



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Superintendent's Compendium
Of Designations, Closures, Permit
Requirements and Other Restrictions
Imposed Under Discretionary Authority.

Approved: 1/17/2024
Carla Beasley, Superintendent

Ocmulgee Mounds
National Historical Park

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In accordance with applicable law and policy, and pursuant to the delegated authorities provided in Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations, Chapter 1 ("36 CFR"), the following compendium actions apply to all lands and waters administered by the National Park Service (NPS) within the boundaries of Ocmulgee Mounds National Historical Park. This document is the written compilation of designations, closures, permit requirements and other restrictions imposed under the discretionary authority of the Superintendent, as required by 36 CFR 1.7(b). Violating any provision in this Compendium may result in criminal penalties under 36 CFR 1.3.

The compendium actions in this document apply in addition to all other laws that apply to lands and waters administered by the NPS within the boundaries of Ocmulgee Mounds National Historical Park. These include:

- Regulations in 36 CFR and other CFR titles such as Title 43, which contains regulations that apply on public lands administered by the Department of the Interior. The current version of the CFR can be found at www.ecfr.gov. Click on "Title 36" and then "Chapter 1" to access 36 CFR.
- Statutes codified in the U.S. Code, in particular provisions in Titles 16 and 54.

Please contact Steve Cape if you have any questions or comments about the Superintendent's Compendium.

NPS regulations in 36 CFR 1.4 define certain terms that are used in 36 CFR. Other sections in CFR may define terms that are used in those sections. To the extent any terms defined in the CFR are used in this Compendium, those definitions apply.

1.5 Closures and Public Use Limits

- (a) (1) To protect and preserve the natural and cultural resources of Ocmulgee Mounds National Historical Park, the park uses controlled accessibility. All vehicular visitors and service representatives are required to enter through the signed park gate located at 1207 Emery Highway.

1.5(a)(1) Ocmulgee Mounds was established as an archeological/cultural preserve. Because of the great public interest in arrowhead and pottery collecting, the National Park Service must be constantly aware of an existing threat to the resource by those who would not respect its preservation ideals.

The park is open daily to public use from 9:00am to 5:00pm. The park is closed to public use and entry from 5:00pm to 9:00am. Park operating hours are subject to change dependent upon seasonal visitor demands and special programs.

The park is closed to public use on Thanksgiving Day, Christmas Day, and New Year's Day.

All areas under the jurisdiction of Ocmulgee Mounds National Historical Park east of Walnut Creek are closed to the public.

The limitation of visitor use at unimproved land east of Walnut Creek does not adversely affect the cultural or natural resource experience of Ocmulgee Mounds. The area has not been provided with facilities for visitor safety, control, protection, or sanitary needs. Tradition and public expectations are consistent with not permitting visitor access to this area, only as a guided walk is provided by the Park staff where the service has had an opportunity to advise the visitor of potential safety hazards and resource protection regulations. Additionally, the area contains marsh areas "generally appears to have been affected primarily by the forces of nature, with the imprint of man's work substantially unnoticeable" (Wilderness Act, 1964). The area is a teeming ecosystem protected against damage or human involvement.

The River Trail pedestrian/bike bridge is closed to pedestrian, bicycle, and administrative vehicles.

This closure is necessary to promote visitor and staff safety due to critical structural concerns revealed during Federal Highways Administration bridge field inspection. The inspection report noted significant decay and splits in several support beams resulting in excessive deflection of the deck under pedestrian load. Federal Highways Administration recommended the bridge remain closed to both pedestrians and vehicles until corrective measures are completed.

Ocmulgee Mounds National Historical Park's residential, maintenance areas and Dunlap House are signed as closed to unauthorized entry and should not be entered by the visiting public except in emergencies or with the permission of the Superintendent.

The parks residential and maintenance area contains personal belongings and government equipment and supplies that are secured by keeping all but authorized traffic from entering. There are no park theme related sites in this area.

The lawn area immediately surrounding the Visitor Center, as shown on the location map available at the Visitor Center, is hereby designated as an area open to passive and active recreational activities such as recreational ball throwing. The Indian Mounds, Indian Village areas, as well as other open areas surrounding these sites are closed to recreational uses that interfere with the preservation of scenic and cultural values at sites considered sacred by Native Americans.

This designation and closure is made for the protection of nationally significant cultural resources and for the preservation of scenic values at sites considered sacred areas by Native Americans, and at sites where present visitors come to gain an appreciation of the cultural heritage of Native Americans. The passive Recreational area is established in order to provide an equitable allocation for use of the facilities by visitors wishing to participate in such use, and to avoid conflict among visitor use activities.

The entire Park is closed to kite flying and model motorized vehicles.

Justification for restriction established by Superintendent, pursuant to above cited authority. This restriction is necessary for the maintenance of public safety and for the protection of scenic values and cultural resources. Kite flying in cleared unmowed areas is not safe since holes and unleveled terrain are not easily visible. Kite flying and motorized model vehicles pose a threat to visitor safety along roads, and pose a threat to cultural resources near mounds. Kite flying along trails results in kites being caught in trees impairing the scenic cultural value of the Park.

All pedestrian foot bridge and Great Temple Mound stairway's safety/hand railings are closed to the public and the following is prohibited: walking on, climbing, entering, ascending, descending, or traversing any bridge or Great Temple Mound railing. Also prohibited is the tossing, throwing or rolling of any type of objects from any established bridge or bridge way.

Bridge hand/safety railing prohibitions are established primarily for safety and protection of visitors and/or vehicles and /or railroad trains. The closure to climbing or tossing items from same ensures safety for all concerned.

(2) Bank fishing is permitted within park boundaries along the Ocmulgee River, Walnut Creek only on footpath, not Boardwalk and the Clay Hole pond adjacent to the Great Temple Mound. All fishermen are responsible for compliance with Georgia State fishing regulations. Anyone sixteen (16) and over required to have a valid State license. In addition to State regulations, fishing must be conducted-in accordance with 36 CFR Part 2.3(a) - (8) (g).

(2) Fishing along the banks of Walnut Creek and the Ocmulgee River has been deemed to have no detrimental impact on the aquatic resources. The resources should not be endangered when state and Federal regulations are followed.

Fishing from foot bridges and boardwalks is prohibited at all times.

This prohibited activity will ensure the safety of park visitors using the trail system and preserve the scenic natural value of the waterways.

Launching, landing, or operating an unmanned aircraft from or on lands and waters administered by the National Park Service within the boundaries of Ocmulgee Mounds National Historical Park is prohibited except as approved in writing by the Superintendent.

The term "unmanned aircraft" means a device that is used or intended to be used for flight in the air without the possibility of direct human intervention from within or on the device, and the associated operational elements and components that are required for the pilot or system operator in command to operate or control the device (such as cameras, sensors, communication links). This term includes all types of devices that meet this definition (e.g., model airplanes, quadcoptors, drones) that are used for any purpose, including for recreation or commerce.

1.6 Permits

- (c) Permits are required for the following activities:
- Exceptions to Closures and Public Use Limits (1.5)
 - Research Specimens (2.5)
 - Noncommercial Soliciting (2.37)
 - Special Events (2.50)
 - Public Assemblies and Meetings (2.51)
 - Sale or Distribution of Printed Matter (2.52)
 - Residing on Federal Lands (2.61)
 - Memorialization (2.62)
 - Business Operations (5.3)
 - Commercial Filming and Photography; Filming, Recording, and Photography involving the use of a model (or any on-camera talent), set, or prop (5.5)

A NPS representative will explain the regulations and administrative policies. Applications for Permit to execute such activities may be obtained in the administrative offices of the Visitor Center.

1.6 Permits may be issued by the Superintendent to authorize an otherwise prohibited or restricted activity. The activities that require permits include only those activities prohibited or restricted under 36 CFR 1-7.

1.7 Public Notice

When the COVID-19 Community Level is LOW or MEDIUM in the county or all the counties where the park is located based on data provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), individuals are not required to wear masks.

When the COVID-19 Community Level is HIGH in the county or all the counties where the park is located based on data provided by the CDC, all individuals over the age of two must wear masks, regardless of vaccination status, in all common areas and shared workspaces in buildings owned, leased, or otherwise controlled by the National Park Service, including, but not limited to, park visitor centers, administrative offices, lodges, gift shops and restaurants.

When the COVID-19 Community Level is HIGH in one or more, but not all, of the counties where the park is located based on data provided by the CDC, the superintendent will determine whether individuals are required to wear masks. The requirement, if any, will apply to all facilities within the park.

Masks must cover the nose and mouth and fit snugly around the nose and chin with no large gaps around the sides of the face. Masks not designed to be protective, masks with ventilation valves, and face shields do not meet the requirement.

Regardless of the COVID-19 Community Level, individuals may wear masks if they choose to do so. Where a state, local, tribal, or territorial government where the park is located imposes more protective mask-wearing requirements than those indicated by the COVID-19 Community Level, individuals must follow those more protective requirements within the park. More protective state, local, tribal, or territorial mask-wearing requirements are hereby adopted as federal requirements in all units of the National Park System located within that state, locality, area subject to a federally recognized Indian tribe's regulatory jurisdiction, or territory, regardless of a particular park's jurisdictional status.

Additionally, all individuals must wear masks in or on public transportation conveyances and transportation hubs/facilities, to the extent required by current orders or directives issued by the CDC, the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), or other federal agencies with jurisdiction over those conveyances or areas. As of March 4, 2022, CDC and TSA orders or directives require all individuals regardless of vaccination status to wear masks in indoor areas of all forms of public transportation conveyances, including busses, trains, and boats/ferries, and in the indoor premises of transportation hubs/facilities. Individuals are not required to wear masks while outdoors on conveyances or while outdoors on the premises of transportation hubs/facilities.

2.1 Preservation of Natural, Cultural, and Archeological Resources

(c)(1) Reasonable quantities of the following may be gathered for personal use and consumption: pine cones, fruits, pine straw, berries, and nuts

2.1(c) (1)--Hand gathering of designated fruits, nuts, and berries is not determined to adversely affect the natural balance. Should monitoring show that picking fruits, nuts, and berries begins to adversely affect the ecosystem, this relaxation of 2.1(c)(1) will be terminated.

2.10 Camping and Food Storage

(a) Camping is not allowed anywhere within the park.

2.10(a)--There are no facilities or areas developed for camping in the park. To protect the resources no one is allowed within the park after closing. Congress did not authorize camping activities in the enabling legislation.

2.11 Picnicking

Visitors to the park may picnic at the tables maintained for that purpose located in front of the Visitor Center.

2.11--Specific areas have been established for picnicking. These areas have been viewed as having the least effect on the resource. Picnicking allowed in the immediate vicinity of the Visitor Center will preserve the historic scene of the Indian village site.

2.15 Pets

Pets must remain on a leash at all times in accordance with the CFR concerning this subject.

2.20 Skating, Skateboards, and Similar Devices

Use of roller skates, skateboards, coasting vehicles, or similar devices is permitted only by park residents and their guests in the residential area and on park roads after the park is closed to the public.

2.20--This relaxation of regulation permits park residents the use of such devices while still providing for public safety.

2.21 Smoking

Smoking is prohibited inside all buildings. Visitors are encouraged to be aware of the fire danger of smoking along park trails and walkways.

2.21(a)—The Buildings have been designated as no smoking and smoking may be among visitor use activities that require the no littering regulation be enforced.

2.22 Property

(a) (2) Property, particularly vehicles, left within the park after closing hours and after an NPS official has attempted to locate the owner will be determined to be abandoned. Following this determination, a vehicle may be towed at the owner's expense and the owner held responsible for reclaiming their property. Other property will be recorded under lost and found procedures and held for up to sixty (60) days.

2.22(a) (2)--Park operating hours are conspicuously displayed at the entrance gate and in visitor use areas. To meet the responsibility of protecting the government's cultural resources at Ocmulgee, the National Park Service will do everything within its power to assure security is maintained in the park. Therefore, all visitors must exit the park by closing time and their personal properties removed as they depart. Vehicles remaining in the park after closing will be considered a breach of security and may be towed and can be cited.

2.35 Alcoholic Beverages and Controlled Substances

(a) (3) Alcoholic beverages may be consumed at picnic tables within the established picnic area and within the curtilage of park residences. All other areas including the Visitor

Center/Museum, mounds, and earth lodge are closed to the consumption and/or possession of alcoholic beverages.

2.35(a)(3)--The Visitor Center/Museum, earth lodge, mound sites, and all other park lands, except the established picnic area and two park residences, are closed to the consumption of alcoholic beverages. Alcohol consumption would be inappropriate considering the other uses of these locations and the purpose for which they are maintained or established.

2.51 Public Assembly and Meetings (Designated Areas)

- Visitor Center: the lawn area behind the visitor center on the south and west of the paved sidewalk intersection
- Main Entrance: The grass island at the Emery Highway park entrance



Map of first amendment areas

4.21 Speed Limits

(b) Unless otherwise posted, the maximum speed limit is twenty-five (25) miles per hour on all park roads; except that the maximum speed limit is fifteen (15) miles per hour within all parking areas, the administrative office access road, and on the maintenance facility access road. The Maintenance and Administration roads and parking areas are closed to the Public. There are no off road parking areas; unless there is a Special Use Permit issued for such.

4.21--Twenty-five miles per hour is determined to be the maximum speed a vehicle can be operated safely on the park road. Ocmulgee Mounds is an animal sanctuary as well as a place for visitors to relax and learn of past cultures. Operating vehicles at speeds in excess of twenty-

five--(25) mph is a risk to both human and animal life. It is determined that 15 mph is the safest maximum speed for parking lots as established in 36 CFR 4.21(a)(1). Since the access roads to the administrative office and maintenance facility are one lane roads, it is determined that 15 mph is the safest maximum speed for employee and public safety.

4.30 Bicycles

1. Bicycles and electric bicycles are allowed on park roads and in parking areas that are open to motor vehicle use by the public; and on the following trails:
 - a. Ocmulgee Heritage Trail along the Ocmulgee River between Walnut Creek and the Railroad near the Odis Reding Bridge (1 mile)
 - b. Ocmulgee Heritage Trail between the Visitor Center and the Clinton Street entrance gate (0.75 mile)
 - c. River Trail along Walnut Creek between Ocmulgee Heritage Trail (along the Ocmulgee River) and the main park road near the Great Temple Mound (1 mile)
2. Except where use of motor vehicles by the public is allowed, using the electric motor exclusively to move an electric bicycle for an extended period of time without pedaling is prohibited.

4.30--Bicycles are allowed on park roads and trails under 36 CFR 4.30. On September 23, 2021, the Superintendent designated park roads and parking areas, and the Ocmulgee Heritage and River trails as open to electric bicycles using the discretionary authority given to the Superintendent under 36 CFR 4.30(i). Allowing electric bicycles on public roads and in parking areas will create new opportunities for recreation and access within the park. It will not create any adverse impacts to park visitors, resources or values due to the existing use of these locations by motor vehicles and bicycles. This action is covered by the categorical exclusion 3.2.E in the NPS NEPA Handbook.