

# President's Park

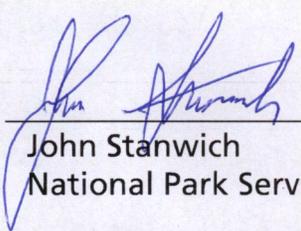
Office of the National Park Service Liaison  
to the White House  
National Capital Region  
National Park Service  
U.S. Department of the Interior



## 2016 Superintendent's Compendium

This Compendium for President's Park lists the various restrictions, conditions, public use limitations, closures and other designations that are allowed under the discretionary authority of the NPS Liaison to the White House. This discretionary authority is based upon NPS general regulations at 36 CFR Parts 1-6 as well as the park's special regulation at 36 CFR 7.96. This Compendium is separate and apart from the NPS general regulations at 36 CFR Parts 1-6 and 7.96, the complete text of which may be found on the NPS's website at [www.nps.gov/applications/npspolicy/getregs.cfm](http://www.nps.gov/applications/npspolicy/getregs.cfm) or at the Government Printing Office's website at [www.ecfr.gov](http://www.ecfr.gov)

This Compendium applies to all persons entering, using, visiting and otherwise within the boundaries of lands controlled, leased, administered or otherwise subject to the jurisdiction of the National Park Service, Office of the National Park Service Liaison to the White House, President's Park. The Act of Sept. 22, 1961, P.L. 87-286, 75 Stat. 586, codified at 3 U.S.C. 110 Note, provides that "reservation numbered 1 ... which is within the President's park enclosure, compris[es] eighteen and seven one-hundredths acres ... shall be administered pursuant to the Act of August 25, 1916 [as amended and that] ... nothing done under this Act shall conflict with the administration of the Executive offices of the President or with the use and occupancy of the buildings and grounds as the home of the President and his family and for his official purposes." President's Park's "White House area" is also defined at 36 CFR 7.96(g)(iv) as "all park areas, including sidewalks adjacent there to; within these borders: on the south, Constitution Avenue, NW; on the north, H Street, NW; on the east, 15th Street, NW; and on the west, 17th Street, NW. [Note that it does not include the nearby Eisenhower Executive Office Building or the Department of the Treasury Building complexes.]

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**I. Definitions:** The following terms, generally derived from 36 CFR 1.4, are used in this Compendium:

**Bicycle** means every device propelled solely by human power upon which a person or persons may ride on land, having one, two, or more wheels, except a manual wheelchair.

**Motor Vehicle** means every vehicle that is self-propelled and every vehicle that is propelled by electric power but is not operated on rails or upon water. This term also includes both Segways and motorized scooters.

**Motorized Wheelchair** means a self-propelled wheeled device, designed solely for and used by a mobility-impaired person for locomotion that is both capable and suitable for use in indoor pedestrian areas.

**Park Manager** means the official in charge of a park unit (area) as the authorized representative of the National Park Service.

**Park Road** means the main-traveled surface of a roadway open to motor vehicles, owned, controlled or otherwise administered by the National Park Service.

**Pedicab** means a bicycle with two rear wheels and one front wheel designed to be ridden by one or more persons and that can transport passengers on attached rear seats.

**Permit** means a written authorization to engage in uses or activities that are otherwise prohibited, restricted or regulated.

**Public Use Limit** means the number of persons; number and type of animals; amount, size and type of equipment, vessels, mechanical modes of conveyance, or food/beverage containers allowed to enter, be brought into, remain in, or be used within a designated geographic area or facility; or the length of time a designated geographic area or facility may be occupied.

**Scooter** means a two, three or four wheeled motor vehicle as defined above.

**Superintendent** means the official with authority for a park unit (area) or units (areas) as the authorized representative of the National Park Service and who reports directly to a National Park Service Regional Director. In the case of President's Park, that official is the National Park Service Liaison to the White House.

## II. Hours of Operation, Closures and Public Use Limitations

Pursuant to 36 CFR 1.5, the visiting hours, closures, public use limits or restrictions are as follows. Note that the dates/times listed of visiting hours are approximate and remain dependent on weather, staffing, funding levels, and on routine cleaning and servicing. Current hours of operation or other site specific information may be obtained by contacting the Park Manager, President's Park, 1100 Ohio Drive SW, Room #344, Washington, DC 20242. Please note that if areas may occasionally be closed for rehabilitation, maintenance or security reasons, which will be indicated by signage or ranger direction:

### A. Hours of Operation and Closures

- 1). **The White House Visitor Center** is open 7 days a week, Sunday – Saturday, from 7:30 am – 4:00 pm, with the exception of New Year's Day (January 1), Thanksgiving Day (fourth Thursday of November) and Christmas Day (December 25). The Visitor Center is open on all other federal holidays.
- 2). **The Ellipse Visitor Pavilion** is open seasonally. The Ellipse Visitor Pavilion restrooms are open daily from 7:00 am – 4:00 pm, except when closed on Thanksgiving Day (fourth Thursday of November) and for temporarily closures for routine cleaning and servicing.
- 3). **The Lafayette Lodge** Restrooms are open daily from 7:00 am – 5:00 pm, except when temporarily closed for routine cleaning and servicing, and that they rest rooms will be closed Thanksgiving Day (fourth Thursday of November), Christmas Day (December 25) and New Year's Day (January 1).

### B. Vehicle Access and Parking

- 1). The roads within the Ellipse and around Lafayette Park, except for H Street, are "restricted vehicle areas" where vehicle access is allowed only after coordination with the United States Secret Service as well as with the NPS through its permit process or government contract.
- 2). No public parking is available within President's Park and visitors are encouraged to take public transportation or find parking on adjacent city streets or in parking garages.
- 3). Bus loading/unloading is restricted to drop-off and pick up zones that are indicated by the appropriate signage. Idling is prohibited in all areas except during the loading and unloading of passengers.

### C. Public Use Limitations

- 1). White House Visitor Center
  - (1) Due to the potential of damage to the resource and to prevent unreasonable interference with interpretation, visitor services, or other program activities, only NPS sponsored or co-sponsored special events will be considered for approval in the White House Visitor Center.
  - (2) The White House Visitor Center is a Federal facility under 18 USC § 930

where firearms or other dangerous weapons are prohibited. Pursuant to 18 UCS 930(h), notice of the prohibition is posted conspicuously at each public entrance.

- (3) Pursuant to the NPS regulations at 36 CFR 1.5, 2.4(a)(1) and 2.15(a)(1), the following items are prohibited inside the White House Visitor Center:
  - (a) Irritant Gas Devices
  - (b) Pets (except service animals)
  - (c) Stun Guns, Knives, Ammunition
  - (d) Aerosol and Non-aerosol Spray Cans
  - (e) Glass Containers
  - (f) Food (except a small quantity of sealed food items, and except during special events that occur after public visiting hours and as authorized by the NPS Liaison to the White House)
  - (g) Beverages (except water in clear plastic containers and baby formula, and except during special events after public visiting hours and as authorized by the NPS Liaison to the White House)
  - (h) Eating or drinking (except during special events after public visiting hours and as authorized by the NPS Liaison to the White House)
  - (i) Suitcases, duffel bags or backpacks larger than 18"x16"x8"
  - (j) Any tangible objects that could reasonably threaten public safety and security.
  
- 2). **Unmanned Aircraft.** Pursuant to 36 CFR 1.5, the launching, landing, or operation of unmanned aircraft within the boundaries of President's Park is prohibited. 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.
  
- 3). **Climbing Onto or Attaching Items.** Pursuant to 36 CFR 1.5, climbing onto or attaching any item onto any tree, shrubbery or park structure in President's Park is prohibited. The term "item" includes any item and includes a person. The term "park structure" include but is not limited to monuments, the White House fence as well as any other fencing, bollards, jersey wall, flower pot, statues, urns, poles, traffic boxes and wayside signs. The term "attaching" includes but is not limited to attaching, chaining or handcuffing.
  
- 4). **Segways** is defined under 36 CFR 1.4 as a motor vehicle. Pursuant to 36 CFR § 1.5(a), 4.10(a) Segway are prohibited within President's Park including all park roads, trails and sidewalks. However, any park visitor with a disability is permitted to use Segway in President's Park, including all facilities, park roads, sidewalks, trails and other surfaces, when such devices are used for the sole purpose of mobility assistance. Those with a disability who use Segway must also adhere to the following:

- (1) No person under 16 years of age may operate a Segway
- (2) A person shall operate any mobility assistive device in a safe and responsible manner; maximum speed will not exceed more than 8 mph (sidewalk/intermediate key), so as not to endanger one's self or any other park visitor
- (3) A person riding any mobility assistive device upon entering the park and along a sidewalk, while crossing a roadway in a crosswalk or on any other surface shall have all the rights and duties applicable to a pedestrian under the same circumstances, except that the mobility assistive device operator must always yield to the pedestrians.

- 5). **Pedicabs.** Pedicabs, which are bicycles with two rear wheels and one front wheel designed to be ridden by one or more person and that can transport passengers on attached rear seats, are NOT allowed anywhere other than park roads. This is due to the pedicabs outside dimensions which are larger and heavier than bicycles, and which would negatively impact pedestrian safety.
- 6). **Rollerblades, skates, skateboards, bicycles.** Pursuant to 36 CFR 1.5, 2.20, 4.30, rollerblades, skates, skateboards, bicycles are permitted on roadways and most sidewalks in the park except for the White House sidewalk and the interior sidewalks of First Division Monument, Sherman Park and Lafayette Park, to ensure pedestrian safety and to protect park resources.
- 7). **Helium-filled balloons.** Pursuant to NPS Management Policies 8.6.2.2 and 36 CFR 1.5, helium-filled balloons are prohibited in President's Park. Cold air filled balloons may be allowed in President's Park for specified activities under a specified permit condition.
- 8). **Flying kites.** Pursuant to 36 CFR 1.5, flying kites using glass-coated or other abrasive non-biodegradable kite string or line within President's Park is prohibited.

### III. Permits process and permit conditions

- A. Permit, White House sidewalk and Lafayette Park regulations.** Note NPS special regulations at 36 CFR 7.96, including 36 CFR 7.96(g)(3)(i) which addresses when and how permits are required for the use of President's Park, including the Ellipse, Lafayette Park and the White House sidewalk. Note the regulation requires permits for any special event and for any demonstration that involves more than 25 persons or when a set-up is sought. If a speaker's platform/stage is used for a demonstration, three sides of its platform/stage must remain open to allow for visual inspection and nothing can be stored beneath it. Note that 36 CFR 7.96(g)(5)(A), (E) prohibits structures on the White House sidewalk as well as limits the size and placement of signs or placards and the placement of items, while 36 CFR 7.96(g)(5)(ix) addresses structures and signs in Lafayette Park.
- B. Sound.** President's Park's surrounds the home and office of the President of the United States. It, along with adjacent buildings just north of Lafayette Park, are residential areas and as such, to prevent unreasonable and excessive construction or maintenance noise, work can only be conducted in the park after 7 am and not after 9 pm, unless specific written permission has been obtained from the Manager, President's Park. This is

consistent with 36 CFR 2.12(a)(1)(ii) that prohibits the operation of motorized equipment or machinery in a manner that makes noise which is unreasonably disruptive, considering the nature and purpose of the individual's conduct, location, time of day or night, purpose for which the area was established, impact on park users, and other factors that would govern the conduct of a reasonably prudent person under the circumstances.

Note that 36 CFR 7.96(g)(xi) allows sound amplification equipment in connection with permitted demonstrations or special events, provided prior notice has been given to the Regional Director, except that (A) Sound amplification equipment may not be used on the White House sidewalk, other than hand-portable sound amplification equipment which the Regional Director determines is necessary for crowd control purposes; (B) The Regional Director reserves the right to limit sound amplification equipment so that it will not unreasonably disturb nonparticipating persons in, or in the vicinity of, the area.

- C. Resource protection on the Ellipse and its side panels.** Since 2005, the NPS has extensively renovated the Ellipse and its side panels, in support of its mission of preserving, protecting and interpreting President's Park. This renovation consisted of repairing utilities; installing a comprehensive irrigation system; regarding the area; replacing sidewalks, street lights, benches and other amenities; and installing new grass, and installing and maintaining sod. It is the firm conviction of the NPS that this project, the first comprehensive rehabilitation of the Ellipse since the 1940s, will result in increased enjoyment of the area by those who visit and use it for events and other activities. The investment made in these improvements, coupled with the mandate to preserve this exceptional park area, requires that appropriate care be taken in resource protection when permitted activities occur on the renovated Ellipse.

Accordingly, to protect park resources and other legitimate park value concerns, pursuant to 36 CFR § 7.96(g)(5)(xiii), and in coordination with the Office of Permits Management, the following President's Park guidelines/conditions is established and is to be followed by anyone conducting activities, including any entity doing projects, as follows:

- 1). All personnel (NPS, other agencies, partners, and contractors) requiring vehicular access to the Ellipse for the purpose of setup, support and break down of any event, must coordinate their activities through the Office of the Manager, President's Park, 202-208-1631
- 2). Stands and other facilities approved for placement on the grass must be supported by interlocking heavy duty plastic material. Stages may be approved for placement on the grass with 1 inch plywood support. Material to be used MUST be approved in advance by the Park Manager, President's Park.
- 3). Vehicles, forklifts, front end loaders, gators, gas/electric carts moving equipment, especially heavy equipment on turf, must be supported by interlocking heavy duty plastic material to prevent turf damage, avoid movement of material and prevent tripping hazards. Materials to be used MUST be approved in advance by the Park Manager, President's Park.
- 4). Absolutely no driving on the grass without the pre-placement of approved turf protection material. Driving on sidewalks is limited to gators, gas/electric carts only and should be accompanied by a spotter who can alert both operators and pedestrians of any safety hazards.

- 5). Support vehicle equipment, stored equipment, materials, etc. located on turf areas shall be supported by temporary interlocking protective material heavy enough to support the wheels and jacks of all vehicles/mobile units.
- 6). Temporary interlocking protective material supports shall be installed over plazas, walkways, and turf areas for the ingress and egress of all vehicles/units or heavy equipment.
- 7). To prevent damage to park water irrigation lines, staking into the ground is prohibited. Water barrels and/or concrete blocks that sit on the temporary interlocking protective material will be permissible. Water to fill the barrels will have to be brought into the park since no service for filling the barrels is available on site. Water barrels cannot be emptied onto the Ellipse area turf or in the curb or roadway areas without the permission of the President's Park Chief of Maintenance (202) 755-5920. Dumping of water containing non-biodegradable chemicals will not be permitted on the Ellipse area turf of its roadways.
- 8). Generators: All generators, which must be hand carted or tow behind/tow plant, will:
  - (1) Be placed on interlocking plastic flooring material, approved in advance by the Park Manager, President's Park.
  - (2) Be placed in fire retardant, self-absorbent secondary spill containment kit.
  - (3) Have bike rack completely around the generator to secure it from public access
  - (4) Have all cables covered with an approved cable trough/ramp so as not to present a tripping hazard.
  - (5) Have a fire extinguisher readily available near the generator
  - (6) Refueling of generators: Refueling of the generators will be permitted pursuant to the following conditions and will only be allowed on dates and times agreed upon in advance, and in writing, by the NPS. To protect park resources, the following materials must be placed on the ground during refueling:
    - (a) Plastic tarp
    - (b) Absorbent material on top of tarp
    - (c) Drip pan under fueling nozzle
    - (d) Spill containment material or absorbent booms or pads must be stored at each generator location
    - (e) 55-gallon drum labeled hazardous material must be placed along the side of each generator. Should spillage occur, the absorbent material must be placed in these barrels
    - (f) Permittee will be responsible for removing the barrels off of park property
    - (g) Permittee will be responsible for any damage to the park's resources as a result of the refueling
    - (h) In case of spill, please contact U.S Park Police (202) 610-7500 and the President's Park Chief of Maintenance at (202) 755-5920.

**D. Resource protection of Pennsylvania Avenue between 15th and 17th Streets and Jackson and Madison Places.** While jurisdiction for Pennsylvania Avenue between 15th & 17th Streets is under the District of Columbia and its Metropolitan Police Department, the NPS has a Memorandum of Understanding for the maintenance of the Avenue from 15th Street to 17th Street. Therefore, special care must be taken to ensure that damage does not occur. To ensure that damage does not occur and that any person, including any entity doing construction projects, does not find themselves liable for damage and for the resulting cost of replacing the granite and/or road surface, the following maintenance requirements should be followed in this area:

- (1) No metal parts can touch the granite.
- (2) Chalk cannot be used on the roads of the closed portion of Pennsylvania Avenue, or any park area of President's Park, including Madison or Jackson Places, the sidewalks adjacent to Pennsylvania Avenue between 15th – 17th Streets, N.W.
- (3) Paint cannot be used on the roads of the closed portion of Pennsylvania Avenue, or any park area of President's Park, including Madison or Jackson Places, the sidewalks adjacent to Pennsylvania Avenue between 15th – 17th Streets, N.W.
- (4) Tape may be temporarily placed on the roads but only after coordination and permission from the Park Manager, President's Park.
- (5) Cleaning of the roadway must be conducted under the guidance of the President's Park Chief of Maintenance, (202) 755-5920.
- (6) In the event that snow and/or ice needs to be removed, the President's Park Chief of Maintenance (202) 755-5920 must approve both the removal techniques and the products used.
- (7) Any entity doing a construction project must comply with construction requirements which can be obtained from the Office of the NPS Liaison to the White House at (202) 619-6344.

#### **IV. Other NPS discretionary function restrictions**

- A. Picnicking.** While 36 CFR 2.11 generally allows picnicking, pursuant to 36 CFR 1.5 it is prohibited inside the White House Visitor Center. Picnicking, including the consumption of "brown bag" lunches, is allowed in outdoor park areas, but may not include the setup of tables or chairs. Picnicking in connection with a permitted public gathering or special event is allowed.
- B. Fires.** While 36 CFR 2.13 generally prohibits lighting or maintaining a fire, a permit may authorize open flame candles relating to a demonstration, but such candles must be hand-held at all times and equipped with drip protectors to protect park resources. Since wax can cause permanent damage unless removed properly and in a timely fashion, if wax drips occur in park areas, they shall contact the President's Park Chief of Maintenance at (202) 755-5920 to ensure proper removal treatment occurs.
- C. Smoking.** Pursuant to 36 CFR 2.21, smoking is prohibited in the following areas:
- (1) All government buildings and structures
  - (2) Within 500 feet of any fuel storage dispensing facility
  - (3) Within 25 feet of entrances to buildings

- D. Alcohol.** Pursuant to 36 CFR 2.35(3)(i) alcoholic beverages are prohibited in any area of President's Park unless authorized under a NPS permit and limited to a designated area.
- E. Vehicle Speed Limits.** Pursuant to 36 CFR 4.21, the maximum speed limits on all park roads are as posted.

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