

Watch the snowy National Mall in real time with this new webcam

The webcam will document phase II of the National Mall turf restoration project.

By Lalita Clozel / staff - Feb. 17, 2015 2:51 pm

Don't want your tippy toes to get cold? You can watch the snowed-in National Mall from home today, thanks to a new camera placed on the Smithsonian Castle's North Flag Tower by webcam network [EarthCam](#).

The camera faces north and pans east to west, alternating between sweeping views of the [U.S. Capitol](#) and the [Washington Monument](#). There's also a panorama option.

The nonprofit Trust for the National Mall and the Smithsonian Institution agreed to document phase II of the National Mall turf restoration project in real time with the camera provided by EarthCam. To preserve water, the four feet of soil now below the turf will be replaced with sports stadium style "compaction-resistant turf and soil system," according to a press release.

(Fear not: It will still be grass on top, only the soil underneath is changing.)

"We are thrilled that this partnership will allow more people to understand the complex nature of the turf restoration while also educating the public about the need to restore and preserve our National Mall," said Trust president Caroline Cunningham.

In the past, EarthCam had partnered with the National Park Service to document the Washington Monument's repairs after a 5.8-magnitude earthquake damaged it in 2011.

EarthCam produced a time-lapse movie of the repairs that has been viewed over 50,000 times and is now on display in the Washington Monument Welcome Center.

