

THE WOODBRIDGE PARK ASSOCIATION, INC.
WOODBRIDGE, CONNECTICUT
FOUNDED IN 1928

ANNUAL NEWSLETTER 2001

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c/o Woodbridge Park Association
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ROGER M. HARRISON (to July 1, 2001)
AMEY MARELLA (as of July 1, 2001)

Dear Woodbridge Residents and Friends,

It is a pleasure to report to you on the activities of the Woodbridge Park Association during the year ending at the annual meeting in May 2001. The directors and the new team of officers elected in May 2000 and reelected in 2001 have worked to carry on the good progress of previous years toward making the Alice Newton Street Park more accessible and enjoyable for visitors. During the year, our Superintendent, Winchester Hubbard, Secretary, Richard Forselius, and Vice President, Paul Konwerski oversaw our fourth annual park cleanup day, helped by directors, friends, and their families, and continuing work to maintain and improve the trails.

Philip Smith completed an Eagle Scout project to replace the sign at the main entrance to the park, adjacent to the Town Green, in late spring 2001. The new sign includes an updated map of the park's trails and orients the park in the surrounding area. Located in an entrance space cleared and landscaped by Eagle Scout Smith, the sign stands beside the original memorial plaque recording the founding of the park in 1928. This new sign completes the larger project to improve information for visitors in the park that began with the installation of more than twenty directional signs on the trails last year. A map of the park and its trails is also enclosed with this newsletter for your use. Another Eagle Scout project designed to make

the trail along the park's eastern boundary more accessible has been approved by the Association. Eagle Scout projects and the hard work of the Woodbridge Scout troops have provided essential and most welcome help with improving the park over the years.

An exceptionally generous bequest has been left by Elsie Ford to the Woodbridge Park Association this year. Many residents of Woodbridge have marked the death of Elsie Ford with sadness but with fond memories of a woman devoted to her family and full of life. Raised on a farm in Woodbridge, where she



lived for most of her ninety-three years, Elsie Ford was a successful businesswoman who worked for more than thirty years at the Pond Lily Company in New Haven, first as a book-keeper and ultimately as the manager of personnel. In both her work and her private life, she was dedicated to community service and the welfare of others.

Long interested in history, she oversaw the renovation of her family's historic house on Amity Road, built ca. 1800, was an active member of the Woodbridge Historical Society, and initiated a program of writing biographies of parishioners of her church, Woodbridge's First Church of Christ. Her own biography, written for this series, reveals her energy and her joy in life, whether taking night school courses in psychology, business, and writing to enrich her work – and having one of her stories published – or taking ballroom dancing lessons after a disastrous experience at a wedding – and finishing by entering competitions in Atlantic City. It also reveals her spirit of generosity, seen in the efforts she devoted to the well being of her company's employees and, after her retirement, to the elderly of her parish.

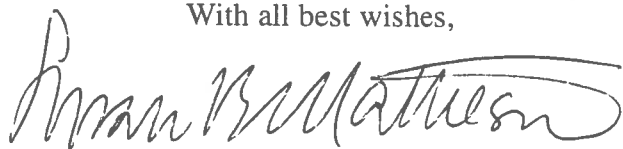
Her death revealed her generosity and thought for the future in bequests to the First Church of Christ and to the organizations in Woodbridge that work to preserve the town's special character, the Woodbridge Park Association among them. Those who knew her, and those, like myself, who never had that privilege but will benefit from her kindness nonetheless, share a debt of gratitude to Elsie Ford that it is a pleasure to acknowledge. Her generous bequest will be directly committed to fulfilling the Park Association's mission to preserve open space in Woodbridge.

This newsletter includes a list of past donations of land along with maps showing the present extent of the Alice Newton Street Park and the layout of its trails. The Association has also received gifts of land on Newton Road. Additional donations that would enlarge the present park or preserve open space for wildlife habitat or hiking trails would be welcome. Also included is a list of donors of funds during the last year (May 2000–May 2001). Thank you all for your support. Your gifts have funded improvements in the park, and they are contributing to the efforts to preserve additional open space in Woodbridge as we add a portion of the money raised by the annual appeal each year to the funds designated for land acquisition. John Chatfield, chair of the Land Acquisition Committee, and committee members Frank D'Ostilio, Ron Hedberg, and Paul Konwerski, are working to identify appropriate possibilities for acquisition.

Two new directors, Debra M. Forselius and Virginia Schneider, were elected at the annual meeting in May 2000, and three additional directors, Barbara Adams, Robert J. Fries, and Michael Walter, were elected to the Board at the annual meeting in May 2001. We welcome them all and know that their expertise and knowledge of the town and their enthusiasm for our shared preservation goals will greatly benefit the Association and the park.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any suggestions about the park. I hope you will take the time to enjoy it in all seasons.

With all best wishes,



Susan B. Matheson
President

Contributions 2000-2001

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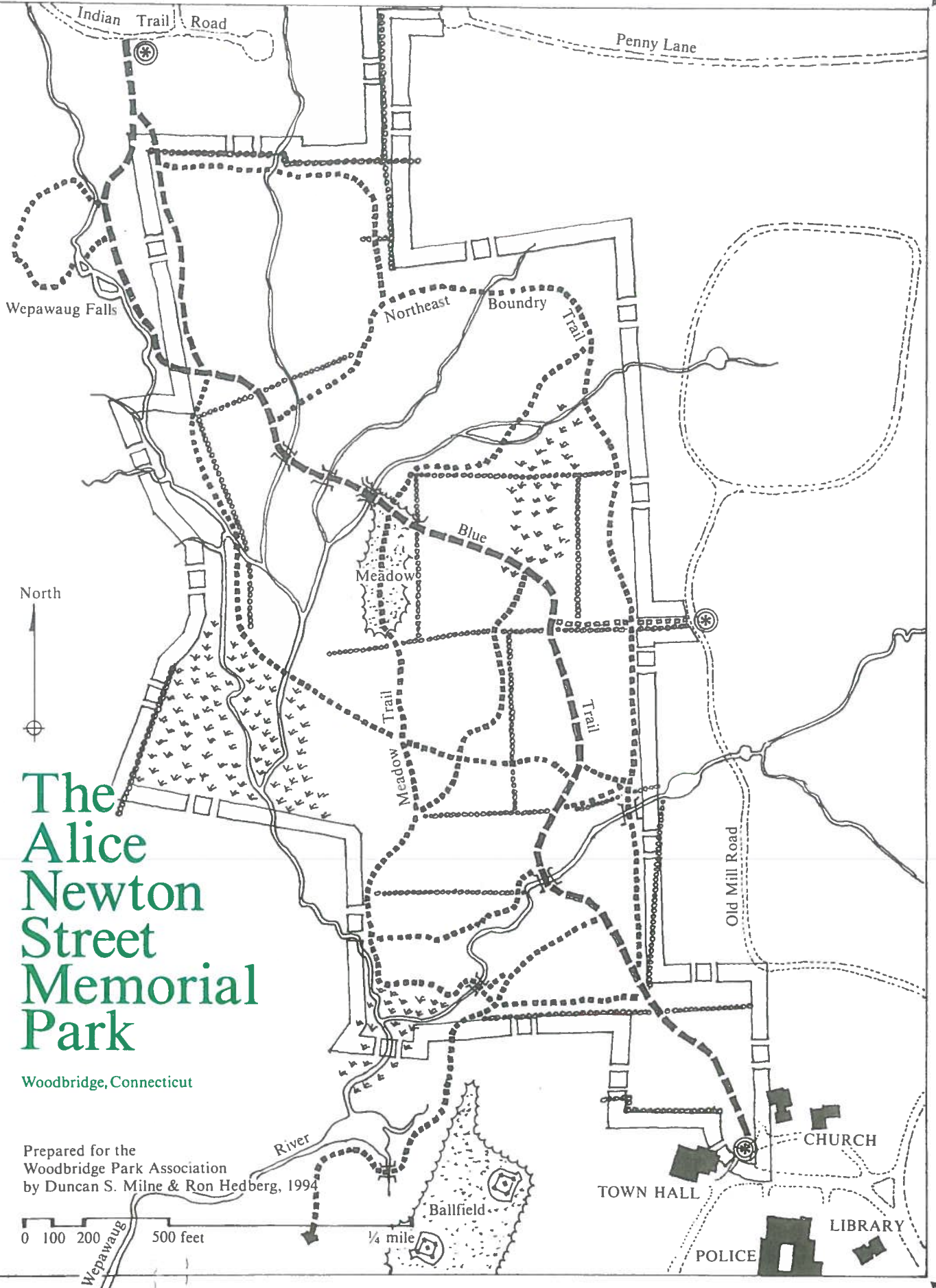
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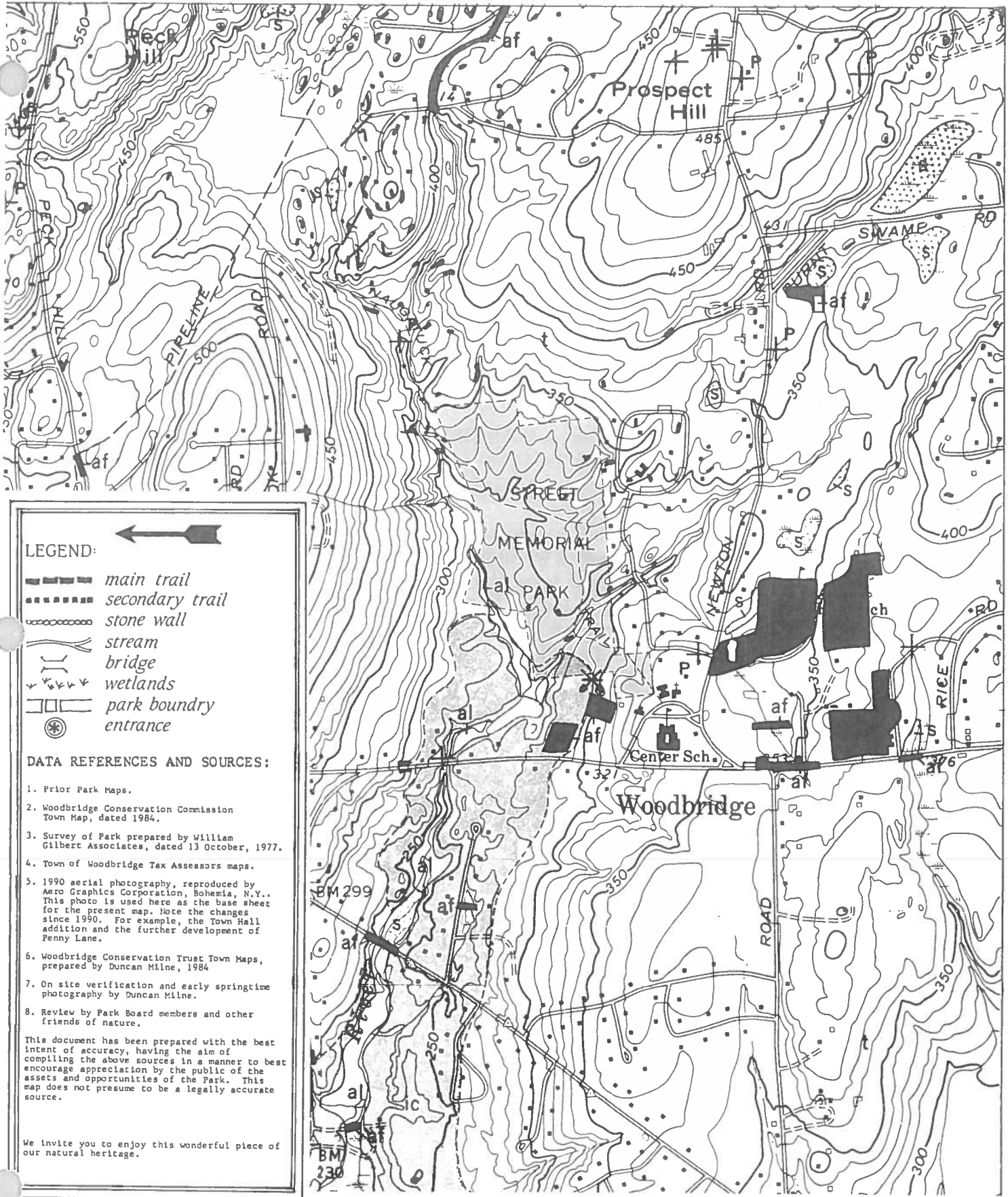
The Alice Newton Street Memorial Park

Woodbridge, Connecticut

Prepared for the Woodbridge Park Association by Duncan S. Milne & Ron Hedberg, 1994

0 100 200 500 feet

1/4 mile



LEGEND:



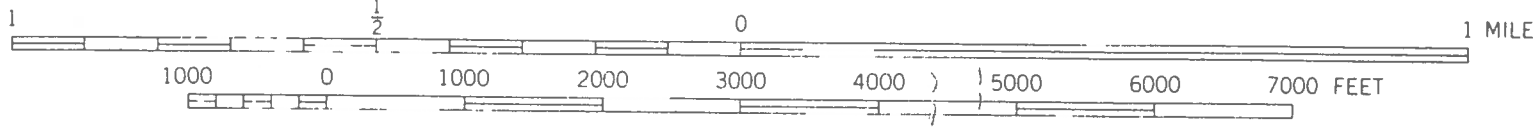
- main trail
- secondary trail
- stone wall
- stream
- bridge
- wetlands
- park boundary
- entrance

DATA REFERENCES AND SOURCES:

1. Prior Park Maps.
2. Woodbridge Conservation Commission Town Map, dated 1984.
3. Survey of Park prepared by William Gilbert Associates, dated 13 October, 1977.
4. Town of Woodbridge Tax Assessors maps.
5. 1990 aerial photography, reproduced by Aero Graphics Corporation, Bohemia, N.Y.. This photo is used here as the base sheet for the present map. Note the changes since 1990. For example, the Town Hall addition and the further development of Penny Lane.
6. Woodbridge Conservation Trust Town Maps, prepared by Duncan Milne, 1984
7. On site verification and early springtime photography by Duncan Milne.
8. Review by Park Board members and other friends of nature.

This document has been prepared with the best intent of accuracy, having the aim of compiling the above sources in a manner to best encourage appreciation by the public of the assets and opportunities of the Park. This map does not presume to be a legally accurate source.

We invite you to enjoy this wonderful piece of our natural heritage.



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OTHER

Estelle Handler

Land Donations

In addition to the founding gift of land in 1928, the Association has received important donations of land, as listed below together with the dates of acquisition:

Chester Hitchcock Family, 1920: 2.5 acres adjacent to the Alice Newton Street Park

First Ecclesiastical Society of the Town of Woodbridge, 1935: 0.7 acre by Meetinghouse Lane

Mrs. Dorothy Heise, 1956: 1 acre adjacent to the Alice Newton Street Park

Mrs. Frederick Kingsbury, 1987-88: 3.9 acres adjacent to the Alice Newton Street Park

Dennis Nicotra, 1986: 6 acres on Newton Road

Harry Grossman, on behalf of the Woodbridge Estates, 1988: 1 acre on Newton Road;
1989: 7.8 acres on the northwestern corner of the Park

Use of the Alice Newton Street Memorial Park

The Park is free and open to all, every day of the year.

Main Entrance: Meetinghouse Lane, north of the Green and Town Hall.
Parking adjacent to the entrance.

Second Entrance: Old Mill Road. Limited parking.

Major hiking trails are marked. A large map showing the trails can be found at the main entrance. Picnic tables and benches are provided near the main entrance.

Two maps are included in this letter. The one of the park was prepared by Duncan Milne and Ron Hedberg (1994). The other is an enlarged portion of the Surficial Geographic map of the Ansonia quadrangle which shows the park land and its surroundings.

To ensure the safety of visitors and the preservation of the park, smoking and fires are prohibited.

The park is designed to remain in its natural state. Therefore, no motorized vehicles are allowed in the park, except those used for park maintenance. Hunting and fishing are not allowed. Please do not pick the wildflowers or disturb other plants or wildlife.

