

Record of Determination to Close President's Park to the Launching, Landing, or Operation of Unmanned Aircraft

Pursuant to 36 C.F.R. § 1.5 and effective immediately and until further notice, the launching, landing, or operation of unmanned aircraft from or on lands and waters administered by the National Park Service within the boundaries of President's Park is prohibited excepted as approved in writing by the National Park Service Liaison to the White House.

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.

Decision to Close President's Park to the Launching, Landing, or Operation of Unmanned Aircraft:

This restriction covers all areas within President's Park which consists of the park lands surrounding the White House and includes Lafayette Park to the north; First Division Monument to the southwest; Sherman Park to the southeast and the Ellipse and its side panels to the south.

President's Park has been administered by the NPS since 1933 and consists of sites that have been meaningful to Americans for generations. A variety of complex laws, policies, and regulations govern the use of this unit, and the park is rich in cultural resources and in history that has affected the entire nation. Park visitors are ethnically and culturally diverse, coming from all parts of the world, and speaking many different languages. The site serves as host to official events which feature the President and First Lady of the United States along with other foreign and domestic dignitaries, and also provides the setting for a variety of major public events throughout the year.

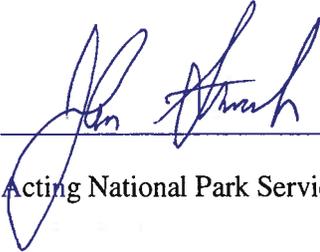
The airspace above the park is classified as prohibited for operation of aircraft without specific permission due to its close proximity to the White House. Hawks, killdeer, ducks and Canada geese, among other migratory birds, feed and roost in the park.

The National Park Service has not had sufficient time to adequately determine the effect and impact of this use of unmanned aircraft in President's Park on the atmosphere of solemnity and reverence as well as scenic values of the memorials and monuments; the safety of visitors walking, bicycling and driving in and through the park; the expression of 1st Amendment views; the impact on wildlife and the safety; and security of official aircraft that operate over and in the park.

The launching and retrieval of unmanned aircraft, as distinguished from that of the operation of model aircraft (prohibited under 36 CFR 7.96 without a permit), is a new use and subject to the requirements of the National Park Service *Management Policies 2006*, Sections 1.5 and 8.1, "Appropriate Use." Before a new use can be allowed, it must be assessed to determine if it is "(1) appropriate to the purpose for which the park was established, and (2) can be sustained without causing unacceptable impacts." (*Management Policies 2006*, Section 8.1.1) Since that required assessment and evaluation has not yet been done, less restrictive methods involving the launching and retrieval of unmanned aircraft are not appropriate.

Notice of this temporary and partial closure and public use limitation will be made through media advisories, maps and posting at conspicuous locations in the affected park areas as required by 36 CFR 1.7. This determination is available to the public upon request.

Pursuant to 36 C.F. R. § 1.5 and 1.7, will be addressed in the park's compendium as well as through media advisories and posting at conspicuous locations throughout the park. Violation is prohibited.

 8/7/2014

Acting National Park Service Liaison to the White House