

National Mall

Stage For Our Democracy

EXHIBIT
AT
WASHINGTON DC'S REAGAN NATIONAL
AIRPORT ACROSS FROM BAGGAGE CLAIM 4,
TERMINAL B

JANUARY 10 – FEBRUARY 28, 2017

The exhibit is organized around three themes, each consisting of two or three panels:

- ❖ Past: Our National Heritage
- ❖ Present: Your Mall
- ❖ Future: Vision For The Future



LEGACY THE NATIONAL MALL

Stage for Our Democracy

The City of Washington embodies America's democratic principles as intended by our founders. The Mall is the symbolic heart of our democracy.



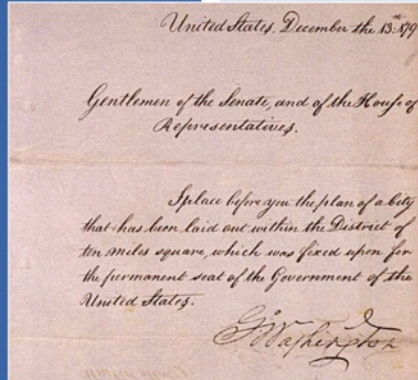
Courtesy of Carol Highsmith

This exhibition explores the challenges facing our National Mall today and some ideas about its future, and ours. We hope to demonstrate that by looking to restoring, expanding, and reinventing the historic visionary plans for Washington, D.C., America can design the 3rd Century Mall that embraces the enduring vision of our democracy.

The Washington Family 1789-1796 by Edward Savage. Courtesy of National Gallery of Art, Washington



In this family portrait and his letter to Congress, President George Washington proudly conveyed to the young republic his endorsement of the 1791 L'Enfant Plan for the City of Washington, D.C.



Courtesy of Albert H. Small - George Washington University Collection

NationalMallCoalition.org

THE NATIONAL MALL
Stage For Our Democracy



National Mall Coalition
Address: 1000 14th Street, NW, Washington, DC 20005
Phone: 202-462-1111
www.nationalmallcoalition.org

**Pick up your FREE
Mall map
at the Information Office
(between baggage claim 6 & 7)**

THE NATIONAL MALL
Stage For Our Democracy



OUR

NATIONAL

HERITAGE

CITY AND NATURE DESIGNING THE MALL

"The positions for the different Grand Edifices, and for the several Grand Squares or Areas of different shapes as they are laid down, were first determined on the most advantageous grounds, commanding the most extensive prospect..." — Peter Charles L'Enfant



It was envisioned by Peter Charles L'Enfant, the first American architect to be trained in Europe, that the Mall would be a grand public space, a "public square" or "public square" as L'Enfant called it. The Mall was to be a grand public space, a "public square" or "public square" as L'Enfant called it.

1791 1ST CENTURY: 1791 L'ENFANT PLAN

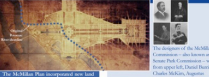
"This mode of taking possession of, and improving the whole district at first, must have its priority ground plan of future success which promised it..." — L'Enfant



The 1791 L'Enfant Plan, which established the design principles for the layout of the nation's capital, is Washington's "Planning Constitution." The concept of the capital and the reason was to be the Mall cross axis, the intersection of the Capital ("Congress House") and White House (President's House) axis, punctuated at points "O" by "Representative Square" or "George Washington."

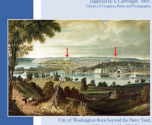
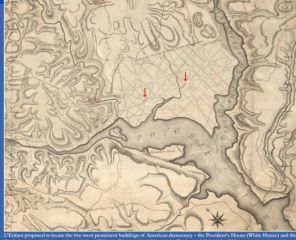
2ND CENTURY: 1901 McMILLAN PLAN

"Indeed the more the Commission studied the first plans of the Federal City, the more they became convinced that the greatest service they could perform would be done by carrying out a legitimate conclusion the comprehensive, boldness, and yet simple and straightforward, scheme under the direction of Washington and Jefferson..." — The report of the Mackay Commission to the House of Representatives, 1901



The McMILLAN Plan incorporated new land surrounding the Mall and the White House, and the Lincoln Memorial, and the Jefferson Memorial, and the White House, and between them along Pennsylvania Avenue, was the Federal Triangle.

CITY AND NATURE DESIGN WITH NATURE



L'Enfant proposed to locate the first seven government buildings of America's democracy — the President's House (White House) and the Capitol — on the Mall, a grand public space, a "public square" or "public square" as L'Enfant called it.

City of Washington from the New York City, 1800.

1791 L'ENFANT'S "PLANNING CONSTITUTION"



The 1791 L'Enfant Plan established the design principles for the layout of the nation's capital, is Washington's "Planning Constitution." The concept of the capital and the reason was to be the Mall cross axis, the intersection of the Capital ("Congress House") and White House (President's House) axis, punctuated at points "O" by "Representative Square" or "George Washington."

L'ENFANT'S UNIFIED DESIGN RESTORED & REINVENTED



The McMILLAN Plan incorporated new land surrounding the Mall and the White House, and the Lincoln Memorial, and the Jefferson Memorial, and the White House, and between them along Pennsylvania Avenue, was the Federal Triangle.

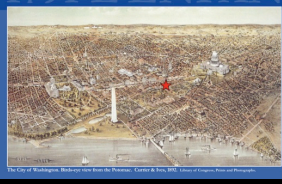
The McMILLAN Plan incorporated new land surrounding the Mall and the White House, and the Lincoln Memorial, and the Jefferson Memorial, and the White House, and between them along Pennsylvania Avenue, was the Federal Triangle.

NATURE HELD AT BAY



Because the banks of the Potomac have been so altered over time, portions of the Mall are prone to flooding from the old Tiber Creek (now covered over by land near Constitution Avenue) and the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers, as shown in this satellite view of modern Washington superimposed on Andrew Elletts's 1791 topographical map.

THE PLANNING CONSTITUTION IGNORED



The L'Enfant Plan design principles were largely ignored in the 19th century. The Mall was not set up into separate gardens and covered with trees and buildings, including a cultural institution (not just a city square) as L'Enfant intended. The Mall was not set up into separate gardens and covered with trees and buildings, including a cultural institution (not just a city square) as L'Enfant intended.

AN UNFINISHED VISION



As can be seen in this aerial view of the Mall, the Washington Monument was built off the intended cross axis. Today that space is made by the Link Avenue Jefferson Park (today, a simple granite block cut off from pedestrian pathways by new security walls). The Jefferson Washington Monument Gateway was never built.

These three panels tell the story of the creation and design of the National Mall.

See enlargements below.

OUR

CITY AND NATURE DESIGNING THE MALL

"The positions for the different Grand Edifices, and for the several Grand Squares or Areas of different shapes as they are laid down were first determined on the most advantageous ground, commanding the most extensive prospects" – Peter Charles L'Enfant



"I your memorialist – Peter Charles L'Enfant..." While commonly referred to as "Pierre," L'Enfant in fact called himself "Peter." (From L'Enfant's December 7, 1800 Memorial to Congress.)
Conceptual portrait of L'Enfant.
Courtesy of the Prince George's County Historical Society and the Hall of Fame of Prince George's County.

Chosen by President George Washington to design the seat of government on land at the confluence of the Potomac and the Anacostia Rivers, French-born American Peter Charles L'Enfant surveyed the rolling hills for advantageous sites for public buildings.

CITY AND NATURE DESIGN WITH NATURE



L'Enfant proposed to locate the two most prominent buildings of American democracy – the President's House (White House) and the Capitol – on two hills (at arrows). Andrew Ellipton's Topographical Map of the Territory of Columbia, 1793. Library of Congress Geography and Map Division.

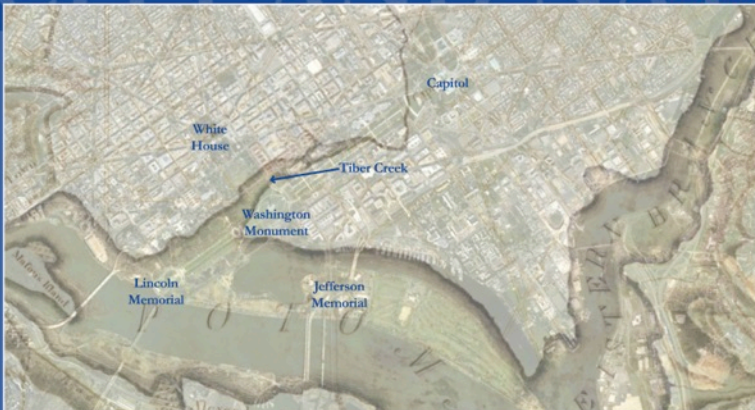


City of Washington. Drawn by George Beck, engraved by T. Cartwright, 1801. Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs.



City of Washington from beyond the Navy Yard, 1834, engraved by W. J. Bennett. Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs.

CITY AND NATURE NATURE HELD AT BAY



Because the banks of the Potomac have been so altered over two centuries, portions of the old are prone to flooding from the mall Tiber Creek (now covered over by land near Constitution Avenue) and the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers, as shown in this satellite view of modern Washington superimposed on Andrew Ellipton's 1793 topographical map.

NATIONAL

1791 L'ENFANT PLAN

"This mode of taking possession of, and improving the whole district at first, must leave to posterity a grand idea of patriotic interest which promoted it." – L'Enfant



The 1791 L'Enfant Plan, which established the design principles for the layout of the nation's capital, is Washington's "Planning Constitution." The centerpiece of the capital and the nation was to be the Mall cross axis: the intersection of the Capitol ("Congress House") axis and White House (President's House) axis, punctuated at point "A" by an "equestrian figure of George Washington."

WASHINGTON'S "PLANNING CONSTITUTION"



L'Enfant wrote, in the "References" on the plan (blue stars), that he envisioned the open public space connecting these symbols of American government and history to include a "public walk" (G), a "Grand Cascade formed of the water from the sources of the Tiber" (F) and channeled into canals running westward to the Potomac River and southward to the Anacostia River, a "Grand Avenue ...bordered with gardens" (H), and President's Park (I).

L'Enfant envisioned radiating out from the iconic public buildings, broad diagonal avenues "devised to connect the most distant objects [throughout the city] with the principal" and, at their intersections, squares to hold "Statues, Columns, Obelisks to perpetuate...the memory of such individuals...worthy of general imitation" and "five grand fountains intended with a constant spout of water" (E).

The visionary 1791 L'Enfant Plan laid out the capital's public buildings, grand avenues, and residential street grid to be a physical embodiment of American Constitutional principles. Library of Congress, Geography and Map Division.

THE PLANNING CONSTITUTION IGNORED



The L'Enfant Plan design principles were mostly ignored in the 19th century. The Mall was cut up into separate gardens and covered with trees and buildings, including a railroad station (red star), a site now occupied by the National Gallery of Art.

The City of Washington. Birds-eye view from the Potomac. Currier & Ives, 1892. Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs.



Like L'Enfant's design, the public buildings were intended to symbolize Constitutional ideals and to inspire civic virtue. William Thornton's 1793 original neoclassical design for the Capitol is mirrored in the National Gallery of Art and the Jefferson Memorial. NationalMallCoalition.org

HERITAGE

REINFORCE 2ND CENTURY: 1901 McMILLAN PLAN

"Indeed the more the Commission studied the first plans of the Federal City, the more they became convinced that the greatest service they could perform would be done by carrying to a legitimate conclusion the comprehensive, intelligent, and yet simple and straightforward, scheme under the direction of Washington and Jefferson." – The Improvement of the Park System of the District of Columbia. Report of the Senate Committee on the District of Columbia, 1902.



The McMillan Plan incorporated new land created in the 1880s from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' dredging the Potomac River.



The designers of the McMillan Commission – also known as the Senate Park Commission – were, from upper left, Daniel Burnham, Charles McKim, Augustus Saint-Gaudens, and Frederick Law Olmsted Jr.

REINFORCE L'ENFANT'S UNIFIED DESIGN RESTORED & REINVENTED



The McMillan design called for the Memorial Bridge to connect, physically and symbolically, the Lincoln Memorial to the Custis-Lee Mansion, former home of Robert E. Lee and since 1864 part of Arlington National Cemetery. Bird's-eye view of the McMillan Plan by Francis L. V. Hoppin, 1902.

Refreshing water elements, including pools and fountains, were critical elements of the Commission's concept of the Mall as a "work of civic art."



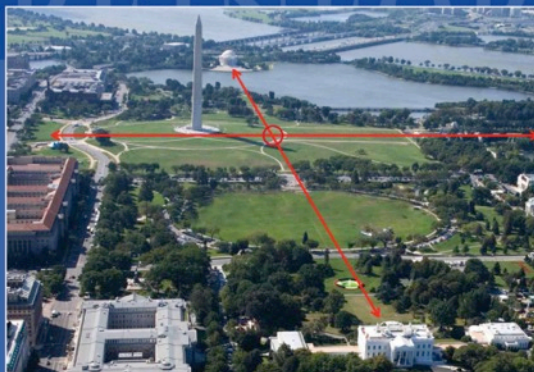
In 1901, Senator James McMillan of Michigan created the independent McMillan Commission composed of leading designers of the day. The Commission proposed to restore, reinforce, and expand L'Enfant's symbolic cross axis. The Plan extended the Mall one mile west of the Washington Monument, over landfill, to the Lincoln Memorial and southward to what became the Jefferson Memorial. To meet the needs of the growing nation, the Plan created complexes of public buildings around the Capitol and White House, and between them along Pennsylvania Avenue, now the Federal Triangle.

The McMillan Commission reinvented L'Enfant's "Grand Avenue" as a majestic democratic park lined with rows of elms and white neoclassical museums. The Washington Monument, now the centerpiece of the expanded cross axis, was to be the "gem of the Mall system," a veritable oasis of shaded pathways and refreshing water elements.



Courtesy of the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts

REINFORCE AN UNFINISHED VISION



Courtesy of Calred Highsmith



As can be seen in this aerial view at left, the Washington Monument was built off the intended cross axis. Today that spot is marked by the little-known Jefferson Pier (circled), a simple granite block cut off from pedestrian pathways by new security walls. The elaborate Washington Monument Garden was never built.

YOUR

MALL

We Americans Have Made The Mall



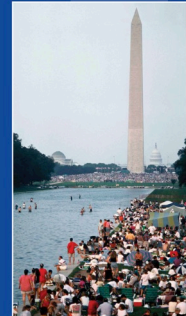
March 8, 1985: Second Presidential Inauguration of Ronald Reagan
Courtesy of Library of Congress



August 28, 1963: March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom
Courtesy of Library of Congress



October 1996: AIDS Memorial Quilt
Courtesy of David LaPrade



1988: Fourth of July Celebration
Courtesy of Eric Lipton



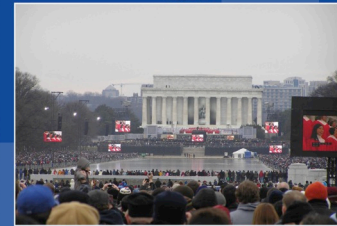
January 2001: 9/11 War Demonstration



1930s: Skating on the Reflecting Pool
Courtesy of Library of Congress



Smithsonian ESI Festival
Courtesy of Smithsonian Institution



2006: Pro-Inauguration Celebration

A Stage For Our Democracy

NationalMallCoalition.org

NationalMallCoalition.org

These two panels tell the story of the National Mall today as a Stage for Our Democracy.

See enlargements below.

YOUR

THE NATION

We Americans Have



March 4, 1905: Second Presidential Inauguration of Theodore Roosevelt
Courtesy of Library of Congress



August 28, 1963: March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom
Courtesy of Library of Congress



January 2003: Anti-War Demonstration



1920s: Skating on the Reflecting Pool
Courtesy of Library of Congress

A Stage

MALL

Made The Mall



October 1996: AIDS Memorial Quilt
Courtesy of Carol Highsmith



1980s: Fourth of July Celebration
Courtesy of Tom Wachs



Smithsonian Kite Festival
Courtesy of Carol Highsmith



2009: Pre-Inaugural Celebration

For Our Democracy

A VISION

FOR THE

FUTURE

EXPAND 3RD CENTURY: GROW THE MALL!

"The National Mall Coalition proposes a 3rd Century Mall. By expanding the Mall we will reinvigorate our capital in L'Enfant's vision and the MidMillenn legacy. We can reenergize the monumental core into vibrant living city and provide a larger stage on which to tell the ongoing American story."



The 3rd Century Mall can grow significantly to incorporate underutilized federal lands on both sides of the Potomac and Annapolis Rivers.

EXPAND TO TELL THE ONGOING AMERICAN STORY



1. Plan for a 3rd Century National Mall to include:
 - a. Expansion to U Street & M Street West
 - b. Establish the existing Westwood Avenue
 - c. Expand the Mall to the north and south
 - d. Provide space for new historical or interpretive facilities
 - e. Provide room for transit
 - f. Open up the Mall and the Washington Channel
 - g. Create an underground transit system and emergency egress
 - h. Reconnect the National Mall to the surrounding community
 - i. Connect to the Potomac and Annapolis Rivers

Like other capitals — London, Paris, Rome — Washington was built on rivers and seaports that offer exciting opportunities for strategic development to create lively urban spaces. Creating new destinations for museums, materials, and public activities and amenities on hundreds of acres of underutilized federal land along the waterfront will complement District of Columbia efforts and create a unified, beautiful waterfront.

EXPAND RECONNECT WASHINGTON



An open-air collection would become a major stage for cultural, educational, and recreational activities, and enhance our country's national history and our neighborhoods.



Popular public events such as the Fourth of July and the Water Decathlon can be relocated to new waterfront locations. These new destinations will draw visitors from the neighboring community and contribute to the economic vitality of the city and the larger region.

AMERICAN ENHANCE PUBLIC USE

"By returning to L'Enfant's vision of a human-centered, open, tree-filled, pedestrian-friendly urban public space in the heart of the capital, we can build a 3rd Century Mall that draws people together and inspires civic pride."



Protesters use John F. Kennedy's tomb as the focus for their gathering.

CREATE CIVIC SPACES THAT SUPPORT BROAD PUBLIC USE



The 3rd Century Mall can be reimagined to support greater public use and civic activity with more elements and other welcoming public amenities: shade trees, green roofs, shuttle services, recreation, parking, pedestrian and cyclist pathways.

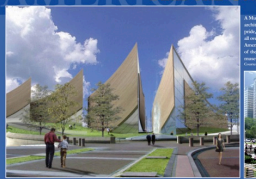


Today's buildings can be reimagined from square to a continuous shaded promenade.



Today's buildings can be reimagined from square to a continuous shaded promenade.

AMERICAN TELL THE UNFOLDING AMERICAN STORY



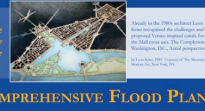
A Museum of the American People, with interactive displays and interpretive programs, could be a way of commemorating the events that shaped the history of the nation and the country's growth and development.



The story told on the Mall, now limited primarily to products and wars, can be enriched with new chapters told in new ways that include the Mall's contributions to American identity.

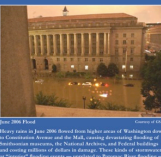
FLOODS RESTORE THE ECOLOGICAL BALANCE

"The challenge and opportunity are to restore ecological balance, creating a 3rd Century Mall that restores public use and changing climate challenges for the next 100 years. The 3rd Century Mall will be a model for sustainable planning and management."



Watershed Flood Control and Management Plan for the Potomac River Basin, District of Columbia, 1984.

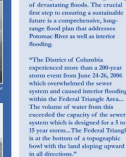
FLOODS A COMPREHENSIVE FLOOD PLAN



2008 Flood



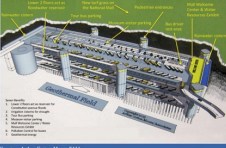
2010 Flood



2012 Flood

The District of Columbia experienced more than a 200-year record event from June 26-28, 2010 which overwhelmed the sewer system and caused street flooding within the Federal Triangle Area... The volume of water that exceeded the capacity of the sewer system which is designed for a 10-15 year return. The Federal Triangle is at the bottom of a topographic bowl with the land sloping upward in all directions.

FLOODS AN UNDERGROUND PROPOSAL



Concept for an underground floodwater management system.

The National Mall Underground is a multi-purpose flood protection and parking facility that also provides a new historic look to the Mall. It will be a model for sustainable planning and management.



FLOOD WATER

These three panels show one vision for the future of the National Mall.

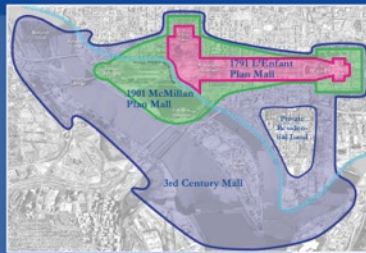
See enlargements below.

A VISION

EXPAND 3RD CENTURY: GROW THE MALL!

“The National Mall Coalition proposes a 3rd Century Mall. By expanding the Mall we will rededicate our capital to L’Enfant’s vision and the McMillan legacy. We can reintegrate the monumental core into the vibrant living city and provide a larger slate on which to tell the ongoing American story.”

— The National Mall Coalition is a nonprofit citizens organization dedicated to visionary planning in the 3rd century to ensure the Mall continues its foundational role in American democracy.



The 3rd Century Mall can grow again to incorporate underutilized federal lands on both sides of the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers.

EXPAND EXPAND TO TELL THE ONGOING AMERICAN STORY

A Plan for a 21st Century National Mall

By Arthur Cotton Moore, FAIA

1. Completes the L’Enfant & McMillan Plans
2. Establishes the missing Maryland Avenue
3. Extends the Mall on the North-South axis
4. Provides space for new memorials & museums
5. Increases recreation facilities
6. Provides security for rail lines
7. Opens up the dead end of the Washington Channel
8. Covers up infrastructure
9. Provides a new visitor center and metro stop
10. Relocates the Supreme Court to a more symbolic location commensurate with its importance



Like other capitals – London, Paris, Rome – Washington was built on rivers and waterways that offer exciting opportunities for modern development to create lively urban spaces. Creating new destinations for museums, memorials, and public activities and amenities on hundreds of acres of underutilized federal land along the waterfront will complement District of Columbia efforts and create a unified, bustling waterfront.

EXPAND RECONNECT WASHINGTON



An open-air coliseum would become a major venue for cultural, educational, and recreational spectacles, and showcase our country’s common history, goals, and aspirations.

Popular public events such as the Folklife Festival and the Solar Decathlon can be relocated to prominent and welcoming new locations. These new destinations will draw visitors into the neighboring community and contribute to the economic vitality of the city and the larger region.

Renderings Courtesy of Rick Harlan Schneider, AIA



FOR THE

AMERICAN HISTORY ENHANCE PUBLIC USE

"By returning to L'Enfant's vision of a human-centered, open, tree-filled, pedestrian-friendly urban public space in the heart of the capital, we can build a 3rd Century Mall that draws people together and inspires civic pride."

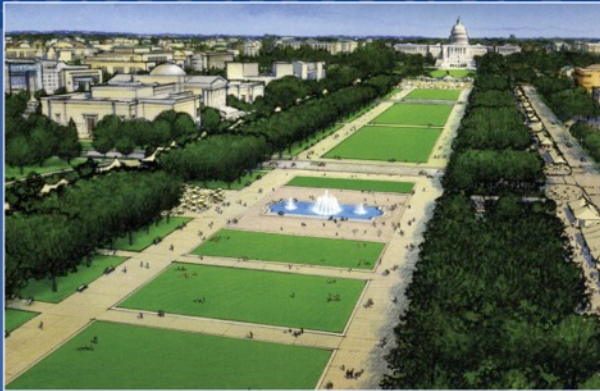
— National Mall Coalition

Pedestrians see little of L'Enfant's vision on the barren two-mile expanse



Statues of poets, scientists, inventors, and statesmen could animate the open spaces and benches along the two-mile-long Mall promenade.

AMERICAN HISTORY CREATE CIVIC SPACES THAT SUPPORT BROAD PUBLIC USE



A refreshing pool with fountains draws inspiration from the L'Enfant and McMillan visions. Courtesy of Cy Panatier



Courtesy of Cy Panatier

Today's landscape can be transformed from sparse to a continuous shaded promenade.



Courtesy of Cy Panatier



Courtesy of Stephen Ledwith

The wide shaded walkways and paved areas on Jefferson and Madison Drives provide more than ten acres of pedestrian space for festivals and other outdoor events.

The "unfinished" Washington Monument grounds can become an oasis of pools and trees, as intended in the 1901 McMillan Commission Plan.

The 3rd Century Mall can be reinvented to support greater public use and civic activity with water elements and other welcoming public amenities: shade trees, good food, shuttle service, restrooms, parking, pedestrian and cyclist pathways.



Security concerns closed the grand public entrances to the Supreme Court and the Capitol. The 3rd Century Mall would re-open these great symbols of our democracy to the public as intended, while also keeping them secure.

AMERICAN HISTORY TELL THE UNFOLDING AMERICAN STORY



A Museum of the American People, with architecture that celebrates and inspires civic pride, could tell the story of immigrants from all over the world and their embrace of American values and citizenship, instead of the current trend of individual ethnic museums.

Courtesy of MTPA Architecture

The story told on the Mall, now limited primarily to presidents and wars, can be enriched with new chapters and in new ways that reinforce the Mall's symbolism of American identity.



New kinds of monuments and attractions can inspire civic engagement, such as this installation in Millennium Park, Chicago

FUTURE

FLOODS RESTORE THE ECOLOGICAL BALANCE

"The challenge and opportunity are to restore ecological balance, creating a 3rd Century Mall that sustains public use and changing climate challenges for the next 100 years. The 3rd Century Mall will be a model to the nation of sustainable planning and management." — National Mall Coalition



Already in the 1980s architect Leon Krier recognized the challenges and proposed Venice-inspired canals for the Mall cross axis. The Completion of Washington, D.C., Aerial perspective.

By Leon Krier, 1985. Courtesy of The Museum of Modern Art, New York, NY.

FLOODS A COMPREHENSIVE FLOOD PLAN



June 2006 Flood

Courtesy of GSA.

Heavy rains in June 2006 flowed from higher areas of Washington down to Constitution Avenue and the Mall, causing devastating flooding of Smithsonian museums, the National Archives, and Federal buildings and costing millions of dollars in damage. These kinds of stormwater or "interior" flooding events — unrelated to Potomac River flooding — are predicted to intensify in coming years. In the face of government inaction to solve this and other serious environmental problems, the National Mall Coalition has created the multi-purpose National Mall Underground project, shown below.



Potomac River flooding in the 1980s inundated most of East Potomac Park near the Jefferson Memorial (red arrow).



1930s flood.

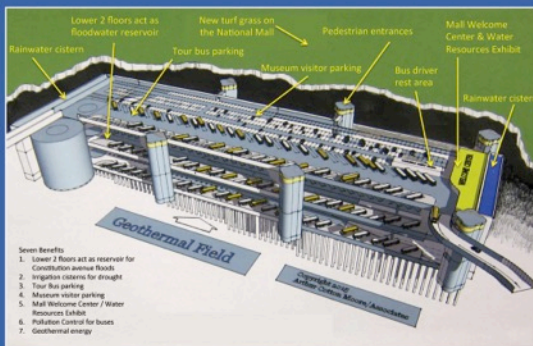
Library of Congress, Prints and Photographs.

Washington, DC, has a long history of devastating floods. The crucial first step to ensuring a sustainable future is a comprehensive, long-range flood plan that addresses Potomac River as well as interior flooding.

"The District of Columbia experienced more than a 200-year storm event from June 24-26, 2006 which overwhelmed the sewer system and caused interior flooding within the Federal Triangle Area... The volume of water from this exceeded the capacity of the sewer system which is designed for a 5 to 15 year storm...The Federal Triangle is at the bottom of a topographic bowl with the land sloping upward in all directions."

— Federal Triangle Stormwater Drainage Study (July 2011)

FLOODS AN UNDERGROUND PROPOSAL



Courtesy Arthur Cotton Moore FAIA

The National Mall Underground is a multi-purpose flood protection and parking facility that also provides a much-needed Mall Welcome Center with restrooms and food options. During heavy storms, vehicles will be removed from the lower two stories to allow flood waters to flow into these areas until they can be pumped out later into the sewer system.

The National Mall Coalition proposes a multi-purpose solution to address a multitude of ecological challenges, including flooding, traffic congestion and pollution, public amenities, and clean energy: the National Mall Underground.



This exhibit, *National Mall: Stage For Democracy*, is located across from Baggage Claim 4, Terminal B, at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport. It will be on view through February 28, 2017.

The exhibit was arranged for display in concert with the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority as part of the Airports Authority's Arts Program.

For more information about the National Mall Coalition visit www.nationalmallcoalition.org

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