

Record Of Determination For A Partial And Temporary Closure Of A Portion Of
Rock Creek Park/Meridian Hill Park for Turf Renovation

Pursuant to 36 CFR 1.5(a), Rock Creek Park a unit of the National Park Service is temporarily and partially closing portions of Rock Creek Park for turf renovation. Specifically, from 8 am Wednesday September 26, 2012 through 8 pm Wednesday January 23, 2013, portions of Meridian Hill Park will be closed. The northern mall turf panel on the upper terrace will be closed from Wednesday September 26, 2012 through Wednesday November 7, 2012. The southern mall turf panel on the upper terrace and the adjacent turf/tree panels to the east and west will be closed Wednesday November 7, 2012 through Wednesday January 23, 2013. This will include the mall turf panels of the upper terrace that are used for special events or First Amendment rights demonstrations.

This temporary and partial park closure for turf renovation is necessary for the protection of scenic values and natural and cultural resources, implementation of management responsibilities, equitable allocation and use of facilities and the avoidance of conflict among visitor activities. Less restrictive measures will not suffice because of the necessity for the proper horticultural installation, stabilization and development of the new turf in Meridian Hill Park. It is not of a nature, magnitude and duration that will result in a "significant alteration in the public use pattern" because of the limited closure period for these park areas and because other nearby park areas in Rock Creek Park will remain open to the public.

As such, the closure does not constitute impairment to park resources and values and will not adversely affect the park's natural, aesthetic or cultural values. It does not require significant modification to the resource management objections. It is also not of a highly controversial nature because only portions of Meridian Hill Park will be closed at any one time. Accordingly, the National Park Service determines that publication as rulemaking in the Federal Register is unwarranted under 36 CFR 1.5(c). This is consistent with Rock Creek Park's past partial and temporary park closures for maintenance activities.

Pursuant to 36 CFR 1.7, notice of this temporary and partial closure will be made by fencing of affected areas within Meridian Hill Park and the posting of signs at conspicuous locations. Finally, pursuant to 36 CFR 1.5(c), this determination is available to the public upon request.



Tara Morrison, Superintendent
Rock Creek Park

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