

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

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.

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 violation of a closure, restriction or condition designated under §1.5(a) is cited under §1.5(f).

(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 activity:

Visiting Hours

- Valley Forge Welcome Center is open from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm 7 days a week. The Welcome Center is open until 6:00pm from Memorial Day through Labor Day.
- The Washington's Headquarters building is open from 9:00 am to 5:00 pm.
- The Washington's Headquarters building is close Mondays and Tuesdays from January 1 until Presidents day.
- The Ranger Station is open to authorized personnel only.
- The Park library is available to the public by appointment
- All park buildings are closed on Thanksgiving, New Year's Day and Christmas Day.
- The park may close due to inclement weather. The public will be notified through public media.

These buildings are open based upon personnel availability.

The following areas are designated as **DAY USE** and are open from 7:00am until 10:00pm.

- Artillery Park parking lot
- Betzwood parking lot
- Wayne's Woods parking lot
- Washington's Headquarter area, River Road and associated parking lots
- Walnut Hill parking lot
- Varnum's picnic area parking lot.
- Varnum's parking lot
- Fort Huntingdon parking lot
- Maurice Stephens parking lot
- Covered Bridge parking lot
- Dogwood parking lot
- Steuben Memorial Information Center parking lot (SMIC)
- Kennedy Supplee Mansion parking lot (except when open for business)
- Pawlings parking lot
- Administrative building parking lot
- Knox's Quarters parking lot
- Pine Tree lot
- Memorial Chapel lot
- Valley Creek road parking lot
- North Outer Line Drive parking lots
- South Outer Line Drive
- East Inner Line Drive
- South Inner Line Drive

These conditions are established to provide operational efficiency for the management of these areas.

Closures

The following locations are closed to general public access or use:

- 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 and has exceeded its carrying capacity. The resource has received heavy damage. The area is closed to allow the resource to rest and be reclaimed.

- Varnum's Picnic area and restrooms are closed from November 1 to March 31.

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.

- All areas designated as the Asbestos Areas of Concern. These locations are fenced and signs posted. See attached map.

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 survival.

- The areas of the park located south of the Schuylkill River are closed to organized recreational activities such as races, 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.

- The area of the park south of the Schuylkill River and north of the Norfolk-Southern Railroad line.

This area is closed because there is no permitted public access across the railroad tracks, and in order to preserve rare riparian habitat.

Model Rockets:

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

The propellant used to launch model rockets has caused wildland fires in the park. Falling rockets cause unsafe hazards to visitors using the park. The park is also not geared for the safe launching and recovery of these items. Falling rockets are a hazard to visitors who are not aware of the event.

Boating:

- Valley Creek is closed to boating or any vessels.

The creek is shallow and is difficult to navigate in certain locations. A dam, low hanging covered bridge and water level gages 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 located on Valley Creek Road.
- All persons using this area for model air plane flight are required to display a membership tag from Valley Forge Signal Seekers or obtain a day use pass from Valley Forge National Historical Park. Information about these passes can be obtained from the Welcome Center. Safety rules to govern the daily use of the air plane field have been developed in cooperation with Valley Forge Signal Seekers and have been adopted as regulation for Valley Forge National Historical Park. See attachment

Vehicles

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.

Valley Forge National Historical Park
Activities Requiring Permits

II. 36 CFR §1.6 – activities that require a permit

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

§2.4(d) Carry or possess a weapon, trap, or net

§ (1) When necessary to support research activities conducted in accordance with § 2.5

§ (3) For employees, agents, or cooperating officials in the performance of their duties.

§2.5(a) Specimen collection (take plant, fish, wildlife, rocks, or minerals) Special use collection permits may be issued only to official representatives of a reputable scientific or educational institution for purposes of research.

A Scientific Research and Collecting Permit is required for most scientific activities pertaining to natural resources or social science studies that involve fieldwork, specimen collection, and/or have the potential to disturb resources or visitors. When scientific activities pertain solely to cultural resources, including archeology, ethnography, history, cultural museum objects, cultural landscapes, and historic and prehistoric structures, additional permit procedures apply

§2.12 Audio Disturbances:

§ (a)(3) Operation of any type of portable motor or engine, or device powered by a portable motor or engine

§ (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

§2.51(a) Public assemblies, meetings, gatherings, demonstrations, parades and other public expressions of views. See attached maps

§2.52(c) Sale or distribution of printed matter that is not solely commercial advertising
See attached maps

§2.62 Memorialization:

§ (b) Scattering ashes from human cremation

§4.11(a) Vehicles exceeding load, weight and size limits. (See section III, §4.10)

§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:

§ (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.

§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).

General/Wildlife Protection

III. GENERAL REGULATIONS

36 CFR §2.2 WILDLIFE PROTECTION

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

A law enforcement ranger must accompany the transportation of any lawfully taken animal.

(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 §2.10 – CAMPING and FOOD STORAGE

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

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 grills, portable stoves, portable barbecues, within all picnic areas. Except as stated above, fires are prohibited in the park. Betzwood picnic area is the only area in the park with park-provided grills. All grill accoutrements must be packed out of the park by the user. This includes used charcoal and propane cook stove containers.

36 CFR §2.15 – PETS

(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:

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

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.

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 §2.23 – 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:

- Valley Forge National Historical Park does not collect recreation fees

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:

- 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 at Valley Forge NHP.

36 CFR §2.62 – MEMORIALIZATION

(b) A permit is required for the scattering of ashes from cremated human remains, or in the following designated areas without a permit, in accordance with the following terms and conditions:

- The scattering of human ashes may be done by permit only. The request will stipulate time, place, number of participants, use of park facilities, and any other special considerations requested.

36 CFR §3.6 – BOATING OPERATIONS

(d)(1) Vessels may not create a wake or exceed 5 mph in the following areas:

- 100' from the boat ramp

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

- Betzwood boat ramp

(i) The following areas/sites are designated for the launching or recovery of vessels propelled by machinery:

- Betzwood boat ramp

36 CFR §3.21 – SWIMMING AND BATHING

(a)(1) The following areas are closed to swimming and bathing:

- Valley Creek
- SchuylkillRiverwithin 200 feet of its confluence with Valley Creek
- SchuylkillRiverwithin 500 feet of the Betzwood boat launch ramp

36 CFR §4.10 – TRAVEL ON PARK ROADS AND ROUTES

(a) Park roads open for travel by motor vehicle are those indicated below, and/or as indicated in the following publication or document (attached hereto):

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.

36 CFR §4.11 – TRAVEL ON PARK ROADS AND ROUTES

(b)(1) Vehicle load, weight and size limits:

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- 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
- East and West Inner Line Drive 25mph
- All state roads within the park are posted 35 mph

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:

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

36 CFR §9.15 – USE OF ROAD BY COMMERCIAL VEHICLES

- Commercial Vehicles are prohibited on solely park-owned roads and in parking areas unless conducting official business for the United States government.

Please refer to 36 CFR 9.15 and the Pennsylvania Vehicle Law Handbook for all other applicable laws and regulations.