



National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

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

Weir Farm
National Historical
Park

Weir Farm NHP
735 Nod Hill Road
Wilton, CT 06897

203 834-1896 phone
203 834-2421 fax
www.nps.gov/WEFA

Approved:


Date: 3/11/2024
Linda Cook, Superintendent

A. INTRODUCTION

1. Superintendent's Compendium Described

The Superintendent's Compendium is the summary of park specific rules implemented under 36 Code of Federal Regulations (36 CFR). It serves as public notice, identifies areas closed for public use, provides a list of activities requiring either a special use permit or reservation, and elaborates on public use and resource protection regulations pertaining specifically to the administration of the park. The Superintendent's Compendium does not repeat regulations found in 36 CFR and other United States Code and CFR Titles, which are enforced without further elaboration at the park level.

The regulations contained in 36 CFR, Parts 1-7, are the basic mechanism used by the National Park Service (NPS) to preserve and protect the natural and cultural resources of the park and to protect visitors and property within the park. Parts 1 through 6 are general regulations applicable to all areas of the National Park system, and Part 7 contains special regulations specific to individual parks. Each of these Parts has many sections and subsections articulating specific provisions. Within some of these Part 1-7 sections and subsections, the Superintendent is granted discretionary authority to develop local rules to be responsive to the needs of a specific park resource or activity, park plan, program, and/or special needs of the general public.

As an example, 36 CFR 1.5(a) *Closures and Public Use Limits* provides the Superintendent certain discretion in allowing or disallowing certain activities. The authority granted by the Section, however, requires the Superintendent to comply with the Administrative Procedures Act (6 USC Section 551), which requires public notice on actions with major impact on visitor use patterns, park resources or those that are highly controversial in nature.

Another example is 36 CFR 1.6 *Permits*, which allows the Superintendent to require a permit for certain uses and activities in the park. This Section, however, requires that a list of activities needing a permit (and a fee schedule for the various types of permits) be maintained by the park.

A final example is 36 CFR 2.1(c) (1) *Preservation of Natural, Cultural and Archeological Resources*, which provides the Superintendent the authority to designate certain fruits, nuts, berries or unoccupied seashells which may be gathered by hand for personal use or consumption. This activity can occur, however, only if a written determination shows that the allowed activity does not adversely affect park wildlife, the reproductive potential of a plant species, or otherwise adversely affect park resources.

This Compendium should be used in conjunction with Title 36 CFR, Parts 1-7, to more fully understand the regulations governing the use and enjoyment of all the areas of the national Park System.

A copy of Title 36, CFR, can be purchased from the U.S. Government Printing Office at:

Superintendent of Documents
P.O. Box 371954
Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7954

The CFR is also available on the Internet at:

2. Laws and Policies Allowing the Superintendent to Develop This Compendium

The National Park Service (NPS) is granted broad statutory authority under 16 United States Code (U.S.C.) Section 1 *et seq.* (Organic Act of 1916, as amended) to "...regulate the use of the Federal areas known as national parks, monuments, and reservations...by such means and measures as conform to the fundamental purposes of the said parks...which purpose is to conserve the scenery and the natural and historic objects and the wildlife therein and to provide for the enjoyment of the same in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment for future generations" (16 U.S.C. Section 1). In addition, the NPS Organic Act allows the NPS, through the Secretary of the Interior, to "make and publish such rules and regulations as he may deem necessary or proper for the use and management of the parks, monuments, and reservations under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service" (16 U.S.C. Section 3).

In 1970, Congress amended the NPS Organic Act to clarify its intentions as to the overall mission of the NPS. Through the General Authorities Act of 1970 (16 U.S.C. Sections 1a1-1a8), Congress brought all areas administered by the NPS into one National Park System and directed the NPS to manage all areas under its administration consistent with the Organic Act of 1916.

In 1978, Congress amended the General Authorities Act of 1970 and reasserted System-wide the high standard of protection defined in the original Organic Act by stating "Congress further reaffirms, declares, and directs that the promotion and regulation of the various areas of the National Park System, as defined by Section 1 of this Title, shall be consistent with and founded in the purpose established by Section 1 of this Title, to the common benefit of all people of the United States."

16 U.S.C. Section 1c defines the National Park System as "...any areas of land and water now or hereafter administered by the Secretary of the Interior through the National Park Service for park, monument, historic, parkway, recreational, or other purposes."

In addition to the above statutory authority, the Superintendent is guided by established NPS policy as found in the *NPS Management Policies* (2006). The Superintendent is also guided by more specific policies promulgated by the Director, National Park Service, in the form of Director's Orders. As stated in the Management Policies, the primary responsibility of the NPS is to protect and preserve our national natural and cultural resources while providing for the enjoyment of these resources by visitor and other users, as long as use does not impair specific park resources or overall visitor experience. The appropriateness of any particular visitor use or recreational experience is resource-based and will vary from park to park; therefore, a use or activity that is appropriate in one park area may not be appropriate in another. The Superintendent is directed to analyze overall Park use and determine if any particular use is appropriate. Where conflict arises between use and resource protection, where the Superintendent has a reasonable basis to believe a resource is or would become impaired, than that Superintendent is obliged to place limitations on public use.

3. Consistency of This Compendium with Applicable Federal Law and Requirements

The Superintendent's Compendium is not considered a significant rule requiring review by the Office of Management and Budget under Executive Order 12866. In addition, this Compendium will not have a significant economic effect on a number of small entities nor impose a significant cost on any local, state or tribal government or private organization, and therefore does not fall under the requirements of either the Regulatory Flexibility Act or the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act.

The actions and requirements described in this Compendium are found to be categorically excluded from further compliance with the procedural requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) in Department of the Interior (DOI) Guidelines 516 DM 6 and as such, an Environmental Assessment will not be prepared.

4. Development of the Requirements of the Superintendent's Compendium

As outlined above, the NPS has broad authority and responsibility to determine what types of uses and activities are appropriate in any particular National Park System area. The requirements of the Superintendent's Compendium are developed through an analysis and determination process. The decision criteria used during this process are:

- Is there use or activity consistent with the NPS Organic Act and NPS policy?

- Is the use or activity consistent and compatible with the park's enabling legislation, management objectives, and corresponding management plans?
- Will the use or activity damage the park's protected natural and cultural resources and other protected values?
- Will the use or activity disturb or be in conflict with wildlife, vegetation, and environmental protection actions and values?
- Will the use or activity conflict with or be incompatible with traditional park uses and activities?
- Will the use or activity compromise employee or public safety?

5. Applicability of the Compendium

The rules contained in this Compendium apply to all persons entering, using, visiting or otherwise present on Federally owned lands, including submerged lands, and waters administered by the NPS within the legislative boundaries of the park. This includes all waters subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, including all navigable waters.

6. Enforcement of Compendium Requirements

NPS Law Enforcement Park Rangers enforce the requirements of the United State Code, 36 CFR, and this Superintendent's Compendium.

7. Penalties for Not Adhering to the Compendium Requirements

A person who violates any provision of the regulations found in 36 CFR, Parts 1-7, or provisions of this Compendium, is subject to a fine as provided by law (18 U.S.C. 3571) up to \$5,000 for individuals and \$10,000 for organizations, or by imprisonment not exceeding six months (18 U.S.C. 3559), or both, and shall be adjudged to pay all court costs associated with any court proceedings. You may receive a list of fines associated with any particular provision by contacting the Chief Ranger at the Park address found below.

8. Comments on the Compendium

The Compendium is reviewed annually and revised as necessary. The Park welcomes comments about its program and activities at any time.

9. Effective Date of the Superintendent Compendium

The Superintendent's Compendium is effective on the approval date listed on the first page of this document, and remains in effect until revised for a period up to one year.

10. Additional Information

Some of the terms used in this Compendium may have specific meaning defined in 36 CFR 1.4 *Definitions*.

11. Availability

Copies of the Compendium are available at 735 Nod Hill Road, Wilton CT 06897. It may also be found at <https://www.nps.gov/wefa/learn/management/index.htm>.

B. SUPERINTENDENT'S COMPENDIUM

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 Weir Farm 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 – VISITING HOURS, PUBLIC USE LIMITS, CLOSURES, AND AREA DESIGNATIONS FOR SPECIFIC USE OR ACTIVITIES

(a)(1) The following visiting hours and public use limits are established for all or for the listed portions of the park, and the following closures are established for all or a portion of the Park to all public use or to a certain use or activity:

Visiting Hours:

All Park areas, not otherwise closed to public use, will be open to public use according to a schedule of visiting hours which vary seasonally, as follows:

- The Park's grounds are open from sunrise to sunset every day. All parking areas close at sunset.
- The Visitor Center is open May 1 to October 31 and current hours are posted on the Park Website.
- The Weir House, Weir Barn, Weir Studio, and Young Studio are available to the public May 1 to October 31. Hours for self-guided viewing, open studio hours, and guided tour times vary and are kept up to date on the park's website.
- Restroom facilities are open 10:00am to 4:00pm – daily, May 1 to October 31.
- All public buildings, including restroom facilities, are closed for the park's off-season, November 1 to April 30.
- All public buildings are closed in observance of the following federal holidays: New Year's Day (January 1), Thanksgiving Day, and Christmas Day (December 25).
- Administration offices are open from 9:00am to 5:00pm, Monday through Friday, year round. Administration offices are CLOSED on all federal holidays.

Determination: The above visiting hours are based upon a determination that such hours are necessary for the maintenance of public health and safety, the protection of natural and cultural resources, and the implementation of management responsibilities.

Public Use Limits:

- Any or all areas may be closed to public use or a special use permit may be cancelled at the discretion of the Superintendent or his/her designee when an emergency or potentially hazardous condition exists.
- Entering or remaining in the Park outside of posted hours is prohibited. Per 36 CFR §1.5(f): Violating a closure, designation, use, or activity restriction or condition, schedule of visiting hours, or public use limit is prohibited.
- The park may on occasion alter the days and hours of operation due to staffing constraints, hazardous weather conditions, power outages or other circumstances which necessitate a shutdown.
- The Park, or portions of the Park, may be closed at any time for emergency, public health, or security reasons in order to protect the welfare of staff, visitors, and Park resources.
- Temporary closures will be announced on the alert section of the Park's website, the Park Facebook page, communicated on the Park's phone greeting, and posted at key locations within the Park.
- The maximum Park capacity shall not exceed 500 visitors at any one time except at the discretion of the Superintendent or his/her designee.
- Building/Facility maximum capacity or number of people that can be accommodated/occupy the building/area at any given time:
 - Burlingham Barn – 50
 - Burlingham House Visitor Center – 25
 - Weir House – 25
 - Weir Studio – 15
 - Young Studio – 15
 - Artist-in-Residence Studio – 25
 - Caretakers House – 15
 - Weir Barn – 50
 - Garden terrace and field behind the Visitor Center – 200
 - Total Visitor Capacity – 500
- Tours of the Weir House, Weir Studio and Young Studio can only be given to groups of 15 people or less at one time. Tours of the Weir House require same-day, in-person registration. Registration is first come, first served. Group tours of 8 persons or more require a reservation.

Determination: The historic building interiors have small room sizes and hallways and allowing more people in the building without a reservation would threaten public safety, the historic and cultural resources of the Park, and the orderly management of the Park. Visitors seeking to bring large groups within the building must make a reservation.

- Disorderly persons or groups may be removed from the Park and prevented from returning to the Park on the day they are removed.

Determination: One of the Park's primary missions is to provide a safe space to be used and enjoyed by the American people. Disorderly persons or groups who infringe on the use and enjoyment of other Park visitors or threaten the safety of themselves or other visitors will be removed from the Park. Additionally, disorderly activities that are incompatible with the operation of a museum are not permitted. One of the Park's primary missions is to preserve and protect the Park and its museum collections for future generations to enjoy and experience. Any activity that negatively impacts the Park's natural and cultural resources is not permitted.

- Leaving property unattended for any period of time requires a permit.

Leaving unknown property unattended in the Park area threatens public safety, the environmental and scenic values of the Park, the natural and cultural resources of the Park, and the orderly management of the Park. Visitors seeking to leave property unattended within the Park must obtain a permit from the Superintendent.

- Pets and children must be attended at all times. Pets and children shall not be left alone in vehicles within park boundaries.

Leaving pets or children unattended or left in vehicles could be detrimental to their health and safety, as well as infringe on the experience or safety of other visitors. Nod Hill Road cuts through the park, and children or pets left unattended would potentially be at risk to cross a busy road without supervision from parents/guardians or owners.

- Parking Lot Capacity and Vehicle Limitations – RVs, Buses, Oversized Vehicles, and Group Visits

- The Parking lot is small and can only accommodate approximately 25 cars, which includes two accessible parking spots. Once these spaces are filled, the Parking lot will be closed. There is no Park-related parking on Nod Hill Road or Pelham Lane.
- Groups arriving in 3 or more vehicles that wish to visit the Park must contact the Visitor Center in advance to make arrangements for their visit.
- Yellow school buses, small shuttles (22 passenger or less), or large vans are permitted for scheduled group visits, and require a reservation.
- Recreational Vehicles (RVs), RVs with cars in tow, campers, vehicles with trailers, tour buses, and Coach Buses are prohibited in the Park and cannot be accommodated on Park grounds or in parking areas. Visitors traveling in these vehicles can call the Park for suggested alternatives and should not pull into the visitor parking lot.

No parking is available for recreational vehicles, oversized vehicles, coach buses, tour buses, or trailers in the parking lot; it was not designed to allow these vehicles and space is limited. The Park is located in a residential area on of very narrow and winding roads and the parking lot has size limitations, therefore cannot accommodate most buses and oversized vehicles. The parking lot was not designated to allow coach and tour buses. Per the Park's General Management Plan, page 17, Park management will identify suitable locations for overflow parking and negotiate agreements with landowners for parking cars, tour buses, and recreational vehicles. Current agreements prohibit tour and coach buses from entering the Park.

The above public use limits are based upon a determination that such limits are necessary for the maintenance of public health and safety, resource protection, and visitor enjoyment.

Closures:

- The Park and all of its facilities, including visitor use of the grounds and parking areas, is closed year-round between sunset and sunrise. No overnight parking or camping is permitted.
- The following areas of the Park shall be, for safety and security purposes, closed to all public use:
 - All construction areas
 - Caretaker's House
 - Artist-in-Residence Studio and back deck
 - Maintenance Shop – Wire Mill
 - Staff office areas
 - Weir House basement, second floor, and attic

Burlingham House Kitchen, basement, and upstairs offices
Collections/Museum Storage Building
All driveways

- All or portions of the Park may be closed to the public when it is necessary to protect the public from unsafe conditions or to protect Park resources from irreversible damage. Signs will be posted to announce such temporary closures.
- The Park (other than the designated parking area) is closed to all motorized vehicles unless their operators have received appropriate authority from the Superintendent or his/her representative. This includes mopeds, scooters, Segways, and bikes operating under power of a motor. Visitors with disabilities are authorized to use motorized wheelchairs or Other Power-Driven Mobility Devices (OPDMDs) on Park paths and trails, and in public buildings when feasible.
 - (a) The use of scooters, Segways, roller skates, skateboards, coasting vehicles, or similar devices is prohibited on Park property. Bicycles and e-bikes are permitted only in parking areas open to public motor vehicle use (Visitor Parking Lot) and on public roads within the park. All bicycles, e-bikes, Segways and scooters should be left at the parking lot at the bike rack or other location outside of the Park and are not permitted on visitor paths or trails. Bicycles, e-bikes, and scooters are prohibited from being ridden/operated in driveways and on park grounds and trails, with the exception of use by persons with disabilities as Other Power-Driven Mobility Devices (OPDMDs) as defined by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). The use of Segways, e-bikes, and similar devices in lieu of manual or motorized wheelchairs is allowed by persons with disabilities who would otherwise only have the option of using a manual or powered wheelchair on the accessible paths in the park, up to and including the Weir House porch, and north terrace of the Burlingham House, and restrooms in the Burlingham Barn. Segways and e-bikes for use as an OPDMD are not permitted inside historic structures due to the density of historic furnishings and stanchions. Interior spaces in the Weir and Burlingham houses have been modified to accommodate wheelchairs and the park has wheelchairs available upon request for use inside historic buildings. Segways and e-bikes may not be operated at speeds greater than 2-3 mph, the equivalent of a walking pedestrian. E-bikes (Electric Bicycles) are defined in [36 CFR 1.4](#) and their use is managed by regulations in [36 CFR 4.30\(i\)](#).

Segways and e-bikes are not appropriate for use by non-handicapped visitors in an historic setting mixed with pedestrians. The NPS ensures that those with disabilities have the highest level of accessibility that is reasonable to our programs, facilities, and services in conformance with applicable regulations and standards. The safe operation of Segways and similar devices is dependent on their integration into the normal flow of pedestrian traffic. Segways and e-bikes cannot be accommodated in historic buildings as their use creates a substantial risk to cultural resources and collections; the park will provide other reasonable accommodations including providing a wheelchair that has been tested in the small historic spaces of the Weir House and Visitor Center for visitor use, while ensuring resources are protected.

- Use of drones on or over Weir Farm NHP property is prohibited. Launching, landing, or operating an unmanned aircraft from, over, or on lands and waters administered by the National Park Service within the boundaries of Weir Farm National Historical Park is prohibited.

Definition: 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, quadcopters, drones) that are used for any purpose, including for recreation or commerce.

Determination: Pursuant to 36 CFR §1.5 and Policy Memorandum 14-05 issued by the Director on June 19, 2014, this restriction responds to the maintenance of public health and safety, protection of environmental or scenic values, protection of natural or cultural resources, implementation of management responsibilities, equitable allocation and use of facilities, or the avoidance of conflict among visitor use activities. Park managers understand the benefits of limited use of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) for research, for administrative use, and to provide for the public’s safety and welfare recreation use of UAS’s is not compatible with park management values.
- Additionally, the Park is closed to the following activities and those prohibited by the General Regulations outlined later in this document:
 - Wedding ceremonies or similar social events
 - The use of a metal detector or any subsurface exploration is prohibited.
 - Clearing, thinning, or cutting of trees, tree branches, or shrubs on park property is prohibited. Removing, cutting, or damaging of plants or stones to create social paths or viewpoints from bordering private

- properties is prohibited.
- Climbing over, under or around railings, gates, doors, stanchions and lines, barricades or other physical barriers used to control or limit public access is prohibited.
 - Marking out a playing field for playing organized baseball, football, soccer or similar recreational activities is prohibited. Competitive recreation events, including but not limited to running and cycling, are prohibited except if authorized in writing by the Superintendent.
 - Any other sport or activity that damage park resources or present public safety hazards

Determination: These prohibitions were determined necessary to ensure visitor and staff safety and the preservation of the significant natural, cultural, and historical resources of the Park. They are designed to fulfill the Park's mission and to allow for the maintenance and interpretation of its cultural landscape. These prohibited activities have been deemed dangerous to visitor safety and Park resources and/or incomputable with preservation maintenance. Pursuant to 36 CFR §1.5 these public use limits ensure maintenance of public health and safety, protection of environmental or scenic values, protection of natural or cultural resources, implementation of management responsibilities, equitable allocation and use of facilities, or the avoidance of conflict among visitor use activities within the boundaries of Weir Farm National Historical Park.

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

Public Health Requirements During COVID-19:

When the CDC COVID-19 Hospital Admission Levels are **LOW** or **MEDIUM** in the county where the park is located (Fairfield County) based on data provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), individuals are not required to wear masks.

When the CDC COVID-19 Hospital Admission Level is **HIGH** in the county where the park is located (Fairfield County) 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, gift shops and historic buildings.

Regardless of the CDC COVID-19 Hospital Admission 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 CDC COVID-19 Hospital Admission 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.

Federal agencies are directed to require compliance with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) guidelines with respect to wearing masks, maintaining physical distance, and other public health measures for on-duty or on-site Federal employees; on-site Federal contractors; and all persons in Federal buildings or on Federal lands.

Areas Designated for a Specific Use or Activity:

The following restrictions and/or conditions are in effect for the specific uses or activities noted:

Hiking / Walking: Grounds: Cleared areas, mowed lawns, paths and designated hiking trails are available for hiking and walking.

Restricting hikers and pedestrians to the Park's trails and walkways helps protect the fragile habitat and natural resources of the Park.

Painting:

Grounds: Artists and painters are permitted to set up their materials onsite. However, they are prohibited from setting up on historic structures including stone walls, porches, or in locations deemed unsuitable by Park staff like parking lots, near roadways, in front of the restrooms and on the Weir House/Burlingham House porches. Public areas should be kept clear for visitors and movement of staff vehicles. Brushes and

other art related items cannot be cleaned or left onsite. Art materials, such as paints and pastels, must not be used on park resources, even if the intent is to create something artful. Installation art is prohibited.

These conditions are established to protect the historic resources and maintain visitor safety, and are the minimum restrictions necessary to achieve such protection.

Artist-in-Residence Housing:

The Caretaker's House is designated for restricted temporary residential use for approved Artists-in-Residence only.

Per the 1995 Weir Farm NHP General Management Plan the accommodation of artists living in the park in a historic building for an extended period is a component of the preferred alternative approved by the Regional Director.

CCTV Policy Statement

In accordance with National Park Service Law Enforcement Reference Manual 9 (RM-9), notice is hereby given that Weir Farm National Historical Park uses Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) security camera monitoring.

The Park'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; and help facilitate the protection of the innocent and the apprehension and prosecution of criminals. (RM-9, 26.1)

This policy does not restrict the official use of CCTV in government administrative areas, including administrative buildings, jail holding facilities (RM-9, 26.3.7), 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 an Audio/Visual Recording Device (AVRD) in patrol vehicles or officer-worn recording devices used by commissioned rangers. (RM-9, 26.1).

Operation of CCTV cameras, maintenance of recorded images and use of recorded images will be in accordance with NPS and Department policy and applicable laws and regulations. (RM-9, 26.1-26.4) No person will be targeted or monitored merely because of race, religion, gender, sex, disability, national origin, or political affiliation or views. (RM-9, 26.4.2)

Nothing in this policy statement is intended to create any rights, privileges, or benefits not otherwise recognized by law.

II. 36 CFR §1.6 – ACTIVITIES THAT REQUIRE A PERMIT

Special uses and activities are managed through the Special Use Permit process. Each application will be handled individually. In the instance that two separate applicants are requesting use of the same area on the same day, they will be handled on a "first come, first served" basis. Activities requiring a permit are listed below under the specific 36 CFR Section that authorizes or requires the issuance of a permit. Special Use Permits may be obtained by accessing an application at www.nps.gov/wefa and clicking on "Reserve" on the main page or by contacting the Special Use Permit Coordinator at kristin_lessard@nps.gov.

The permit process allows NPS to protect park resources and guarantees groups a priority for a space when multiple groups or individual demonstrators want to use a designated first amendment area in a park.

(f) The following is a compilation of those activities for which a permit from the Superintendent is required:

Any activity that would otherwise violate operating hours, closures or limits listed in this compendium requires a permit.

Pursuant with 36 CFR:

- §2.1 Preservation of natural, cultural and archeological resources
- §2.4(d) Carry or possess a weapon, trap, or net
- §2.5(a) Specimen collection (Take plant, fish, wildlife, rocks or minerals)
- §2.12 Audio disturbances:
 - (a)(2) Operating a chain saw in developed areas
 - (a)(3) Operation of any type of portable motor or engine, or device powered by a portable motor or engine in non-developed areas
 - (a)(4) Operation of a public address system in connection with a public gathering or special event for which a permit has been issued pursuant to §2.50 or §2.51
- §2.37 Soliciting or demanding gifts, money goods or services (Pursuant to the terms and conditions of a permit issued under §2.50, §2.51 or §2.52)
- §2.50(a) Special Events: Conduct a sports event, pageant, regatta, public spectator attraction, entertainment, ceremony, and similar events
- §2.51(a) Public assemblies, meetings, gatherings, demonstrations, parades and other public expressions of views
- §2.52(c) Sale or distribution of printed matter that is not solely commercial advertising
- §2.60(b) Livestock use
- §2.62 Memorialization:
 - (b) Scattering ashes from human cremation
- §4.11(a) Exceeding of established vehicle load, weight and size limits
- §5.1 Advertisements - (Display, posting or distribution.)
- §5.3 Engaging in or soliciting any business (Requires a permit, contract or other written agreement with the United States, or must be pursuant to special regulations).
- §5.5 Commercial Photography/Filming and Portrait Photography
 - Commercial Photography/Filming:
 - (a) Commercial filming of motion pictures or television involving the use of professional casts, settings or crews, other than bona fide newsreel or news television
 - (b) Still photography of vehicles, or other articles of commerce or models for the purpose of commercial advertising.
 - Portrait Photography Sessions: Reservations must be made in advance with Park staff for all portrait photography sessions. Still photography on park grounds, including portrait photography sessions for senior photos, family portraits, engagement photos, etc. by visitors or professional photographers requires a reservation and special use permit.
The Park has limited parking and must limit the number of portrait photography sessions at one given time to ensure ample visitor parking, as not to interfere with the visitor experience and to adhere to resource protection and safety issues related to the parking areas.
 - Videography, of any sort, or the use of audio recording devices inside the Burlingham House Visitor Center, Weir House, Weir Studio and Young Studio, during times open to public use, is prohibited, except under the provisions of a permit.
These prohibitions were determined necessary to ensure visitor enjoyment and the preservation of the significant museum collections and historical resources of the Park.
- §5.6(c) Use of commercial vehicles on Park area roads (The Superintendent shall issue a permit to access private lands within or adjacent to the Park when access is otherwise not available)
- §5.7 Construction of buildings, facilities, trails, roads, boat docks, path, structure, etc.

III. GENERAL REGULATIONS

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

(a)(4) Using or possessing wood gathered from within the Park area is prohibited.

(a)(5) Walking on, climbing, entering, ascending, descending, or traversing an archeological or cultural resource, monument, or statute is prohibited, except in the following areas and/or under the following conditions:

- All visitor access within Weir Farm National Historical Park is restricted to open lawns, public walkways, paths, trails, mowed areas, hallways, stairways, and landings. Pedestrians are not limited to specific routes on the cultural landscape (lawn and field areas around the Burlingham Complex and Weir Complex). Pedestrians are directed to not walk in the roadways including Nod Hill Road and Pelham Lane for safety reasons.

Under, §2.1(a) collecting natural materials from the Park is generally prohibited.

- The collection of apples, berries, garden flowers, nuts, mushrooms or other such plants and animals is prohibited, except with the use of a NPS research permit.

Touching the furnishings or reaching for collections objects in the Visitor Center, Weir Barn, Weir House, Weir Studio and Young Studio is prohibited.

Climbing on gates, fences, structures, stone walls, and vegetation, including trees and garden plantings is prohibited.

Marking trees, benches, rocks, or structures by inscribing with a sharp instrument or by drawing with ink or paint, including graffiti, is prohibited.

36 CFR §2.2 - WILDLIFE PROTECTION

(a)(1) The taking of wildlife is prohibited.

(b) Hunting and trapping is prohibited.

(c) The transporting of lawfully taken wildlife through the Park is permitted under the following conditions and procedures:

It is prohibited to transport any lawfully or unlawfully taken wildlife through the Park.

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

Viewing of wildlife with an artificial light is prohibited in all areas of the Park except through a Special Use Permit.

36 CFR §2.3 – FISHING

(a) The following State fishing laws and/or regulations, as noted, do not apply in the listed areas:

- Pursuant to 36 CFR § 1.5 of this document, fishing is permitted at Weir Pond pursuant to State of Connecticut regulations.
- Pursuant to 36 CFR § 2.14(a)(7), gutting and cleaning of fish is prohibited in the Park.
- Fishing in Weir Pond is catch and release only.

(d)(2) Possession or use of live or dead minnows or other bait fish, amphibian, non-preserved fish eggs or roe is permitted in the following fresh water areas:

- Use of live bait is prohibited.

36 CFR §2.4 – WEAPONS, TRAPS, AND NETS

(a)(2)(i) Weapons, traps, or nets may only be carried, possessed, or used at the following designated times and locations:

- Pursuant to 18 USC § 930, firearms are prohibited in federal facilities. Signage prohibiting firearms in federal facilities is posted at the park entrance. The federal facilities with the highest visitor use are marked with signs at public entrances.
- Pursuant to 16 USC § 1a-7b, park visitors may carry firearms in the Park if they are otherwise in compliance

with federal, state, and local laws.

- Weapons cannot be used in the Park except by authorized federal, state, or local law enforcement officers in the performance of their official duties.
- Traps and nets are prohibited except as permitted by the Superintendent or his/her designee through an NPS Research Permit.

36 CFR §2.5 – RESEARCH SPECIMENS

(a) Taking plants, fish, wildlife, insects, 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.

- Permits are required for collecting research specimens

36 CFR §2.10 – CAMPING and FOOD STORAGE

(a) Camping is prohibited within park boundaries.

36 CFR §2.11 – PICNICKING

Conditions for Picnicking:

- Picnicking is restricted to open and mowed lawns.
- Leaving property, including picnic items, unattended for any period of time requires a permit.
- Picnicking on the porches of the Burlingham and Weir historic houses cannot prevent other visitors from enjoying the same spaces.
- Picnicking must be done on a “pack in, pack out” basis. All picnickers must pack up and carry out all their garbage and recyclables.
- Open flame or barbeque grill cooking is prohibited.
- Set-up of tables and chairs for group picnics is prohibited. Use of personal lawn chairs is permitted under the condition that they do not create holes or divots in the ground.
- Visitors planning to picnic in groups arriving in 3 or more cars must make a reservation.

36 CFR §2.12 – AUDIO DISTURBANCES

Under § 2.12 (a) the following are prohibited:

- (1) Operating motorized equipment, machinery, audio device, or musical instrument in a manner that makes unreasonable noise.
- (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 nondeveloped areas is prohibited, except pursuant to the terms and conditions of a permit.
- (a)(4) 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 prohibited. There are no areas and/or receptacles in the park where fires are allowed. Use of stoves, lanterns, or candles is prohibited.

36 CFR §2.14 – SANITATION and REFUSE

(a)(2) The use of government refuse receptacles or facilities for dumping household, commercial or industrial refuse, brought as such from private or municipal property is prohibited.

- Dumping of private refuse on park property is prohibited, including dumping of yard refuse, leaves, or branches.

(a)(5) Bathing or washing food, clothing, dishes, or other property at public water outlets, fixtures, or pools is prohibited.

(a)(8) Disposal of human body waste is prohibited within park boundaries.

36 CFR §2.15 – PETS

(a)(1) Possessing pets in public buildings is prohibited:

- Pets are not allowed in federal facilities.
- This restriction does not apply to service animals. The NPS will use the same definition of service animal currently found in [29 CFR §38.16](#). Service animals will be allowed (including historic buildings) wherever visitors or employees are allowed when accompanying a person with a disability.

(a)(2) Failing to crate, cage, or restrain on a leash a pet is prohibited.

(a)(3) Leaving a pet unattended and tied to an object is prohibited.

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

- Pet owners must pick up and dispose of pet waste in one of 3 pet waste receptacles provided (located at Weir Pond trailhead, parking lot, and behind Burlingham Barn public restroom facility) or pack out and dispose of outside of Park boundaries. Pet waste shall not be disposed of in park restrooms or public trashcans not marked specifically for the purpose of pet waste disposal.

36 CFR §2.16 – HORSES and PACK ANIMALS

(a) The use of horses and pack animals is prohibited within park boundaries. Riding or walking horses on park property is prohibited.

36 CFR §2.17 – AIRCRAFT and AIR DELIVERY

(a)(1) Operating or using aircraft on lands or waters is prohibited.

(a)(3) Delivering or retrieving a person or object by parachute, helicopter, or other airborne means is prohibited, except in emergencies involving public safety or serious property loss or pursuant to the terms and conditions of a permit.

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

36 CFR §2.18 – SNOWMOBILES

(c) The use of snowmobiles is prohibited.

36 CFR §2.19 – WINTER ACTIVITIES

(a) Downhill skiing, ice skating, sledding, inner tubing, tobogganing, and similar winter sports are prohibited.

- Cross-country skiing and snowshoeing are permitted on Park grounds.

(b) The towing of persons on skis, sled or other similar device by motor vehicle or snowmobile is prohibited.

36 CFR §2.20 – SKATING, SKATEBOARDS and SIMILAR DEVICES

Using roller skates, skateboards, roller skis, coasting vehicles, or similar devices is prohibited.

36 CFR §2.21 – SMOKING

(a) The following portions of the park, or all or portions of buildings, structures or facilities are closed to smoking as noted:

- There is no smoking or use of electronic nicotine devices in all government and government leased buildings and government vehicles

Smoking is permitted only in the following designated areas:

- (a) Grounds: There is no smoking in the Park within 25 feet of any building.
- (b) The Visitor and Employee Parking Lots are designated employee smoking areas.

36 CFR §2.22 – PROPERTY

(a)(2) Leaving property unattended is prohibited, except with written permission of the Superintendent.

- Visitors shall not leave property, including but not limited to picnic items, cameras, art supplies, unattended. Abandoning of property within the Park interferes with the visitor experience and impedes view sheds of the cultural landscape, and could potentially pose a safety or security threat, therefore the Park observes a “no abandon property” stance.

36 CFR §2.23 – RECREATION FEES

(b) Recreation fees, and/or a permit, in accordance with 36 CFR part 71, are established for the following entrance fee areas, and/or for the use of the following specialized sites, facilities, equipment or services, or for participation in the following group activity, recreation events or specialized recreation uses:

Entrance Fee Areas:

- There are no recreation fees for Weir Farm National Historical Park.

Daily Site Use Fee Areas:

- Weir Farm National Historical Park has no daily use fees apart from those that fall under the Special Use Permit.

Special Recreation Permit Fee (Such as but not limited to, group activities, recreation events, and the use of motorized recreation vehicles):

- Special Use Permit: Application Fee (\$50) plus Cost Recovery Fees (to be determined upon review of permit request and conditions)
- Land use for parades, rallies, ceremonies, celebrations, pageants

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 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:

(a)(2)(ii) The possession of an alcoholic beverage by a person under 21 years of age is prohibited.

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

Consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited on Park trails, roads, or in parking areas including the Visitor Parking Lot, Staff Parking Lot, and Corn Crib field where overflow parking takes place.

Determination: The Park is closed to alcohol consumption in parking areas and on trails because such activity is inappropriate considering the other uses of the Park, impacts to the visitor experience for other visitors, and safety concerns within visitor circulation routes and on/near roadways.

(b)(3) Controlled Substances:

The possession of a controlled substance is prohibited, unless pursuant to a valid prescription or order from a practitioner acting in the course of professional practice or otherwise allowed by Federal or State law. Presence in a Park area when under the influence of alcohol or a controlled substance to a degree that may endanger oneself or another person, or damage property or Park resources, is prohibited.

36 CFR §2.37 – NONCOMMERCIAL SOLICITING

Soliciting or demanding gifts, money, goods or services is prohibited except pursuant to the terms and conditions 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.

(b) Using or possessing fireworks and firecrackers is prohibited.

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 therefor has been issued by the Superintendent.

36 CFR §2.51 -- DEMONSTRATIONS

(b) Demonstrations of more than 25 people are allowed when the Superintendent has issued a permit for the activity.

Weir Farm National Historical Park will accommodate the use of park land for activities protected under the First Amendment of the United States Constitution. Demonstrations include picketing, speechmaking, marching, holding vigils or religious services, and all other like forms of conduct which involve the communication or expression of views or grievances, engaged in by one or more persons, the conduct of which is reasonably likely to draw a crowd of onlookers. To ensure public safety and the protection of park resources and values, and to avoid assigning the same location and time to two or more activities, for groups larger than 25 persons, the park will issue permits that specify/organize the time, location, number of participants, use of the facilities, and number and type of equipment used, but not the content of the message presented.

The Superintendent shall, within ten days, issue a permit upon proper application. No public assembly permit shall be issued for a period in excess of 14 consecutive days, provided that permits may be extended for like periods upon a new application, unless another applicant has requested use of the same location and multiple occupancy at that location is not reasonably possible. The use of message bearing signs may be used in conjunction with public assemblies, vigils, rallies, demonstrations, religious activities and other forms of public expression provided that a Special Use Permit has been issued and approved by the park Superintendent. All such signs are to be attended at all times. "Attended" is defined as an individual being on-site either holding or immediately next to his or her sign. Signs are not permitted in public buildings.

Demonstrations involving 25 persons or fewer may be held without a permit provided that they are held in one of the two designated areas defined below in (c)(2), that the other conditions required are met, that the group is not merely an extension of another group already availing itself of the 25-person maximum under this provision, and will not unreasonably interfere with other demonstrations or special events. Individuals and small groups who take advantage of the permit exception may make use of hand-carried signs, but not stages, platforms, or structures (including tables). While it is not mandatory, the organizer is requested to provide reasonable notice of the proposed event to the park superintendent, including whether there is any reason to believe that there may be an attempt to disrupt, protest, or prevent the activity.

(c)(2) The following park areas are designated as areas for public assemblies:

- Northern section of the grassy area adjacent to the Visitor Parking Lot on the east side of Nod Hill Road.
- Southern section of the grassy area adjacent to the Visitor Parking Lot on the east side of Nod Hill Road.
- See attached map found in appendix.

Assembling or distributing printed material within 20 feet of a building entrance or exit is prohibited. Visitors must be allowed unimpeded entry and exit of buildings for safety reasons. Assembling or distributing printed material within 12 feet of a crosswalk is prohibited. Blocking crosswalks impedes the flow of pedestrian traffic and creates safety concerns.

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

(b) The sale or distribution of printed matter by more than 25 persons is allowed within Park areas designated as available under §2.51(c)(2) (see above) when the Superintendent has issued a permit, and subject to the regulations listed above regarding public assemblies. Printed matter is defined as message-bearing textual printed material such as books, pamphlets, magazines, and leaflets, provided that it is not solely commercial advertising, whose primary purpose is the advocacy, definition, or explanation of a group's or individual's political, religious, scientific or moral beliefs. Message-bearing merchandise such as t-shirts, posters, patches, hats, flags, records, compact disks and tapes, photographs, mugs and decals may not be sold. The sale or distribution of printed matter involving 25 persons or fewer may be engaged in without a permit provided that the other conditions required for the issuance of a permit are met and providing the activity will not unreasonably interfere with other demonstrations or special events.

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.

Livestock use and agriculture are permitted by the Superintendent if it is determined necessary and an integral part of a recreational activity or required in order to maintain a historic/cultural scene.

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, cooperative agreement or contract.

36 CFR §2.62 – MEMORIALIZATION

- (a) The installation of a monument, memorial, tablet, structure, or other commemorative installation in a Park area without the authorization of the Director of the National Park Service is prohibited.

- (b) The scattering of human ashes from cremation is prohibited, except pursuant to the terms and conditions of a permit.

36 CFR §3.3 – VESSEL PERMITS

Use of a vessel in Weir Pond is prohibited.

36 CFR §3.16 – SWIMMING AND WADING

Swimming or wading is prohibited.

36 CFR §4.10 – TRAVEL ON PARK ROADS AND ROUTES

- (a) Unless specifically addressed by regulations in this chapter, traffic and the use of vehicles within a Park area are governed by State law. State law is now or may later be in effect is adopted and made a part of the regulations in this part.

- (b) Violating a provision of State law is prohibited.

36 CFR §4.30 – BICYCLES

- (b) The use of a bicycles and e-bikes are allowed in the parking area and on any public roads within the park. Bicycle or e-bike use is prohibited on park grounds and trails and a bike rack is provided in the Visitor Parking Lot.
- (c) E-bikes (Electric Bicycles) are defined in [36 CFR 1.4](#) and their use is managed by regulations in [36 CFR 4.30\(i\)](#).

36 CFR §4.31 – HITCHHIKING

Hitchhiking or soliciting transportation is prohibited.

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 §5.4 – COMMERCIAL PASSENGER-CARRYING MOTOR VEHICLES

(a) The commercial transportation of passengers by motor vehicle except as authorized under a contract or permit from the Secretary or their authorized representative is prohibited. See §5.4(a) for more information.

36 CFR §5.5 – COMMERCIAL PHOTOGRAPHY

(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, including tents, canopies, treehouses, and other ground penetration, are prohibited, except in accordance with the provisions of a valid permit, contract, or other written agreement with the United States.



Designated Demonstration Area #1

- Northern Section of the grassy area adjacent to the visitor parking lot on the east side of Nod Hill Road.

Designated Demonstration Area #2

- Southern Section of the grassy area adjacent to the visitor parking lot on the east side of Nod Hill Road.

