



Commission Action

March 1, 2012

PROJECT Turf and Soil Reconstruction – Phases II and III The National Mall Washington, D.C.	NCPC FILE NUMBER 7110
	NCPC MAP FILE NUMBER 1.41(70.00)43522
SUBMITTED BY United States Department of the Interior National Park Service	APPLICANT'S REQUEST Approval of comments on concept design
	ACTION TAKEN Approve as requested
	REVIEW AUTHORITY Approval per 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1) and (d)

The Commission:

Provides the following comments on Phase II and III of the turf and soil reconstruction on the National Mall:

Supports the project and the National Park Service's efforts to improve the condition of the Mall's turf and ability to accommodate high levels of use for First Amendment demonstrations, national celebrations, and other events by widening the walkways in a manner that will preserve and protect the Mall's historic, continuous green landscape.

Supports the idea of establishing a civic, multi-purpose gathering space along the 8th Street axis that provides additional leisure, recreation, and events space on the Mall, and is planned and designed in a manner that takes into consideration visual impacts, historic preservation, and required maintenance.

Notes that each alternative takes into account recommendations from the National Mall Plan to widen the non-turf areas on the Mall in order to better accommodate large public events.

Notes that the proposed alternatives require further refinement, especially with regard to the extent to which the walkways need to be widened and the impacts this may have on the continuous, historic landscape of the Mall, and therefore **recommends** that the National Park Service consult with NCPC staff and representatives from the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts and the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Officer to refine the walkways prior to submitting for preliminary and/or final review.

Recommends that the National Park Service coordinate any changes to the walkways with the District of Columbia Department of Transportation and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority to determine if this project impacts areas or ongoing projects that are under their jurisdiction.

Requests the following information at the next stage of review:

- Factors that influence the proposed dimensions of the walkways,
- Calculations of the existing and proposed percentage of turf and walkways for those areas that are directly impacted by the project,
- Maintenance requirements of sacrificial turf panels, and if available, information on permanent paving materials that may be considered to replace the gravel walkways in the future.

Deborah B. Young [Date]
Secretary to the National Capital Planning Commission