National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

George Washington Birthplace National Monument

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

Approved:

Melissa K. Cobern 8.18.14

Melissa K. Cobern, Superintendent Date

In accordance with regulations and the delegated authority provided in Title 36, Code of Federal Regulations ("36 CFR"), Chapter 1, Parts 1-7, authorized by Title 16 United States Code, Section 3, the following provisions apply to all lands and waters administered by the National Park Service, within the boundaries of George Washington Birthplace National Monument. Unless otherwise stated, these regulatory provisions apply in addition to the requirements contained in 36 CFR, Chapter 1, and Parts 1-7.

Written determinations, which explain the reasoning behind the Superintendent's use of discretionary authority, as required by Section 1.5(c), are in italicized print.

36 CFR § 1.4 DEFINITIONS

The definition of *unmanned aircraft* means a device that is used or intended to be used in 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, quadcopters, drones) that are used for any purpose, including for recreation or commerce.

36 CFR §1.5 – CLOSURES AND PUBLIC USE LIMITS

(a)(1) Closures

Areas:

- The Historic Area, Visitor Center, Book Store, and Visitor Center parking lot are closed to the public from 5:00 pm until 9:00 am unless otherwise posted.
- The Popes Creek Picnic Area and Potomac River Beach/Burial Ground are closed to the public from 5:00 pm until 9:00 am November 1st through February 29th, unless otherwise posted
- The Popes Creek Picnic Area and Potomac River Beach/Burial Ground are closed to the public from sunset to 9:00 am March 1st through October 31st, unless otherwise posted
- All park areas are closed to the public on the following holidays: New Years Day, Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day.

Established visiting hours are necessary for visitor safety and resource protection.

Boating:

- The park shorelines along Popes Creek and ponds are closed to the landing and launching of all boats/watercraft and all public entry year-round.
- The park shoreline along the Potomac River beach is closed to the landing and launching of motorized boats/watercraft. The launching and landing of non-motorized boats/watercraft, such as canoes and kayaks *is* permitted along the Potomac River beach.

Launching/landing of boats and watercraft along Popes Creek and ponds encourages slope erosion and could cause other damage to both natural and cultural resources (see Cultural Landscape Report for more information). Launching and landing of motorized watercraft in a manner that would not negatively affect park resources requires infrastructure the park does not have.

Fishing:

- The park shorelines, pedestrian bridge, boardwalks and ponds are closed to fishing with the exception of the Potomac River Beach and Popes Creek designated fishing area adjacent to the Popes Creek Picnic Area.

Fishing in undesignated areas along Popes Creak or other areas of the park could negatively affect park resources through trampling and encouraging erosion. In some areas, banks are severely undercut and pose a significant safety risk to anyone on top or below these banks. Fishing in some areas would detract from the historic landscape and could interfere with park interpretive activities (see Cultural Landscape Report for more information).

Camping:

- Camping is prohibited in the park except for NPS staff, volunteers or partners who have permission from the Superintendent to do so and service organizations, as provided in a special use permit

The park does not have infrastructure to support overnight stays by the public.

Unmanned Aircraft:

- The launching, landing, or operating of unmanned aircraft (e.g. model airplanes, quad copters, drones) from or on lands and waters administered by the National Park Service within the boundaries of George Washington Birthplace National Monument is prohibited, except as approved in writing by the Superintendent.

The use of unmanned aircraft may negatively impact public safety, natural or cultural resources and could conflict with visitor use activities.

(a)(2) Public Use Restrictions
The following areas are designated for a specific use or activity and/or the following conditions or restrictions are imposed on a specific use or activity:

Fishing:
Fishing is allowed in the followed areas:

- Location adjacent to the Popes Creek Picnic Area designated by signs indicating that fishing is allowed
- Potomac River Beach

Topography and soil conditions in these areas will support repeated foot traffic from fishing. These locations are also well-away from the Historic Area and fishing here does not conflict with visitor use or interpretation or detract from the historic landscape.

See also 36 CFR § 2.3 of this document.

Picnicking:
The park is closed to picnicking in:
- Any areas that would impede vehicular or pedestrian traffic
- Any areas that would interfere with park operations

See also 36 CFR § 2.11.

Picnicking in certain areas could pose a hazard to both vehicular and pedestrian traffic or impede park operations.

Reservations:
Reservations are required for public use of the following facilities:
- Loghouse—Popes Creek Conference Center
- Picnic Pavilion

Passenger Carrying Buses & Vehicles
- Drivers of commercial passenger-carrying diesel-fueled motor vehicles are prohibited from idling their engines in parking lots of developed areas.

Idling engines are noisy and add unnecessary exhaust fumes to the air, which impacts the tranquil atmosphere of the park that is sought by many visitors.

(a)(3) The following restrictions, limits, closures, designations, conditions, or visiting hour restrictions imposed under §(a)(1) or (2) have been terminated:
- Regulation that prohibited swimming in the Potomac River.

36 CFR §1.6 – ACTIVITIES THAT REQUIRE A PERMIT

• Specimen Collecting	2.5 (a)
• Special Events	2.50(a)
• Agricultural	2.60(b)
• Memorialization	2.62(b)
• Business Operations	5.3
• Commercial Filming and Photography	5.5
• Demonstrations*	2.51(b)
• Sale & Distribution of Printed Matter*	2.52(b)

*May require a permit depending on the scope of the activity.

Permits will be specific in nature to the activity being permitted. A permit or letter of authorization must be in the permittee's possession at all times and exhibited to any authorized person upon request.

36 CFR §2.1 – PRESERVATION OF NATURAL, CULTURAL AND ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

2.1 (c)(1) The following may be gathered by hand for personal use:

- Unoccupied seashells may be collected on the Potomac River beach

Gathering unoccupied seashells will not adversely affect park wildlife, the reproductive potential of a species, or otherwise adversely affect park resources.

36 CFR §2.2 - WILDLIFE PROTECTION

2.2(d)

- Game animals lawfully taken outside of the park may be transported by vehicle through the park for the purpose of exiting the park under the following conditions:
  - Transport vehicles may not stop in any developed area of the park
  - Persons transporting will have in their possession a valid Virginia hunting license
  - Animal carcasses are subject to inspection at any time by an authorized person

The park does not wish to impede those hunting legally in jurisdiction outside the park, nor the transportation of legally taken game. However, the transportation of game through the park, an area closed to hunting, is incompatible with the tranquil atmosphere of the park and could cause confusion with the park's hunting regulations.

2.2 (e)

- Viewing wildlife or areas frequented by wildlife by means of an artificial light source (e.g., vehicle headlights, strobe) is prohibited in the park.

The viewing of wildlife at night with the use of artificial lights temporarily blinds wildlife and alters their natural behavior.

36 CFR §2.3 – FISHING

(a) Fishing shall be in accordance with the laws and regulations of Virginia:

- A Virginia saltwater or Maryland Bay Sport or Potomac River Fisheries fishing license is required to fish at the Potomac River Beach.
- A Virginia saltwater or freshwater sport fishing license is required to fish from the location designated for such activity, which is adjacent to the Popes Creek Picnic Area.
- All fishing must comply with State size limits, catch limits, and other restrictions.
- See also 36 CFR § 1.5 of this document.

36 CFR §2.5 – RESEARCH SPECIMENS

(a) The superintendent may issue permits for the collection of plants, fish, wildlife, rocks and minerals for research purposes according to general and park-specific conditions established by the National park Service for scientific research and collection permits. These conditions are found online at http://science.nature.nps.gov/research and are subject to revision. The guidelines found at that website are hereby adopted and made part of these orders.

36 CFR §2.10 – CAMPING AND FOOD STORAGE

Camping is prohibited in the park except for NPS staff, volunteers or partners who have permission from the Superintendent to do so and service organizations, as provided in a special use permit. See 36 CFR §1.5 of this document.

36 CFR §2.11 – PICNICKING

- Picnicking by groups of more than 25 people may be considered an event and may require a Special Use Permit unless done in the park's picnic area.

Large groups present potential problems with litter, parking, resource damage and interference with park operations. For these reasons, group events will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

- "Holding" or unofficially reserving tables in the picnic area for other individuals is prohibited.

Picnic tables are first-come, first-served, except for the pavilion which may be reserved.

See also 36 CFR §1.5

36 CFR 2.13 – FIRES

(a)(1) The lighting or maintaining of fires is prohibited, except in the following areas and/or receptacles, and under the conditions noted:

- Fires are only permitted at the Pope's Creek Picnic Area in the park-supplied grills or personal grills brought by visitors.
- Fires must be monitored at all times
- During periods of high fire danger, the Superintendent may close all or a portion of the park to the lighting and maintaining of fires

(a)(2) The following restrictions are in effect for the use of stoves or lanterns:

- Stoves and lanterns are only permitted at the Popes Creek Picnic Area
- Lanterns may not be attached to trees, vegetation, or park structures

(b) Fires must be extinguished according to the following conditions:

- Fires must be extinguished with water and ashes left in place
- Ashes cannot be dumped in trash receptacles or on the ground.

Fires, fire extinguishment and ash disposal are regulated to protect human life, park structures and park resources. Lantern hanging is restricted to prevent impacts to natural and cultural resources.

36 CFR §2.15 – PETS

(a)(1) Dogs, cats and other pets are prohibited in the following areas:

- All park buildings
- Historic Area
- Burial ground
- These restrictions do not apply to service animals or livestock.

Pet behavior interferes with the quiet nature of the park and can scare wildlife and park farm animals.

(a)(5) Pet excrement must be disposed of in accordance with the following conditions:

- Pet owners must pick up and dispose of pet excrement in trash receptacles.

Pet excrement has an undesirable smell and is unsightly. The smell of pets and their excrement has been shown to alter natural wildlife behavior.

36 CFR §2.16 – HORSES AND PACK ANIMALS

(b) The use of horses or pack animals is allowed within five feet of any roadway and on the "Navy service road" (see attached map).

(g) Other conditions concerning the use of horses or pack animals are as follows:

- Horses and pack animals are prohibited on the Potomac River beach, the Historic Area, the Burial grounds, picnic area and the nature trail.
- Stock trailers must be parked at the Log House parking area unless otherwise directed by a park employee.
- All manure must be picked up from parking lots and roadways and either removed from the park or disposed of at least 50 feet away from developed areas or water sources.
- Per Virginia state law a valid, negative Coggins test and proof of such is required for each horse.

36 CFR §2.21 – SMOKING

(a) Smoking is prohibited:

- **In all buildings and structures**
- **Within 25 feet of the entrance to all public buildings**
- **Within 25 feet of heating/cooling units of all public buildings**

Smoking is prohibited in the above areas to protect park resources, reduce the risk of fire, or prevent conflicts among visitor use activities.

36 CFR §2.22 – PROPERTY

(a)(2) Leaving property unattended for longer than 24 hours is prohibited, except under the following conditions:

- Property may not be left unattended longer than 24 hours unless specific permission is given by the Superintendent.

36 CFR §2.35 – ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

(a)(3)(i) The possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages, and/or to the possession of a bottle, can or other receptacle containing an alcoholic beverage that is open, or has been opened, or whose seal has been broken or the contents of which have been partially removed is prohibited as noted herein. The alcohol prohibition includes all park areas within the park boundary except government-owned housing and the immediate area.

The park was established and is maintained to preserve and protect the resources of the park which serve as a living memorial to America's founding father, George Washington. The park is closed to alcohol consumption to protect the visitor experience in regard to the park's purpose.

36 CFR §2.51 -- DEMONSTRATIONS

(b) Demonstrations of 25 people or less are allowed within the park areas designated as available under paragraph (c)(2). However, there are exceptions and, even when not required, a permit is recommended in order to assure space will be available at a particular designated location. Demonstrations of more than 25 people are allowed at designated locations when the superintendent has issued a permit for the activity.

(c)(2) The following locations are designated as available for demonstrations:

- **An area has been set aside near the Visitor Center. A map showing the location is attached to this document and is available on the park's website.**
- **A second area is available at the Popes Creek Picnic Area. A map showing the location is attached to this document and is available on the park's website.**

36 CFR §2.52 -- SALE OR DISTRIBUTION OF PRINTED MATTER

(c)(4) The following locations are designated as available for the sale and distribution of non-commercial printed matter when a permit has been issued by the superintendent.

- **An area has been set aside near the Visitor Center. A map showing the location is attached to this document and is available on the park's website.**
- **A second area is available at the Popes Creek Picnic Area. A map showing the location is attached to this document and is available on the park's website.**