

Compendium of Regulatory Provisions Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts

The primary mission of Wolf Trap National Park as stated in its enabling legislation is performing arts. The enabling legislation states that the park is established *for the performing arts and related educational programs, and for recreation use in connection therewith.* (P.L. 89-671, October 15, 1966). The park's General Management Plan elaborates in the statements on the park's purpose and significance, including the very first statement of significance "Wolf Trap is a unit of the national park system that has, as its primary resource, the presentation of the performing arts." Performing arts uses, and ancillary uses associated with patrons attending a performance (such as parking and pre-performance parties and events) are therefore given priority when there is a possible conflict between uses.

However, the park also has significant environmental and scenic values that contribute to this primary mission. The park's General Management Plan states that "One of the factors important to the success of Wolf Trap Farm Park¹ is its setting...there are natural and topographic features that provide scenic views and qualities that are reminiscent of the historic countryside." The Plan goes on to say that "With the urbanization of northern Virginia, Wolf Trap provides a natural enclave and scenic landscape in the midst of development. This atmosphere must be maintained and cultivated to preserve the presence and purpose of Wolf Trap Farm Park." The Plan includes similar language in its statement of the park's purpose: "Wolf Trap's informal country setting provides an important aspect of the character of the Wolf Trap performing arts experience and offers secondary interpretive opportunities that contribute to the primary purpose." Finally, the Plan includes in its statement of significance "Wolf Trap provides a distinctive informal pastoral setting in which to enjoy the performing arts."

The determinations on limitation of use, designation of the use of areas, and other decisions of the park Director documented in this compendium are primarily based on these primary and secondary uses, values, and significance, and related issues of health, safety, and the values and policies of the National Park System as a whole.

¹ At the time the General Management Plan was written the park's name was "Wolf Trap Farm Park for the Performing Arts." It has since been changed to "Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts."

Definitions

1. **Filene Center House** means all areas of the Theater for which a ticket is required and includes the Plaza, Lawn and Covered Seating area.
2. **Filene Center Lawn** means the uncovered grass audience areas of the Filene Center House.
3. **Filene Center Covered Seating** means the fixed seats and areas under roof, including the loge, box, front orchestra, rear orchestra and pit seating areas.
4. **Filene Center Plaza** means the paved area of the Filene Center House which provides access to and from the lawn areas, concessions, main gate, dinner gate, press gate and restrooms.
5. **Performance Season** means the weeks during the spring and summer during which the Filene Center and other park areas are used almost daily for performances, as well as occasional performance uses at other times. It also includes time in spring (usually several weeks) required to prepare the Filene Center for performances, and time in the fall to shut it down and winterize it. Unless otherwise declared by the park Director, the season begins May 1 and runs through September 30.
6. **The Meadow** refers to the large grassy area below the Filene Center, adjacent to Wolf Trap Creek.
7. **Third Party Areas** are those areas rented or operated by the Wolf Trap Foundation during the performing season in furtherance of their fund-raising mission. These include the Associates Deck, Terrace Deck, Meadow Pavilion, Ovations Restaurant, and the Encore Lounge with its associated deck.

Park Hours

Outside of the performance season, the park is open to the public from 7:00 a.m. to dusk every day. During the performance season, the park is closed to public visitation which is not performance related during park festivals and Filene Center performances to avoid conflict among visitor use activities. This restriction begins two hours prior to show times and ends one hour after performances have completed. The park is closed from dusk to 7:00 a.m. except to patrons and authorized participants attending authorized events.

Public Use Limits

1. Open fires and/or cooking devices are not permitted within the park at any time.
2. "Tenting", i.e., the pitching of any kind of tents for shelter, including large event tents, is not permitted except by permission of the Director.
3. Organized sports (baseball, soccer, football, croquet, etc.) are not permitted at any time, nor is the erection of sports equipment such as nets, goals, etc. Informal games, such as catch, frisbee, etc., are permitted in the Meadow area.
4. Flying model powered airplanes or model rockets is prohibited.
5. Items such as signs, decorations, and balloons are not to be attached to any park structures or natural features except the third party deck areas. Balloons are permitted as part of pre-performance picnics and events, provided that these events occur outside the Filene Center House. Helium balloons may not be released at any time.
6. Skating, rollerblading, and skateboarding are permitted on the paved parking lots when not in conflict with other park activities. They are prohibited elsewhere in the park, including park roads, paths, the Filene Center and Plaza areas.
7. Bicycles are permitted on park roads and on the paved parking lots when not in conflict with other park activities. They are prohibited in all other areas of the park, including trails, grassy areas, and woods.
8. Cross-country skiing, snowboarding, and snowshoeing are permitted in the park on established trails and grassy areas. Sledding is permitted on grassy areas only. No winter activities of any kind are permitted in the Filene Center House or Plaza areas, or on park roads.
9. Ice skating on the Farm Pond is prohibited for safety reasons.
10. Smoking is prohibited in all areas of the Filene Center House except in designated areas to the right and left of the covered seating area. Smoking is also prohibited in box office and theater entrance lines, within 25 feet of theater entrances, in restrooms and in the Theatre-in-the-Woods.
11. Pets, except for service animals, are prohibited in the Filene Center House, in the Theatre-in-the-Woods, in picnic areas, and in any area of the park being utilized for an authorized event. Where pets are permitted, they must be restrained on a leash of no more than six feet in length. Pet

owners/handlers are responsible for removing pet excrement.

12. Swimming, bathing or wading in the park is prohibited, due to safety considerations because of poor water quality.

13. Camping or overnight park use is prohibited.

14. Small scale organized activities by park patrons, such as birthday parties and other celebrations, are allowed on park grounds provided that the Director is notified in advance, that the activities do not conflict with primary park uses, and that the activities comply with all other items in this compendium. Users are expected to provide their own clean-up and carry out all trash, and park in the paved public parking lots. No amplified sound is allowed. Advance notification allows the park staff to ensure that appropriate restrooms are unlocked and other preparations made for visitor safety and assistance. It also ensures that the area to be used for the event will not be in use by another event. (Note: The use of the Filene Center and Meadow Pavilion performance areas, and the terraces and decks are reserved through the Wolftrap Foundation.)

15. Large scale organized activities are held by permission of the Director and must be coordinated with the park in advance. Most large scale activities are held in conjunction with a theater performance.

16. The use of the device known as the Segway Human Transporter is prohibited at the park, except for use by mobility impaired park visitors.

Filene Center House Rules

1. All patrons of performances and festivals, regardless of age, must have a ticket unless otherwise noted.

2. Patrons must sit in the seats for which they have tickets.

3. Eating, drinking (except water), and smoking are not permitted in the covered seating area.

4. Smoking is prohibited in all areas of the Filene Center House except in designated areas to the right and left of the covered seating area. Smoking is also prohibited in box office and theater entrance lines, within 25 feet of theater entrances, and in restrooms.

5. The use of recording equipment and cameras (with or without flash) during performances is prohibited except by authorized press and personnel.

6. Shirts and shoes are required and must be worn at all times.
7. Late seating is normally done between movements, acts, or numbers at the request of the artist(s).
8. With the exception of service animals assisting disabled patrons, pets are not permitted.
9. Patrons may not block aisles, stairways at any time.
10. Patrons may not block sightlines during performances.
11. Disturbing fellow patrons by loud conversation, or otherwise inappropriate behavior is not permitted.
12. Lawn chairs are not permitted below the signs on the lawn seating area, as they block the view of patrons higher up.
13. Large items that may roll down the hill (such as kegs) or otherwise are a safety hazard are not permitted.
14. Packages, coolers, and other containers are subject to inspection.
15. Violation of House Rules or park regulations may result in removal from the event without a refund.

Permits

Park permits are required for the following activities pursuant to regulatory provisions (exact sections in parenthesis):

- Collection of plants, rocks or minerals (36 C.F.R. 2.1).
- Collection of wildlife (36 C.F.R. 2.2).
- Collection of fish (36 C.F.R. 2.3).
- The scattering of human ashes (36 C.F.R. 2.62).
- Non-performance related commercial filming, photography and recording (36. C.F.R. 5.5. *Note: The Wolftrap Foundation controls recording and photography rights for performances within the Filene Center and for park festivals in the performance season.*)
- First Amendment demonstrations of more than 25 people (36 CFR 7.96).

Demonstrations and First Amendment Events

1. The following areas have been designated as First Amendment areas under federal regulation 36 CFR 7.96 (g) (2):

- Walkway south of the west-end of Barn Road (approximately 64 square feet).
- The southwest corner of the intersection of the Encore Circle walkway and the east-end of Barn Road (approximately 64 square feet).
- These areas are sited to allow for maximum interaction with the visiting public, and to ensure public safety. Permits are generally required for demonstrations and First Amendment gatherings. See 36 CFR 7.96 (g) (2) for procedures.

2. Solicitation is allowed if under a permit and if it occurs within the confines of the permit area as part of an ongoing demonstration or special event activity. All currency must be maintained and stored out of public view at all times. Exacting a payment, or requesting a donation in exchange for merchandise, constitutes a sale and is not allowed unless it complies with NPS special sales regulations found at 36 CFR 7.96(k).

3. No sales shall be made, and no article may be exposed for sale without a permit as described in section 36 CFR 7.96(k)(2).