



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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Office of Communications News Release

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National Park Service Seeks Additional Public Participation In National Mall Planning Efforts

Washington, D.C. – The National Mall & Memorial Parks is continuing its public planning process, which includes two federal processes—the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the National Historic Preservation Act (Section 106 process). Both Acts have a public involvement component.

The Section 106 process invites those members of the general public to become consulting parties that have legal, economic or other concerns about historic properties within the National Mall Plan study area. As announced in the Federal Register planning announcement of September 6, 2007, the National Mall Plan is addressing both the NEPA and Section 106 processes. The NPS invites continued public participation in the National Mall Plan and is seeking to identify organizations who want to consult in the Section 106 process. More than 5,000 public comments have already been received. These comments and any new, additional comments will be incorporated into the planning process.

Anyone desiring to participate as a consulting party should submit an expression of interest in writing to:

The National Mall Plan
NPS-DSC-P
12795 W Alameda Parkway
Denver, CO 80225-0287

NATIONAL MALL PLAN PROGRESS AND NEXT STEPS

The National Mall Plan is at the alternatives phase and the NPS is seeking additional public comment. Planning newsletters, including the alternatives newsletter, can be found at www.nps.gov/nationalmallplan. Comments should be submitted on-line at the website and it is desirable for comments to be received by January 15, 2008. Commenting on-line is efficient and makes comments easy to analyze. Written comments can be submitted to the electronic address above. Written comments may also be sent to the U.S. mail address above. Public meetings will also be held in Washington, D.C. on January 8, 9 and 12, 2008. Copies of all newsletters will be available at those meetings.

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The alternatives newsletter contains concepts that can be combined in many different ways. The NPS seeks public comment about how to combine ideas before developing a preferred alternative, completing analysis and preparing a Draft National Mall Plan / Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). This DEIS is expected to be published by summer of 2008. At that time there will be two months for public review and comment and NPS plans on holding meetings in several locations around the country. Locations and dates will be determined.

**JANUARY 2008 ALTERNATIVES DISCUSSION
MEETINGS FOR NATIONAL MALL PLAN**

Planning meetings will be held January 8, 9, and 12 at the Old Post Office Tower, 1100 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W., Washington, D.C. All meetings will be held in room M09 on the Mezzanine level. All meetings will have displays of the alternatives, but will include a focused discussion on topics of interest. Meeting notes will be taken. The meeting on January 9 will focus specifically on historic preservation and section 106 consultations.

Tuesday, January 8, 2008 4:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Discussion Topic (starting at 5 p.m.): Unifying Design Elements, Visitor Facilities, and Relocation of the Washington Monument Food and Gifts Facility

Wednesday, January 9, 2008, 12 noon to 4:00 p.m.

Discussion Topic (starting at 1:00 p.m.): Historic Preservation/Section 106 — Cultural Resources, Landscapes, and Character; Views and Viewshed Protection; Nighttime Lighting and Character; Archeological and Ethnographic Resources and Interests

Saturday, January 12, 2008, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Discussion Topic (starting at 11:00 a.m.): Recreation, Events, and Circulation

Public Access to Old Post Office Tower meeting room:

Enter only via the south side of the building, across the street from the Federal Triangle Metro station on 12th Street. Proceed through a security checkpoint; proceed to the stairs or elevators and go upstairs one level. Follow signs to the meeting room.

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