



THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE ANNOUNCES THE INITIATION OF THE

Reconstruction of the Turf and Soil on the National Mall

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

This Environmental Assessment (EA) will analyze a range of alternatives to improve the vegetation and soils on the Mall by removing and replacing the existing soil on the grass panels, enhancing the tree panels and street trees, and reconfiguring the irrigation system.



The purpose of these actions is to improve and protect historic resources, enhance visitor use and experience and park management and operations, and to achieve a more sustainable civic space by implementing strategies and guidelines to alleviate the compaction of soil and worn turf and to ensure proper drainage, grading, and stormwater management in a manner that respects the character of the National Mall.

The project area occupies some of the oldest parkland in the National Park System in a place that hosts some of the most prominent buildings, museums, and monuments in the country. As one of the most popular national tourist destinations, the project area is one of the most used public areas in the District of Columbia for national celebrations, first amendment demonstrations, special events, and recreation with an annual visitorship of nearly 25 million. Because of intense use, the project area has deteriorated: the soil is heavily compacted, the turf is worn away, the tree panels are damaged, irrigation systems are compromised, and drainage is inadequate.

Action is needed to address the management of this civic space to alleviate the intense soil compaction and enable proper air, water and nutrient infiltration. Reducing soil compaction will also improve the site drainage, grading, stormwater management and condition of turf and trees. To support the new turf system, the current irrigation system needs to be replaced because it is failing and cannot adequately withstand the intense use of the project area.

Your comments are essential to this environmental assessment and the development and assessment of proposed actions. We seek your comments on the scope of issues to be addressed and identifying any issues related to the proposed action. Please submit comments by April 8, 2010 either online at the NPS' Planning, Environment and Public Comment Site (<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/NAMA>) or mail to : Jennifer Talken-Spaulding at Jennifer_Talken-Spaulding@nps.gov or at 900 Ohio Drive SW, Washington DC 20024.

We invite you to attend a public meeting on March 9, 2010 from 5:30pm to 7:30pm at the NPS National Capital Region Headquarters, 1100 Ohio Drive SW, Washington DC.