. [20100217164218]</p> <p>As it is in disrepair so is the country. When we return to solvency we can send as much as you would like. [20100217172235]</p> <p>Moving demonstrations away from the Mall sounds a lot like an attempt to control free expression. [20100217173047]</p> <p>It needs it... the public is not blind. [20100304171037]</p> | <p>D. Please see response 8D, as well as the discussion of gravel walkways under "Summary of Comments and Responses," beginning on page 12.</p> <p>E. As has been repeatedly stressed in this planning process, the National Park Service does not propose limiting First Amendment rights or restricting demonstrations to specific areas of the National Mall. Rather, First Amendment gatherings will be enhanced by the plan, and demonstrations will continue to occur throughout the National Mall, as they do today and in accordance with the regulations at 36 CFR 7.96 (see DEIS, pp. 16–18).</p> |

| Comment | Letter 38. Anonymous Comments Online — Question 3 (9 Individual Comments)  | Response |
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|         | <p>Comments pertaining to question 3: Indicate the extent to which you agree with the description of how the Preferred Alternative (which is also the environmentally preferred alternative) compares with other alternatives in meeting National Environmental Policy Act goals.</p> <p>I think using non-potable water for the water displays is a common-sense, why-didn't-we-think-of-this-earlier idea. There is no reason to waste drinking water! [20100103095448]</p> <p>I particularly like the walkway and restroom improvements that create easier access for wheelchair users. [20100106185948]</p> <p>My main concern is cost. The expense may be into the hundreds of millions, according to some estimates. With the city and national budget in bad shape, bad idea. Some things might be done on the cheap. E.g., I've heard out-of-town friends complain about lack of food and restrooms on the Mall. Could contract such services out to food vendors and portapotty firms with little budget burden. Grass does get destroyed sometimes from overuse; need to keep fencing off scuffed areas at times. This work could be contracted out too. (Mall museums might be opened up at night as in past through fee charged night-time visitors.) Re tri-related stuff, would like to see the running paths kept open, instead of forcing runners onto streets as sometimes happens. Running past moonlit monuments is one of city's best athletic experiences. [20100107120059]</p> |          |

| Comment           | Letter 38. Anonymous Comments Online — Question 3 (9 Individual Comments)   | Response   |
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| <p>A</p> <p>B</p> | <p>It covers all the necessary aspects. [20100212113631]</p> <p>The Draft Plan seems to take every avenue possible to protect the environment, which is much more than is being done now. Whether it's the Eagles or the Sturgeons, the grass, the lack of water circulation, it seems the plan has been looked at from many angles and has attempted a comprehensive umbrella type plan to begin to correct all the many problems that the Mall suffers from. [20100216230343]</p> <p>The term "Vision" here is so ambiguous. A visionary looks beyond. You're formulating ideas based on a "reactionary" process. [20100217162338]</p> <p>this is a specific site related to all Americans. Besides the environmental aspects other aspects are just as important-- the part I will call the American Experience--leave it out the mall would be just a place where events were held-- no correlation as to why at the Mall. also access to all-- the disabled, those physically challenged yes, but also inclusive for all americans: mentally/ emotionally challenges soldiers who have returned from battle with both physical and/or emotional wounds. Please don't forget this piece of land in our nation's capital is where most americans would agree that we (despite our varied backgrounds) recognize that we are a people. (pardon me if I become passionate about it I am a lifetime student of history, government, and economics. every time I hear the speech "I Have A Dream" I dream that small strip of land with all its history and all it's emotion. [20100217182654]</p> <p>It meets most of my concerns about the condition of the mall. I do think that basic elements of LaFont's design should be preserved, but I would like to see less abuse of the lawn areas by confining large demonstrations primarily to the paved walkways, and by landscaping the lawn areas to a low but gently rolling terrain rather than a featureless flat area. This should be done to encourage pedestrians to remain on the walkways, but not to the extent that detracts from the openness of the expanse or obscures views of the memorials and public buildings. Lawns should also be better maintained. [20100223131101]</p> | <p>A. The purpose of NPS vision plans is to provide a coordinated and comprehensive written program for future action to protect America's national parks, and they are prepared with public involvement and environmental analysis in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act. The proposed plan provides a cohesive guideline for future management by addressing physical development needs as well as resource protection, the civic forum, circulation, visitor enjoyment, and park operations. The plan presents a vision for the entire National Mall that is consistent with other vision plans for this area, such as the NCPC <i>Extending the Legacy</i> (1997), the <i>Center City Action Agenda</i> (District of Columbia 2008), the <i>NCPC Memorials and Museums Master Plan</i> (2001), and the <i>NCPC Monumental Core Framework Plan</i> (2009).</p> <p>B. The planning focus has been on enriching the American experience. We agree that access for all and inclusiveness are important.</p> |

| Comment  | Letter 39. Anonymous Comments Online — Question 4 (7 Individual Comments)   | Response  |
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| <p>A</p> | <p>Comments pertaining to question 4: "Indicate the extent to which you agree with the comparison of how the alternatives meet the plan objectives laid out in Table 6."</p> <p>Thank you for not forgetting the history! Educational panels placed throughout the Mall walking area would be welcome. There have been so many key events and demonstrations in the area, not to mention the key role that such demonstrations play in our politics, and it would be wonderful to be able to learn about them. [20100103095448]</p> <p>My main concern is cost. The expense may be into the hundreds of millions, according to some estimates. With the city and national budget in bad shape, bad idea. Some things might be done on the cheap. E.g., I've heard out-of-town friends complain about lack of food and restrooms on the Mall. Could contract such services out to food vendors and portapotty firms with little budget burden. Grass does get destroyed sometimes from overuse; need to keep fencing off scuffed areas at times. This work could be contracted out too. (Mall museums might be opened up at night as in past through fee charged night-time visitors.) Re tri-related stuff, would like to see the running paths kept open, instead of forcing runners onto streets as sometimes happens. Running past moonlit monuments is one of city's best athletic experiences. [20100107120059]</p> <p>This is a realistic approach to a difficult problem. [20100212113631]</p> <p>leave it the way it is. [20100215013149]</p> <p>It seems they have 5 different plans from basic changes to more or less maintain the park to a robust plan the preferred alternative which would no doubt cost more and take years but make the whole park area fit for the 21st century. [20100216230343]</p> | <p>A. A new brochure entitled <i>The First Amendment on the National Mall</i> was published in April 2010 and is available on the National Mall. It highlights key sites for freedom of speech and includes cell phone tour call-in numbers at six locations.</p> |

| Comment | Letter 39. Anonymous Comments Online — Question 4 (7 Individual Comments)  | Response |
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|         | <p>Your approach has alot to be desired. Whatever "think-tank" came up with this recipe, ought to be bottled and sold outside our borders. [20100217162338]</p> <p>Love the underground parking in one of the alternative plans [20100221200043]</p> <p>You are the ones with the enough money to think it through. [20100223121907]</p> |          |

| Comment | Letter 40. Anonymous Comments Online — Question 5 (4 Individual Comments)   | Response  |
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| A       | <p>Comments pertaining to question 5: "Do you agree with the actions common to all alternatives?"</p> <p>Alternatives BC do a good job of integrating the National Mall back into the city. This is necessary in order to improve the pedestrian feel of the Mall, but also will contribute positively to the economic growth of the city. [20100102145111]</p> <p>My main concern is cost. The expense may be into the hundreds of millions, according to some estimates. With the city and national budget in bad shape, bad idea. Some things might be done on the cheap. E.g., I've heard out-of-town friends complain about lack of food and restrooms on the Mall. Could contract such services out to food vendors and portapotty firms with little budget burden. Grass does get destroyed sometimes from overuse; need to keep fencing off scuffed areas at times. This work could be contracted out too. (Mall museums might be opened up at night as in past through fee charged night-time visitors.) Re tri-related stuff, would like to see the running paths kept open, instead of forcing runners onto streets as sometimes happens. Running past moonlit monuments is one of city's best athletic experiences. [20100107120059]</p> <p>Yes, they are much needed and long overdue. Particularly revitalizing the turf and increasing, more careful location of large events to minimize long-term impact - but not preventing, limiting or restricting them! [20100108121626]</p> <p>I want the gravel to remain. [20100117155332]</p> <p>All the actions seem logical and comprehensive to meet all the future needs of the mall. [20100212113631]</p> <p>It seems most of the alternatives are similar, just less robust than the preferred alternative. [20100216230343]</p> <p>Ever hear of the expression, "You can fool some of the people some of the time, but cannot fool all the people all the time." [20100217162338]</p> <p>No money to pay for it. [20100217172235]</p> <p>seems self evident. [20100217182654]</p> <p>The Mall is a complicated place serving many functions. The Mall is a place to contemplate and visit the monuments, memorials, and the two visible houses of government. Another is as an educational center (the museums). The Mall is a place of beauty, with both grand vistas and intimate gardens. And The Mall is a place for cultural gatherings and democratic assemblies. If more memorials are to be built, don't clutter the Mall with more; spread them out into East Potomac Park and make access easier between the Mall and East Potomac Park. [20100220062504]</p> <p>It has nothing to do with limiting spending...it is all an unnecessary waste of our money. [20100223121907]</p> | <p>A. As explained in the <i>Draft Environmental Impact Statement</i> (pp. 18–19) no new memorials may be placed on the National Mall. The <i>Memorials and Museums Master Plan</i> (NCPC 2001) identifies 100 locations for future memorials or museums around the District.</p> |

| Comment           | Letter 41. Anonymous Comments Online — Question 6 (28 Individual Comments)  | Response   |
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| <p>A</p> <p>B</p> | <p>Comments pertaining to question 6: "Is there anything else you think NPS needs to consider with respect to the Draft National Mall Plan?"</p> <p>When working on a design always try and see how you can integrate the urban landscape into the Mall as much possible. This should be done in an organic, yet sustainable manner, which preserves and enhances the beauty of both the National Park and the City itself. [20100102145111]</p> <p>Increase in outdoor cafe type food venues and perhaps a signature mall restaurant (similar to Tavern on the Green in New York's Central Park). [20100103013352]</p> <p>Thank you for protecting this vital resource! [20100103095448]</p> <p>Under any plan, there should be significant focus on public health (i.e. automated restrooms, vandal proof water fountains, handwashing or hand-sanitation stations near food vending) and safety/security (PA system, signage, evacuation routes and designated shelter in place). [20100103171431]</p> <p>I think the preferred alternative is the best option but I think making the capital reflection pool drainable instead of getting rid or making it smaller is a better idea. [20100103193723]</p> <p>I will keep my comments general but overall the plan presented seems like a good attempt to correct and revitalize the dimming facade and abuse of the National Mall areas. As a Washingtonian who lives three blocks from the Mall this plan is long overdue. The areas surrounding our national monuments and places of historic significance have become a barren wasteland that do not represent the grandeur and the intentions of the city's original planners. In addition, in the last 15 years the city and its neighborhoods have changed allowing for an influx of growth of residents in the downtown area--specifically between 14th and 3rd Streets, NW. With our urban spaces in these areas overrun with derelict individuals we have turned to the National Mall as our place of relaxation and recreation. Events: It makes most sense to focus on having demonstrations, entertainment, festival and event areas at the Union Square and West of 14 Street areas since these spaces flank office and government buildings. This will allow the concentration of residents at the city center to enjoy a quieter urban space with recreational areas, playgrounds and designated areas for art and cultural experiences. This will also make it a more calming experience for city dwellers since they would not have to pass through throngs of protesters and visitors as they walk to the Mall to exercise, relax and enjoy our four-legged companions who too crave to have open spaces. Safety: There should be blue/red light safety phones/kiosks located throughout the National Mall areas. These are employed by many college campuses throughout the U.S.A. to provide emergency response and alert to authorities for those individuals who may not have a phone available or if their device is stolen/dropped during a physical assault. This would make countless visitors and residents feel much safer given the poor lightening and security measures on the Mall in recent years. [20100104143920]</p> <p>I have never been to Washington and don't know the specific needs. Generally, Union Square and the Mall are the venue where the people come at great trouble and expense to interact with our employees in government. These spaces must be designed to host and facilitate that interaction above all else. The Mall and memorials are not a museum; Washington has plenty of those. Recreational, decorative, and even ecological considerations, while desirable, must take a back seat to the park's use as "the people's front yard." The Union Square reflecting pool should be removed to make demonstrators comfortable in this space, as well as under the elms along the Mall, where their temporary facilities should be accommodated. The whole park must boast ample food vendors and restrooms and convenient transportation systems. [20100104183156]</p> <p>When the compromises are made, please make sure that you give and take on the basis of what is really attainable, not how you wish it would be. Deal in reality when negotiating changes to the plan, not in a pollyanna world. [20100110180153]</p> <p>The National budget deficit. [20100128221310]</p> <p>Thanks for your hard work! Our family absolutely loves The National Park Service !! When I retire from teaching I want to work for NPS.... [20100208182535]</p> <p>Some great ideas there...go with it! [20100212113631]</p> | <p>A. We have heard similar comments throughout the planning process. The National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden facilities are also seen as a good model for facilities.</p> <p>B. Emergency call stations are included in the proposed plan, as described in the <i>Draft Environmental Impact Statement</i> on pages 87 and 184 (actions for row 8.2). Similarly, a mass notification system is proposed (pp. 87 and 184, actions for row 8.4).</p> |

| Comment | Letter 41. Anonymous Comments Online — Question 6 (28 Individual Comments)   | Response  |
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| C       | <p>there is so much to read that i just wanted to say one idea. have you considered widening the pedestrian paths so there is less grass to mow. i think it might save money. thanks. [20100212142849]</p>   | <p>C. Walks would be widened in several areas to accommodate use levels.</p>  |
| D       | <p>Suggestion: could you envisage using small paving blocks with space between them, and where grass can grow and reach some minimum height before it is trod upon? It looks really nice, provides drainage/watering, could replace the denuded lawn areas. [20100217141003]</p> <p>The plans seem to meet the needs of what the Mall needs to look like and be for the many visitors. [20100217151329]</p>  | <p>D. We are continuing to explore appropriate materials. Based on experience at other sites, the level of use on the National Mall is too great for this type of material. Also, many turf areas are used for recreation and play, and the surfaces you describe would be too hard.</p>  |
| E       | <p>Plase consider for the Mall project a very updated monorail to travel the entire distance of the "new" Mall. The mono rail could traverse from the entire Mall and back on the outer primeter to give visitors a recorded history of all the sites,have air condition and/warm confort, a easy visuals for all - old/young - and much time saving looks at the Mall. I feel this rail system would not detract from the cultural and natural look of the environment. Many "new" looks for mono-rail "trains" are in existance in the USA. A mono rail system around the National Mall would be the "ticket" Do it! [20100217153031]</p> <p>Concrete. [20100217153815]</p> <p>It must represent the state of our nation. Leave it in shambles. [20100217172235]</p>   | <p>E. The concept of a monorail is similar to a tram or streetcar system, which was discussed in the <i>Draft Environmental Impact Statement</i>. The document noted on page 131 that either system typically requires power to be run through overhead lines, which would intrude on views and vistas. The document also stated that desired transportation goals can be achieved with a bus system, as proposed in the <i>NPS Visitor Transportation Study</i> (NPS 2006a), without any adverse effects on the cultural landscape. Because this proposal would duplicate less expensive and less environmentally damaging means of transportation, and because it would fail to meet the plan objective to protect historic vistas, it was dismissed from further consideration. Language in the final document has been updated to include a monorail as having been considered but dismissed.</p> |
| F       | <p>I beleive the gress should be removed excepting the 4 outmost coners,to be regressed.All of the remaining squares should dug up and Paved with any type sand,stone.concrete as decied by each of the 50 states.DC would get the center square The rest by federal design team. A square for example Vermont might pave there square with there state stone Granite,Navada red desert stones.One large one with Brass squares of the Presidents set in concrete. [20100217174426]</p>  | <p>F. The idea is similar to L'Enfant's thinking that states could develop squares around Washington, D.C. We received similar suggestions that were considered but dismissed in the <i>Draft Environmental Impact Statement</i> on page 131 under "Adding New Features" because the integrity of the landscape would be changed and additions could be perceived as turning the National Mall into a theme park.</p>   |
| G       | <p>The use of artificial grass (turf) and/or a combination of artificial grass and old style hand made bricks. Do not use the type of artificial grass used on football fields; there is artificial grass that actually looks and feels like grass and only requires an occasional cleaning. [20100217180501]</p> <p>please take into consideration the beauty and historicity of it. It not only is a symbol that binds americans to each other almost religiously, but persons from foreign countries see it as a symbol of the greatness of the one and only, United States of America. [20100217182654]</p>  | <p>G. See response 36K and the discussion of artificial turf in the "Summary of Comments and Responses" (page 21). Artificial turf does not meet criteria for durability, maintainability, and sustainability, and it is hotter than natural turf.</p>  |
| H       | <p>I applaud the results of any well-researched and thought out plan. But before I can comment on any parts of this Plan, I have three questions: 1. What were the costs for all consultants used to create this plan? 2. What are proposed costs - or budgets - to execute even the most modest form of this plan? 3. Did I miss seeing the financials on the website? In business, such a plan would be accompanied by a budget, actually it would be required before being consideration by Executive Management. How can one decide the real value and appropriateness of a plan without knowing its financial impact by each part and the whole? Thousands of folks remain unemployed, US children are going hungry, homeless figures are the highest in decades, the foreclosure rate is rising, our critical infrastructures are in disrepair, just to name a few more pressing issues that I believe are more worthy causes than helping grass grow and further beautification efforts for DC...but that's just my opinion. [20100217183917]</p> | <p>H. The plan was prepared primarily by NPS staff, with some help by consultants. Conceptual costs are discussed in the <i>Draft Environmental Impact Statement</i> on pages 132–33; operating budgets are discussed on pages 348–49. Table 4 on page 133 illustrates the relative magnitude of costs for each alternative. These costs are only conceptual costs to show a relative difference between alternatives; actual costs when projects are ready to be started may be higher or lower.</p>   |
| I       | <p>Seriously, this all was way too confusing. You should have the plans laid out next to where you have respondents answer and comment. Make DC sustainable and beautiful. [20100219070722]</p>  | <p>I. We regret that you were not able to easily review and comment on the plan. We tried to make the online review and comment process as user-friendly as possible and will seek to improve it in the future.</p>   |
| J       | <p>This is a park not a commercial business. I expect more flowers and better preventative maintenance to existing mall first and foremost. However, this does not mean making grant's statue shine like new. Let it look the way it looks now. Don't try to accommodate too many uses. This is a park. It does not need to be redesigned to accomodate alternate multiple uses. To do so would degrade all of the uses, including its intended use as a national park. [20100219075950]</p>   | <p>J. Balancing use and preservation is challenging. NPS staff do undertake regular maintenance operations, including recurring, preventive, and corrective maintenance as needed (see DEIS, p. 349). The National Mall is an urban park in the capital city, and it would not be possible to preclude current uses; in addition, there are legal requirements to accommodate First Amendment uses.</p>   |
| K       | <p>I think the NPS should consider a number of possibilities for the plan: 1. Please consider the use of underground facilities such as restrooms, parking, and drop off areas. While these might increase some costs, they could positively impact traffic flow, availability, and overall convenience while maintaining current look. 2. Please consider a vast increase to technology considerations such as: - Providing wi-fi connectivity throughout the mall, free or otherwise. Make the entire Mall a "Hotspot". This would increase creativity for numerous uses well into the future. 3.</p>  | <p>K. The goal of the proposed plan is to have facilities that are convenient, comfortable, safe, and easy to maintain. Underground restrooms are not feasible for the 12th Street area of the Mall, which is over a tunnel. The high water table throughout the National Mall makes underground facilities difficult to provide. Further, this suggestion may conflict with suggestions that the National Mall should be both a role model of best design in terms of urban public</p>   |
| L       |  |   |

| Comment  | Letter 41. Anonymous Comments Online — Question 6 (28 Individual Comments)   | Response  |
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| <p>M</p> <p>N</p> <p>O</p> <p>P</p> <p>Q</p> <p>R</p> <p>S</p> <p>T</p> <p>U</p> <p>V</p> <p>W</p> | <p>Lighting: Please consider the use of LED type lighting for predominant features of the Mall. This would allow our Mall to have different color lighting themes that could be used for numerous purposes, festivals, seasons, holidays, etc. It could also be a showcase for artistically minded themes. 4. Allow for more food and beverage opportunities: vendors, stands, permanent structures, etc. Bottom line, there is never a food and beverage option very convenient around the mall, especially on the west end. 5. Overall, consider what can be done to increase cultural and LOCAL use of the Mall by making it a gathering spot year around for everyone. More concerts, more galleries, more life...day and night, year around!!! [20100219124735]</p> <p>Time. If one of our greatest parks is falling into disrepair, lets find a way to move forward efficiently without letting too much time pass in the process. [20100222094915]</p> <p>Bicycle improvements need to be detailed in order to adequately review the preferred alternative. I am a daily bike commuter from Arlington, and the following are the priorities that need to be addressed. 1) The bicycle/pedestrian underpasses under Route 66 and the Memorial Bridge are incredibly unsafe - a separate bike lane, with a hard barrier between the cars and bike lanes, should be installed. 2) Separate bike lanes with hard barriers should be installed along Constitution Independence - the interaction of pedestrians in large groups and bicycles in areas such as the Washington Monument and Lincoln memorial are unsafe. 3) Create a way to get from the Mall to the bike/pedestrian crossing on the Teddy Roosevelt bridge - currently the only way to get to the bridge is from the Kennedy center. 4) Install bike lanes on all North-South cross streets. 5) Retain and increase private parking on Jefferson and Madison - it is nice to bring the family to the Mall on the weekend and not have to pay \$8 to park in a lot. 6) Reduce tour bus parking areas on Madison and Jefferson - they are big, block the views, take up enormous space, and can easily discharge groups and depart the immediate mall area to park in a more remote location. [20100222111838]</p> <p>availability to get cash within a reasonable distance, and during Cherry Blossom Festival.... we want the availability to use our charge cards.... I couldn't last year and my little boy and I wanted food and T shirts... we were told it was the Park Services Issue that they couldn't accept charge cards. I as a single woman and mother do not carry cash on me. [20100304171037]</p> <p>NPS should apply the Sustainable Sites Initiative's guidelines while restoring the soils and turfs. NPS should provide WI-FI infrastructure throughout the National Mall, which will help draw people, who can then sit and use their laptops. Service could be provided for a small fee, helping to raise revenue for the restoration. A number of cities, including San Francisco and Philadelphia, which are both aiming for city-wide WI-FI coverage, have also explored free WI-FI areas. [20100310173036]</p> | <p>restrooms and universal accessibility because underground restrooms would require the use of elevators. There has also been an unwillingness of visitors to use NPS or concession facilities that have been provided underground on Pennsylvania Avenue (Pershing Park) and the Ellipse in President's Park.</p> <p>L. The proposed plan would accommodate wireless access. See the <i>Draft Environmental Impact Statement</i>, p. 192 (actions for row 9.8). This has been clarified in the final document for the preferred alternative under "Park Operations."</p> <p>M. LED lighting is being explored as the National Park Service seeks to reduce energy costs.</p> <p>N. The plan recommends more choice and variety in food service.</p> <p>O. Local users already may visit more than 20 times annually, often for recreation or permitted events.</p> <p>P. This project is being undertaken as a result of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.</p> <p>Q. Barriers would be part of the proposed design for separate bike routes.</p> <p>R. The proposed plan would improve bicycle and pedestrian access to the Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Bridge, which is recommended by the <i>Monumental Core Framework Plan</i> (see DEIS, p. 44).</p> <p>S. North-south cross streets are under the jurisdiction of Washington, D.C. The National Park Service supports city bike plans.</p> <p>T. In the short-term parking would remain on Madison and Jefferson drives, and as recommended by the <i>Visitor Transportation Study</i>, it would be metered. The long-term goal is to remove parking (see DEIS, p. 90).</p> <p>U. Under the proposed plan existing tour bus drop-off and pickup locations would remain, and the National Park Service would continue to work with the D.C. Department of Transportation and other city agencies to address tour bus parking (see DEIS, p. 90).</p> <p>V. This is a service that could be examined during feasibility and programming studies for bookstores, food service, or multipurpose facilities.</p> <p>W. The proposed plan supports the goals of the Sustainable Sites Initiative™ and would accommodate WI-FI service (see DEIS, pp. 53 and 192).</p> |

| Comment  | Letter 42. Kathryn Anthony   | Response  |
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| <p>A</p> | <p>Kathryn Anthony<br/>(kanthony@illinois.edu)<br/>03/10/2010</p> <p>[Comment pertaining to question 6 ("Is there anything else you think NPS needs to consider with respect to the Draft National Mall Plan?")]</p> <p>Attractive public restrooms in key locations throughout the National Mall are needed to ensure a family-friendly environment for visitors around the world. Right now they are "inadequate" and highly problematic, especially for families with children and older people. We need state-of-the-art, beautifully designed, well-maintained, safe and clean public restrooms monitored by attendants. See the Kellogg Park public restrooms in La Jolla, CA (City of San Diego) - highly successful award-winning unisex restrooms that receive 2-3 million visitors per year. Also look to Japan as an example - the most progressive country in the world re: public restrooms, a vast improvement over the USA. Let's make the National Mall Public Restrooms an international model for others to emulate!</p> <p>- Kathryn H. Anthony, Ph.D.,<br/>member, Board of Directors, American Restroom Association;<br/>ACSA Distinguished Professor, School of Architecture, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign</p> | <p>[EDITOR'S NOTE: Comments submitted online.]</p> <p>A. We agree that the National Mall could be a role model for urban public restrooms. The plan proposes that restrooms be integrated with other facilities, well dispersed, conveniently located, and sized for levels of use. The option of self-cleaning restrooms is also included. Given the high levels of present and projected use, permanent restrooms are proposed in areas where many permitted events are scheduled in order to reduce the reliance on portable toilets. All proposed facilities must meet very high standards for sustainability, and stewardship or educational messages would be included in the facilities.</p> |

| Comment                    | Letter 43. Adam Bliss   | Response   |
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| <p>A</p> <p>B</p> <p>C</p> | <p>Bliss, Adam [USA]<br/>&lt;bliss_adam@bah.com&gt;<br/>02/23/2010</p> <p>I was wondering if you will post the comments made during the 18 February 2010 Public meeting on your website? I was unable to attend but I am extremely interested in the project.</p> <p>I also want to say that I think using the engineered soils is a great idea. The large brown spots on the lawn are such a tragedy. It really makes me ashamed to know that foreign visitors see the mall in that condition. I also think that the reflecting pool between the Lincoln and Washington monuments needs to be re-thought. I would think there is a better way to keep the water looking somewhat clean. Lastly, I think having organized sports played on the lawn should be reconsidered. The mall, though a public place, is not, in my opinion a ball field. Besides playing softball with all the pedestrians nearby is not safe, and keeps others from enjoying the whole of the mall.</p> <p>Adam Bliss<br/>Booz Allen Hamilton<br/>AFCEE/EXN<br/>1602 California Ave #239<br/>Andrews AFB, MD 20762<br/>Office: 301.981.0288<br/>Cell: 571.269.5823</p>   | <p>[EDITOR'S NOTE: Comments submitted by e-mail.]</p> <p>A. The February 18, 2010, public meeting was to answer questions. All attendees were directed to the comment website.</p> <p>B. The rehabilitation of the reflecting pool, which is being funded separately by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, should improve water quality.</p> <p>C. Recreational public use of turf areas is a long tradition. Many find playing within the shadow of great symbols of our nation to be a wonderful democratic experience.</p>   |
| Comment                    | Letter 44. Maurice Brown  | Response   |
| <p>A</p> <p>B</p>          | <p>maurice brown<br/>(maurybrandy4@aol.com)<br/>02/17/2010</p> <p>[Comment pertaining to question 1 ("Indicate the extent to which you agree with the overall Preferred Alternative Vision to restore the National Mall.")]</p> <p>Having visited 3 years ago we found the mall to be used for a wide variety of things. First its a destination for visitors like we were. Second its a venue for the public to gather and express opinions. Third its used as a city park for residents. The sheer number of people using the mall make it a real problem to keep grass growing and healthy so my opinion is you do the best you can realizing that perfection is never going to happen. I would suggest that events which require tents and alike be curtailed or sited in other areas whenever possible. People don't travel thousands of miles to see their views obstructed by a series of tents that diminish their experience and frankly look like a small county fair. Because of the deferred backlog of items that all need attention I would hope that public use be a priority and the items that go with it. More public restrooms would top my list. Get all the money you can from congress, god knows they waste alot. In closing I would say we saw some bare spots, a little mud, and visiting Washington was still the most outstanding experience we have ever had. Good Luck.</p> <p>[Comment pertaining to question 3 ("Indicate the extent to which you agree with the description of how the Preferred Alternative (which is also the environmentally preferred alternative) compares with other alternatives in meeting National Environmental Policy Act goals.")]</p> <p>Any step taken to improve the environmental aspects of the mall may offer a vision that can be taken to other parts of the country.</p> | <p>[EDITOR'S NOTE: Comments submitted online.]</p> <p>A. The National Mall has a civic purpose that is not present to the same degree at any other area of the national park system. As stated in the <i>Draft Environmental Impact Statement</i> on pages viii and 83, the preferred alternative proposes a balanced approach that includes respectful rehabilitation so that very high levels of use can be perpetuated and the National Mall can successfully and sustainably function as our nation's premier civic space for today's and tomorrow's visitors.</p> <p>B. We have repeatedly heard about the importance of the National Mall being a role model for the nation.</p> |

| Comment                             | Letter 45. Eleanor Budic  | Response   |
|-------------------------------------|---|--|
|                                     | <p>Eleanor Budic<br/>(ellie.budic@verizon.net)<br/>02/16/2010</p> <p>[Comment pertaining to question 1 ("Indicate the extent to which you agree with the overall Preferred Alternative Vision to restore the National Mall.")]</p> <p>There is a critical need to restore and preserve the National Mall and Monuments.</p> <p>[Comment pertaining to question 6 ("Is there anything else you think NPS needs to consider with respect to the Draft National Mall Plan?")]</p> <p>Thank you for citizen engagement in the planning process.</p>   | <p>[EDITOR'S NOTE: Comments submitted online.]</p>   |
| Comment                             | Letter 46. Jon Bussard  | Response   |
| <p>A</p> <p>B</p> <p>C</p> <p>D</p> | <p>Jon Bussard<br/>March 18, 2010<br/>5:28 p.m.</p> <p>Comments:</p> <p>I am very happy to comment on the national Mall plan and would like to say that I wish that some of the recommendations and designs of the Skidmore Owens plan of the mid 1960's would be reinstated.</p> <p>The main one I would like to see implemented is the plan to completely remove vehicle traffic on all north to south running streets thru a series of tunnels underneath the mall.</p> <p>Some of these have been done, but not all and I think that it would not only be aesthetically pleasing to the viewer with a grandiose effect, but would also improve the pedestrian experience, ease traffic, and help security concerns.</p> <p>With this done from the World War II Monument to the reflecting pool in front of the Capitol would truly enhance the feeling of being somewhere "Monumental" and unmatched anywhere in the world.</p> <p>Also with the current discussion of changing Union Square to an area for public demonstrations and possibly removing the reflecting pool or converting it to a transitional drain and fill facility, let me suggest a better plan.</p> <p>With the removal of the street in front of the reflecting pool this could add more space to expand Union Square and add more public space to install seating areas and demonstration areas, or plaza etc.</p> <p>All of the previous plans from L'Enfant to McMillan to the Skidmore Owens plan always had this area designated in some capacity as a reflecting pool or water area, why consider altering a proven great idea?</p> <p>It would also be a tragedy to remove the current cement pool enclosure that already is refreshing to sit on and relax with an unmatched view of the Capitol or the Mall.</p> <p>A better idea would be to simply improve on what is already existing, fix the draining problem remove the street, and add a plaza, problem solved. With the removal of the street in front of the reflecting pool this could add more space to expand Union Square and add more public space to install seating areas and demonstration areas, or plazaetc. All of the previous plans from L'Enfant to McMillan to the Skidmore Owens plan always had this area designated in some capacity as a reflecting pool or water area, why consider altering a proven great idea? It would also be a tragedy to remove the current cement pool enclosure that already is refreshing to sit on and relax with an unmatched view of the Capitol or the Mall. A better idea would be to simply improve on what is already existing, fix the drining problem, remove the street, and add a plaza, problem solved.</p> | <p>[EDITOR'S NOTE: Comment submitted by e-mail.]</p> <p>A. All current D.C. vision plans desire to improve connections to the National Mall in a manner that celebrates its key central location in the city. Tunnels, however, increase separation because they make sightseeing impossible, which is an important visual connection to the symbols on the National Mall. Several tunnels were proposed for streets under the National Mall in the 1970s, including 4th, 7th, 14th, 15th, and 17th streets. However, after the construction of three tunnels (2nd, 9th, and 12th streets), it was determined that the visual impacts of tunnel portals, especially those adjacent to the National Mall, were too great. Moreover, the McMillan plan showed these streets crossing the Mall at grade, giving "needed life to the Mall" (U.S. Congress 1902, p. 45). Various alternatives considered in the <i>Draft Environmental Impact Statement</i> propose pedestrian and vehicular tunnels, including a vehicular tunnel for 14th Street (alternative C). Tunnel construction has been dismissed because of the high cost, duplication with other less costly alternatives to improve the pedestrian environment, and conflicts with current plans.</p> <p>B. The I-395 tunnel replaced the ceremonial boulevard which would have resulted from closing 3rd Street and would have accomplished your goals.</p> <p>C. The proposed plan would retain water at Union Square. The final design for Union Square, which would occur after a final plan has been approved, could address many of your concerns.</p> <p>D. The current pool coping is limestone, and there may be ways to reuse it.</p> |



| Comment     | Letter 47. Susan Campbell  | Response   |
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| A           | <p>S Campbell<br/>&lt;swcamp@aol.com&gt;<br/>02/19/2010</p> <p>Unfortunately I moved out of DC a few weeks ago, but as a long time resident I frequented the Mall - at a minimum - 4 to 6 times a week. As a runner and walker, there was no better place to go after work and on weekends. Running/walking past the history and always feeling secure, made the Mall one of the greatest places on earth. Showing the Mall to frequent visitors - from a local's perspective - was a thrill. Even the smell of the 'geese' was special, but could definitely be toned down a bit.</p> <p>Restrooms similar to those at the Arlington Cemetery would be great. But, in my opinion, DO NOT turn the Mall into a food court and/or entertainment center - there are plenty of museums and restaurants throughout the neighborhood. Concerts and special events are spectacular on the Mall, but daily entertainment and food centers would take away from the appeal. It's "a national park" that should be protected just like our other great national parks - Yellowstone, Yosemite, the Grand Canyon, etc. - natural, historic, and open.</p> <p>I agree, restrooms, little kiosks, fresh soil and grass, paved paths, and better filtration in the reflecting pool and tidal basin would be huge improvements. I hear kids and families comment on the monuments and Mall all the time - what I hear(d) most ... 'it's just like looks in our school books.' That historic familiarity is what the Mall is all about ... even the Merry-go-Round!</p> <p>SUSAN CAMPBELL</p> | <p>[EDITOR'S NOTE: Comments submitted by e-mail.]</p> <p>A. The plan proposes public visitor facilities that would be well dispersed and convenient.</p>   |
| Comment     | Letter 48. Regina Carelli  | Response   |
| A           | <p>Carelli<br/>&lt;carelli@erols.com&gt;<br/>02/19/2010</p> <p>Please PAVE the gravel walk ways. I have had the experience of pushing my mother in a wheel chair, my twins in a double stroller and now trying to walk with bad knees and a cane. The gravel is difficult for all of these tasks. Making it deeper as suggested by Mr Powell would just exacerbate these problems. I should think it would be uncomfortable to feet in sandals and flip-flops.</p> <p>Regina Carelli<br/>1423 Woodman Ave<br/>Silver Spring, MD</p>  | <p>[EDITOR'S NOTE: Comments submitted by e-mail.]</p> <p>A. Given its civic and symbolic importance, we agree that the National Mall should be one of the most inclusive and accessible locations in our nation.</p>   |
| Comment     | Letter 49. Mary Champion   | Response   |
| A<br>B<br>C | <p>Mary Champion<br/>championart@aol.com<br/>01/30/2010</p> <p>[Comment pertaining to question 1 ("Indicate the extent to which you agree with the overall Preferred Alternative Vision to restore the National Mall.")]</p> <p>It appears to encompass the best of all other alternatives without undue focus on issues that I do not feel need addressing, such as demonstrators and global issue forums.</p> <p>[Comment pertaining to question 6 ("Is there anything else you think NPS needs to consider with respect to the Draft National Mall Plan?")]</p> <p>consider a Global Village type area off the beaten path for large gatherings of folks with global issues - leave the Mall proper to be the US National front yard. I am certain that all repairs and changes to tidal basin will include extraordinary measures to protect the cherry trees; even a few passes over the roots with heavy equipment could hurt them. PLEASE DO NOT PAVE THE GRAVEL PATHS. curb them to contain gravel if you must, but strollers will just have to muddle over them. please.</p>  | <p>[EDITOR'S NOTE: Comments submitted online.]</p> <p>A. Your suggestion to have a global village area is interesting. Many activities and events may have a cultural component. However free speech about global issues remains protected by the First Amendment.<br/>B. The cherry trees would be protected under all alternatives.<br/>C. Regarding gravel paths, please see response 8D, as well as the discussion of gravel walkways under "Summary of Comments and Responses," beginning on page 12.</p> |

| Comment           | Letter 50. John Cloud  | Response   |
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| <p>A</p> <p>B</p> | <p>John Cloud<br/>(John.Cloud@noaa.gov)<br/>02/19/2010</p> <p>[Comment pertaining to question 6 ("Is there anything else you think NPS needs to consider with respect to the Draft National Mall Plan?")]</p> <p>I find your DEIS document hard to use. I wanted to see, in the preferred or other alternatives, how NPS proposed to deal with a specific issue that is notable to me. Under present conditions, there is virtually no accessible electric power available to temporary events or public demonstrations on the Mall. Every summer, for example, at the Smithsonian folk life festival, the different activities compete in a soundscape of diesel powered generators, with a haze, at the least, of exhaust coming from generators located right in the middle of the Mall. This is unacceptable. In any civilized place, as in Europe or eastern Asia, it would be unthinkable to have diesel generators on their equivalents of the National Mall. So I looked at your pdf. but was unable to find anywhere in ANY of the alternatives where the issue of electric power for temporary events was mentioned. Even in the Appendices, which do not list an Index, there is an Index, but "Utilities" although mentioned throughout the report, is not listed. I project from this that others may find similar difficulties in determining specific proposals for specific issues in the report. Very very poor organization on the part of NPS!</p>  | <p>[EDITOR'S NOTE: Comments submitted online.]</p> <p>A. We agree about the impacts of the lack of power for temporary events, and that is one of the reasons for proposing utility infrastructure connections. See the <i>Draft Environmental Impact Statement</i>, pages 7, 84, 160 (actions for row 4.1), and 162 (actions for row 4.3). Electric power is discussed as part of infrastructure in the <i>Draft Environmental Impact Statement</i>.</p> <p>B. Entries for 'utilities' and 'utility infrastructure' have been added to the index.</p>   |
| Comment           | Letter 51. Ann Coffey  | Response   |
|                   | <p>Ann Coffey<br/>&lt;ann.coffey@rogers.com&gt;<br/>12/17/2009</p> <p>What a total waste of money!</p> <p>It would be much better spent to actions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions because we're well on our way to destroying our life support system.</p> <p>The mall will look pretty funny then, eh?</p>  | <p>[EDITOR'S NOTE: Comment submitted by e-mail.]</p>   |
| Comment           | Letter 52. John Coghlan  | Response   |
| <p>A</p> <p>B</p> | <p>John Coghlan<br/>(johncoghlan2000@ yahoo.com)<br/>01/01/2010</p> <p>[Comment pertaining to question 1 ("Indicate the extent to which you agree with the overall Preferred Alternative Vision to restore the National Mall.")]</p> <p>At this point I am apposed to any changes to out National Mall. I am sure that their are many dedicated people at The National Parks Service who only have the best intentions in making improvements to the National Mall. I am also well aware of the political manipulations that are underway to use any National Mall improvements project to inhibit ower freedom of speech, and freedom of assembly. The American Peoples freedom of assembly means that we have the right to peaceable assembly in any public space. We will not be moved to an out of the way place where our voices will not be heard. In the peace movement these fenced off designated areas have become known a as Free Speech Cages. We will have no Free Speech Cages erected on the out side our National Mall. All parts of the National Mall have been the traditional place for citizens to express their grievances with their government and it will continue to be so. Constitutionally guaranteed public assembly is going to take place weather the National Parks Service likes it or not. A lot of the photographs on the CD made by the National Mall Improvements Project were pictures of trash that was left after large Political Demonstrations. I suggest that the Parks Department do as they have always done in the past about trash on the National Mall. Pick it up. Our rights as a free people are much more important then greener grass, or a prettier parks. [EDITOR'S NOTE: Similar response to question 2.]</p> <p>[Comment pertaining to question 3 ("Indicate the extent to which you agree with the description of how the Preferred Alternative (which is also the environmentally preferred alternative) compares with other alternatives in meeting National Environmental Policy Act goals.")]</p> <p>Comparing the a small Mall in Washington with National Environmental Policy, or World Ecology is a stupid way for you spin your proposal</p> <p>[Comment pertaining to question 4 ("Indicate the extent to which you agree with the comparison of how the alternatives meet the plan objectives laid out in Table 6.")]</p> <p>The best alternative is to leave our National Mall alone.</p> | <p>[EDITOR'S NOTE: Comments submitted online.]</p> <p>A. The National Mall is an important venue for political speech, and demonstrations will not be restricted into any one area. As has been repeatedly stressed in this planning process, the National Park Service does not propose limiting First Amendment rights or restricting demonstrations to specific areas of the National Mall. Rather, First Amendment gatherings will be enhanced by the plan, and demonstrations will continue to occur throughout the National Mall, as they do today and in accordance with the regulations at 36 CFR 7.96 (see DEIS, pp. 16-18). Indeed, the importance of First Amendment demonstrations is repeatedly emphasized throughout the document; for example, see pages vi, viii, 10, 70, 160, and 303-5. As stated in the "Summary" on page vi, "The National Mall is the most prominent space in our country for the demonstration of First Amendment rights, and that is an essential purpose of the National Mall. Consistent with the First Amendment and federal regulations, demonstrations will continue to be fully accommodated on a first-come, first-served basis throughout the National Mall."</p> <p>B. The National Environmental Policy Act requires that alternatives be compared as to how well the goals of the act are met.</p> |

| Comment           | Letter 53. Brian Daniel  | Response   |
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| <p>A</p> <p>B</p> | <p>Hi: I recieved a DVD in the mail describing the changes that the National Park Service wishes to implement to our Nation's headquarters in Washington DC. After reviewing the DVD that was graciously sent to me, I wish to express my confirmed desire that no changes be made to the NPS management or NPS regulations or NPS existing policy in regards to The Washington DC National Mall. Please don't change a thing. The impressive DVD presentation had disturbing undercurrents and language which is aimed at squashing the free speech it pretends to generously provide for. Specifically powerful individuals, their clients in Congress, and others do not want to see the great unwashed masses trampling their grass, yes I said their grass, not ours. They bought it, and they request changes to National Park Regulations so that selected public protests can be screened out, denied permits, herded into fenced off protest pits and selectively minimized and marginalized. I wrote to you before and said:<br/> May 15, 2009<br/> National Parks Service / National Mall Plan<br/> Dear National Mall Plan,<br/> I am writing to comment on the NPS "Preliminary Preferred Alternative" plan for the reorganization of the National Mall. I ask that the National Park Service guarantee that there will be no new restrictions on the time, place or manner of use of the National Mall for free speech activities. The Mall is an historically important location for free speech in the Nation's Capital. I support the Partnership for Civil Justice Fund's 8 Point Plan to Protect Free Speech and Dissent on the National Mall and request that the NPS affirmatively agree to these points in any final plan. Our National Mall has traditionally been used for large peaceful demonstrations for decades and decades. We honor Rev. Martin Luther King for his peaceful demonstrations there. These moves by NPS to restrict Mall access are in response to requests by very well paid lobbyists and their clients in Congress who feel uneasy with our Great Unwashed Masses who assemble there to peacefully ventilate their anguish. And thanks to what goes on in our capital, we have plenty of anguish.<br/> Sincerely,<br/> Mr. Brian Daniel, 3031 Manoa Rd , Honolulu, HI 96822-1226</p> | <p>[EDITOR'S NOTE: Comments submitted by e-mail.]</p> <p>A. The National Mall is an important venue for political speech, and demonstrations will not be restricted into any one area. As has been repeatedly stressed in this planning process, the National Park Service does not propose limiting First Amendment rights or restricting demonstrations to specific areas of the National Mall. Rather, First Amendment gatherings will be enhanced by the plan, and demonstrations will continue to occur throughout the National Mall, as they do today and in accordance with the regulations at 36 CFR 7.96 (see DEIS, pp. 16-18). Indeed, the importance of First Amendment demonstrations is repeatedly emphasized throughout the document; for example, see pages vi, viii, 10, 70, 160, and 303-5. As stated in the "Summary" on page vi, "The National Mall is the most prominent space in our country for the demonstration of First Amendment rights, and that is an essential purpose of the National Mall. Consistent with the First Amendment and federal regulations, demonstrations will continue to be fully accommodated on a first-come, first-served basis throughout the National Mall."</p> <p>B. The text of the Partnership for Civil Justice Fund's 8-Point Plan referred to by Mr. Daniel was never submitted to the National Park Service as a comment for the <i>Draft National Mall Plan / Environmental Impact Statement</i>. However, it was referenced and submitted by some members of the public for newsletter 4, the public comment period for which ended on May 15, 2009.</p> <p>After review, the 8-Point Plan argues against any "restrictions" or "obstacles" for demonstration activity on the National Mall. While noted, such arguments are generally outside the scope of the <i>Draft Environmental Impact Statement</i>, since such issues are considered by the Park Service based on its existing regulations, which have been determined to be consistent with the First Amendment. These NPS regulations, which also contain no restrictions on the size or frequency of demonstrations on the National Mall, were adopted after the Administrative Procedure Act rulemaking process, which includes a public comment period for any proposed regulatory amendments. In the event that the Park Service considers amending its regulations, any proposed regulatory change will be submitted for public comment through this established rulemaking process.</p> <p>The Park Service does not envision limiting demonstration banners or staging, based on their interference of the line of sight to the U.S. Capitol. As to the issue of fencing at large-scale events, the Park Service's decision when fencing is necessary is based on each factual situation, and ultimately depends on how the Park Service can reasonably help ensure the safety of the public and participants. It is also done in consultation with event organizers, who usually desire fencing to protect their stage area. The 8-Point Plan also objects to any restrictions on back-to-back or multiple-day events, as well as imposing a black out or turf rehabilitation periods. Existing NPS regulations already address applications for demonstrations and have established criteria how they are to be considered. While temporary turf renovation closures do occasionally occur on the National Mall, such decisions are based on NPS regulations and generally occur when other adjacent park areas remain available to accommodate demonstration activities.</p> |
| Comment           | Letter 54. Martha DeVault  | Response   |
| <p>A</p> <p>B</p> | <p>DeVault, Martha J.<br/> &lt;mjdevault@fcpa.edu&gt;<br/> 02/19/2010<br/> To whom it may concern:<br/> The National Mall is given the nickname "The Nation's Front Yard". I think that is a perfect nickname. The Mall is something to be proud of and it needs to be shown in the best possible best light. There is NOTHING wrong with the Mall the way it is now. It just needs to be updated and preserved. Improved walking paths, yes!! Improved restrooms, yes!! Improved drainage, yes!! Better, more sustainable grasses, yes!! KEEP IT SIMPLE!<br/> More restaurants, food courts, snack bars, NO!! I don't know of ANYONE who has a restaurant or a food court in their front yard! This is the National Mall, not Las Vegas!!<br/> Martha DeVault<br/> Fairfax, Virginia</p>  | <p>[EDITOR'S NOTE: Comment submitted by e-mail.]</p> <p>A. We agree, and the intent of the preferred alternative is to make our front yard "worthy of the nation."</p> <p>B. When this planning effort for the National Mall began, more than \$450 million in repairs to aging infrastructure had been identified. Facilities are inadequate for present levels of use.</p>   |

| Comment  | Letter 55. Sherrill Futrell   | Response   |
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|          | <p>Sherrill Futrell<br/>&lt;safutrell@ucdavis.edu&gt;<br/>12/19/2009</p> <p>I don't care what you do to the Mall. Just stop arresting us every time we peacefully protest.</p>  | <p>[EDITOR'S NOTE: Comment submitted by e-mail.]</p>   |
| Comment  | Letter 56. Dan Gamber   | Response   |
| <p>A</p> | <p>Dan Gamber<br/>02/19/2010</p> <p>We have friends and relatives with mobility problems. One has had MS for years. Most can move with walkers, but not far or fast.</p> <p>Once upon a time, when they came to visit DC these friends and relatives had reasonable access to the big monuments. We could park by the Jefferson, there was a lot fairly close to the Washington, and you could actually drive by the front of the Lincoln. You could drive alone Pennsylvania Ave by the front of the White House, and along E St to see the back of the White House. No longer for any of those.</p> <p>Now for the Lincoln and Washington you either have to travel on foot for blocks - if you can find street parking on Constitution. The Jefferson is even more difficult, with the only parking under the 14th St Bridge. For the south side of the White House, the best you can hope for is street parking on 17th. In all cases, without a motorized scooter or wheelchair, our friends and relatives are denied access to or in many cases even a decent view of, the monuments.</p> <p>The new NPS mall plan does not even consider the handicapped. The alternatives section seems to use the term "best practices" as the means of defining the objectives. Pages 54 - 55 on public access make no mention of the handicapped.</p> <p>It is sad, and unnecessary, that our current phobia with "terrorism" has denied access to our most vulnerable - including those who are impaired because of their service in war.</p> <p>Dan Gamber<br/>1502 Caroline St NW<br/>Washington, DC 20009<br/>202 251-7425<br/>daniel@gamber.net</p> | <p>[EDITOR'S NOTE: Comments submitted by e-mail.]</p> <p>A. The <i>Draft Environmental Impact Statement</i> includes multiple references to accessibility, along with facilities and programs for visitors with disabilities, as indicated by entries in the index. Also see pages 85, 86, 178 (actions for row 7.4), and 184 (row 8.3). The proposed plan covers universal accessibility to places, programs, parking, wheelchair rentals, and supplementary transportation. Because of the symbolic and civic importance of the National Mall to all citizens, and its generally flat terrain, we agree that it should be our country's preeminent example for inclusiveness and universal design. The planning objectives on page 7 have been strengthened to address this concern.</p> |
| Comment  | Letter 57. Frederick Graefe   | Response   |
| <p>A</p> | <p>Frederick Graefe<br/>&lt;FGraefe@graefelaw.com&gt;<br/>02/19/2010</p> <p>Pls include in your national mall plan the commitment to replace streetlights when there are outages, and to install new lighting for safety and security reason; e.g., there are many lights along Old Ohio Drive which remain out; also, the streetlights under the TR Bridge along the Rock Creek Parkway, near the Kennedy Center and behind the Lincoln Memorial, have been out for several months; this is unacceptable; I hope u tell DDOT and Pepco to install a new meter so that these lights can be restored; thank you.</p> <p>Frederick H. Graefe, Esq.<br/>Law Offices of Frederick H. Graefe PLLC<br/>319 Constitution Avenue, NE<br/>Washington, D.C. 20002<br/>202.548.0220 (voice)<br/>202.548.0355 (fax)<br/>202.494.6799 (mobile)<br/>www.graefelaw.com</p>   | <p>[EDITOR'S NOTE: Comments submitted by e-mail.]</p> <p>A. Please see the <i>Draft Environmental Impact Statement</i>, pages 87 and 184 (actions for row 8.2), which propose improved lighting.</p>   |

| Comment | Letter 58. Carl Hames  | Response   |
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| A       | <p>Dec 29, 2009</p> <p>National Mall Plan<br/>To Mall Plan,</p> <p>I am writing to you to express my opposition to any proposals to restrict the use of the National Mall for demonstrations. The Mall is vitally important for expressions of political protest in this country, and I demand that its use remain unrestricted for such purposes.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Mr. Carl Hames<br/>2749 Sunlight Dr<br/>Little Elm, TX 75068-7615<br/>(469) 734-0647</p>   | <p>[EDITOR'S NOTE: Comment submitted by fax.]</p> <p>A. As has been repeatedly stressed in this planning process, the National Park Service does not propose limiting First Amendment rights or restricting demonstrations to specific areas of the National Mall. Rather, First Amendment gatherings will be enhanced by the plan, and demonstrations will continue to occur throughout the National Mall, as they do today and in accordance with the regulations at 36 CFR 7.96 (see DEIS, pp. 16-18). Indeed, the importance of First Amendment demonstrations is repeatedly emphasized throughout the document; for example, see pages vi, viii, 10, 70, 160, and 303-5. As stated in the "Summary" on page vi, "The National Mall is the most prominent space in our country for the demonstration of First Amendment rights, and that is an essential purpose of the National Mall. Consistent with the First Amendment and federal regulations, demonstrations will continue to be fully accommodated on a first-come, first-served basis throughout the National Mall."</p> |
| Comment | Letter 59. John Hance  | Response   |
| A       | <p>John Hance<br/>(jdhinatl@aol.com)</p> <p>[Comment pertaining to questions 1, 2, and 6.]</p> <p>The mall should be green grass. The geese at least most of them need to go. The mess the geese make is disgusting.</p>   | <p>[EDITOR'S NOTE: Comments submitted online.]</p> <p>A. All of the alternatives considered in the <i>Draft Environmental Impact Statement</i> include a proposal to address urban wildlife issues and nuisance species, including Canada geese (see pp. 156, actions for row 3.5, and 409).</p>   |
| Comment | Letter 60. William Haskett   | Response   |
| A       | <p>William Haskett<br/>(williamhaskett@hotmail.com)<br/>12/24/2009</p> <p>The nationalmall is not a product of anyone but the accidental coincidence of what was left over from the incomplete Washington Monument, the inadvertent removal of the railway station that stood on it until late in the 19th.C. and the monumental linearity of the so-called MacMillan Plan and its distortions of public purpose in the area.</p> <p>I much prefer Downing's arborial andcurvilinear version of the mid-19th.C.</p> <p>So long as we cannot make DO NOT WALK ON THE GRASS an official doctrine, the nps is barking up the non-existent tree.</p>   | <p>[EDITOR'S NOTE: Comments submitted by e-mail.]</p> <p>A. The McMillan plan vision for the National Mall was carefully thought out; however, it did not foresee the level and types of uses that the National Mall would see by the 21st century. Congress directed the National Park Service to preserve the character of the National Mall, resulting in the present planning effort.</p>  |
| Comment | Letter 61. Chuck Hookstra  | Response   |
|         | <p>Chuck Hookstra<br/>(kentuckyrb1@aol.com)<br/>02/23/2010</p> <p>[Comment pertaining to question 1 ("Indicate the extent to which you agree with the overall Preferred Alternative Vision to restore the National Mall.")]</p> <p>Why don't you government morons leave well enough alone? Spend our money where it will do the most good, like creating jobs.</p> <p>[Comment pertaining to question 2 ("Within each category, indicate the extent to which you agree with the specific elements of the Preferred Alternative vision to restore the National Mall?")]</p> <p>I would, but I don't want to get jailed by Osama bin Obama's Islamic/Fascist Governmental thugs.</p> <p>/S/Chuck Hookstra, 29 year military vet, unemployed History/Civics teacher.</p> | <p>[EDITOR'S NOTE: Comments submitted online.]</p>   |

| Comment                    | Letter 62. Michele Hopkins  | Response   |
|----------------------------|---|--|
| <p>A</p> <p>B</p> <p>C</p> | <p>Michele Hopkins<br/>(Michele@SplendidPortraits.com)<br/>02/21/2010</p> <p>[Comment pertaining to question 1 ("Indicate the extent to which you agree with the overall Preferred Alternative Vision to restore the National Mall.")]</p> <p>Agree that restoring green spaces and water areas is a top priority. Also am pleased with the increases in restrooms, retail/food establishments. Really liked the rental transportation in plan A. Shrinking the Union Station pool is an excellent idea as well.</p> <p>[Comment pertaining to question 2 ("Within each category, indicate the extent to which you agree with the specific elements of the Preferred Alternative vision to restore the National Mall?")]</p> <p>I do agree you must eliminate the gravel but please do not pave the walkways - that looks so common. Consider using brick or pavers instead.</p> <p>[Comment pertaining to question 6 ("Is there anything else you think NPS needs to consider with respect to the Draft National Mall Plan?")]</p> <p>Please make sure to maintain the integrity of the food, restroom and retail establishments you will add. Make sure they fit architecturally with the integrity of the overall aesthetic. I am also concerned that replacing landscaping/grass is a short term solution due to the usage of the mall. How will we improve the look of the Mall while the in the short term while improving the long term maintance so that the money spent lasts?</p> | <p>[EDITOR'S NOTE: Comments submitted online.]</p> <p>A. The plan proposes developing a palette of paving materials appropriate to the character of the National Mall.</p> <p>B. As stated on page 176 of the <i>Draft Environmental Impact Statement</i>, all new visitor service facilities would be designed to be compatible with the character of the National Mall, making them easily identifiable for visitors, strengthening the NPS identity, and denoting that they are secondary to national memorials. Facilities would also be sustainable.</p> <p>C. Ensuring that improvements would be sustainable is a critical concern and important for reducing future corrective and preventive maintenance.</p> |
| Comment                    | Letter 63. Tom Howlett  | Response   |
| <p>A</p> <p>B</p>          | <p>Tom Holwett<br/>02/19/2010</p> <p>Why care about an area that will be flooded in a less than a hundred years.</p> <p>Would it not be better to use the funds in planning a new mall for a new National Capitol that will have to be built as sea level raises.</p> <p>The budget will be tighter and tighter due to the national debt and funds NPS gets need to be spent on projects that will be as the service guide states 'for futuer generations".</p> <p>If you spend it now it want be available then when it is needed.</p> <p>And the current mall is a disgrace, no place to eat, drink or go to the bathroom after hours. The mall becomes a empty place not a lively place.</p> <p>Please stop building in DC and only use funds limited to allow current places under your care to exist until they are relocated or flooded.</p> <p>Let us see the NPS budget for the next 100 - 200 years.</p> <p>This applies to all areas that will be flooded, and replacements for them.</p> <p>Is there a plan to obtain new lands as nature redesigns the landscape submerging old and creating new shore lines?</p> <p>Tom Howlett<br/>3625 Elm Farm Road Lot 125<br/>Woodbridge, VA 22192<br/>Home/Cell: 571-264-9503<br/>Alternate: 571-330-5959<br/>Email: vadogpound@yahoo.com</p>  | <p>[EDITOR'S NOTE: Comments submitted by e-mail.]</p> <p>A. The impacts of global warming are addressed in the <i>Draft Environmental Impact Statement</i> on pages 39–40. Please also see the discussion of climate change under "Summary of Comments and Responses" (page 16).</p> <p>B. Better meeting visitor needs is one of the reasons for the proposed plan.</p>   |

| Comment           | Letter 64. Sydney Jacobs   | Response  |
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| <p>A</p> <p>B</p> | <p>Sydney Jacobs<br/>(sydney.jacobs@verizon.net)<br/>03/14/2010</p> <p>[Comment pertaining to question 1 ("Indicate the extent to which you agree with the overall Preferred Alternative Vision to restore the National Mall.")]</p> <p>Many years ago, I filed a complaint about the inaccessibility of the Mall gravel paths for wheelchair users and others who find the gravel pathways difficult, or impossible to navigate. Despite the opposition of members of the Planning and Fine Arts Commissions, the Park Service did make some improvements: Two north/south pathways were paved with a conglomerate-concrete surface at 9th and 12th sts, in the mid 1990s, and hardened pathways were constructed along Madison and Jefferson Streets as part of street improvements already scheduled along the Mall. I was told that it would probably be years before any meaningful accessibility improvements would be made to the entire site, and that some day, accessibility would be part of a comprehensive renewal for the entire site. So now, more than 15 years later, I am pleased that a 21st century visionary plan for the National Mall is underway. Overall, I am excited at the comprehensive nature of the draft plan, and wholeheartedly endorse the Preferred Alternative Vision. The opening statement of the Preferred plan is an inspiring vision for the site. I am particularly excited that the Park Service recognizes the National Mall NOT just as place of enduring monuments to our past, but as a place of evolving historic importance, where contemporary events continuously unfold to become part of our National Story. For too long, a "sacred" preservation of the built environment has been the excuse for failing to make structures of all kinds accessible to ALL people. By finally recognizing the National Mall as the American "front lawn" and site of current events, that excuse is no longer valid. While the overall plan mentions universal access as part of the Mall renovation, I know through experience as a former NPS employee, and as a user of National Parks, that one can't assume universal access will be a reality with this agency. It is CRITICALLY important that universal accessibility be fully integrated into EVERY aspect and detail as the renovation unfolds. To ensure this happens I hope that persons with expertise in accessibility are part of the planning team with an equal voice to those concerned with both historic and natural preservation. I look forward to the day when the National Mall renovation is complete: not only as a showcase to the world of 21st century sustainable design, enduring history of democracy and natural beauty, but as a premier example of universal design.</p> <p>[Comment pertaining to question 6 ("Is there anything else you think NPS needs to consider with respect to the Draft National Mall Plan?")]</p> <p>While I looked over the entire draft plan, my main concerns are with accessibility for people with mobility impairments. My comments in this area are all in one statement at the beginning of this document. Generally, I find the Plan to be extremely well done, encompassing a well-thought out plan for the Mall that I hope will become reality in my lifetime.</p> | <p>[EDITOR'S NOTE: Comments submitted online.]</p> <p>A. The preferred alternative covers universal accessibility to places and programs, additional parking for people with disabilities, wheelchair rentals, and supplementary transportation.</p> <p>B. Because of the symbolic and civic importance of the National Mall to all citizens, and its generally flat terrain, we agree that it should be our country's preeminent example for inclusiveness and universal design. The planning objectives on page 7 have been strengthened to address this concern.</p> |
| Comment           | Letter 65. Lynn Jone   | Response  |
| <p>A</p>          | <p>Lynn Jone<br/>2/11/2010</p> <p>Dear Sir/Ma'am, It was a hard fought battle for civil rights for African-Americans in the United States of America--and for the most part, much of the movement's success (although there is still much work to do) can be attributed to the Reverend Doctor Martin Luther King, Jr. And now, a monument is being built to honor this great American Icon. Is the granite for such a monument really coming from China? From China? I must write this! Do we not have granite in the United States of America? Do we not have sculptors in the United States of America ? Are there not agencies in the United States who can help the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity come up with the necessary funds to commission a sculptor and sculpture right here in the United States? Americans are finally on the precipice of making our way through the morass of a convoluted racial history, so we cannot possibly allow the repressive Chinese government, which has so little regard for human rights to provide us with the granite for such an important monument--nay, for such an important moment in our history. Thank you for your time, and I look forward to a response.</p> <p>Sincerely,<br/>Lynne Jone</p>   | <p>[EDITOR'S NOTE: Comment submitted by e-mail.]</p> <p>A. The Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial was not included in this planning effort since it had been previously approved and is currently under construction. The comment was responded to separately.</p>  |


| Comment             | Letter 66. Andrew Kalukin  | Response  |
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| A                   | <p>01/30/2010</p> <p>Dear Ms. Spain,</p> <p>I would like to make a few comments on the National Mall Plan Draft Environmental Impact Statement. The materials sent by the Department of the Interior and the web page of NPS have a lot of details, which I think are helpful. Of the several competing goals under consideration -- historical information, increased public space, and ecological considerations -- my greatest priority is increasing the public space. The most important feature of the National Mall is not the monuments or architecture, but the space it provides for the groups of concerned citizens to make their voices heard regarding issues of national importance. I think it is crucial to the Mall's role in our democracy that access to it, and the ability to carry out orderly assembly, should not be impeded by excessive structures. As long as ecological maintenance and historical improvements are made with this in mind, I think it may be possible to accommodate all of these desirable ends. Thank you for considering my comments, and please correct me if I should email another point of contact instead.</p> <p>Best regards,<br/>Andrew Kalukin<br/>Arlington, VA<br/>kalukin_99@yahoo.com</p>  | <p>[EDITOR'S NOTE: Comment submitted by e-mail.]</p> <p>A. Under the preferred alternative, as described on p. viii and throughout the <i>Draft Environmental Impact Statement</i>, the National Mall would be refurbished as our nation's primary civic space so that very high levels of use could be sustained.</p>  |
| Comment             | Letter 67. Lisa Landis   | Response  |
| A                   | <p>Jan 5, 2010</p> <p>National Parks Service / National Mall Plan</p> <p>Dear National Mall Plan,</p> <p>I am writing to comment on the NPS "Preliminary Preferred Alternative" plan for the reorganization of the National Mall. I ask that the National Park Service guarantee that there will be no new restrictions on the time, place or manner of use of the National Mall for free speech activities. The Mall is an historically important location for free speech in the Nation's Capital. I support the Partnership for Civil Justice Fund's 8 Point Plan to Protect Free Speech and Dissent on the National Mall and request that the NPS affirmatively agree to these points in any final plan.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Ms. Lisa Landis<br/>PO Box 1164<br/>Brevard, NC 28712-1164</p>   | <p>[EDITOR'S NOTE: Comments submitted by fax.]</p> <p>A. We agree on the importance of the National Mall as a venue for political speech. As has been repeatedly stressed in this planning process, the National Park Service does not propose limiting First Amendment rights or restricting demonstrations to specific areas of the National Mall. Rather, First Amendment gatherings will be enhanced by the plan, and demonstrations will continue to occur throughout the National Mall, as they do today and in accordance with the regulations at 36 CFR 7.96 (see DEIS, pp. 16-18). Indeed, the importance of First Amendment demonstrations is repeatedly emphasized throughout the document; for example, see pages vi, viii, 10, 70, 160, and 303-5. As stated in the "Summary" on page vi, "The National Mall is the most prominent space in our country for the demonstration of First Amendment rights, and that is an essential purpose of the National Mall. Consistent with the First Amendment and federal regulations, demonstrations will continue to be fully accommodated on a first-come, first-served basis throughout the National Mall."</p>  |
| Comment             | Letter 68. Randy Leader  | Response  |
| A<br><br>B<br><br>C | <p>Randy Leader<br/>(randydl@precicom.net)</p> <p>[Comment pertaining to question 1 ("Indicate the extent to which you agree with the overall Preferred Alternative Vision to restore the National Mall.")]</p> <p>I visited the mall on The 4th in 2008. I was appalled at it's condition. It did not seem to me that it needed a rebuild as much as it just needed to be taken better care of. I don't see why you can't even clean the scum out of the little pools at the nations capital. I think the condition of the mall is YOUR FAULT!!! Now you say you want to make it better. I have not forgiven you for what you did to MT Rushmore when you "Made it better". It is an open and free place right now. Every time I read "Security perimeter" or "Impact on Demonstrations and the first Amendment" I get a real uneasy feeling. I can't help but wonder if we would just be better off if we did nothing and just hired a contractor to take care of the mall and sent the USPS home!!!!</p> <p>[Comment pertaining to question 2 ("Within each category, indicate the extent to which you agree with the specific elements of the Preferred Alternative vision to restore the National Mall?")]</p> <p>More restrooms would be nice. Paving the gravel walkways and repair the existing infustructure should have been done a long time ago!!!</p> | <p>[EDITOR'S NOTE: Comments submitted online.]</p> <p>A. High use levels are a challenge. The scum you refer to is the result of pools designed without filtration systems or recirculation. Staffing for the park is at a near low point, and deferred maintenance (unfunded repairs) was estimated at \$450 million as planning began.</p> <p>B. As has been repeatedly stressed in this planning process, the National Park Service does not propose limiting First Amendment rights or restricting demonstrations to specific areas of the National Mall. Rather, First Amendment gatherings will be enhanced by the plan, and demonstrations will continue to occur throughout the National Mall, as they do today and in accordance with the regulations at 36 CFR 7.96 (see DEIS, pp. 16-18). Indeed, the importance of First Amendment demonstrations is repeatedly emphasized throughout the document; for example, see pages vi, viii, 10, 70, 160, and 303-5. As stated in the "Summary" on page vi, "The National Mall is the most prominent space in our country for the demonstration of First Amendment rights, and that is an essential purpose of the National Mall. Consistent with the First Amendment and federal regulations, demonstrations will continue to be fully accommodated on a first-come, first-served basis throughout the National Mall."</p> <p>C. The items you identified are important are included in the proposed plan.</p> |



| Comment    | Letter 69. Iain Lowrie   | Response  |
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| A          | <p>iain Lowrie<br/>(sbdezine@hotmail.com)</p> <p>[Comment pertaining to question 6 ("Is there anything else you think NPS needs to consider with respect to the Draft National Mall Plan?")]</p> <p>with reference to improvement to the facilities for the playing of SAND VOLLEYBALL at far north end of mall, colloquially referred to as "The Lincoln Mall Courts" near the Kennedy Center: specifically the improvement of drainage; installation of a system to keep the playing field level with sand, specifically, the inclusion of permanent wood perimeter barriers level to the ground surface 2 1/2 feet from the actual court line markings, which would aid in the reduction of erosion; improvement of the nets and poles; a potable drinking water source (there have been several dehydration incidents there during summer months) and perhaps either a foot or full body shower off spot, and most importantly, the installation of lighting that would enable play to continue after dusk. These lights could be installed along the walkway of the street parallel to the Potomac River, which is used as an entrance way to the Memorial Bridge from Rock Creek Parkway. Here they would not be an intrusion on specific park land. Placed elsewhere in the area, they would light several more courts, as well as being a safety factor for cyclist and pedestrians who use the pathway that runs through the aforementioned field of courts. There are many others who support these improvements. I have had the great satisfaction of enjoying the VB courts for more than 20 years. Thank you for your time.</p>   | <p>[EDITOR'S NOTE: Comments submitted online.]</p> <p>A. A small restroom facility with drinking fountains has been added to the preferred alternative for this area. Because of its location, a self-cleaning restroom might be considered.</p>  |
| Comment    | Letter 70. John Mariani  | Response  |
| A          | <p>&lt;john@jma2.com&gt;<br/>02/19/2010</p> <p>please please do not pave over the gravel areas of the mall, as proposed. the gravel is a wonderful texture, aesthetically pleasing, and works well with the grassy areas. we are going to great efforts around the country these days to encourage removal of paving, a small but important idea of sustainable sites (LEED). paving over the miles of gravel would send exactly the wrong message and probably create headaches with ponding and runoff after rain storms. if i am not mistaken, the mall was essentially a swamp in its original natural state; gravel may have been chosen back then for absorption purposes. i think they knew what they were doing.</p> <p>thanks,<br/>john mariani</p>   | <p>[EDITOR'S NOTE: Comments submitted by e-mail.]</p> <p>A. A gravel surface is not necessarily porous. It is difficult to maintain since it migrates into turf and onto walks. It is inaccessible to many, especially visitors in wheelchairs and those pushing strollers, and it generates a great deal of dust that causes complaints about breathing and dust in eyes. Aesthetically pleasing characteristics and texture can be criteria for paving. Also see response 8D and the discussion of gravel walkways under "Summary of Comments and Responses," beginning on page 12.</p> |
| Comment    | Letter 71. Peter McCann  | Response  |
| A<br><br>B | <p>Peter McCann<br/>(rawlysbu@aol.com)<br/>02/22/2010</p> <p>[Comment pertaining to question 1 ("Indicate the extent to which you agree with the overall Preferred Alternative Vision to restore the National Mall.")]</p> <p>Probably need to put sprinkler systems throughout the grounds. Need better soil. Also should probably rotate areas where pedestrians can not walk so as to allow grass to recover. The mall area should look like a botanical garden....</p> <p>[Comment pertaining to question 2 ("Within each category, indicate the extent to which you agree with the specific elements of the Preferred Alternative vision to restore the National Mall?")]</p> <p>A few suggestions: Many more cameras covering the mall area and monuments ... including night vision capability. Need to probably triple the number of park guards. One park guard should always be giving a presentation at the key memorials and one should always be nearby for questions. Attractive plaques should be placed at key points that provide history and key stats about the monuments -- and the Presidents or wars they are commemorating.</p> <p>[Comment pertaining to question 6 ("Is there anything else you think NPS needs to consider with respect to the Draft National Mall Plan?")]</p> <p>I have long said that the Mall area was a national disgrace. I hope they invest the money, time and resources to do it right. Millions of people from around the world come to Washington DC every year and almost all of them visit the mall grounds. The mall area should be beautiful, well manicured lawns, beautiful flowers every where — regardless of season — and multiple park guards should be giving presentations 12 hours a day. They also need guards at the major monuments 24 hours a day. Do you know there are no guards at the monuments at night? Someone could plant a bomb at night and blow the Lincoln Memorial to pieces. they need guards.</p> | <p>[EDITOR'S NOTE: Comments submitted online.]</p> <p>A. We agree that irrigation and better soils are needed.</p> <p>B. Park rangers and United States Park Police are involved with protecting memorials and answering visitors' questions. Rangers also provide programs and orientation. In addition to programs, brochures, and cell phone tours, wayside exhibits are educational panels that provide information about specific memorials and topics.</p>  |

| Comment           | Letter 72. Jo Mozingo  | Response  |
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| <p>A</p>          | <p>JO MOZINGO<br/>(jomozingo@gmail.com)</p> <p>[Comment pertaining to question 2 ("Within each category, indicate the extent to which you agree with the specific elements of the Preferred Alternative vision to restore the National Mall?")]</p> <p>This plan is the only one that keeps the historical sense of our Mall while allowing it to truly be a space of our people. It lays out the necessary steps to enhance all uses as well as protect and invigorate and maintain the natural spaces for our grandchildren. It also recognizes the tremendous importance of the Park Rangers and hopefully may allow them time to be interpreters rather than enforcers.</p> <p>[Comment pertaining to question 3 ("Indicate the extent to which you agree with the description of how the Preferred Alternative (which is also the environmentally preferred alternative) compares with other alternatives in meeting National Environmental Policy Act goals.")]</p> <p>The Preferred Alternative balances high numbers occasional use and daily recreational use while maintaining the integrity of the spaces and maintenance of landscape.</p> <p>[Comment pertaining to question 4 ("Indicate the extent to which you agree with the comparison of how the alternatives meet the plan objectives laid out in Table 6.")]</p> <p>Again, the Preferred Alternative enhances the experiences of a broad range of visitors and users while respecting the cultural, historical and physical health of The Mall. I especially want to preserve the N/S E/W axis.</p> <p>[Comment pertaining to question 6 ("Is there anything else you think NPS needs to consider with respect to the Draft National Mall Plan?")]</p> <p>NO PARKING LOTS!!!!!!!!!!!! UNDERGROUND OR ABOVE GROUND! Parking lots are legal graffiti: once they appear the perimeters always gradually increase. The Mall is not the place to "pave paradise and put up a parking lot".</p> | <p>[EDITOR'S NOTE: Comments submitted online.]</p> <p>A. The plan proposes converting a staff parking lot to additional parking for visitors with disabilities (see DEIS, pp. 91 and 212, actions for row 13.4).</p>  |
| Comment           | Letter 73. Timothy Price   | Response  |
| <p>A</p> <p>B</p> | <p>Timothy Price<br/>timothy.key.price@valley.net<br/>12/30/2009</p> <p>Hello, Have been looking at the photographs you have provided and learning about the National Mall Plan. We here in Vermont, the stone capital of the world, have lost our stone industry due to the quick fix that steel and concrete structures promise. Unfortunately, they do not make use local materials, labor, and do not last very long.</p> <p>We would like to see and believe that it would be in the best interest of the country if we were to begin to use stone bridges again.=Vermont and New York states have this week lost the Crown Point Bridge which is similar in size to this one, but was of steel and concrete.</p> <p>Because it has been so long since stone arch bridges were built, there is not much knowledge nor awareness of these magnificent and durable works of art. So... when I saw your photographs of this bridge, without any recognition, acknowledgment of it, nor even a mention of its existence, I was amazed, disappointed, and frankly, quite annoyed at this obvious lack of appreciation for a structure equal to any of the the monuments in Washington. Please, will you do something to make up for this omission? It would be very helpful if you would highlight the merits of this structure. It deserves at least as much attention, promotion, historic recognition, as anything else on the Mall, and perhaps even more. This bridge would be more suitable to serve as a replacement for the Crown Point Bridge. I wish this would be emulated there. It could be if the public and our leaders were to be educated as to their advantages of great beauty and permanence.</p> <p>thank you,</p> <p>timothy k. price</p> <p>fairlee, vermont</p>  | <p>[EDITOR'S NOTE: Comments submitted by e-mail.]</p> <p>A. Stone is an excellent material for use in memorials and other lasting civic structures such as bridges because of its beauty, strength, and enduring qualities.</p> <p>B. The picture you are referring to is of Arlington Memorial Bridge, which we agree is a beautiful example of a stone arch bridge. This bridge is managed by the neighboring national park system area, George Washington Memorial Parkway, so it is not directly addressed in the document.</p> |

| Comment           | Letter 74. Larry Powers  | Response  |
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| <p>A</p> <p>B</p> | <p>Dear Ms. Spain:</p> <p>I do not believe that it would be good for the country as a whole, for the National Park Service to perform the construction and maintenance projects laid out in this Plan, in the manner in which those projects have been proposed. Even if the National Park Service were to get every dime that they are requesting, and even if all projects were completed in accordance with the highest quality standards, the result would be the American People paying somebody else to do their yard work. If, as is stated in the Plan, the National Mall is a symbol of America and our Government, here in this Republic, then hiring a contractor to maintain "our front yard" merely perpetuates the image of a people who are ruled by their Government, or kept lulled to sleep by entertainments provided by that Government, rather than cultivating the image of a people who actively participate in the direction of that Government. Urge the National Park Service to consider asking the American People to offer their own toil, in service to the beautification of the National Mall, as a symbol of their willingness to participate in, and to direct, their Government, itself. The "de-compaction" of the soil of just one of the grassy quadrangles nearest the Capitol, using volunteer labor and Roto-Tillers from across the country, would serve as an undeniable demonstration of the civic pride felt by our population, and of the willingness of our citizenry to perform whatever "heavy lifting" should be required of citizens of a Republic, in whatever aspect of civic life in which such effort is needed. A year or so ago, when the Potomac River flooded and news reports suggested that the Mall might be in danger, I walked from my home, then in Silver Spring, to the Jefferson Memorial. I walked, because I lacked a car. Yet I brought food and water enough to share, first-aid supplies, and a shovel, so that I might participate in any effort that might be going on, to build sand-bag barricades against the rising water. I cannot believe that I am the only citizen in this country who loves his land enough to be willing to expend his own effort and resources in pursuit of the preservation of the National Mall. The First Lady recently sent Christmas ornaments to public schools, all across the country. Students in those schools decorated those ornaments and returned them to the White House, for use on one of the Christmas trees there. That same willingness to participate in the beautification of this city may be cultivated and solicited in the interest of preserving and improving the National Mall.</p> <p>Boy Scout troops and DeMolay chapters across the country, at the very least, might embark upon efforts to demonstrate their capacity to perform professional-quality gold-leafing, for example. They could send examples of their work to the National Park Service, in hopes of being selected to participate in the refurbishing, for example, of the statues standing at Memorial Bridge, which were given to the United States as a diplomatic gift. Were a Jamboree or other youth group convention to be held in the Washington area, part of the itinerary might be to aid in the performance of landscape projects under the direction of the National Park Service. Even the reconstruction of dry-laid stone walls, along the Potomac, might be accomplished with the aid of civic groups, young and old.</p> <p>While the National Park Service is, indeed, a custodian of the National Mall and other national parks, major maintenance projects ought to serve as opportunities to enlist the aid and human effort of the actual owners of those properties. If there were a forest fire blazing in a National Park, part of the civic duty of any citizen in the area would be to make himself or herself available, to aid in combating that forest fire. If the National Mall requires periodic maintenance of an extraordinary nature, the citizens of this country can provide both the tools and the muscle required, in order to perform the majority of the work that needs to be done, under National Park Service oversight.</p> <p>The Mall is not supposed to be an Interstate highway that herds people through it by the fastest possible means; nor is it supposed to be some kind of pristine European or Asian park in which everyone must "keep off the grass". Because those grassy areas are supposed to invite people to walk on them, to play on them, and to roll around on them, while they are visiting this city, those areas do not need to look like the landscape of an exclusive country estate. But, while the impact of soil compaction cannot be denied, there is no reason that civic associations from across the country cannot descend upon Washington, each fall, to "Roto-Till" those grassy areas on some kind of scheduled, rotating basis.</p> <p>Everything that gets built is a maintenance issue; and the new construction that is included in most of the options considered, in the Plan, would only add new maintenance projects to the list whose completion the National Park Service is already hard-pressed to complete with available funds. I believe that what I am proposing, in my comments, here, is a good deal more creative than some other means have been, that seek to achieve the completion of those projects. Congress will always starve you, regardless of the reason. Why not, then, assume that the American People want to be treated as owners of this land, rather than as guests in their own front yard, with all kinds of expensive entertainments and lawn ornaments on display, for their amusement? Why not say, "Hey, we work for you. We can keep the grass cut and the flower beds weeded. But when the whole lawn needs Roto-Tilled, many hands make light work; we're the experts, but we need you to lend a hand."</p> | <p>[EDITOR'S NOTE: Comments submitted by e-mail.]</p> <p>A. Volunteers do and will continue to play an essential role on the National Mall. As described in the <i>Draft Environmental Impact Statement</i> on pages 353–54, more than 30,000 hours are donated annually, with an estimated value of over \$621,000. Volunteers include youth groups, school students, military groups, companies, and families, as well as individuals. Work ranges from skilled labor to cleanup, from painting and weeding to putting on programs. We appreciate your willingness to volunteer. The majority of projects proposed in the plan will require technical skills that volunteers may or may not possess. We envision that private donations will be an important means for undertaking approved projects on the National Mall, along with ongoing volunteer efforts.</p> <p>B. The soil today needs to be restored so it can be cared for. Compaction may extend more than 2 feet deep, so more drastic measures than rototilling are required.</p> |

| Comment | Letter 74. Larry Powers (cont.)  | Response   |
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| C       | <p>The alternatives presented in the Plan appear to continue the "dis-connect" between the American People and "our" "front yard". The proposed renovations appear to "throw money at the problem" without increasing the ownership stake of our citizens in maintaining, more than the National Mall, the Republic, itself. The United States of America, if it is to remain a Republic, cannot be populated by a citizenry unwilling to perform their own lawn maintenance. I ask you to reconsider the substance of the Plan for the National Mall, so that its achievement will make the Mall a symbol of a reality that we can all be proud of. A reality in which the citizens of this country rule, rather than being ruled. A reality in which the Government provides expertise, opportunity, and, sometimes, inspiration, rather than an insistence that the citizens of this country just shut up, pay taxes, and take what we're given. The National Park Service can, even in the proposals it puts forward, regarding the National Mall, assist in the development of a body politic that is capable of serving responsibly, as a citizen of a Republic should; not only the public interest, but the private interest, also. By so doing, the employees of the National Park Service would be acting in accordance with the oath of office taken by each employee of the National Park Service, upon his or her appointment to his or her first Federal Government post.</p> <p>Sincerely,<br/>Larry Powers</p> | C. As stated in response A to your comment, volunteers will continue to play a crucial role on the National Mall, and we hope that role will expand. We can explore providing daily postings of cleanup/fix-up activities on the National Mall as opportunities for visitor participation. |
| Comment | Letter 75. Jean Public   | Response   |
|         |  <p>jean public<br/>&lt;usacitizen1@live.com&gt;<br/>12/25/2009 05:38 PM</p> <p>To &lt;susan_spain@nps.gov&gt;, &lt;info@taxpayer.net&gt;, &lt;media@cagw.org&gt;<br/>cc<br/>bcc<br/>Subject public comment on federal register eis 2009 0432</p> <p>i do not think the taxpayers should be spending billions on this national mall at this time. the mall is good enough and can exist as it is right now for a while. americans have no food, no homes, no medical care. the national mall can wait for repairs. jean public 15 elm st florham park nj 07932</p>  | [EDITOR'S NOTE: Comment submitted by e-mail.]  |
| Comment | Letter 76. Tom Rampulla  | Response   |
|         | <p>Tom Rampulla<br/>(TomRamp03@aol.com)<br/>2/17/2010</p> <p>[Comment pertaining to question 1 ("Indicate the extent to which you agree with the overall Preferred Alternative Vision to restore the National Mall.")]</p> <p>The National Mall should be the shining gem of our nation's capitol.</p>   | [EDITOR'S NOTE: Comment submitted online.]   |
| Comment | Letter 77. Jerry and Peg Schubert  | Response   |
| A       | <p>Jerry &amp; Peg Schubert<br/>&lt;jerryandpeg.schubert@gmail.com&gt;<br/>02/19/2010</p> <p>Leave the dimensions of the reflecting pool as they are.</p>  | <p>[EDITOR'S NOTE: Comment submitted by e-mail.]</p> <p>A. If you are referring to the Lincoln Reflecting Pool, it is being rehabilitated and the dimensions will stay the same. There is a proposal to reconsider the size of the Capitol Reflecting Pool.</p>                            |
| Comment | Letter 78. Sarah Simmons   | Response   |
| A       | <p>Sarah Simmons<br/>&lt;simmonssarah@sbcglobal.net&gt;<br/>12/19/2009</p> <p>What SPECIFICALLY organization(s) is behind this?</p>  | <p>[EDITOR'S NOTE: Comment submitted by e-mail.]</p> <p>A. The National Park Service prepared the plan. In 2005 Congress directed the National Park Service to prepare a plan for the National Mall to preserve its character, and the planning effort began in November 2006.</p>         |

| Comment | Letter 79. Brian Simpson  | Response  |
|---------|---|---|
| A       | <p>Brian Simpson<br/>(bas85310@yahoo.com)<br/>12/22/2009</p> <p>Free speech zones and unlawful assemblies have no place, no place in a democratic republic. Any non-violent assembly, any form of speech is protected by the United States Constitution as legal and shall not be obstructed by law enforcement because the sanctity of the state may come under threat. The state, which is the formation of the citizens within the state, have the power and authority to challenge the legitimacy of the state at any time.</p> <p>The oppression and repression of the state and law enforcement directed towards citizens movements may be effective towards quelling dissent in the quest of the state at protecting its power, however, actually, [expletive deleted] however. Continue your march towards fascism, dictatorship, oligarchy, police-state; but do not be fooled that you are performing any act that is the realm of justice, humanity, decency, morality, civility, freedom, democracy, equality, or fairness. You may be convincing the entire (misinformed) public that law enforcement has the right and duty to protect private property of the rich and powerful, while the rest of us fight for table scraps, but I will not be fooled. My brothers and sisters of mother earth will not be fooled either and when the lines are drawn in the sand, should you not align yourself with us, you will be treated with the same contempt that you treat criminals and terrorists.</p> | <p>[EDITOR'S NOTE: Comment submitted by e-mail.]</p> <p>A. As has been repeatedly stressed in this planning process, the National Park Service does not propose limiting First Amendment rights or restricting demonstrations to specific areas of the National Mall. Rather, First Amendment gatherings will be enhanced by the plan, and demonstrations will continue to occur throughout the National Mall, as they do today and in accordance with the regulations at 36 CFR 7.96 (see DEIS, pp. 16-18). Indeed, the importance of First Amendment demonstrations is repeatedly emphasized throughout the document; for example, see pages vi, viii, 10, 70, 160, and 303-5. As stated in the "Summary" on page vi, "The National Mall is the most prominent space in our country for the demonstration of First Amendment rights, and that is an essential purpose of the National Mall. Consistent with the First Amendment and federal regulations, demonstrations will continue to be fully accommodated on a first-come, first-served basis throughout the National Mall."</p> <p>The First Amendment and civic space is an educational topic identified in the <i>Draft Environmental Impact Statement</i> (see pp. 85 and 172, actions for row 6.2). To emphasize the importance of the First Amendment, a new NPS brochure, <i>The First Amendment on the National Mall</i>, was issued in April 2010 and is available. It highlights key sites for free speech and includes cell phone tour call-in numbers for six locations.</p> |
| Comment | Letter 80. Jon Spinac   | Response  |
| A       | <p>Jan 27, 2010</p> <p>National Mall Plan</p> <p>To Mall Plan,</p> <p>I am writing to you to express my opposition to any proposals to restrict the use of the National Mall for demonstrations. The Mall is vitally important for expressions of political protest in this country, and I demand that its use remain unrestricted for such purposes.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Mr. Jon Spinac<br/>29 E 22nd St<br/>New York, NY 10010-5303</p>  | <p>[EDITOR'S NOTE: Comment submitted by fax.]</p> <p>A. We agree on the importance of the National Mall as a venue for political speech. As has been repeatedly stressed in this planning process, the National Park Service does not propose limiting First Amendment rights or restricting demonstrations to specific areas of the National Mall. Rather, First Amendment gatherings will be enhanced by the plan, and demonstrations will continue to occur throughout the National Mall, as they do today and in accordance with the regulations at 36 CFR 7.96 (see DEIS, pp. 16-18). Indeed, the importance of First Amendment demonstrations is repeatedly emphasized throughout the document; for example, see pages vi, viii, 10, 70, 160, and 303-5. As stated in the "Summary" on page vi, "The National Mall is the most prominent space in our country for the demonstration of First Amendment rights, and that is an essential purpose of the National Mall. Consistent with the First Amendment and federal regulations, demonstrations will continue to be fully accommodated on a first-come, first-served basis throughout the National Mall."</p>   |

| Comment   | Letter 81. R. Steffens   | Response  |
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| <p>A</p> <p>B</p> <p>C</p> <p>D</p> <p>E</p> <p>F</p> | <p>steffensr@comcast.net<br/>03/14/2010</p> <p>Dear Sirs:</p> <p>I appreciate the opportunity to provide my comments on the National Mall Plan – I base some of my comments based on observations made while working in WDC for over 20-years, serving for several years as a volunteer as an Information Specialist with the Smithsonian, several years as a volunteer guide with U.S. Capitol Guide Service, and several seasons as a paid tour guide with TourMobile.</p> <p>I would like offer the following comments:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I support the idea of cancelling parking on 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 7<sup>th</sup> Sts between Independence and Constitution. However, I also support banning parking on Jefferson and Madison Drives. This for several reasons – it has turned into a free parking area essentially for federal workers who work in the area. This coupled with number of children who play when on the NM who are not aware of the traffic – they are there to have fun. Having worked as a police officer in a resort community – many car-pedestrian incidents were a result of inattention on the part of vacationing drivers and kids not paying proper attention. I suggest that J&amp;M Drives be used for the discharge of tourist from buses (buses to move on), the transit of Tourmobile, and the transit of museum support vehicles. Private vehicles should be banned. Atlantic City, NJ has developed a system that accommodates tourists and the buses – buses drop off and pick up on a schedule – the buses do not park in the casino areas – pickup times are scheduled and buses are not permitted to circle the streets looking for those who failed to meet the bus. This may sound harsh – it beats the traffic snarls – granted that AC doesn't have a large work force.</li> <li>• Street vendors – I know several years ago that vendors were removed from the NM – only to haunt the adjacent streets. They are still an eyesore, if not overpriced the quality of their respective merchandise remains questionable. I believe that some coordination with DC officials can better regulate this. Without officially sponsored food/beverage vendors on the NM – these folks provide a valuable service at somewhat inflated prices. If the NM will become a tourist friendly area – I suggest that food/beverage prices not be that of highway robbery.</li> <li>• The proposal regarding renaming the WMATA Metrorail stops – is short sighted. There isn't tourist one that does not focus on getting to SMITHSONIAN station – that doesn't need be renamed or enhanced with NM – other stops need to be better ID'd L'Eflant Plaza – NM East – (Air&amp;Space, Hirschorn, NMAI,) are closer to L'Eflant Plaza – than to SI stop – if coming from VA it is less Metro stops – I have directed literally thousands of folks waiting at Metro platforms in VA – waiting for the Blue Line because it says SI – and the Yellow train moves through essentially empty. Navy Memorial – McPherson Square – Farragut West, Federal Triangle, etc also are close to many tourist destinations. As a tour guide I would advise tourist wanting to visit the National Zoo – to go the Cleveland Park Station – why? With kids, strollers, and wheelchairs – the NZ is downhill from Cleveland Park – and after visiting the NZ – go to Woodley Park/NZ – it is also downhill from the NZ. The NZ is equi-distant from both stops.</li> <li>• When the enhancements occur the criminal element will not be far behind – police and other assistance need to readily available and indiscreetly visible. This to include medical support based on the NM. Having worked in a major theme park chain as a paramedic – I know the importance of having qualified help (medical/security) close at hand – but indiscreetly. Having watched the homeless and undesirables make camp on ventilation grates, doorways of federal/commercial building in the NM area – enhanced tourist facilities will also become homeless shelters, – an enhanced security presence will be demanded.</li> <li>• The Plan discusses “deferred maintenance” – isn't deferred maintenance and timely upgrades a primary reason why the NM has fallen into the state of disrepair that is now in. Timely maintenance will serve to keep the long-term maintenance and replacement at a reduced cost and manageable level.</li> <li>• Tours on NM – I have been trained by SI, the Capitol Guide Service, and Tourmobile – as to the NM and surrounding areas. Tourmobile, sponsored by the Department of Interior, has an advantage as it can traverse M&amp;J Drives has access to Arlington National Cemetery, and has a dedicated narrator. However, their equipment is outdated and inferior – there are other services that have superior/ modern equipment – they only lack a dedicated narrator and access to deal directly with the visitors. It is time this service be upgraded.</li> </ul> | <p>[EDITOR'S NOTE: Comment submitted by e-mail.]</p> <p>A. The <i>Draft Environmental Impact Statement</i> states there is a need for additional tour bus management work (p. 168). The <i>Visitor Transportation Study</i> referenced throughout the plan proposes metered parking on Madison and Jefferson drives to make parking more available for visitors.</p> <p>B. Better dispersal and additional food service options are proposed in the <i>Draft Environmental Impact Statement</i>. The National Park Service does authorize concessions on the National Mall, and prices are to be comparable with those at surrounding facilities.</p> <p>C. The pedestrian guide system under development will help visitors on the National Mall better find multiple Metro stops. However, adding the name of the National Mall to the Smithsonian would increase visitor information.</p> <p>D. The preferred alternative recommends a number of best practices, including crime prevention through environmental design, that can help address the issues you raise. This includes seating not conducive to sleeping or skateboarding, plant material of a certain type and height, and facilities designed to withstand vandalism.</p> <p>E. Aging infrastructure is a significant component of the deferred maintenance cost.</p> <p>F. The <i>Visitor Transportation Study</i> referenced throughout the document is about a replacement system.</p> |

| Comment | Letter 82. Doug Stone  | Response  |
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| A       | <p>Doug Stone<br/>stoneda70@hotmail.com</p> <p>I just finished reading the article in today's Examiner, and, have a few comments. Please don't misunderstand, I'm not trying to be disrespectful or otherwise do I claim that I'm intimately familiar with NPS processes. However, I do solicit your logical approach to my comments.</p> <p>My father visits me (in King George, VA from Indiana) from time to time and we always somehow end-up walking through the mall. The same remarks emerge every time - what happened? Reportedly, the National Mall was pristine in the 1960's, the grass was green and things were generally in excellent order. However, the topic always turns to our agreement, that the greatest nation in the world is incapable of maintaining it's showcase property. How is that?</p> <p>How about this approach, which contains good ole' American pride and value - Lets try to maintain the property we own first, then think about any possibilities of modernizing later, after we've proven that we can handle the existing required maintenance with a long term plan. That thought contains the most basic maintenance principal that many of us use on a personal basis. It's also a practice used by our Nuclear Submarine Force that I retired from and has worked quite well. Otherwise, we as taxpayers, are throwing money at something else that will turn sour over the course of several years. In short - scrap the shocking "lets go buy a new house" ideas..and lets try to maintain what we've got first. By the way - when will the WWI memorial be fixed...and maintained in good condition for the next couple hundred years? We've failed at that so-far, so what makes us think we can add a bunch of other stuff and hope it's maintained? Whaaaaaat? the funding process doesn't support such maintenance sustainment? If someone needs help, call Kokomo Indiana, or maybe Detroit. I hear some folks out there know something about maintenance principals...</p> | <p>[EDITOR'S NOTE: Comment submitted by e-mail.]</p> <p>A. The level of use on the National Mall has increased dramatically since the 1960s as a result of new memorials that have been added and a large increase in the number of and attendance at events. Balancing use and preservation is challenging, and as described in the <i>Draft Environmental Impact Statement</i>, many problems have contributed to the deterioration of the National Mall's appearance. NPS staff do undertake regular maintenance operations, along with recurring, preventive, and corrective maintenance actions as needed (see DEIS, p. 349). By the time that this planning effort began, deferred maintenance was more than \$450 million.</p> <p>B. Restoration of the D.C. War Memorial, which was funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, is scheduled to begin in the fall 2010.</p> |
| Comment | Letter 83. Cornelia Strawser   | Response  |
| A       | <p>Cornelia Strawser<br/>(strawserc@aol.com)</p> <p>[Comment pertaining to question 1 ("Indicate the extent to which you agree with the overall Preferred Alternative Vision to restore the National Mall.")]</p> <p>The presentation is long, complicated, and hard to deal with, but as best I can tell without devoting the next week to it, it preserves the good and improves what needs improving.</p> <p>[Comment pertaining to question 2 ("Within each category, indicate the extent to which you agree with the specific elements of the Preferred Alternative vision to restore the National Mall?")]</p> <p>One thing not clear to me was what happens to the carousel--it should very definitely be kept. I think the preferred alternative keeps the Folklife Festival which I likewise think should be kept on the Mall. I don't want the Mall to be exclusively a place for political demonstrations.</p> <p>[Comment pertaining to question 6 ("Is there anything else you think NPS needs to consider with respect to the Draft National Mall Plan?")]</p> <p>I love the new emphasis on the great Grant Memorial and shrinking the pool. Please keep the carousel and the folklife festival as well as the staging area for political demonstrations--all are important. And preserve the great vista.</p>  | <p>[EDITOR'S NOTE: Comments submitted online.]</p> <p>A. The carousel would remain under the preferred alternative, and the agreement with the Smithsonian Institution would be updated (see DEIS, pp. 90 and 208, actions for row 11.6 under "Visitor Recreation").</p>  |

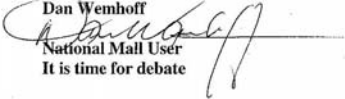
| Comment           | Letter 84. Gary Thompson   | Response  |
|-------------------|--|---|
|                   | <p>Gary Thompson<br/>(garycheri@pacbell.net)<br/>12/19/2009</p> <p>[Comment pertaining to question 1 ("Indicate the extent to which you agree with the overall Preferred Alternative Vision to restore the National Mall.")]<br/>Upon reading each alternative, I favor the "Preferred Alternative" because it best employs all the best features.</p> <p>[Comment pertaining to question 2 ("Within each category, indicate the extent to which you agree with the specific elements of the Preferred Alternative vision to restore the National Mall?")]<br/>It seems most sensible to me.</p> <p>[Comment pertaining to question 3 ("Indicate the extent to which you agree with the description of how the Preferred Alternative (which is also the environmentally preferred alternative) compares with other alternatives in meeting National Environmental Policy Act goals.")]<br/>Simply the best way forward</p>   | <p>[EDITOR'S NOTE: Comments submitted online.]</p>  |
| Comment           | Letter 85. Carol Trainer   | Response  |
| <p>A</p> <p>B</p> | <p>Carol Rawert Trainer<br/>&lt;CRawertTrainer@insightbb.com&gt;<br/>01/03/2010</p> <p>I recently received a dvd of the Draft National Mall Plan and Environmental Impact Statement. I want to say that this promotion seems to me to be a <b>great waste of taxpayer money</b>. It could have been better done via the internet instead, saving lots of money and making it easier for people to see and understand. And secondly, all the pdf files were very confusing and time intensive. Not many people will view them all. We have too many other problems facing this country now that need taxpayer money. This seems almost sinful to do this.</p> <p>Also, I do not like the plan that has the shape of the cross. This is a nation of many religions, not just Christians, and I think this is a bad decision.</p> <p>I love the national mall the way it is now. The two improvements I think are needed is more public bathrooms and better access to bus/metro lines.</p> <p>sincerely,<br/>Carol Rawert Trainer<br/>Prospect, KY</p> | <p>[EDITOR'S NOTE: Comments submitted by e-mail.]</p> <p>A. You received a copy of the <i>Draft Environmental Impact Statement</i> because your name was on our mailing list, indicating that you had contacted the National Park Service about the National Mall plan during the planning process. The plan was online, and notices were sent to our e-mail list about online availability.</p> <p>B. The great cross axis is part of the historic design for what we now call the National Mall, dating to the original design by Pierre L'Enfant in 1791 and the McMillan plan 1901-1902. It is not religious but a design element that expresses crossing vistas and viewpoints.</p>  |
| Comment           | Letter 86. John Truesdale  | Response  |
| <p>A</p>          | <p>Jan 5, 2010</p> <p>National Parks Service / National Mall Plan</p> <p>Dear National Mall Plan,</p> <p>I am writing to comment on the NPS "Preliminary Preferred Alternative" plan for the reorganization of the National Mall. I ask that the National Park Service guarantee that there will be no new restrictions on the time, place or manner of use of the National Mall for free speech activities. The Mall is an historically important location for free speech in the Nation's Capital. I support the Partnership for Civil Justice Fund's 8 Point Plan to Protect Free Speech and Dissent on the National Mall and request that the NPS affirmatively agree to these points in any final plan.</p> <p>Sincerely,</p> <p>Mr. john milus truesdale<br/>2131 Lead Ave SE<br/>Albuquerque, NM 87106-4007</p>   | <p>[EDITOR'S NOTE: Comment submitted by fax.]</p> <p>A. We agree on the importance of the National Mall as a venue for political speech. As has been repeatedly stressed in this planning process, the National Park Service does not propose limiting First Amendment rights or restricting demonstrations to specific areas of the National Mall. Rather, First Amendment gatherings will be enhanced by the plan, and demonstrations will continue to occur throughout the National Mall, as they do today and in accordance with the regulations at 36 CFR 7.96 (see DEIS, pp. 16-18). Indeed, the importance of First Amendment demonstrations is repeatedly emphasized throughout the document; for example, see pages vi, viii, 10, 70, 160, and 303-5. As stated in the "Summary" on page vi, "The National Mall is the most prominent space in our country for the demonstration of First Amendment rights, and that is an essential purpose of the National Mall. Consistent with the First Amendment and federal regulations, demonstrations will continue to be fully accommodated on a first-come, first-served basis throughout the National Mall."</p> |



| Comment | Letter 87. Daniel Wemhoff  | Response   |
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|         | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>LAW OFFICE OF DANIEL WEMHOFF</b></p> <p>Dan Wemhoff<br/> 4600 S. Four Mile Run Dr. #831<br/> Arlington, VA 22204<br/> (703) 589-2199<br/> e-mail: danwem@yahoo.com</p> <p>National Mall Plan<br/> c/o Deryn Goodwin – Planning div.<br/> National Park Service<br/> 12795 West Alameda Parkway<br/> Denver, CO 80225</p> <p>National Mall Plan Att: Susan Spain,<br/> Project director<br/> National Mall &amp; Memorial parks<br/> 900 Ohio drive, SW<br/> Washington, DC 20024</p> <p style="text-align: center;">February 20, 2010</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b><u>PUBLIC COMMENT-NATIONAL MALL PLAN</u></b></p> <p>A Let me state as follows before entering my disagreements and/or ideas for a better National Mall, National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis misstatement: "For the first time, the National Mall would be prepared for many different uses- ... First Amendment demonstrations, and other activities."</p> <p>B Contrary to Mr. Jarvis, the National Mall, in particular, the area that is now before the Commission (use of the Reflecting Pool for protesters, etc.) always held "First amendment demonstrations", even before the Martin Luther King, Jr. rally in 1963, on to through the anti-Vietnam era, etc. It is this very governmental agency, with others, who instead tampered with this "democratic protest grounds" and help diminish by the construction of the World War II Monument built in the path of "First Amendment demonstrations" on the grounds of the Lincoln Memorial. We sued in <i>Wemhoff v. Bush</i>, 167 F.Supp. 2d 32 (D.D.C 2001) to keep this area open and available for demonstrations. The Court there recognized that "the National Mall has long been recognized as a unique public forum in which 'the constitutional rights of speech and peaceful assembly find their fullest expression.'" at 34.</p> <p>Yet, the NPS did not support our effort or make clear to the Commission and Congress approving it, that once the WWII Memorial was built it would then be unable to approve permits for the large crowds of "peaceful assembly" that once appeared on the National Mall historically. Instead, it quietly ducked this obligation and the Congress went along with it as well as the courts.</p> | <p>A. The statement by NPS Director Jarvis is accurate. The National Mall was never planned or designed for the levels of use it now receives. As you point out, one of those uses is as a public forum. The <i>Draft Environmental Impact Statement</i> says on pages viii and 83 that "the National Mall, as the premier civic space for our nation, would be refurbished so that very high levels of use could be perpetuated."</p> <p>B. It appears you may be confusing the Capitol Reflecting Pool and the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool. Under the preferred alternative the Capitol Reflecting Pool at Union Square would be replaced (see pp. 88–89 and 196, actions for row 10.5). The Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool is currently being rehabilitated under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, with no change in configuration, size, or use (see DEIS, pp. vi, 20, and 362).</p> |

| Comment | Letter 87. Daniel Wemhoff (cont.)  | Response  |
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| C       | <p>Now we come to find out from the NPS and Commission looking for "comment" that the premise of availability for the historical crowds who assembled there that the WWII is now an impediment to peaceful assembly recognized by the court in <i>Bush</i>. The National Mall at the Lincoln Memorial has curtailed First Amendment assembly. It is for this reason that the NPS now seeks public comment to see if the public will go along with a program to scale back the Reflecting Pool (which belongs to the Lincoln design) so that protesters can be accommodated as in years' past. NPS always impressed the public with the fact that the WWII Memorial would never impact on assembly. Now it has changed its mind and wants us to approve the partial destruction of the Lincoln site at the Reflecting Pool. We must say "no" to this scam.</p> <p>Whereas hundreds of thousands of protestors were accommodated in the past on issues of national concern has resulted in restriction on permits granted for the use of the Lincoln area, it appears, because now the unfortunate site for the WWII Memorial impedes peaceful assembly. There has been no assembly there since the construction of the WWII Memorial, at least not in the numbers before seen for anti Vietnam rallies, etc. So now that we can't move the WWII Memorial, the idea set forth by the NPS for your approval is: Let's destroy the Reflecting Pool which would impact further on the Lincoln Memorial design. (Although that design was compromised when the Rainbow Pool was eliminated for the WWII Memorial).</p> | C. The size of the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool is not being changed.   |
| D       | <p>We need to give far better thought about what needs to be done in lieu of this frivolous scheme. Instead of destroying part of the Reflecting Pool we need to manage its usage during times of great protests and 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment exercises. Some contractor is equipped to find a way to cover the pool sections or drain it for vast demonstration needs. Or, it can simply be left as is during summer months and let the overflow crowds wade in it as many times before. It has also been learned recently that the Park Service has the ability to drain this pool to lower levels to guarantee greater skating access during Winter months like the one upon us but, needless to say, nothing has been done to give the public greater access to winter activity so badly needed in a Capital beset with bureaucrats unfamiliar with the advantages of athletic activity.</p>   | D. Covering the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool, as you suggest, for vast demonstrations could accommodate around 53,000 people at 6 square feet per person. Delivering and installing such an enormous amount of staging would consume a great amount of time, affecting the experiences of a great many visitors. We believe that permit holders and visitors like the reflective nature of the Lincoln Reflecting Pool, and venues are partly selected for the memorials that are highlighted. Moreover, other areas of the National Mall can fully accommodate scores of participants. For the largest public gathering, the 2009 Presidential Inauguration, several hundred thousand people were accommodated without using the Lincoln Reflecting Pool. Covering the pool could potentially result in damage to the pool structure. This idea would pose significant logistical, technical, and environmental challenges that would need to be overcome by event sponsors. |
| E       | <p>The Park Service has simply exhibited no vision to offer greater general and athletic usage of this National Mall and should not be counted on to do anything constructive to keep it open for its variety of users and the fact it was built for the "general interest" of the public. "Do Not" has been the theme of the season in NPS jargon.</p> <p>NPS has for too long hunkered down, closed off its water fountains when they can be used in the Winter contrary to the manufacturer, Most Dependable Fountain's (MDF), and have done everything within its power to thwart skaters when the ice has been over 3 ½ thick on the Reflecting Pool and Constitution Gardens nearby. They simply will not open these areas when skaters are already skating on a much deeper Canal Square during those same periods the Reflecting Pool and Constitution Gardens is closed to the skating public. This happens year after year. In fact, it now turns out they cannot even plow the central pedestrian and running lanes of the National Mall during heavy snow where the Smithsonian has the plowing equipment, its giant revolving brushes which could be used</p>   | E. The preferred alternative in the <i>Draft Environmental Impact Statement</i> proposes that Union Square be redesigned to meet some of the seasonal recreational uses you propose in a location that is more accessible by transit to the general public. Constitution Gardens Lake is also available for natural ice skating when conditions allow.  |

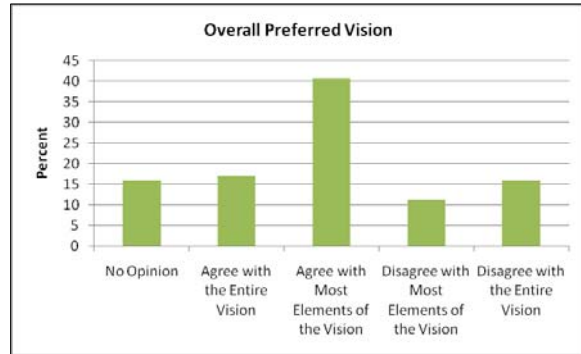
| Comment | Letter 87. Daniel Wemhoff (cont.)   | Response  |
|---------|---|---|
| F       | <p>if only the NPS would get their gear out there and plow it down to a few inches from the surface. Instead, the NPS has sat around doing nothing to help those struggling with the treacherous icy footpaths this past month after three (3) gigantic storms that have built more than 2 feet of snow on the National Mall's pathways.</p> <p>I, like many, who know the poorly run Mall and its lack of openness do not believe the NPS is up to the job of telling the public what we can or cannot do with it. So let's keep our other government officials, including Congressmen such as Jim Moran of Virginia who runs the NPS budget, informed as to what we think of these "owner" officials earning well over \$100,000 a year who are not capable to manage this property as George Washington intended it to be made available for the "general interest" of the public. It is certainly not meant for more concessionaires to appear on every tree corner and in the proposed Constitution Garden site where the original plan for the WWII Memorial was set. Instead, the NPS continues to curry favor with the commercial operations to the detriment of all of us. They string fences all over the place as though it is their private domain to protect these private interests and ignore the general public.</p> <p>While playing favorites to the commercial ventures the same rules do not apply to making available these sacred grounds for the use of the general public and First Amendment activity: We must further destroy the area the NPS claims. "We need to cut off the Reflecting Pool to allow more room for First amendment demonstrators" we knew would suffer once the NPS and others got their way with the WWII Memorial which was scheduled to be snugly fitted into the Constitution Garden scheme.</p> | <p>F. The plan proposes better meeting the needs of visitors by providing facilities such as rest-rooms, food, information, and services. Appendix D (DEIS, pp. 571-75) discusses park facilities policy guidance and best practices.</p> |
| G       | <p>Instead of more concessions at every tree corner, let the tourist and others get physical exercise and walk to a food stands everywhere and leave that pristine area alone for strollers, those wanting to lie down and relax by the water below, the students from nearby George Washington University who study there almost year around and the runners who make their way through the trees in the Gardens. How dare these so-called protectors of the National Mall seek further destruction and concessions to put more areas off limits only to make up for their mishaps of past construction.</p> <p>I invite you to make your comments and have a voice right here so we can force the issue with Congress if NPS cannot come up with better choices. Let's keep this Mall as open and useful as we can without the strangulation ad finitim.</p>  | <p>G. All the uses you propose — walking, relaxing, studying in the pleasant environment, and running — would continue to be accommodated and conditions would be improved for these uses.</p>  |
| H       | <p><b>TO RECAP:</b></p> <p><b>1. NO FURTHER DESTRUCTION OF THE LINCOLN MEMORIAL DESIGN AS ALREADY DONE WITH THE WWII MEMORIAL</b></p>   | <p>H. Please see response B to your letter.</p>   |
| I       | <p><b>2. LEAVE THE REFLECTING POOL ALONE EXCEPT FOR HAVING TO COVER A SECTION FOR PROTESTERS IF WINTER. LET PEOPLE WADE IN THE SUMMER OR DRAIN IT. IT IS ONLY 2-3 FEET DEEP. OPEN IT FOR SKATERS BY DRAINING IT FOR 2-3 MONTHS OF THE WINTER SO THAT IT WILL FREEZE OVER QUICKLY AND ALLOW WINTER SPORTS TO FLOURISH.</b></p>   | <p>I. Please see response D to your letter.</p>   |

| Comment     | Letter 87. Daniel Wemhoff (cont.)  | Response   |
|-------------|--|--|
| J           | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>3. QUIT KOWTOWING TO CONCESSIONAIRES AND COMMERCIAL USERS OF ALL KIND THAT DESTROY THE ATMOSPHERE OF THE PARK. LEAVE IT OPEN FOR THE PUBLIC'S "GENERAL INTEREST" AS ORIGINALLY INTENDED BY OUR FOUNDING FATHERS. TEAR DOWN THE GATES THAT MAKE THE NATIONAL MALL SEEM LIKE A PRIVATE RESERVE OF THE NPS.</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;"> <br/>           Dan Wemhoff<br/>           National Mall User<br/>           It is time for debate         </p>  | J. We disagree. The National Park Service manages its park areas and deals with its concessioners and any commercial users based on its statutory and regulatory authorities.  |
| Comment     | Letter 88. Lindsley Williams   | Response   |
| A<br>B<br>C | <p>Lindsley Williams<br/>           3307 Highland Place NW<br/>           Washington, DC 20008<br/>           LWilliams@his.com<br/>           3/11/2010</p> <p>I urge that the proposed plan be adopted with minor modifications as needed to: Ensure that the original alignments of the rights of way of both Virginia Avenue NW, Virginia Avenue SW, and Louisiana Avenue NW are respected in the overall plan that is ultimately approved, wherein each would be protected from development that would impair their view corridors. As part of this, the two segments of now-unnamed roadways connecting 14th and 15th Streets on the Mall just east of the Washington Monument, which appear to lie in those rights of way but with curvilinear form, should be restored to their underlying linear axes whether for vehicular use or use by pedestrians -- and have their names appear at the intersections, restoring their identity, dignity, and "place" as part of the L'Enfant grid/MacMillan plans. The "Jefferson Pier," where the alignment of Virginia Avenue NW rotates slightly, due west of Washington Monument and due south of the White House, should also be made an explicit feature of the Mall Plan, the location where L'Enfant had hoped to place a memorial to George Washington.</p> | <p>[EDITOR'S NOTE: Comments submitted by e-mail.]</p> <p>A. Both streets you mention are outside the plan study area but are in areas covered by coordinated planning.</p> <p>B. The roads you reference are one-way drives known as Madison Drive (west bound) and Jefferson Drive (east bound).</p> <p>C. The pier marker is regularly interpreted in programs given by park rangers on the Washington Monument grounds.</p> |

# APPENDIX: SUMMARY OF ONLINE SURVEY RESPONSES

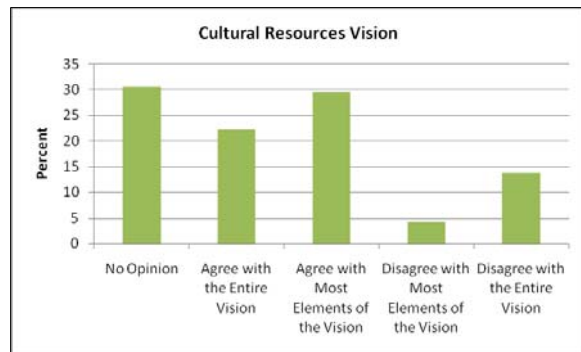
Question 1: Level of Agreement with Overall Preferred Alternative Vision.

|   | Frequency | Percent |
|---|-----------|---------|
| No opinion                                | 14        | 15.7    |
| Agree with the Entire Vision              | 15        | 16.9    |
| Agree with Most Elements of the Vision    | 36        | 40.5    |
| Disagree with Most Elements of the Vision | 10        | 11.2    |
| Disagree with the Entire Vision           | 14        | 15.7    |
| Total                                     | 89        | 100     |



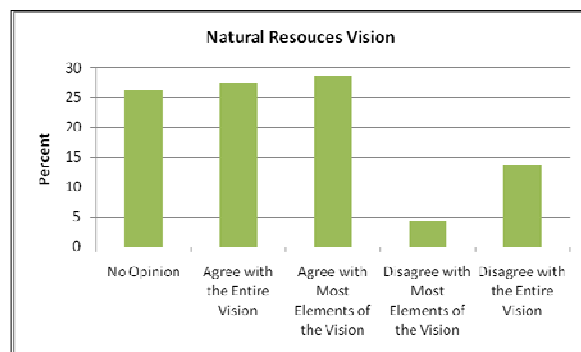
Question 2a: Level of Agreement with Cultural Resources Vision.

|   | Frequency | Percent |
|---|-----------|---------|
| No opinion                                | 29        | 30.5    |
| Agree with the Entire Vision              | 21        | 22.1    |
| Agree with Most Elements of the Vision    | 28        | 29.5    |
| Disagree with Most Elements of the Vision | 4         | 4.2     |
| Disagree with the Entire Vision           | 13        | 13.7    |
| Total                                     | 95        | 100     |



Question 2b: Level of Agreement with Natural Resources Vision.

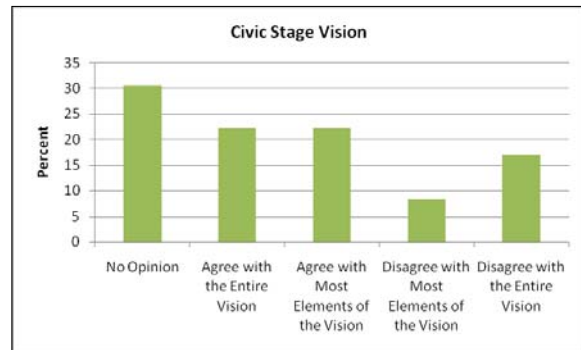
|   | Frequency | Percent |
|---|-----------|---------|
| No opinion                                | 25        | 26.3    |
| Agree with the Entire Vision              | 26        | 27.4    |
| Agree with Most Elements of the Vision    | 27        | 28.4    |
| Disagree with Most Elements of the Vision | 4         | 4.2     |
| Disagree with the Entire Vision           | 3         | 13.7    |
| Total                                     | 95        | 95      |



NOTE: Prepared for the National Park Service by Tourism and Events Management; School of Recreation, Health and Tourism; George Mason University, Manassas, Virginia.

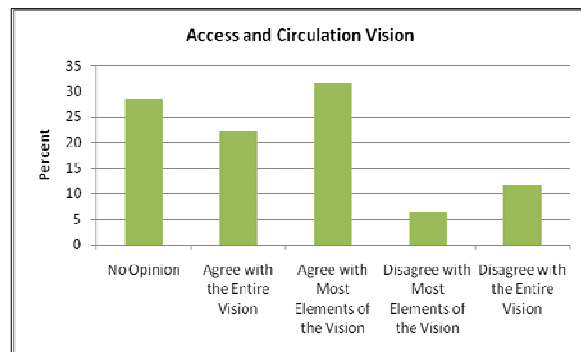
Question 2c: Level of Agreement with Civic Stage Vision.

|   | Frequency | Percent |
|---|-----------|---------|
| No opinion                                | 29        | 30.5    |
| Agree with the Entire Vision              | 21        | 22.1    |
| Agree with Most Elements of the Vision    | 21        | 22.1    |
| Disagree with Most Elements of the Vision | 8         | 8.4     |
| Disagree with the Entire Vision           | 16        | 16.9    |
| Total                                     | 95        | 95      |



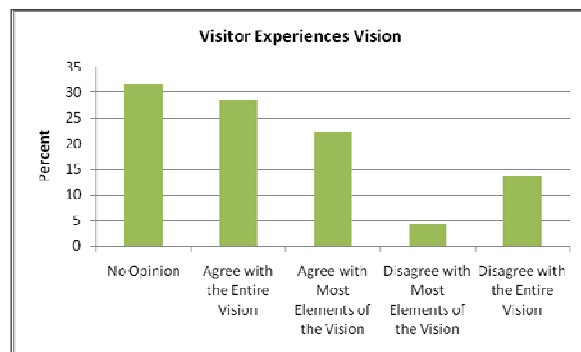
Question 2d: Level of Agreement with Access and Circulation Vision.

|   | Frequency | Percent |
|---|-----------|---------|
| No opinion                                | 27        | 28.4    |
| Agree with the Entire Vision              | 21        | 22.1    |
| Agree with Most Elements of the Vision    | 30        | 31.6    |
| Disagree with Most Elements of the Vision | 6         | 6.3     |
| Disagree with the Entire Vision           | 11        | 11.6    |
| Total                                     | 95        | 100     |



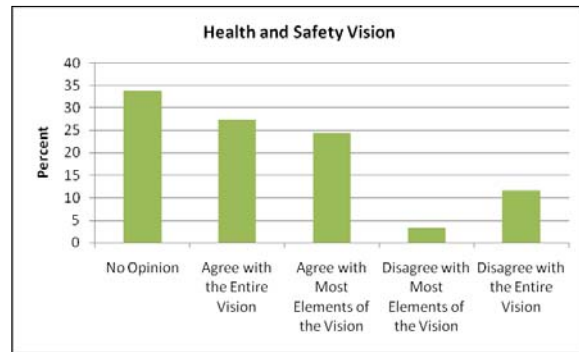
Question 2e: Level of Agreement with Visitor Experiences Vision.

|   | Frequency | Percent |
|---|-----------|---------|
| No opinion                                | 30        | 31.6    |
| Agree with the Entire Vision              | 27        | 28.4    |
| Agree with Most Elements of the Vision    | 21        | 22.1    |
| Disagree with Most Elements of the Vision | 4         | 4.2     |
| Disagree with the Entire Vision           | 13        | 13.7    |
| Total                                     | 95        | 100     |



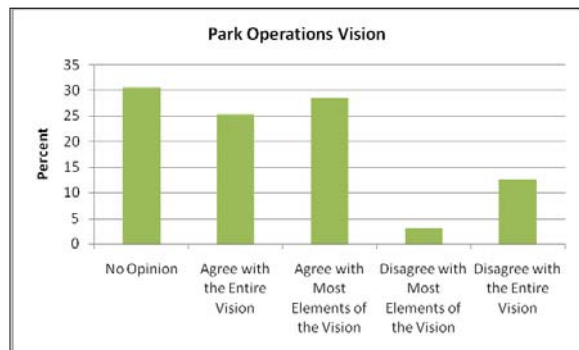
Question 2f: Level of Agreement with Health and Safety Vision.

|   | Frequency | Percent |
|---|-----------|---------|
| No opinion                                | 32        | 33.7    |
| Agree with the Entire Vision              | 26        | 27.3    |
| Agree with Most Elements of the Vision    | 23        | 24.2    |
| Disagree with Most Elements of the Vision | 3         | 3.2     |
| Disagree with the Entire Vision           | 11        | 11.6    |
| Total                                     | 95        | 100     |



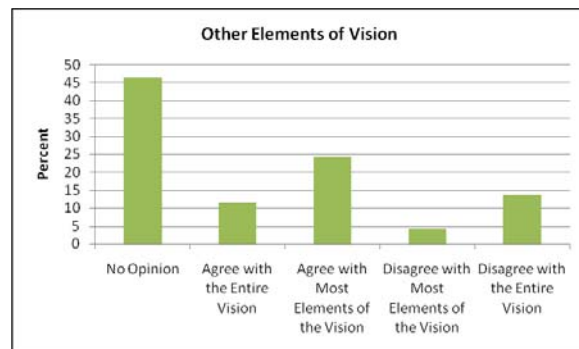
Question 2g: Level of Agreement with Park Operations Vision.

|   | Frequency | Percent |
|---|-----------|---------|
| No opinion                                | 29        | 30.5    |
| Agree with the Entire Vision              | 24        | 25.3    |
| Agree with Most Elements of the Vision    | 27        | 28.4    |
| Disagree with Most Elements of the Vision | 3         | 3.2     |
| Disagree with the Entire Vision           | 12        | 12.6    |
| Total                                     | 95        | 100     |



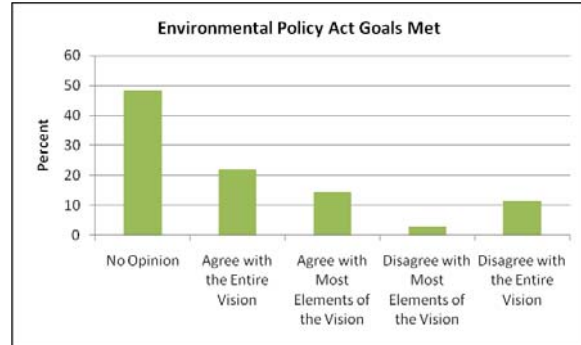
Question 2h: Level of Agreement with Other Elements of Vision.

|   | Frequency | Percent |
|---|-----------|---------|
| No opinion                                | 44        | 46.3    |
| Agree with the Entire Vision              | 11        | 11.6    |
| Agree with Most Elements of the Vision    | 23        | 24.2    |
| Disagree with Most Elements of the Vision | 4         | 4.2     |
| Disagree with the Entire Vision           | 13        | 13.7    |
| Total                                     | 95        | 100     |



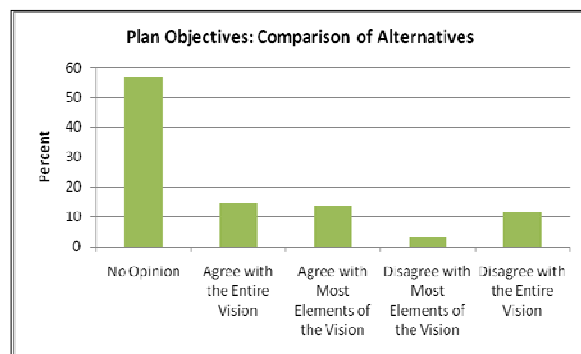
**Question 3: Level of Agreement with Preferred Alternative in Meeting National Environmental Policy Act Goals.**

|   | Frequency | Percent |
|---|-----------|---------|
| No opinion                                | 46        | 48.4    |
| Agree with the Entire Vision              | 21        | 22.1    |
| Agree with Most Elements of the Vision    | 14        | 14.7    |
| Disagree with Most Elements of the Vision | 3         | 3.2     |
| Disagree with the Entire Vision           | 11        | 11.6    |
| Total                                     | 95        | 100     |



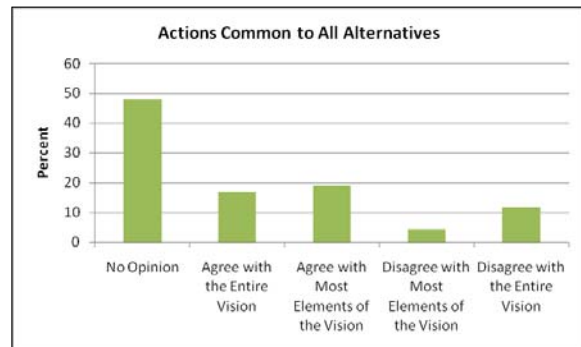
**Question 4: Level of Agreement with Comparison of Alternatives as Associated with Plan Objectives.**

|   | Frequency | Percent |
|---|-----------|---------|
| No opinion                                | 54        | 56.8    |
| Agree with the Entire Vision              | 14        | 14.7    |
| Agree with Most Elements of the Vision    | 13        | 13.7    |
| Disagree with Most Elements of the Vision | 3         | 3.2     |
| Disagree with the Entire Vision           | 11        | 11.6    |
| Total                                     | 95        | 100     |



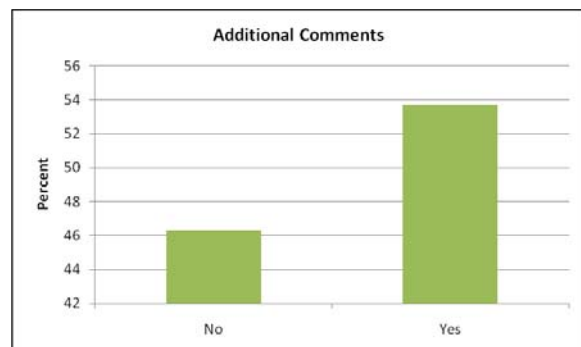
**Question 5: Level of Agreement with Actions Common to All Alternatives.**

|   | Frequency | Percent |
|---|-----------|---------|
| No opinion                                | 45        | 47.9    |
| Agree with the Entire Vision              | 16        | 17.0    |
| Agree with Most Elements of the Vision    | 18        | 19.1    |
| Disagree with Most Elements of the Vision | 4         | 4.3     |
| Disagree with the Entire Vision           | 11        | 11.7    |
| Total                                     | 94        | 100     |



**Question 6: Do You Have Additional Comments?**

|       | Frequency | Percent |
|-------|-----------|---------|
| No    | 44        | 46.3    |
| Yes   | 51        | 53.7    |
| Total | 94        | 100     |





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As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering sound use of our land and water resources; protecting our fish, wildlife, and biological diversity; preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historical places; and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to ensure that their development is in the best interests of all our people by encouraging stewardship and citizen participation in their care. The department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.