**National Park Service**
**U.S. Department of the Interior**

Valley Forge National Historical Park
610-783-1000 phone
610-783-1053 fax

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

Approved: /s/ electronic copy on file
Kate H. Hammond, Superintendent

Date: February 5, 2014

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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 Valley Forge National Historical Park. Unless otherwise stated, these regulatory provisions apply in addition to the requirements contained in 36 CFR, Chapter 1, Parts 1-7.

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

## I. 36 CFR §1.5(a)(1) - VISITING HOURS, PUBLIC USE LIMITS, CLOSURES AND AREA DESIGNATIONS FOR SPECIFIC USE OR ACTIVITIES

**The following visiting hours and public use limits are established:**

**Visiting Hours**

- The Valley Forge Visitor Center is open from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm 7 days a week. The Visitor Center is open until 6:00 pm from Memorial Day through Labor Day.
- The Washington's Headquarters building is open daily from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm, March through December. It is open on weekends (10a – 4p) for the months of January and February (including President's Day). *Reservations can be made for "Education Events" during this time period.*
- The park library is available for use by appointment only.
- All park buildings are closed on Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Year's Day.
- The park may close due to hazardous weather conditions, power outages or other circumstances which necessitate a shutdown.

***Park Grounds***, unless otherwise designated, should be considered a ***Day Use Area*****,** open from **7:00 am until dark** (1/2 hour after sunset).

*Exceptions*:

The **Chapel Lot** will be open for parking at 6 am for a Special Use Permit (FastTracks Running Club).

State-owned roadways: Route 252 (Valley Creek Rd), Gulph Road, County Line Road and Route 23 (Valley Forge Park Road) are exempt from this closure.

## Public Use Limits

- The maximum number of occupants permitted in the park Theater (formerly known as the Auditorium) is 295.
- The maximum number of occupants permitted in the lower level of the Visitor Center is 533.
- The maximum number of occupants permitted in the Education Center is 130. If the Center is set up with tables and chairs, the maximum occupancy is 60. If the main room of the Education Center is divided into Room A and Room B, each of those rooms has a maximum capacity of 65 occupants. If those rooms are set up with tables and chairs, the maximum occupancy is 31.

*The maximum occupancies for the buildings listed above were determined by the fire marshals office and are in place for reasons of life safety.*

- The use of some vehicles which are used to enhance the mobility of physically impaired visitors may be verbally approved for temporary use by a park ranger.

*This is to provide better accessibility to the visitors of Valley Forge National Historical Park.*

## Closures

**The following locations are closed to the general public access at all times:**

- Wayne's Woods Area
  *This area is located on South Outer Line Drive and is fenced and marked with signage. The area has received heavy visitor use over time and as a result has sustained significant damage. The area is closed to allow the resource to rest and be reclaimed.*

- Varnum's Picnic Area and restrooms are closed during the week from November 1 to March 1, open weekends.
  *During the winter months there is little to no visitor activity in this area. Due to the lack of use during the winter months, and to promote the efficient operation of the park, this area is closed between the above dates. The area is available by special use permit.*

- The Joseph Plumb Martin Trail (a multi-use trail on the south side of the park) and the Schuylkill River Trail (on the north side of the park) are closed to motor vehicles with the exception of emergency and/or authorized vehicles.
  *These closures are in place for visitor safety.*

- All areas designated as the "Asbestos Areas of Concern". These locations are fenced and signs posted. See attached map in Compendium Appendix A.
  *Exposure to asbestos can be hazardous to human health. The park has closed these areas to limit any possible exposure.*

- Catfish Island, located on the Schuylkill River between the 422 Bridge and Pawlings Road Bridge, is closed between March 15 and June 1.
  *Canadian Geese and Herons are nesting on the Island during this period. Human activity will disrupt their nesting habits which could be fatal to their offspring.*

- The areas of the park located south of the Schuylkill River are closed to organized recreational activities such as races, “a-thons”, fundraisers, athletic or sporting events, shows or exhibitions, with the exception of one park-sponsored race known as the Revolutionary Run, to be held annually as part of National Park Week.

  *In general, the park does not have the capacity to host large events based on the south side of the park. Heavy visitor and vehicle use makes managing events in a manner that is safe and resource friendly difficult. However, in an effort to reach out to the local community, the park has agreed to hold one large event based on the south side of the park in connection with National Park Week.*

- All quarry areas located within the park are closed to the public.

  *These closures are for the safety of the general public due to the steep banks and loose rocks.*

## The following activities are prohibited in all areas of the park:

**Model Rockets:**

- All areas of the park are closed to the launching of model rockets.

  *This closure is based on the determination that the launching of model rockets is inappropriate in the park due to the historic setting and also to reduce the potential for fire. Falling rockets are also hazards to visitors using the park.*

**Kite Skiing:**

- All areas of the park are closed to Kite Skiing and other activities involving an individual attached by harness to a kite or parachute.

  *Due to the nature of the activity, this is a safety concern and is also very distracting (large kite/parachute) to the visitor experience of an 18th Century Encampment Area.*

**Segways:**

- **Electric Personal Assistive Mobility Devices (EPAMD)**
  *Segways and other brands of EPAMD are considered motor vehicles as defined under 36 CFR §1.4. Therefore, pursuant to 36 CFR §4.10(a) the recreational use of Segways and other EPAMD on park sidewalks and trails is prohibited.*

**Idling Motor Vehicle is prohibited:**

- All motor vehicles traveling in the park that are parked for more than 1 minute must have the engine shut down.

- The above prohibition does not apply to law enforcement patrol operations, fire or emergency search and rescue missions or training exercises.

  *The purpose of this restriction is to reduce public exposure to diesel, exhaust particulate matter and other toxic air contaminates by limiting the idling of buses, trucks and other motor vehicles. Additionally, this restriction will also limit the noise impact on visitors enjoying the natural or historical settings within the park.*

**Boating in Valley Creek:**

*The creek is shallow and difficult to navigate in certain locations. A dam, low hanging covered bridge and water level gauges on the creek make navigation dangerous.*

**(a)(2) The following areas have been designated for a specific use or activity, under the conditions and/or restrictions as noted:**

**Motorized Toys:**

- The use of model airplanes is restricted to the field (known as the Airplane Field) located on Valley Creek Road (Rte 252) at the park's Southeast entrance.

- All persons using this area for model airplane flight are required to display a membership tag from Valley Forge Signal Seekers or obtain a day use pass from a member of the Valley Forge Signal Seekers. Day use passes will only be available when a member of the Valley Forge Signal Seekers is present at the field and can confirm the requirements of field use are met by signing and issuing the day pass. The one-day flight permit is valid only for the day it is issued. Safety rules to govern the daily use of the airplane field have been developed in cooperation with Valley Forge Signal Seekers and have been adopted as regulation for Valley Forge National Historical Park. This regulation document and the AMA National Model Aircraft Safety code will be posted in the bulletin board located at the field.

- Model airplanes are prohibited from flying over the roads or parking areas surrounding the field.

**Watercraft:**

- The Betzwood Boat Ramp is a designated boat launching area since there is a ramp available for boat trailers and there is trailer parking available at the site. The operation of personal watercraft (jet skis) is prohibited within the park boundary.

**Recreational Sports:**

- Engaging in recreational activities that interfere with or detract from the use and appreciation of historic resources (i.e. Muhlenberg Brigade huts, Washington's Headquarters, Varnum's Quarters) or other area`s used for interpretive activities are prohibited. These activities include, but are not limited to, kite flying, ball playing and frisbee throwing.

  *This closure is in place to assure that visitors to the historic sites are not distracted by activities that could detract from the visitor's appreciation of the historic scene.*

**II. <u>36 CFR §1.6 – ACTIVITIES THAT REQUIRE A PERMIT</u>**

**Activities requiring a permit are listed above under Public Use Limits and throughout this document under the specific 36 CFR Section that authorizes or requires the issuance of a permit.**

Parties interested in obtaining special use permits may learn more about permits and about how to obtain a permit application by visiting www.nps.gov/vafo. One may also call 610-783-1000 and choose option #4 for more information.

## III. GENERAL REGULATIONS

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

**(a) Except as otherwise provided in this chapter, the following is prohibited:**

**(1) Possessing, destroying, injuring, defacing, removing, digging, or disturbing from its natural state:**

**(i) Living or dead wildlife or fish, or the parts or products thereof, such as antlers or nests.**

**(ii) Plants or the parts or products thereof.**

**(iii) Nonfossilized and fossilized paleontological specimens, cultural or archeological resources, or the parts thereof.**

**(2) Introducing wildlife, fish or plants, including their reproductive bodies, into a park area ecosystem.**

### 36 CFR §2.2 - WILDLIFE PROTECTION

**(d) Any wildlife legally taken from outside the park boundary that needs to be removed from within the park is permitted under the following conditions and procedures:**

- A law enforcement ranger must accompany the transportation.

**(e) The following areas are closed to the viewing of wildlife with the use of an artificial light:**

- All park areas are closed to spotlighting.

### 36 CFR § 2.3 - FISHING

- **The Use of Live Bait is Prohibited in Valley Creek**

(d)(3) Chumming or placing preserved or fresh fish eggs, fish roe, food, fish parts, chemicals or other foreign substances in fresh waters for the purpose of feeding or attracting fish in order that they may be taken is prohibited.

*There have been a plethora of issues surrounding the introduction and spread of non-native species to Valley Creek. Rusty crayfish are invasive crustaceans spreading to lakes, rivers, and streams in several areas of North America. They are more aggressive than other native crayfish, better able to avoid fish predation, and can harm native fish populations by eating their eggs and young. They can displace native crayfish, hybridize with them, and graze on and eliminate aquatic plants.*

### 36 CFR §2.4 - WEAPONS, TRAPS and NETS

- 18 U.S.C. § 930 prohibits the possession of firearms in “federal facilities,” which are defined as “buildings or parts thereof owned or leased by the federal government, where federal employees are regularly present for the purpose of performing their official duties.” These places are marked with signs at public entrances.

- Park visitors who can legally possess and carry firearms under federal, state, and local law are allowed to carry them in the park. The role of the responsible gun owner is to know and obey the federal, state, and local laws appropriate to the park they are visiting.
- Weapons cannot be used in the park except by authorized federal, state, local law enforcement officers or cooperating officials in the performance of their official duties.

- Traps and nets are not permitted in the park.

**36 CFR §2.5 – RESEARCH SPECIMENS**

(a)Taking plants, fish, wildlife, rocks or minerals is prohibited except in accordance with other regulations of Chapter I of 36 CFR or pursuant to the terms and conditions of a specimen collection permit. Applications for research permits are available at the park visitor center during normal business hours.

**36 CFR §2.10 – CAMPING and FOOD STORAGE**

- §2.10(a) Camping is only permitted at park sponsored events or by special use permit.

**36 CFR §2.11 - PICNICKING**

Conditions for Picnicking:

- Permit required for groups of 30 or more.
- Trash must be disposed of properly and packed out when no trash receptacles are available.
- Picnicking is on a first-come, first-served basis.
- Grills are provided only at the Betzwood Picnic Area.
- Groups larger than 20 people are required to use a “designated picnic area” – i.e. Varnum’s, Wayne’s Woods, or Betzwood Picnic Areas.
- Certain areas have been closed to picnicking and are listed on page 4.

**36 CFR §2.12 – AUDIO DISTURBANCES**

**(a)(2) Operating a power saw in developed areas is prohibited, except pursuant to the terms and conditions of a permit.**

**(a)(3) Operating any type of portable motor or engine, or device powered by a portable motor or engine in non-developed areas is prohibited, except pursuant to the terms and conditions of a permit.**
**(a)(3) Operating a public address system is prohibited, except in connection with a public gathering or special event for which a permit has been issued pursuant to §2.50 or §2.51.**

**36 CFR 2.13 – FIRES**

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

Designated Areas:

- Fires are permitted in all picnic areas. Grills are only provided at Betzwood Picnic Area.

Receptacles Allowed:

- All fires must be in self-contained charcoal grills or UL approved propane or gasoline stoves/grills.

Established Conditions for Fires:

- All grill accoutrements and used charcoal must be packed out of the park by the user.
- Open fires and ground fires are not permitted except in conjunction with living history demonstration and activities.

## 36 CFR §2.15 – PETS

**(a)(2) Failing to crate, cage, restrain on a leash, or otherwise confine a pet at all times is prohibited.**

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

- Owners or persons having custody or control of any animal(s) will immediately remove and dispose of excrement voided by an animal(s) under their control. Excrement will be properly disposed of in outdoor trash containers.

**(e) Pets may be kept by park residents under the following conditions:**

- Breeding operations shall not be conducted on park property.
- Wildlife shall not be kept in violation of state or federal law.
- The keeping of farm animals (which include but are not limited to: horses, burros, goats, or pot bellied pigs) is prohibited.
- Excessive noise or offensive conditions created by any pet are prohibited.

## 36 CFR §2.16 – HORSES and PACK ANIMALS

**(b) The use of horses or pack animals is allowed on the following trails, routes or areas:**

- Huntington's Trail
- River Trail
- Walnut Hill Trail
- Commissary Trail
- Chapel Trail
- Baptist Trace Road
- Valley Creek Trail
- Bridle Trail
- Mt Joy Trails
- Horseshoe Trail

**(g) Horse excrement needs to be removed (by owner or person having custody of animal) from all paved walkways, roads and parking areas.**

**The Joseph Plumb Martin Trail is a prohibited trail for horseback riding.**

**36CFR §2.17 – AIRCRAFT AND AIR DELIVERY**

There are no areas designated for operating or using aircraft in the park.

**(c)(1) The removal of a downed aircraft, components, or parts thereof is subject to procedures established by the Superintendent.**

**36 CFR § 2.18 - SNOWMOBILES**

(c) All snowmobile use is prohibited in the park.

**36CFR § 2.19 – WINTER ACTIVITIES**

(a)Skiing, snowshoeing, ice skating, sledding, tubing, tobogganing, and similar winter sports are prohibited on park roads and in parking areas open to motor vehicle traffic.

**36 CFR § 2.20 - SKATING, SKATEBOARDS, and SIMILAR DEVICES**

**The use of roller skates, skateboards, roller skis, coasting vehicles, or similar devices are allowed only in the following areas:**

- The Schuylkill River Trail
- Betzwood Parking area

**36 CFR § 2.21 - SMOKING**

- Smoking is prohibited in all government buildings except single occupancy/single family park quarters. Smoking is prohibited in dormitory style housing.

*The superintendent has determined that this restriction is necessary to protect park resources, protect employees and the public and reduce the risk of fire on government property. This measure is deemed to be the minimum necessary to achieve such protection.*

**36 CFR §2.22 – PROPERTY**

**(a)(2) Property may be left unattended for periods longer than 24 hours in the following areas and under the following conditions:**

- Vehicles or boat trailers, or combination, may be left unattended for periods up to 24 hours or longer, when parked in parking areas adjacent to the designated boat launching site, with written permission obtained in advance from the Superintendent.

- Any vehicle or boat trailer or combination left in parking areas adjacent to the designated boat launching site in excess of 48 hours, without written permission, obtained in advance from the superintendent, is prohibited, and may be impounded.

**36 CFR §2.35 – ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES and CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES**

**(a)(3)(i) The following public use areas, portions of public use areas, and/or public facilities within the park are closed to consumption and/or 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:**

- All areas in the boundaries of Valley Forge National Historical Park are closed to alcoholic consumption with the exception of park residences and functions approved by the superintendent.

  *The park is close to highly populated areas and heavily traveled public roads traverse the park. For these reasons some users may come to the park for the sole purpose of consuming alcohol. The park staff has noticed that behavior induced by the consumption of alcohol by some persons may at times destroy the enjoyment of the park by others. This restriction is consistent with the Pennsylvania state park restriction on alcohol.*

- The consumption of an alcoholic beverage by a person operating a vehicle or vessel is prohibited.

  *Boating is a potentially hazardous activity. Operators of vessels must devote full time and attention to boating. Alcohol impairment by boat operators directly affects safe boat operation, and alcohol impairment is a known factor in boating accidents, injuries and fatalities.*

**36 CFR §2.37 – NONCOMMERCIAL SOLICITING**

Soliciting or demanding gifts, money, goods or services is prohibited except pursuant to the terms and condition or a permit that has been issued under §2.50, §2.51, or §2.52.

**36 CFR §2.38 – EXPLOSIVES**

(a)Using, possessing, storing, or transporting explosives, blasting agents or explosive materials is prohibited, except pursuant to the terms and conditions of a permit.

(b) Using, or possessing fireworks and fire crackers is prohibited, except pursuant to the terms and conditions of a permit.

**36 CFR §2.50 – SPECIAL EVENTS**

(a)Sports events, pageants, regattas, public spectator attractions, entertainments, ceremonies, and similar events are allowed, provided there is a meaningful association between the park area and the events, and the observance contributes to visitor understanding of the significance of the park area, and a permit thereof has been issued by the superintendent.

**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). Demonstrations of more than 25 people are allowed within designated park areas when the superintendent has issued a permit for the activity.

(c)(2)The following location is designated as available for demonstrations:

- The Lower Visitor Center Parking Area per map in Compendium Appendix B.

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

(b) The sale or distribution of printed matter by 25 people or less is allowed within the park areas designated as available under §2.51(c)(2) (see above). The sale or distribution of printed

matter by more than 25 persons is allowed within designated park areas when the superintendent has issued a permit.

**36 CFR § 2.60– LIVESTOCK USE AND AGRICULTURE**

(a)Livestock are generally prohibited in any park area. They are only permitted in park areas pursuant to the exceptions provided for in §2.60(a) and only pursuant to the terms and conditions of a license, permit, or lease.

**36 CFR §2.61 – RESIDING ON FEDERAL LANDS**

(a) Residing in park areas, other than on privately owned lands, is prohibited except pursuant to the terms and conditions of a permit lease or contract.

**36 CFR §2.62 - MEMORIALIZATION**

(b)A permit is required for the scattering of ashes from cremated human remains. The request for the permit will stipulate time, place, number of participants, use of park facilities and any other special considerations requested. Scattering must be done so that the ashes are not recognizable as the remains of a human.

**36 CFR §3.8 – BOATING AND WATER USE ACTIVITIES**

**(b)(4) Vessels may not create a wake or exceed 5 mph in the following areas:**

- 100' from the boat ramp

**(2) The following areas/sites are designated for the launching or recovery of vessels using a trailer:**

- Betzwood Boat Ramp

**36 CFR §3.12 – WATER SKIIING**

**(a)The towing of persons by vessels is allowed in the following areas under the terms and conditions noted:**

- Water skiing is permitted in the Schuylkill River under the conditions imposed by this section and as permitted by state regulations regarding no wake areas.

**36 CFR §3.16 – SWIMMING AND BATHING**

**Swimming is allowed in waters, subject to closures or restrictions designated by the superintendent in accordance with §1.5 and 1.7 of this chapter.**

**The following areas are closed to swimming:**

- Valley Creek
- Schuylkill River within 200 feet of its confluence with Valley Creek
- Schuylkill River within 500 feet of the Betzwood boat launch ramp

**36 CFR §4.10 – TRAVEL ON PARK ROADS AND ROUTES**

(**a) Operating a motor vehicle is prohibited except on park roads, in parking areas and on authorized routes**

- All state through-ways and tour roads are open for vehicle travel.
- All trails, maintenance roads, or fire breaks are not open to the public for vehicle travel.
- Travel around closed park gates is not permitted

**36 CFR §4.11 – LOAD, WEIGHT AND SIZE LIMITS**

- Vehicles exceeding established state size limits require a permit issued by the superintendent, and appropriate state highway permits.
- The covered bridge is closed to all trucks and busses.

**36 CFR §4.21 – SPEED LIMITS**

**(b) The following speed limits are established for the routes/roads indicated:**

- North and South Outer Line Drive 25 mph
- North, East, South and West Inner Line Drive 25 mph
- State roads within the park are posted 35 mph with the exception of a small section of Rt. 252 (Valley Creek Road) which is posted at 40 mph
- Visitor Center Loop 15 mph
- River Road (Washington's HQ) 15 mph
- Joseph Plumb Martin Trail 15 mph for bicyclists

**36 CFR§ 4.30 BICYCLES**

**(a) The use of bicycle is prohibited except on park roads, in parking areas, and on routes designated for bicycle use.**

**The following additional routes have been designated for bicycle use:**

- Joseph Plumb Martin Trail
- Valley Creek Trail
- Chapel Trail
- Walnut Hill Lane
- Schuylkill River Trail
- River Trail
- Baptist Trace Road

**36 CFR §5.1 - ADVERTISEMENTS**

Commercial notices or advertisements shall not be displayed, posted, or distributed on federally owned or controlled lands within a park area unless prior written permission has been given by the Superintendent.

**36 CFR §5.3 – BUSINESS OPERATIONS**

Engaging in or soliciting any business in park areas, except in accordance with the provisions of a permit, contract, or other written agreement with the United States, except as such may be specifically authorized under special regulations applicable to a park area, is prohibited.

**36 CFR §5.5 – COMMERCIAL PHOTOGRAPHY**

(a)Before any motion picture may be filmed or any television production or sound track may be made by any person other than bona fide newsreel or news television personnel, written permission must first be obtained from the Superintendent.

(b)Taking photographs of any vehicle or other articles of commerce or models for the purpose of commercial advertising without a written permit from the Superintendent is prohibited.

**36 CFR §5.6 – COMMERCIAL VEHICLES**

(b) & (c) Using commercial vehicles on government roads within park areas when such use is in no way connected with the operation of the park is generally prohibited, and requires permission or a permit from the Superintendent.

**36 CFR §5.7 – CONSTRUCTION OF BUILDINGS OR OTHER FACILITIES**

Such activities are prohibited, except in accordance with the provisions of a valid permit, contract, or other written agreement with the United States.

**CCTV Use Policy**

The National Park Service's use of Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) for law enforcement and security purposes will only be to visually monitor public park areas and public activities where no constitutionally protected reasonable expectation of privacy exists. Such CCTV use – which will have adequate privacy and First Amendment safeguards – will be to help ensure public safety and security; facilitate the detection, investigation, prevention and deterrence of terrorist attack and crime; help ensure the safety of citizens and officers; help assist in the proper allocation and deployment of law enforcement and public safety resources; help facilitate the protection of the innocent and the apprehension and prosecution of criminals.

This policy does not restrict the official use of CCTV in government administrative areas including administrative buildings, jail holding facilities, revenue collection sites, etc, where the government may record/monitor its facilities. For example, the government may perform unrestricted video/audio recording at revenue collection points (entrance stations, visitor center counters, etc). This policy does not restrict the use of Mobile Audio/Video Recording Equipment (MVAR) in patrol vehicles driven by commissioned rangers; that use is addressed in other policy documents. *RM-9, Chapter 26, Section 1.*

*This information included as required by RM-9, Chapter 26, Section 3.6*