



Moores Creek National Battlefield

Superintendent's Compendium

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

Revised September 19, 2025

Approved by: Signed Copy on File at Moores Creek National Battlefield
Matthew Woods, Superintendent

9/19/2025
Date

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. Page 2 of 15 MWR Compendium Template, v.1-17-18

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:
www.gpo.gov

OR

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

The CFR is also available on the Internet at: www.ecfr.gov.

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

The National Park Service (NPS) is granted broad statutory authority under Title 54 United States Code (U.S.C.) §100101(a) (formerly 16 U.S.C. 1a-1, “Organic Act”) to “...regulate the use of the National Park System by means and measures that conform to the fundamental purpose of the System units, which purpose is to conserve the scenery, natural and historic objects, and wild life in the System units and to provide for the enjoyment of the scenery, natural and historic objects, and wild life in such manner and by such means as will leave them unimpaired for the enjoyment of future generations.” In addition, Title 54 U.S.C. §100751(a) allows the NPS, through the Secretary of the Interior, to “prescribe such regulations as the Secretary considers necessary or proper for the use and management of System units.”

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, 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.”

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, then that Superintendent is obliged to place limitations on public use. Page 3 of 15 MWR Compendium Template, v.1-17-18

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. Page 4 of 15 MWR Compendium Template, v.1-17-18

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.

Written comments on the Compendium may be submitted to:

Superintendent
Moores Creek National Battlefield
40 Patriots Hall Dr.
Currie, NC 28435

9. Effective Date of the Superintendent Compendium

The Superintendent's Compendium is effective on the approval date listed on the cover 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 40 Patriots Hall Dr., Currie, NC 28435. It may also be found at <https://www.nps.gov/mocr/learn/management/lawsandpolicies.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 54 U.S.C. §100751, the following provisions apply to all lands and waters administered by the National Park Service, within the boundaries of Moores Creek National Battlefield. 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:

During emergency conditions, the park or affected park areas may be closed temporarily by the Superintendent or his or her designee without prior public notice. This includes any closure required for prescribed fire or other park operations that could impact visitor safety.

Visitor safety is paramount. The Park will take precautionary steps to provide for a safe visitor experience and to prevent foreseeable accidents and/or injuries. Closures of this nature, although temporary, may last for an extended period of time. Any permanent closures will go through the required public notice process.

Areas of new construction, reconstruction, repair, and maintenance within the Park will be closed to public access based on threats to public safety presented by the type of work to be done and equipment in use. Areas closed to all public access will be posted with appropriate signage.

Areas of new construction and reconstruction or rehabilitation may be closed to visitors for safety reasons and to avoid unreasonable conflict with authorized work.

Visiting Hours:

Moores Creek National Battlefield is hereby designated a day use area. The following areas are closed to all public entry except during the periods indicated for the protection of the public and the resources.

Restricting use and placing time limits will help eliminate illegal or inappropriate use of the park.

The Moores Creek National Battlefield Visitor Center is open to the general public during normal business hours, which are made available to the public on site and through printed and electronic media. The administrative portion of the Moores Creek National Battlefield Visitor Center (AKA Interpretive and Education offices), the offices of the Administrative building (AKA Park Headquarters), Maintenance Facility (to include the maintenance yard), and the Patriots Hall offices are not open to the general public.

The Moores Creek National Battlefield Visitor Center is a facility designed to educate and inform the visiting public. Park Headquarters, the Maintenance Facility, the Patriots Hall offices were not designed for use by the general public and as such there may be safety and security concerns if the general public were to have access to these areas.

- Moores Creek National Battlefield exterior and grounds to include trails: Closed 5:00 PM to 9:00 AM
- Moores Creek National Battlefield Visitor Center: Hours as posted
- Moores Creek National Battlefield Parking Areas: Closed 5:00 PM to 9:00 AM except for those vehicles displaying a valid NPS overnight parking permit
- Unimproved service roads are open for contractual services, administrative and law enforcement purposes, park-sponsored special programs or volunteer events and activities authorized by special use permit. Visitors must keep their vehicles on the improved park access roads.
- Patriots Field: Closed 5:00 PM to 9:00 AM year-round, unless camping is permitted.
- Closed for all Federal Holiday Observance unless otherwise noted.
- Extended hours for special events will be posted on the park website at www.nps.gov/mocr, Facebook and on the park bulletin boards.
- The picnic shelter and the adjacent picnic tables located immediately to the west of the Visitor Center are available for use by park visitors from 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM. Visitors participating in park sponsored programming are exempt from its regulation.

Public Use Limits:

The buildings, facilities and grounds administered by Moores Creek National Battlefield are closed to special events as defined in 36 CFR Sec. 2.50; public assemblies and meetings as defined in 36 CFR Sec. 2.51; and sale or distribution of printed matter as defined in 36 CFR Sec. 2.52 except under conditions of a permit issued by the Superintendent.

The National Park Service has established carrying capacity for selected park areas to prevent impairment of the resource or visitor experience or for safety concerns. These limits have been determined to be the maximum number of people that can be accommodated consistent with the protection of the historic resource, visitor safety, and without compromising the quality of the park experience. Additionally, limits have been established for certain structures to ensure safe use by park employees, visitors, contractors and other cooperators in accordance with Life Safety Codes, design loads, and park guidelines.

- Moores Creek National Battlefield Visitor Center Exhibit/EN Store Area:50
- Moores Creek National Battlefield theater: 49
- Patriots Hall: with table setup – 121, with chair setup – 259
- Patriots Field Picnic Shelter: 96
- Canoe Launch: 12
- Group Amphitheater: 108
- The park visitor center storage area, Volunteers-in-Parks RV area, and 200 feet around the area adjacent to it is closed to the general public. The visitor center storage area and administrative road leading to this area is closed to general public.

The park visitor center storage area contains equipment, tools, supplies, and materials which should not be available to the public for security and safety reasons. The administrative road leading to this area is closed for the protection of unattended facilities. The Volunteers-in-Parks trailer area is for residential use and is closed for privacy.

- Picnic activities are allowed in the designated picnic sites. The group picnic shelter area may be reserved and is regulated under the specific park special use permit process and fees. Picnic activities are not allowed in the historic zone.

Picnicking in the formal cultural landscape area of the Memorial area and the historic battlefield zone detracts from the park's historic theme, creates the potential for a visual intrusion on the cultural landscape, and interferes with the interpretation of the battle of 1776.

- Patriots Hall is available for public use under the specific park special use permit process and fees when the park is open with the exception of NPS Special Events, holiday weekends and the entire month of February. These hours may be extended at the discretion of the Superintendent.

The area designated is to accommodate multiple use including public assemblies. The special use permit process is used to provide equitable allocation and use of facilities and avoid user conflicts with scheduled events, programs, and public use.

- Vehicle parking areas are reserved for persons using the visitor center, battlefield, trail system, Patriots Hall, picnic areas and interpretive facilities. The parking lot use is designated as "Day Use" only. Vehicles are prohibited in the parking lots from 5:00 PM to 9:00 AM, seven days a week. Parking lot closing hours may be extended at the discretion of the Superintendent.

Use of this area for other than 'day use' to enjoy and participate in park programs, restricts and limits the number of visitors and carrying capacity of vehicle parking spots.

- Social gatherings or sports activities conducted within vehicle parking areas are prohibited. Use of these parking areas for special park uses or activities may be authorized by the Superintendent.

The use of the park for organized athletic events or competitive recreational events characterized as public spectator attractions are not permitted. These activities conflict with the legislated purpose of the park, compromise the historic scene, and infringe upon the enjoyment and rights of park visitors.

- Individual or family-oriented sporting activities including, but not limited to, kite flying, frisbee throwing, golfing, soccer, baseball, football, golf carts, sunbathing etc. are prohibited within the boundaries of the historic and memorial area.

The listed recreational activities and/or non-traditional uses are prohibited within the park because these activities tend to detract from the park's historical theme and legislatively mandated purpose, related the potential for a visual intrusion on the historic scene and the significance of the resource, and have the potential to interfere with the visitor's understanding the battle of 1776.

Closures:

- Since all areas of the park are important in preserving the park's historic integrity and in interpreting its historical significance, certain portions of the park grounds are closed to recreational uses.

The park area does not contain any facilities which are normally used at night. It is therefore believed that no legitimate public activity would be prevented by closing the park at night and would help eliminate criminal activity. Additionally, the legislated purpose of the park would not normally be served by night use.

- Hunting and trapping are prohibited within park boundaries.

Closure of hunting and trapping is for the protection of the visitor and wildlife, and in keeping with the legislated purpose of the park.

- Bicycles are permitted on the park's paved roadways and parking areas in accordance with North Carolina law. The riding of a bicycle on park trails, sidewalks, grounds, and unpaved roads is prohibited. The bicycle may be pushed (not ridden) in these areas.

The trails were designed for foot travel only and for access to interpretive areas. Bicycles or other wheeled, recreational traffic on foot trails poses a serious threat to the safety of walkers. The slopes, narrow trail sections and curves are especially hazardous.

- During emergency and inclement weather situations such as ice, snow, high winds, tree blow-down, flooding, etc., park roads and trails may be temporarily closed without advance notice.

Closure of park roads during inclement weather would prevent accidents and injuries. In addition, the park is not equipped to clear heavy ice and snow accumulations from trails and roadways.

- The picnic area will be closed during inclement weather conditions such as snow, ice, or when extreme temperature or wind creates a health or safety hazard to staff or visitors.

Picnic areas are closed to the public during inclement weather in order to reduce or eliminate the potential for environmental hazards to staff and visitors.

- All roads within Moores Creek National Battlefield that are categorized as "Administrative Roads" are closed to motor vehicle use by the general public.

Administrative Roads are maintained for park operations. These roads are not open to motor vehicle use by the general public for a variety of reasons, which includes visitor safety and/or resource protection.

- The park maintenance area contains equipment, tools, supplies, and materials that are for park operations and not available to the public for security and safety reasons. The material storage area and the visitor center storage area are closed to the public.

There is no portion of the park historical interpretation program that takes place in this area.

- The Living History Demonstration areas are closed to the public with the exception of participation in park programs and special events.

Restricting use and placing limits will help protect demonstration tools, supplies, firewood and interpretive props and eliminate illegal or inappropriate use of the park.

- Periodic closures of certain park areas may be required during park sponsored special events.

To provide for public safety and avoidance of conflicts among visitor use activities, periodic closures will be implemented by the Superintendent and/or his/her designee.

- Launching, landing, or operating an unmanned aircraft from or on lands and waters administered by the National Park Service within the boundaries of Moores Creek National Battlefield is prohibited except as approved in writing by the superintendent. 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.

To protect public health and safety, park resources, wildlife, scenic values, and visitor enjoyment, the use of unmanned aircraft at Moores Creek National Battlefield is prohibited unless approved in writing. These devices have the potential to harm visitors, disturb wildlife, degrade viewsheds, create excessive noise, and interfere with visitor use. This interim closure safeguards park values while the NPS evaluates long-term management of this activity.

- The park is closed to the use of motorized, remote/radio-controlled gliders or model vehicles. The park is closed to aircraft of any type. Parachute landing is not permitted.

The prohibited use of motorized, remote/radio-controlled devices is for the safety of all visitors and wildlife 36 CFR 2.17.

- Except for special observances or activities as authorized by the Superintendent, consumption of food and beverages or the possession of opened food and beverage containers is prohibited in the museum and book sales areas of the visitor center.

The prohibition against the consumption of food and beverages is necessary to eliminate the potential for food particles being dropped that attract vermin and to protect resources from damage. The prohibition against chewing gum is to eliminate gum being dropped on the floor of the building.

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

Historic Weapons Firing Demonstrations:

- Historic weapons firing demonstrations are regulated by RM-6/D.O. 6
- The Black Powder storage area and 150 feet around the area adjacent to it, is closed to the general public.

Restricting and placing limits is a requirement of the National Park Service Historic Weapons Program, Black Powder Storage and Handling, Range Safety, and Weapons Storage.

Living History Demonstration area:

- Living history demonstrations and encampments are limited to the open area of Patriots Field or as designated by the Superintendent

Protection of natural or cultural resources requires that impacts to the historic area by encampments are managed and/or minimized when possible.

Camping:

- Please refer to §2.10 for detailed camping area designations.
- Camping is only allowed by approved park volunteers as a part of the Living History Program; or by park volunteer groups as part of a service project; or by program participants as part of a park-sponsored program.
- Living history encampments are limited to the Battlefield and THEDA, and areas designated by the Superintendent to support interpretive programs/events.

Non-motorized Boat Launching Sites:

- Canoe/Kayak launch at the north end of the Patriots Hall parking lot

Athletic Events:

- Coordinated Running Events will take place only within the existing road network of the park. A special use permit will be issued annually upon review and coordinating with the sponsoring group.
- Coordinated Biking Events will take place only within existing road network of the park. A special use permit will be issued for each event upon review and coordination with the sponsoring group.

Parking/Areas:

- The parking lot provides access to the battlefield, visitor center and memorial area during established operation hours. The parking lot is closed from dusk to dawn for the protection of unattended facilities and historic properties.
- Parking in other than designated parking areas is prohibited.
- Law enforcement, emergency services and park employees whose duties require them to drive vehicles and/or equipment shall be exempt of the above restrictions.

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

Passenger Carrying Busses:

- Engines must be shut down when not underway.

The idling of bus engines adds unnecessary exhaust fumes to the air and diminishes the enjoyment by visitors of the peace and tranquility of the park. Due to the nature of the service provided by the shuttle busses, they are excluded from the requirement.

(a)(3) The following restrictions, limits, closures, designations, conditions, or visiting hour restrictions imposed under §§(a)(1) or (2) have been terminated:

- The park entrance gate is open seven (7) days a week from 9:00 am until 5:00 pm.
- Moores Creek National Battlefield will be closed on all federal holidays with no access to any facilities other than restrooms being permitted; park grounds will remain open and accessible.
- Unauthorized parking is not allowed within the park between the hours of 5:00 pm and 9:00 am except in designated RV Host campsite areas or with special use permit.

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

Certain activities require a permit issued by the Superintendent to ensure protection of park resources, visitor safety, and compliance with federal regulations. **Permit applications must be submitted within a sufficient time frame to allow for an informed decision;** late or incomplete applications will be denied.

How to Apply

Applications may be obtained by mail, email, telephone, or in person at the park Visitor Center during normal business hours, or by writing to:

Superintendent

Moores Creek National Battlefield
40 Patriots Hall Drive
Currie, North Carolina 28435

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

1. Events, Gatherings, and Public Use Limits

(36 CFR §§1.5, 2.50, 2.51, 2.52, 5.1, 5.3)

A permit is required for:

- **Special events** such as ceremonies, weddings, pageants, athletic competitions, festivals, entertainment, or any public spectator attraction.
- **Public assemblies, meetings, demonstrations, parades, or other expressions of views** (25 persons or greater), limited to approved First Amendment areas (Appendix B).
- **Sale or distribution of printed matter** (other than First Amendment materials) and display or posting of commercial notices or advertisements.
- **Business operations**, including guided tours not sponsored by NPS, commercial services, or temporary food/beverage sales during special events (non-profits are exempt from CUA requirements if no taxable income is generated but still require a Special Use Permit).
- **Use of park facilities** such as Patriots Hall, the picnic shelter, or outdoor amphitheater.

Applications should be submitted at least **10 days** prior to First Amendment activities and **21 days** prior to printed matter distribution.

2. Land Use and Occupancy

(36 CFR §§2.10, 2.61, 2.62, 5.7)

A permit is required for:

- **Camping** (service projects, volunteer support, or park-sponsored events only) in designated areas near Patriots Field or Patriots Hall. Group size and availability are limited. Applications must be submitted at least **two weeks** in advance.
- **Living history encampments** in designated Patriots Field locations.
- **Residency on federal lands**, or erection of monuments/memorials (Director approval required).

- **Construction activities**, including installation of buildings, facilities, trails, roads, boat docks, or other structures.
- **Scattering of human ashes** in approved areas.

3. Natural Resource Use and Collection

(36 CFR §§2.4, 2.5, 2.23, 2.60)

A permit is required for:

- Carrying or possessing weapons, traps, or nets.
- Collecting specimens (plants, fish, wildlife, rocks, or minerals) or research specimen collection.
- Livestock use or organized athletic/recreational programs (e.g., fishing programs).

4. Transportation, Aircraft, and Commercial Access

(36 CFR §§2.16, 2.17, 4.11, 5.4, 5.6, 6.9)

A permit is required for:

- Use of horses or pack animals.
- Delivery or retrieval of persons or objects by parachute, helicopter, or other airborne means, or removal of a downed aircraft.
- Exceeding established vehicle load, weight, or size limits.
- Commercial transportation of passengers by motor vehicle.
- Commercial vehicle access to private lands within or adjacent to the park where no other access is available.
- Operation of a solid waste disposal site.

5. Disturbances, Displays, and Restricted Activities

(36 CFR §§2.12, 2.37, 2.38)

A permit is required for:

- Operation of public address systems in connection with permitted events.
- Soliciting or demanding gifts, money, goods, or services.
- Use, possession, storage, or transport of explosives, blasting agents, or fireworks.

6. Filming, Still Photography, and Audio Recording

(36 CFR §5.5)

On January 4, 2025, the EXPLORE Act (Public Law 118-234) changed how the National Park Service manages filming, photography, and audio recording in park areas.

- **No permit or fees** are required for activities involving eight or fewer people that:
 - Occur in areas open to the public,
 - Use only hand-carried equipment,
 - Do not require exclusive site use,
 - Do not adversely impact park resources, values, or visitors, and
 - Do not create additional administrative costs for the NPS.

- Filming, photography, or audio recording associated with an authorized event (e.g., wedding, sporting event, demonstration) does not require a separate permit.
- All other filming, photography, or audio recording requires a permit and applicable location and administrative fees.
- Entrance and/or recreation fees may still apply even when a permit is not required.
- Media outlets conducting on-camera interviews with NPS employees must obtain a permit prior

III. GENERAL REGULATIONS

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

(a)(4) Gathering and possession of dead wood on the ground is permitted provided such wood is collected as fuel for campfires within the park. Campers may collect dead and down wood anywhere within the park except:

- Within and 100' adjacent to the battlefield, monuments, savannah, and swamp.

Justification: While the collection of down and dead wood is allowed within the park area it is restricted to the areas specified above in order to balance the visitors' experience against the needs of the natural ecosystem and the protection of the natural and cultural resources.

(b) Hiking or pedestrian use is restricted to paved roads, paved trails, sidewalks, boardwalks, historic Black River Road trail/remnant, Woodpecker Trail, Patriots Field, Picnic Areas, and Fish Camp; this does not pertain to activities approved in writing by the Superintendent intended for official government sponsored and/or supported research and educational activities.

Justification: Restricting pedestrian use to designated trails is necessary to prevent resource degradation, safeguard archeological and historical assets, and reduce visitor exposure to environmental hazards commonly present in the park, including venomous snakes, toxic vegetation, and stinging insects.

(c)(1), (c)(2) The following fruits, nuts, berries or unoccupied seashells may be gathered by hand for personal use or consumption, in accordance with the noted size, quantity, collection sites and/or use or consumption restrictions:

A reasonable quantity (maximum of one gallon per family/group per day) of the following may be gathered within park boundaries for personal use:

- Wild berries
- Wild grapes
- Hickory nuts
- Pinecones
- Acorns
- Persimmons
- Mushrooms
- Sharks teeth and fossils brought in from non-spec road material

(c) (2) Visitors may not collect any part of plants that are contained in the Federal or State of North Carolina list of rare, threatened or endangered species.

Justification: Edible fruits, nuts and berries are abundant in the park and have been traditionally gathered with no apparent detriment. If monitoring shows that removal of these natural resources is adversely affecting the ecosystem, this activity may be terminated. Visitors are restricted from gathering adjacent to heavily traveled roadways where picking is unsafe due to limited road shoulder width.

36 CFR §2.3 – FISHING

(a) Fishing is permitted only at the designated Fish Camp area. Fishing is prohibited in or adjacent to the battlefield, including Moores Creek Bridge and the pedestrian boardwalk.

Justification: These restrictions are necessary to preserve the cultural landscape and scenic integrity of the battlefield and cultural landscape, and to ensure visitor safety in high-use areas.

36 CFR §2.4 – WEAPONS, TRAPS, AND NETS

(b) Reproduction historic weapons may be possessed and used within the park solely as part of authorized interpretive demonstrations conducted by park staff or approved participants.

Justification: These activities support the park’s mission to interpret the Battle of Moores Creek Bridge and the broader Rev War era and military history. Use of reproduction weapons is strictly controlled to ensure public safety and historical accuracy and complies with applicable federal regulations under § 2.4(e)(3).

36 CFR §2.10 – CAMPING and FOOD STORAGE

(a) Camping is permitted only by Special Park Use permit and solely in designated areas under specific conditions. Approved camping is limited to (see Appendix A for a map):

- **Patriots Field and Picnic Area:** For service-oriented groups (e.g., Boy Scouts of America, Girl Scouts of America) participating in park-sponsored events or service projects.
- **Battlefield and THEDA areas:** For authorized living history volunteers during designated interpretive programs.

Justification: These restrictions ensure that camping activities support the park’s interpretive and stewardship mission, minimize resource impacts, and preserve the cultural landscape and visitor experience.

36 CFR §2.11 – PICNICKING

Picnicking is prohibited within the battlefield and adjacent historical areas.

These restrictions are necessary to preserve the cultural integrity of the battlefield, protect sensitive historic resources, and maintain the solemn character of commemorative spaces.

36 CFR 2.13 – FIRES

(a) Fires are permitted only in designated areas and under specific conditions:

- **Picnic Area (Patriots Field):** Personal charcoal/propane grills and park-provided grills.
- **Living History Demonstration Area:** Fires by authorized interpretive personnel using firebrick pads during park-sponsored events and training.
- **Volunteers-in-Parks Residential Areas:** Provided fire pits and grills.

- **Special Use Permit Campers:** Approved above-ground fire pits in support of park-sponsored events.

Receptacles and Restrictions:

- Fires must be contained in approved grills or devices; pit fires are prohibited.
- Used charcoal must be disposed of in designated fire receptacles.
- Fire size must not exceed 3 feet in diameter.
- Fires must be attended by a responsible person (16+), properly safeguarded, and fully extinguished before departure.
- Fire use may be suspended during high fire danger without prior notice.
- Safety equipment (e.g., fire extinguisher, shovel, water source) must be inspected and accessible.

(a)(1) Conditions on Lighting or Maintaining a Fire

A fire may be ignited and maintained only by using fuel sources designed and commonly used for warmth or the preparation of food, such as charcoal briquettes or natural firewood. Lighting or maintaining a fire with other materials including, but not limited to, flammable liquids, garbage, fireworks, plastics, aerosol canisters, batteries, or other manufactured or synthetic materials, is prohibited.

Justification: This action is necessary for the maintenance of public health and safety, protection of environmental or scenic values, protection of natural or cultural resources, and the implementation of management responsibilities. Materials other than approved combustibles – especially fire accelerants and substances prone to wind transport or explosion – creates serious risks when used to light or maintain fires. These combustibles can ignite or spread wildfires that directly threaten people and valuable resources and assets. The burning of manufactured or synthetic materials can contribute to air pollution, contaminate soil and water, and be toxic to humans and the environment. Less restrictive measures, such as an education campaign informing visitors of the risks of using certain materials to light or maintain a fire, would not be commensurate with the substantial risks associated with those activities and could lead to adverse outcomes that might be prevented by establishing an enforceable condition.

(a)(2) Lanterns and luminaries are permitted only during park-sponsored special events and must be used in accordance with established safety protocols.

Justification: Restricting lantern and luminary use to supervised events minimizes fire risk, protects cultural resources, and ensures visitor safety while supporting interpretive programming.

36 CFR §2.15 – PETS

(a)(5) Pet owners are required to collect and properly dispose of pet excrement throughout the park. Waste must be placed in appropriate trash receptacles and not left on trails, grounds, or near water features.

Justification: Proper disposal of pet waste is essential to protect public health, preserve the aesthetic and recreational quality of the park, and prevent contamination of soils and waterways. These measures ensure a safe and enjoyable experience for all visitors..

(e) Pets belonging to park volunteers or residents may be kept only within assigned quarters. Pets may be unrestrained solely within fenced yards of volunteer residences. When outside these areas, all pets are subject to standard park pet regulations, including leash requirements and waste disposal rules.

Justification: These conditions safeguard natural resources, promote visitor safety, and reduce potential conflicts with wildlife, while still allowing resident volunteers to responsibly keep pets within designated living areas.

36 CFR §2.16 – HORSES and PACK ANIMALS

(b)(g) The use of horses and pack animals is permitted only under the following conditions:

- **Park Demonstration Area:** During authorized Living History programs and special park-sponsored events.
- **Parade Staging Areas:** When approved through a Special Park Use permit.

Justification: These restrictions ensure that equestrian activities support interpretive programming and ceremonial functions while protecting the historic landscape, visitor safety, and park resources.

36 CFR §2.21 – SMOKING

(a) Smoking and the use of e-cigarettes are prohibited in all government facilities, including the Visitor Center, comfort stations, and park vehicles. Smoking is also prohibited within 50 feet of building entrances, monuments, exhibits, demonstration areas, and hazardous material storage locations. Outdoor smoking is permitted only in areas where it does not expose others to secondhand smoke or threaten park resources. All tobacco waste must be fully extinguished and disposed of in designated receptacles.

Justification: These restrictions are necessary to protect public health, reduce fire risk, preserve cultural and natural resources, and prevent conflicts among visitor use activities.

36 CFR §2.22 – PROPERTY

(a)(2) Vehicles or personal property may not be left unattended for more than 24 hours without prior approval. Items left beyond this period may be considered abandoned and subject to towing or impoundment at the owner's expense. Property that poses a safety risk, disrupts park operations, or creates a nuisance may be removed at any time by authorized personnel.

Justification: These conditions ensure the safe, orderly management of park areas, protect visitor experience, and allow reasonable accommodation for extended activities when arranged in advance.

36 CFR §2.35 –ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES and CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES

(a)(3) The possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited inside the visitor center, government offices, and other administrative buildings, except when specifically authorized by a Special Use Permit issued by the Superintendent.

Justification: These facilities are maintained for administrative operations, interpretation, and public education. The possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages in these settings is inconsistent with the intended purpose of the facilities and could interfere with visitor services, employee work areas, and public safety.

36 CFR §2.51 – DEMONSTRATIONS AND DESIGNATED AVAILABLE PARK AREAS

(C)(2) Public assemblies, meetings, gatherings, demonstrations and other public expressions of views will be allowed if a permit has been issued in accordance with 36 CFR 2.51 and at locations designated to balance the needs of persons to express their views and the needs of Park visitors to enjoy the Park and its resources. The following locations are designated as available for demonstrations and similar First Amendment activities (see Appendix B for a map):

- Small groups (25 persons or fewer): Traffic Island in front of the Visitor Center
 - Groups of 25 or fewer may demonstrate without a permit provided they meet all criteria in 36 CFR § 2.51(b).
- Large Groups (more than 25 persons): Patriots Field
 - A permit is required for demonstrations exceeding 25 persons or for small groups using structures or equipment as specified in 36 CFR § 2.51.

All activities must comply with the size, notice, and conduct requirements of 36 CFR § 2.51, and permits may contain conditions necessary to protect park resources, visitor safety, and other park uses.

Justification: These areas were selected after determining that demonstrations at these locations will not cause injury to park resources; unreasonably impair the atmosphere of peace and tranquility of commemorative areas; interfere with interpretive programs, visitor services, or administrative operations; substantially impair the operation of public facilities or concession services; or present a clear and present danger to public health or safety. The designated sites are sufficiently large and accessible to accommodate expressive activities while minimizing potential conflicts with park operations and visitor enjoyment, consistent with the criteria in 36 CFR § 2.51(c)(1).

36 CFR §2.62 – MEMORIALIZATION

(b) The scattering of human ashes from cremation is permitted pursuant to the terms and conditions of a permit issued by the Superintendent. Scattering is strictly prohibited within the historic battlefield area.

Prohibiting scattering in the battlefield area protects sensitive cultural resources and prevents disruption to ongoing and future archaeological research. Designated areas outside the historic zone ensure respectful memorialization while preserving the integrity of the site.

36 CFR §3.8 – BOATING OPERATIONS

(a)(4) Launching of power-driven vessels from park grounds is prohibited. Only non-motorized watercraft—such as kayaks, canoes, and john boats—may be launched from designated areas within the park.

Justification: This restriction minimizes erosion and ecological disturbance to creek banks, preserves the natural and cultural landscape, and ensures a quiet, low-impact recreational experience consistent with the park's historic character.

36 CFR §3.21 – SWIMMING AND BATHING

Swimming, wading, and bathing are prohibited within park boundaries.

Park waters lack suitable beaches, contain unknown water quality, and present multiple underwater hazards. These restrictions are necessary to protect public health, preserve the cultural and natural landscape, and maintain the contemplative and historic character of the visitor experience.

36 CFR §4.21 – SPEED LIMITS

(b) The maximum speed limit on all paved roads and within parking areas is 15 miles per hour, unless otherwise reduced due to weather or safety conditions.

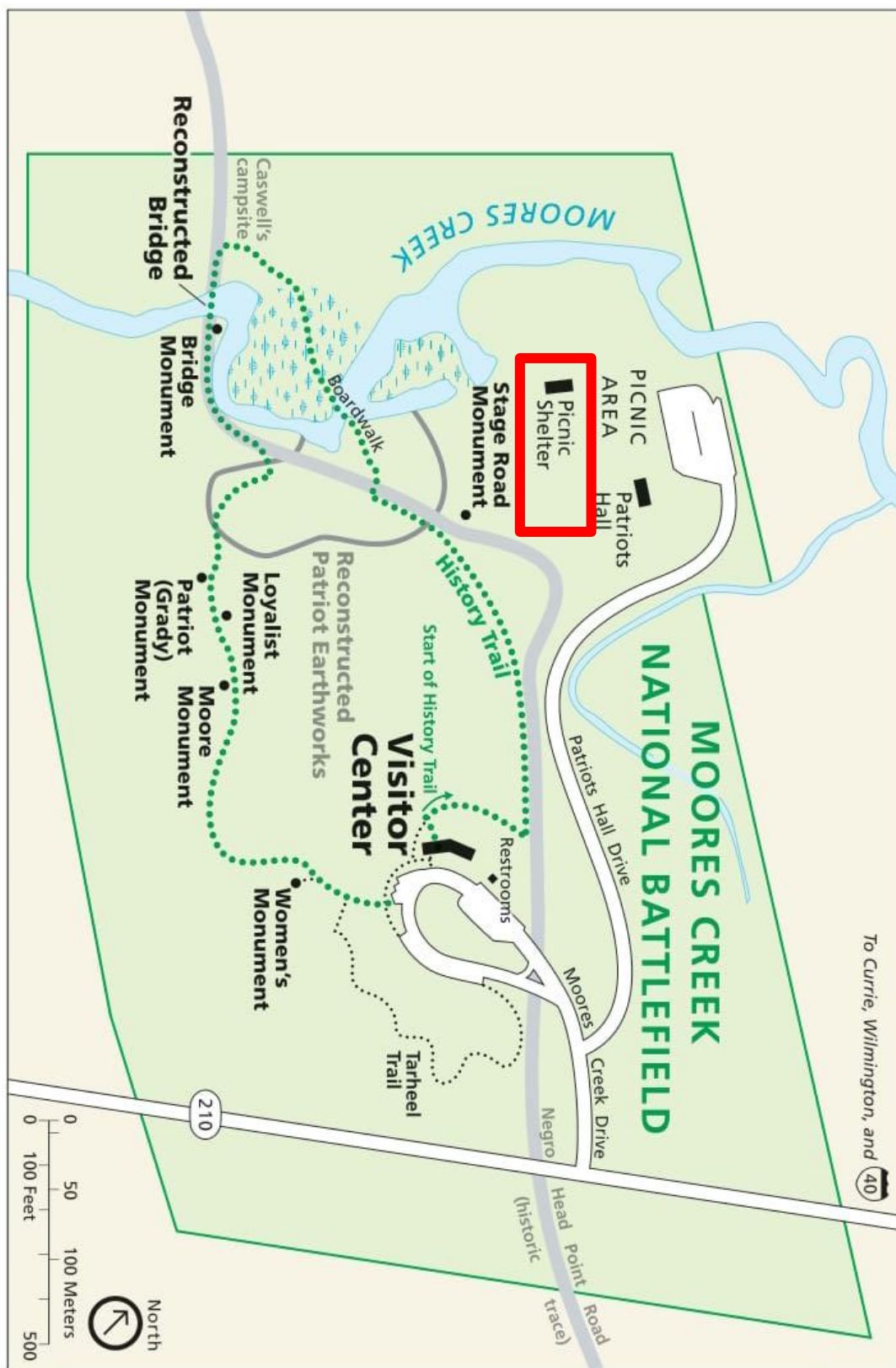
This limit reflects the design of park roadways and ensures safe travel in areas with intersecting roads, pedestrian activity, and wildlife presence. Lower speeds help protect visitors, staff, and park resources while maintaining a tranquil and historically respectful environment.

36 CFR §4.30 – MANUAL BICYCLES

(a) Bicycles and electric bicycles are allowed on park roads and in parking areas that are otherwise open for motor vehicle use by the general public. The use of bicycles or electric bicycles in all other locations is prohibited.

Restricting bicycle use to paved roadways reduces hazards to pedestrians, prevents damage to sensitive cultural and natural resources, and ensures safe, compatible use of shared park spaces. Electric bicycles are regulated identically to manual bicycles.

Appendix A – Camping Location



Appendix B – First Amendment Activity Area

