



# First Annual State of the Mall Report

The Current Condition of the National Mall, Washington, DC

October 14, 2002

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The National Coalition to Save Our Mall (NCSOM) is a national, not-for-profit education and research organization working to preserve the National Mall as the Monument to Democracy it is intended to be. [www.savethemall.org](http://www.savethemall.org)

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# Introduction

*The great cross-axis of the Mall forms one of the world's premier examples of civic art, which itself is a monument to democracy...[it] is a unique national space, an embodiment of our democratic ideals and achievements, and must be preserved as an indispensable, nationally significant cultural resource.*

Report of the Joint Task Force on Memorials, September 1999, National Capital Planning Commission

*The NCPC anticipates future memorial dedications at a rate to be one memorial per year for the foreseeable future.*

Memorials and Museum Master Plan, December 2001, NCPC <sup>1</sup>

The National Mall -- the unique National Park in the heart of our nation's capital -- is under physical assault. The threat comes from Congress, through well-intended interest groups and otherwise well-meaning citizens who wish to see more memorials or museums located on the Mall's dwindling historic planned public open space. In addition, in the face of post 9/11 security concerns, government agencies rush to erect walls and other barriers around our monuments, install security cameras, and erect check points to screen citizens at large public gatherings. These assaults on the Mall's open space character threaten to change and undermine the historic symbolism that makes the Mall the premier democratic public space in the nation, and indeed the world.

- How many Americans understand that the Mall is a geographic and landscape embodiment of our Constitution and our core national values?
- That the Mall has been the stage on which some of the great moments in our nation's history have been played out?
- How would they feel to know that little by little we are chipping away at its historic character?
- How many visitors, gazing out across the magnificent vistas stretching between the Capitol and the Lincoln Memorial, would agree that we must work together to preserve and protect the character of the existing Mall for future generations?

Now more than ever in light of the national consciousness of 9/11, we need to educate and inform our children, our citizens, and the Congress about the Mall's historic meaning and the threats to its character. We need to seek solutions to the location of new memorials and security measures that will allow Congress, the government agencies, and the public to assure the future

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<sup>1</sup> The National Capital Planning Commission's Memorials and Museums Master Plan proposes a Moratorium on future memorials on the Mall and provides 100 off-Mall sites throughout Washington, D.C. for future memorials and museums.

protection of our unique national gathering place. The questions and public dialogue regarding memorializing the World Trade Center tragedy should apply equally to our understanding of the National Mall and our planning for its future.

The urgent tasks are to:

1. Educate and Inform Congress, federal agencies, and the public about the importance of the Mall's role as a monument to our democracy.
2. Alert Americans to present and future threats to the Mall. The World War II Memorial now under construction between the Washington Monument and Lincoln Memorial, and the National Park Service's plans for walls and tunnels at the Washington Monument Grounds, are only the tip of the iceberg. In the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress there are 7 bills proposed for new memorials.
3. Tell the American people how they can play a part in preserving and protecting our National Mall. Make issues relating to the Mall part of a national dialogue, encouraging Americans to actively advise Congress of the need to protect the Mall from special interests.

Lack of public awareness is by far the greatest challenge we face, as illustrated during the Miss America contest in September 2002, when *not one* of the five finalists could correctly answer this multiple-choice question: "What is the name of the controversial memorial being built between the Washington Monument and Lincoln Memorial?"

# A Brief History of the Mall

*...we have at one end of the axis [of the Mall] a beautiful building which is a monument to the United States Government [the Capitol]. At the other end of the axis we have...a Memorial to the man who saved that Government [Lincoln] and between the two is a monument to its founder [Washington]. All three of these structures, stretching in one grand sweep from Capitol Hill to the Potomac river, will lend, one to the others, the associations and memories connected with each, and each will have its value increased by being on the one axis and having visual relation to the other.*

Henry Bacon, architect of the Lincoln Memorial, in 1911, working with members of the McMillan Commission

*The Mall can't accommodate additional museums or memorials; it is, for all practical purposes, complete.*  
Richard Moe, President of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, *Washington Post*, June 19, 2002

The National Mall in Washington, D.C., symbolizes our country's free and open society. It is the most important element of the historic 1791 L'Enfant Plan for the Capital City as enlarged by the McMillan Plan of 1901-1902.<sup>2</sup>

The L'Enfant Plan of 1791 envisioned "a grand avenue 400 feet in breadth, and about a mile in length, bordered with gardens,"<sup>3</sup> a "place of general resort," a "public walks" running westward from the Capitol to a monument to George Washington at the east bank of the Potomac River -- at that time generally in line with the current 17<sup>th</sup> Street. The Washington Monument marked the cross-axis of the Capitol and the President's house to the north. The width of the Mall was determined by Tiber Creek, now Constitution Avenue, and the low ridge presently occupied by Independence Avenue. The grand space thus created was about 7,000 feet long by 1,600 feet wide.



<sup>2</sup> For the history of the Mall, see *The Mall in Washington, 1791-1991*, ed. Richard Longstreth, 1991; Frederick Gutheim and the National Capital Planning Commission, *Worthy of the Nation: The History of Planning for the National Capital*, Washington, 1977; John W. Reys, *Monumental Washington: The Planning and Development of the Capital Center*, Princeton, 1967.

<sup>3</sup> The official description published in Philadelphia's *Gazette of the United States*, January 4, 1792, as quoted by Pamela Scott, "'This Vast Empire': The Iconography of the Mall, 1791-1848," in *The Mall in Washington*, p. 40.

Neglect of the L'Enfant Plan in the 19<sup>th</sup> century resulted in a hodgepodge growth of buildings, trees, gardens, and railroad tracks crossing the historic axis.

In 1901, the Senate Committee on the District of Columbia, chaired by Senator McMillan of Michigan, came to the rescue of the Mall. It appointed the Senate Park Commission, also known as the McMillan Commission, whose members included renowned architects Charles F. McKim and Daniel H. Burnham, landscape architect Frederick Law Olmsted, Jr., and sculptor Augustus St. Gaudens.

The McMillan Plan of 1901-1902 revived and modified the L'Enfant Plan into the open parkland we know today. It extended the Mall westward and southward on landfill over old riverbeds. The kite-shaped plan envisioned a tree-lined grassy cross-axis from the Capitol to the Lincoln Memorial and from the White House to the Jefferson Memorial, whose vistas and symbolic meaning so captivated architect Henry Bacon (quoted above).



Public uses have added fuller dimension to the Mall's symbolic meaning as the people's place. It is a gathering place for civic and cultural celebrations, a site for peaceful demonstrations and the "front yard" of our Capital, our national community.

*...we've come to our nation's capital to cash a check. When the architects of our republic wrote the magnificent words of the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence, they were signing a promissory note to which every American was to fall heir...We have also come to this hallowed spot to remind America of the fierce urgency of now.*

Martin Luther King, Jr., standing on the steps of the Lincoln Memorial for his "I Have a Dream" speech, August 28, 1963.

With the Mall as their backdrop, champions of civil rights for women and African Americans argued their case in the court of public opinion. The nation responded with the 19<sup>th</sup> Amendment to the United States Constitution and the Voting Rights Act of 1965. If anything deserves to be memorialized on the National Mall, it is the extension of the rights guaranteed in the Constitution to all Americans.

Today, the National Mall encompasses the monuments and public buildings, majestic vistas, and open public spaces stretching two miles from the Capitol to the Lincoln Memorial and the Memorial Bridge and including the Ellipse and Tidal Basin.



## NATIONAL COALITION TO SAVE OUR MALL

It is a unique symbol of our constitutional democracy, and celebrates the democratic ideals of freedom, equality and limited government on which our nation was founded.

In the hundred years since the McMillan Plan was developed, there has been little coordinated planning for the Mall. Federal and D.C. agencies (see Appendix) with responsibility for stewardship of the Mall have released a variety of plans that address specific concerns (Memorials and Museums, Open Space, Security). However, they lack a unified vision consistent with the L'Enfant and McMillan plans.

Consequently, once again as in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, the Mall's symbolic open spaces and vistas are threatened by public ignorance of the Mall's historic plans, political pressure from special interests, and the failure of government to forcefully uphold the planning principles and laws that exist to protect this unique national icon.

# Threats to the Mall

*The memorials and museums that define Washington's Monumental Core express America's connections to its past and its direction for the future... they help us understand what it means to be an American ... As the demand for new memorials and museums in the National Capital continues to grow, there are increasing concerns that the unabated construction of these attractions will overwhelm the historic open space in the traditional Monumental Core.*

Memorials and Museums Master Plan, NCPC

*We don't want the destruction of the Mall to be our legacy.*

John R. Graves, WWII veteran

## I. RECENT AND PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION

*Recently built multi-acre memorials reduce the Mall's intended open spaces and threaten to alter and diminish its historic symbolism.*

- The Vietnam Veterans Memorial, Korean Veterans Memorial, and World War II Memorial combined occupy and restrict public uses of about 15 acres of formerly open public space around the Lincoln Memorial Grounds.
- The WWII Memorial displaces 7.4 acres of the Mall – including the Lincoln Memorial's now-destroyed “Rainbow Pool” -- and adds a new road, a ranger station, and toilet facilities.
- The FDR Memorial and proposed Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial together would take up almost 12 acres along the Tidal Basin.

The World War II Memorial represents the greatest single threat to the Mall's open character and historic symbolism. It places a war memorial on the axis dedicated to Founding Principles; its 7.4-acre site crosses the axis connecting the Washington Monument and Lincoln Memorial; and its walled design blocks free pedestrian access through this historic open space.

Memorial “Sprawl on the Mall” is a real and growing problem.

In addition to several already approved projects -- including the Black Patriots Memorial, John Adams Memorial, and the Museum of African American History and Culture --, there are several proposals currently pending in the 107<sup>th</sup> Congress which either specify a Mall site or could end up on the Mall:

- Pyramid of Remembrance HR 2821
- Soldiers Lost in Peacekeeping Operations HR 2821
- Ronald Reagan Memorial Act of 2001 HR 452

- Vietnam Veterans Memorial Education Center S 281/HR 510
- Native American Memorial HR 2918
- Memorial to Terrorist Victims in the United States HR 2982
- POW/MIA Flag Display at WWII, Vietnam, and Korean veterans memorials S 1226/ HR 3177
- Slavery Memorial HR 4964.

Perhaps the most urgent immediate threat is the proposed Vietnam Veterans Memorial Education Center, an underground museum that would be constructed next to the Memorial. Such a structure would not only circumvent existing laws protecting the Mall, it would detract from the powerful experience of the Memorial and set a potentially disastrous precedent.

What's next, underground museums at the Korean Veterans, WWII, FDR, and future MLK memorials? Underground facilities require above-ground physical intrusions: entrances, skylights, and ventilating shafts. Engineering problems associated with excavating the highly saturated soils in the entire area west of the Washington Monument could result in costly and destructive problems well into the future.

If these memorials and other cultural attractions are authorized and constructed, the Mall's open spaces and historic values will be further threatened.

## **II. LACK OF "DUE PROCESS"**

*Congress and federal agencies exempt memorials from laws, short circuiting the public process, undermining legal protections and threatening to further dilute the Mall's democratic symbolism.*

The World War II Memorial embodies the worst case scenario and sets a bad precedent that must be rejected.

Congress recognized the danger of overbuilding on the Mall and passed the Commemorative Works Act of 1986, which was signed into law by President Reagan. However, faced with a citizens lawsuit challenging the illegal siting and intrusive design of the WWII Memorial, Congress bowed to special interests and in May 2001 passed legislation, signed into law as Public Law 107-11 by President Bush. P.L. 107-11 exempted the Memorial from a pending lawsuit which challenged the legality of the Memorial's site and design.

The Coalition believes this law is unconstitutional because it violates the separation of powers guaranteed by the Constitution and, on May 3, 2002, filed a Petition for a *writ of certiorari* with the Supreme Court. On October 7, 2002, the Supreme Court denied the Coalition's petition.

The National Capital Planning Commission exempted the WWII Memorial and the proposed Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial from the Moratorium on building on the Mall in its Memorials

and Museums Master Plan, and from its new Urban Design and Security Plan. The Coalition believes that there should be much greater scrutiny, not less, of such plans for national monuments and the Mall's open parkland.

The National Park Service avoided Environmental and Historic Preservation laws by issuing a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the WWII Memorial instead of carrying out an Environmental Impact Statement. FONSI's were issued as well for the Vietnam and Korean veterans memorials, and, in July 2002, for the NPS's current proposed walled walkways, underground visitor center, and security tunnels at the Washington Monument, despite a lack of data to support that finding.

The Park Service continuously fails to complete and ignores its own Cultural Landscape Reports that, if respected and followed, would assure careful study and development of any and all changes to the Mall.

If Congressional exemptions from laws and Park Service FONSI's are repeated with other memorials, the Mall will soon be overrun with construction projects and its historic meaning will be irretrievably altered or lost.

Already, Congress is following the bad WWII Memorial precedent with proposed legislation to place a Ronald Reagan Memorial on the Mall and exempt it from existing laws, including the Commemorative Works Act that was signed by President Reagan himself. The Ronald Reagan Memorial Act of 2001 (HR 452) states that the memorial shall be situated "in the area on the Mall west of the Capitol and east of the Lincoln Memorial" and that the Commemorative Works Act "shall not apply to the memorial."

NCSOM strongly opposes Congressional exemptions of this type and believes that no memorial should be exempt from the laws governing the Mall. Although there is opposition to HR 452 from the National Park Service, some Congressional representatives and others, the political pressure may win out again, as it did with the World War II Memorial, thus further diminishing the Mall.

### **III. SECURITY MEASURES**

*Security measures enacted in haste pose a threat to the Mall's open character and democratic symbolism.*

The NPS's current proposal for security walls and tunnels at the Washington Monument would change the character of that great obelisk and the spaciousness of the Grounds. The skylight planned for the underground visitor center would deface the parklike nature of the Mall. The tunnels intended to funnel visitors into the Monument's base could threaten the Monument's stability. Further, those in the tunnel might be trapped in a terror attack. Alternatives need to be seriously considered.

No one would argue that, in light of 9/11, reasonable improvements in security are necessary. But public scrutiny and evaluation are needed before decisions are made to:

- place walls around the Monuments
- close off public spaces to visitors (the Capitol's west façade and balcony)
- install police checkpoints at civic events (July 4, 2002)
- train security cameras on the Monument and public spaces of the Mall.

Security bollards and walls recently proposed by the National Park Service for the Lincoln and Jefferson Memorials disregard the design guidelines proposed in the National Capital Planning Commission's Security and Urban Design Plan for the Nation's Capital (July 2002). The Mall should not be exempted from overall security plans being coordinated by the NCPC and D.C. government in consultation with professional and public organizations.

## IV. CROWD CONTROL

*Restrictions on public gatherings and recreational activities alter and diminish the Mall as "the People's Place."*

Increasingly the Mall is losing its historic character as what Pierre L'Enfant and Thomas Jefferson called the "public walks" -- a place of recreation and cultural activity. The road for the WWII Memorial now under construction takes away part of the ball field; the future MLK memorial will reduce polo grounds in East Potomac Park. The WWII Memorial forced the displacement of the July 4<sup>th</sup> fireworks from the traditional Rainbow Pool area.

Bollards and chains placed around the multi-acre Memorials designate these areas as "sacred ground" for which the NPS will have to deny permits for gatherings.<sup>4</sup> These ill-advised restrictions further reduce public space and give the Mall a funereal or cemetery atmosphere -- the exact opposite of the Founders' intentions.

On the other end of the scale of inappropriate uses, NPS representatives have described their vision of the Mall as a kind of patriotic "Disneyworld," with trams moving visitors to the various memorial attractions.<sup>5</sup> The notion of transforming our Monument to Democracy into an "AmericaWorld" theme park for "consumers of democracy" lacks all sense of history.

The NPS also has plans to move large gatherings off the Mall and into other areas of the city. There is reason to relocate some large events involving major construction for extended periods.

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<sup>4</sup> The Park Service restricts permits for demonstrations at the Vietnam memorial because of the "sacred and personal nature of the site," the words of a park ranger as quoted in Scott Sandage, "A Marble House Divided: The Lincoln Memorial, the Civil Rights Movement, and the Politics of Memory, 1939-1963," *The Journal of American History* (June 1993), p. 166, n.57.

<sup>5</sup> "Guardian Honors Mall by Curbing Number of Memorials," *The New York Times*, July 16, 2001

This should not, however, curtail public uses of the Mall as public forum for expressions of free speech.<sup>6</sup>

Instead of roping off pedestrian areas and discouraging recreational activities, there should be an increase in amenities that enhance the Mall's park-like character. For example, benches and water elements added along the 2-mile-long expanse --where the visitor is exposed to the stifling heat and humidity of Washington's summer -- would provide a place to rest, cool off, and enjoy the restorative effects of pools and fountains.

## V. BEHIND CLOSED DOORS

*There is a deeply disturbing and fundamentally anti-democratic lack of public involvement in major decisions that will have long-term effects on priceless public treasures.*

Congress and memorial sponsors currently decide who gets memorialized and where. But American History and the Mall should not be for sale to special interests. Deciding what aspects of our history are remembered on the Mall, and how they are presented, should not be solely a political decision, subject to the whims of the current moment. It should be a topic of citizen involvement and national dialogue.

The memorial and museum building process as currently practiced leaves all the crucial site and design decisions to the sponsor and federal agencies. By the time the public has an opportunity to comment, it is usually too late for meaningful input. Instead, the public should be invited to comment and the views of distinguished historians, landscape architects and others should be solicited at the earliest stages of a project's development.

## VI. LACK OF DATA

*Insufficient and outdated historic and environmental data make decision-making a guessing game.*

The Park Service designed the proposed Washington Monument tunnels, walled walkways, and underground visitor center before even initiating updates of crucial environmental, engineering, and historical reports, despite a well-documented history of unstable soils beneath the Monument foundation. The Park Service then issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) in July 2002 for the project before those studies were completed and the data could be evaluated by the other federal agencies and the public.

The Park Service should update its Cultural Landscape (status) reports on all the monuments and landscapes listed on the National Register of Historic Places before proposing changes.

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<sup>6</sup> "Trampling the Nation's Front Lawn," *Washington Post*, November 13, 2000.

Only a few such studies have been completed, i.e., East and West Potomac Park and the Lincoln Memorial Grounds. A study of the Washington Monument Grounds is in progress. Additional studies for other parts of the Mall should be undertaken.

## VII. LACK OF COORDINATED PLANNING

*Too many cooks spoil the broth.*

In addition to the L'Enfant and McMillan plans, there are numerous other plans prepared by the various agencies and commissions (see Appendix) that affect the Mall, including:

- The Comprehensive Plan (NCPC and DC)
- The Mall Master Plan (National Park Service)
- The Memorials and Museums Plan (NCPC)
- The Urban Design and Security Plan (NCPC).

Not surprisingly, the disparate agencies frequently fail to coordinate their efforts and do not actively solicit participation by the public, professional groups, and others whose counsel might prove valuable.

What *is* surprising is that the agencies and plans often disagree on basics such as the geographic borders of the Mall and guidelines for preservation and “improvements”. While most American public think of the Mall as encompassing the Capitol, the Washington Monument and the Lincoln Memorial, the various agencies responsible for its preservation and maintenance have their own definitions.

The Park Service and NCPC still view the Mall according to the L'Enfant Plan as terminating at the Washington Monument Grounds. The Commission of Fine Arts is custodian of the McMillan Plan which extended the Mall to include the Lincoln and the Jefferson Memorials, forming a distinctive kite shape. This lack of agreement on the boundaries of the Mall is the basis of confusion, disagreements, and disjointed and destructive decision-making.

Beyond the lack of agreement on the size and shape of the Mall, there is also disagreement about the cultural meaning and public uses of the Mall.

# Recommendations

*The National Coalition to Save Our Mall believes that all parties responsible for the Mall must take immediate action to ensure that the Mall is preserved as our nation's Monument for Democracy for the enjoyment of future generations.*

In general terms, we recommend the following:

1. Congress and the President should resolve to abide by the laws which are intended to protect the Mall's unique history and cultural value -- the Commemorative Works Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, and the National Environmental Policy Act.
2. The National Park Service should conduct a full Environmental Impact Study for any and all planned "improvements" to the Mall. It should update all of the National Register of Historic Places designations for the Mall's historic and cultural resources by completing Cultural Landscape Reports for the various monuments and landscapes.
3. All parties, public and private, with an interest in preserving the Mall should intensify their efforts to educate Congress and the public about the Mall's significance and importance and involve them decisions affecting its future.

## RECOMMENDATIONS FOR CONGRESS AND NPS

*Additionally, the National Coalition to Save Our Mall recommends that Congress and the National Park Service pursue the following specific actions:*

- 1. Create a permanent National Mall Interpretive Center on the Mall to provide much-needed education and information to Mall visitors.** This would enhance Americans' experience of the Mall plan, its symbolic cross-axis, the history and meaning of the Monuments, and the important events and public demonstrations that have taken place on the Mall.

The interpretive center or exhibit could be located at the Museum of American History whose Board recently called for a reconfiguration of exhibition space and historical content. The Smithsonian Castle, an underused building with limited space but centrally located, would also be an excellent location.

The Mall location would be a convenient and central focal point of the visitor experience of Washington.

- 2. Place a Moratorium on authorizing any new memorials or museums on the Mall or in D.C. until Congress and the federal and D.C. agencies agree on a plan and process that assures compliance with existing laws and regulations.** Above all, the process should actively involve

the public in decisions about how we remember our nation's history. Open a national dialogue about alternatives to multi-acre memorials that replace so much of our precious open public space and to symbols that increasingly focus on funereal themes .

Current public dialogue about how to memorialize "Ground Zero" at the World Trade Center site provides food for thought.

*We need to set a new benchmark for what should be done with a memorial... just as the Lincoln Memorial and Vietnam Veterans Memorial did in their times... We have to worry about the process, and aim at something that is an appropriate remembrance and which conveys a message of hope.*

The words of Anita F. Contini, in charge of the memorial for the Lower Manhattan Development Corporation, and of Louis R. Tomson, president of the development corporation, as quoted in "Remembering The Little Things", *The New York Times*, Oct, 13, 2002

**3. Establish a National Military Museum or Defense Museum.** Similar to the Imperial War Museum in London, the Defense Museum would tell the collective story of American defense, instead of making piecemeal additions of education centers/museums at the Vietnam Veterans and other individual war memorials.

All conflicts in defense of the nation could be explained in the context of American history and values, including Vietnam, Korea, and WWII. There are numerous attractive sites along the waterfront public land where historic military installations line both sides of the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers - Washington Navy Yard with Navy Museum and Marines Museum, Fort McNair, Anacostia Naval Station, Bolling Air Force Base. Such siting would be in keeping with NCPC's and DC's waterfront initiatives.

The idea for a national military museum is not a new one and has been discussed frequently. For example, former U.S. Senators Charles Robb and Robert Kerrey argued that a national military museum would not only be more efficient but also more effective.

*The public is best served by viewing the military and its history as a whole, rather than as one service's perspective at individual museums.*

"One Military Museum For All," *The Washington Times*, July 16, 1998.

**4. Design security that does double duty as furniture and water elements.** Instead of fortifying the open spaces and Monuments with walls and cameras that destroy Mall's historic symbolism, devise more creative solutions.

For example, the Mall could use more water elements. Pools, fountains, and waterfalls were envisioned in the historic L'Enfant and McMillan plans as suiting Washington's climate, in particular its hot and humid summers. Moats or fountains and pools in conjunction with vulnerable sites would add much-needed water elements to the Mall's open, hot spaces and provide additional security.

Security solutions also can be disguised in street furniture and other elements that would make the Mall more enjoyable for tourists, city workers, and recreational visitors. The Urban Design and Security Plan issued by NCPC in July 2002 suggests, for example, a plinth wall along the sidewalks of Constitution and Independence Avenues bordering the Mall. A plinth wall could also effectively secure the Mall's cross streets. This would eliminate the need for the NPS's proposed walled walkways encircling the Washington Monument. It would preserve the Mall's open space without sacrificing security.

The NCPC provides a framework for such an approach in its recently released Urban Design and Security Plan:

*The plan reflects our conviction that we can have both good urban design and good security; ...our goal has been to seamlessly integrate building perimeter security into consistent, coherent and welcoming streetscapes that are truly worthy of the Nation's Capital. If we are to be a free and open society our public realm must express those values and at the same time offer the protections mandated by today's security concerns.*

**5. Now, at the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the McMillan Plan of 1901-1902, develop a Renewed Plan for the 21<sup>st</sup> century that goes beyond recent piecemeal planning efforts toward a new unified planning vision.**

This should be a joint effort by the federal government, the District, public interest groups and concerned citizens working together to coordinate the various, sometimes conflicting, plans, to devise a renewed planning vision for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and to plan for potential enhancements.

## THE COALITION'S PLANS

*In keeping with our recommendations that all parties, public and private, do their part to protect the Mall and educate Americans to the Mall's significance, the National Coalition to Save Our Mall announces that in the coming year, we will undertake the following actions:*

**1. Expand our Web and media efforts.** Within the last year, the Coalition has revised and significantly expanded its Web site, [www.savethemall.org](http://www.savethemall.org) to include new and more accessible information about the Mall's unique historical and cultural value to all Americans. In the coming year, we plan to add an extensive section to display and distribute educational materials to supplement classroom teaching and to help teachers prepare their classes for trips to Washington.

We have developed our Web site as a source of history, information about threats to the Mall, Congressional actions and pending legislation, and the laws protecting the Mall's historical, environmental, and cultural resources.

Other outreach efforts include:

**a. Our newsletter.** We publish a free email newsletter that informs our Friends and interested parties across the country about timely issues regarding the Mall. We hope to significantly expand the circulation of this publication within the next year. Those wishing to subscribe should go to [www.savethemall.org](http://www.savethemall.org).

**b. Broadcast media.** We are beginning to develop a library of historic and current videotape that will be used in the traveling exhibit, on our Web site and, possibly, in video news releases, documentaries or other media products.

**2. Take the Mall on the Road.** Over the next two years, the Coalition will develop a traveling exhibition which will provide the kind of educational program envisioned above and take it to cities and towns across the nation. Our goal is twofold:

**a. To educate and inform** schoolchildren, educators, and all Americans about the Mall and its threatened public spaces.

**b. To facilitate open communication** between Congress and the public by creating a National Dialogue on matters relating to the Mall.

We have already begun developing this project and plan to seek foundation grants and other funding to allow us to develop preliminary materials by next spring.

**3. Initiate a National Civic Education program to teach American History in the Mall's open-air "classroom,"** building on President Bush's three new education initiatives announced at the White House on September 17, 2002:

*American children are not born knowing what they should cherish – are not born knowing why they should cherish American values. A love of democratic principles must be taught...To properly understand and love our country, we must know our country's history.*

Pres. Bush, Sept. 17, 2002, quoted in "Two for the History Books," *The Washington Post*, Sept. 18, 2002

The program we envision would consist of videos, virtual tours, lectures, walks on the Mall, and lesson plans for educators about "The Mall as American History".

Schoolchildren and their teachers and families come to Washington's Mall to experience in that unique, exhilarating public space the monuments that tell the story of our founding principles and enduring values: the Washington Monument, Lincoln Memorial, Capitol building, White House, Jefferson Memorial, and the great open vistas symbolic of our free society stretching between those monuments. They need to understand that additional memorials in the middle of the great open spaces could change or diminish those ideas and dilute the message of our founding principles.

This program will also make a special effort to educate and inform Congress and the federal agencies that have oversight for projects on the Mall.

# Epilogue

*Changing the Mall  
should be as difficult  
as changing the Constitution.  
It's that simple.*

--National Coalition to Save Our Mall

# Appendix

## WHO'S WHO, WHAT'S WHAT

Memorial Building on the National Mall: Congress, Govt. Agencies, Laws

### The Process

*Steps in the memorial building process*

<b>Legislation</b>	<p>Congress adopts legislation authorizing memorial in D.C., Area 1 (Mall and adjacent areas) or 2 (the rest of the District of Columbia);</p> <p>The legislation designates who is “sponsor” of memorial and who is to pay for maintenance</p>
<b>Site Selection</b>	<p>NPS/ NCR shows sponsor sites on Mall and throughout city;</p> <p>Sponsor identifies preferred and alternate sites (for federal lands not National Park lands, administrator at General Services Administration [GSA] has responsibility)</p>
<b>Site Review/Approval</b>	<p>NCMC reviews/ recommends for or against sites (tries to identify alternative locations)</p> <p>CFA reviews and/or approves site</p> <p>NCPC approves or disapproves site</p>
<b>Design Approval</b>	<p>CFA reviews/ approves design</p> <p>NCPC reviews/ approves design</p> <p>Secretary of Interior reviews/ approves design if on National Parkland</p> <p>Administrator of GSA reviews/ approves design if on other Federal land</p>
<b>Permit</b>	<p>NPS issues permit</p> <p>(Additional permits - water, sewer, etc. - issued by D.C. government agencies)</p>

### Congress

*Congressional Committees With Oversight Over Memorials And The Mall*

Senate Committee on Governmental Affairs [http://www.senate.gov/~gov\\_affairs/](http://www.senate.gov/~gov_affairs/)

Subcommittee on District of Columbia [http://www.senate.gov/~gov\\_affairs/ogm.htm](http://www.senate.gov/~gov_affairs/ogm.htm)

**Senate Committee on Energy** <http://energy.senate.gov/>

Subcommittee on National Parks, Historic Preservation and Recreation

**House Committee on Government Reform, Subcommittee on the District of Columbia**

<http://www.house.gov/reform/min/members.htm>

## **Agencies**

*Federal and D.C. agencies with responsibility for the stewardship of the national mall*

**Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP)** (advises Executive Branch on Historic Preservation) <http://www.achp.gov>

John L. Nau, III, Chairman; John Fowler, Executive Director  
The Old Post Office Building  
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., #809  
Washington, DC 20004  
202-606-8503

**Commission of Fine Arts (CFA)** (aesthetics) <http://www.cfa.gov>

Harry Robinson III, Chairman; Charles Atherton, Executive Secretary  
National Building Museum  
441 F St. N.W. Suite 312  
Washington DC 20001  
202-504-2200

**D.C. Historic Preservation Review Board (HPRB)**

Chairman Tersh Boasberg  
941 North Capitol St., N.E.  
Washington, DC 20002  
202-442-8818

**D.C. Historic Preservation Officer (DCHPO)**

Gregory McCarthy  
441 4<sup>th</sup> St., N.W.  
Washington, DC 20001  
202-442-8818

**National Capital Memorials Commission (NCMC)** (recommends and advises Secretary of Interior on Memorial sites)

John Parsons, Chairman (representing Dept. of Interior and National Park Service; Nancy Young, Secretary

NATIONAL COALITION TO SAVE OUR MALL

1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20242  
202-619-7025

**National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC)** (Fed. Govt. Planning Agency for D.C.)  
John V. Cogbill III, Chairman; Patricia Gallagher, Exec. Dir.  
National Capital Planning Commission  
401 9th Street, NW  
North Lobby, Suite 500  
Washington, D.C. 20576  
<http://www.ncpc.gov> 202-482-7200

**National Park Service/ Department of the Interior (NPS)**  
Gale Norton, Secretary of Interior 202-208-7351  
Fran Mainella, Director, National Park Service  
1449 C Street, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20240  
<http://www.nps.gov> 202-208-4621

**National Park Service/ National Capital Region (NPS)** (Washington Metropolitan Region)  
Terry Carlstrom, Regional Director; Arnold Goldstein, Superintendent  
(also John Parsons; Sally Blumenthal, Steve Lorenzetti)  
1100 Ohio Drive, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20242  
202-619-7025

**Smithsonian Institution**  
Lawrence Small, Secretary  
1000 Jefferson DR., S.W.  
Wash. D.C. 20560  
202-357-1846

## Laws

*Environmental and historic preservation laws that protect the mall's historic plan, open spaces, and monuments*

**The Commemorative Works Act of 1986** – protects open spaces, existing memorials  
In 2001 the NCPC proposed amendments to strengthen its protection of the Mall  
<http://www.ncpc.gov/about/histofncpc.html#cwa> (summary)  
[www.nps.gov/legal/parklaws/3/volume\\_3-01\\_genleg.pdf](http://www.nps.gov/legal/parklaws/3/volume_3-01_genleg.pdf) (full text)

**The National Historic Preservation Act** (1960s) – establishes public involvement for changes to historic properties <http://www.achp.gov/nhpa.html>

**National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)** – requires environmental studies for federal projects <http://ceq.eh.doe.gov/nepa/regs/nepa/nepaeqia.htm>