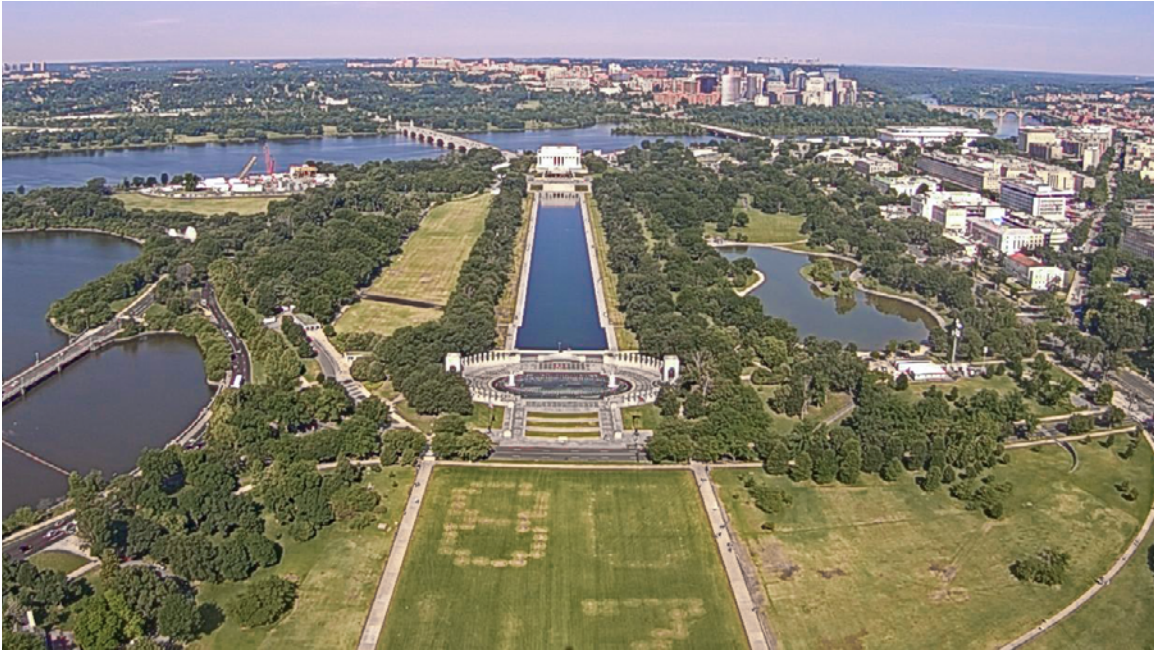


Live Cam Shows '8647' Visible on National Mall Hours Before Police Arrive

By Alice Gibbs, June 12, 2026



Large “8647” markings on the National Mall were visible for hours before law enforcement responded on Thursday, according to live camera footage reviewed by Newsweek—just as thousands are expected at the Capitol for a weekend of celebrations.

U.S. Park Police responded to a report of vandalism on June 11, 2026. “At approximately 11:30 a.m., U.S. Park Police responded to a report of vandalism of the west lawn of the Washington Monument. The numbers ‘8647’ were marked in the grass. The cause of the discoloration has not yet been determined. Grass samples have been collected for testing. The investigation is ongoing. We have no additional information to share at this time,” a spokesperson told Newsweek.

The incident comes at a time of heightened activity on the Mall, with large crowds expected in Washington this weekend for events linked to [President Donald Trump’s birthday and a UFC fight](#), as well as increased foot traffic around the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool during ongoing repainting work.

What The Footage Shows

Images captured from an EarthCam positioned above the National Mall show the markings already visible from around 6 a.m., continuing through 7 a.m., 8 a.m., 9 a.m. and 10 a.m.

By late morning, the numbers are clearly distinguishable in the grass near the World War II Memorial, appearing as discolored patches against the surrounding lawn.

The sequence indicates the markings were in place for several hours in daylight before any visible law enforcement response.

A Reuters photographer also reported seeing the markings before authorities arrived, supporting the timeline suggested by the footage.

When Police Responded—and What They Said

U.S. Park Police said in a statement that officers were called to the scene at approximately 11:30 a.m. on Thursday.

“The cause of the discoloration has not yet been determined,” the agency said, adding that grass samples have been collected and the investigation is ongoing.

Department of Interior officials confirmed to Newsweek in a statement that an investigation had been launched, adding: “The deranged

vandalism on our National Mall will not be tolerated. Any threat against the President is taken very seriously by the Department, and our U.S. Park Police will investigate this incident and hold those responsible accountable.”

What Does 8647 Mean?

The numbers “8647” have taken on political meaning in recent months.

“86” is commonly used in U.S. slang to mean “get rid of” or “remove,” while “47” is widely interpreted as a reference to Trump, the 47th president.

The phrase has been used by some critics of Trump as a protest slogan. However, administration officials have said it can be interpreted as a potential threat, and similar uses of the phrase have previously drawn law enforcement scrutiny.

The numbers have surfaced repeatedly in recent months in political and legal flashpoints, including the case of former FBI Director James Comey, [who faced charges after posting an image showing “8647”](#) spelled out in seashells. The phrase has also appeared on protest signs, flags and social media posts, drawing attention from federal authorities over how it should be interpreted.