



PARK USE GUIDELINES

Wilcox Park (the Park) is a nationally Significant Historic Property and Arboretum.

The Park is privately owned and operated since 1898 by the Memorial and Library Association of Westerly (the **Association**), a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization. The Association makes the Park available to organizations and individuals for non-commercial, cultural, informational, educational, intellectual and civic purposes as well as for wedding ceremonies, group picnics and community gatherings.

Each organization or individual requesting use of the Park must (i) submit a **Park Use Application Form** (which can be obtained at the circulation desk of the Library or by downloading the form from www.westerlylibrary.org) and (ii) agree to abide by these guidelines and, if requested by the Association, an agreement (commonly called a Memorandum of Understanding) setting forth the terms and conditions of use. Failure to do so may result in cancellation, refusal of reservations, or the right to use the Park in the future. Use of the Park does not in any way constitute an endorsement by the Association of the organization's or user's policies or beliefs.

The Association has established a schedule of fees for use of the Park and reserves the right to change such fees at any time, determine appropriate uses of the Park, and cancel or reschedule any programs or events in the event of emergency, extreme weather conditions or force majeure circumstances.

Certain Rules and Guidelines

To ensure safe and peaceful enjoyment of the Park for all, the following rules and guidelines must be observed:

- No smoking, alcohol or illegal drugs, littering or defacing of property, or inappropriate behavior.
- No glass bottles are permitted in the Park.
- All pets must be leashed, and owners or handlers must pick up after their pets.
- No plastic tarps to cover the ground may be used
- Enjoy the flowers and trees; do not pick, alter or climb them.
- Do not feed the waterfowl- it is illegal under Rhode Island state law.
- Electrical amplification of voice and music is prohibited unless done with a battery-powered device. Live acoustical music is permitted.
- Do not obstruct walkways or paths
- Grilling or barbecuing is prohibited.
- Fireworks of any kind are prohibited.
- Tossing non-biodegradable confetti (silk flowers and rice) is prohibited.
- Operation of drones or unmanned aircraft is prohibited.
- No person or organization using the Park may discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion or disability.

The Association reserves the right to prohibit or terminate any activity that is unlawful or that disrupts the Park, or the flowers, trees, fixtures or other facilities in the Park, jeopardizes the safety of the public, or otherwise is inconsistent with the interests of, or would cause disrepute to, the Association.

Disclaimer of Liability

The Association assumes no liability to individuals or organizations, or their officers, directors, trustees, managers, employees or agents, and their personal representatives, successors and assigns, in connection with use of the Park. In addition, the Association is not liable for theft, loss or damage to personal property of users or event attendees while in the Park. The Association is not responsible for equipment, clothing or other personal items left in the Park by the user or its attendees after the event.

Park Use Application

Any organization or individual requesting use of the Park must submit a Park Use Application Form and designate a contact person who shall assume responsibility for making arrangements with the Park Superintendent regarding the event and, when requested, enter into a Memorandum of Understanding regarding the appropriate terms of use. A completed Park Use Application Form must be submitted to the Association at least fourteen (14) business days in advance of the planned event and is reviewed on a first-come first-served basis. Upon approval, a deposit of the full reservation fee will be due within seven (7) business days. Reservations are considered tentative and subject to receipt of a deposit. The deposit is refundable if the Association is notified of a reservation cancellation at least thirty (30) days or more prior to the scheduled event date. If a reservation is cancelled by the applicant less than 30 days in advance, only fifty percent (50%) of the deposit is refundable. Reservations may also be subject to a separate memorandum of understanding entered into by the applicant and the Association where the Association deems it necessary to specify additional terms and conditions to usage of the Park as in major events that occupy a large area in the Park or last for a number of days.

Please be advised that submission of a Park Use Application constitutes the applicant's agreement to abide by these guidelines.

Private Events

The Park may be used by individuals for private events such as wedding ceremonies (but not receptions), picnics, photo sessions, family gatherings and similar events upon approval of the Association. The details of such events must be described in the Park Use Application in sufficient detail for the Association to make a reasoned decision as to the propriety of the event and any restrictions or limitations to govern the requested use.

Fees for wedding ceremonies and other private events are specified in the Park Use Application. A cleaning fee is mandatory at any event where food and beverages will be served. No alcoholic beverages or glass bottles are permitted, and users must remove all trash and debris resulting from the event. Where a large amount of trash or debris is expected, the user must arrange, at its own expense, for removable garbage receptacles in form and number acceptable to the Park Superintendent.

Wedding photos do not require a fee or Park Use Application; however, it is advisable to call the Park Superintendent, Alan Peck, at 401-596-2877, ext. 334, to check on possible conflicting events.

The Park is **not** available for wedding receptions; however, certain rooms in the Library may be rented for such purpose. Use of the Library for private events requires a separate application form and additional use fees. Please contact Bethany Austin, at 401-596-2877, ext. 342, for more information.

Private use of the Park is to be conducted without interfering with or disrupting the enjoyment of the Park by others.

Insurance

Organizations approved for using the Park must submit a certificate of liability insurance to the Association describing the insurance coverage acceptable to the Association and provide evidence that the Association is named as an additional insured on the policy, with the exception of smaller events such as wedding ceremonies, family gatherings and group picnics.

Additional Use Limitations

Stakes and other ground penetrations are prohibited due to potential damage to the extensive irrigation system and network of underground water lines throughout the Park. Users may not erect tents, rope off areas or post any notices on Park property.

Approval of an event request does not grant the user the exclusive use of the Park. The user understands and agrees that he, she or it may not prevent the enjoyment of the Park by others.

Vehicles are allowed in the Park only by specific permission of the Park Superintendent. All vehicles are limited to driving on the reinforced sidewalks of the Park and entering from High Street. No vehicles may traverse the grass unless for unloading purposes and then only with the permission of the Park Superintendent. By permission of the Park Superintendent, horse-drawn carriages may be permitted and are generally welcome in the Park.

Events may only be scheduled during the regular business hours of the Library and Park (starting no earlier than 9 AM, and concluding no later than 8 PM), unless by permission of the Park Superintendent or otherwise specified in an agreement related to use of the Park.

Unless otherwise permitted by agreement, no admission fees may be charged, no collections taken and no donations may be accepted or solicited at any event.

Indemnification and General Release

Organizations and individuals (collectively referred to in this paragraph as a “**User**”) of the Park are responsible for any damage to or destruction of Park property, and by submission of a Park Use Application, thereby agree to indemnify and hold harmless the Association and its officers, directors, trustees, managers, employees, agents and their personal representatives, successors and assigns from any damages, liabilities, cost or expense arising from (i) any act or omission of the User or any of its officers, directors, employees, conductors, event attendees, or agents in connection with the use of the Park or breach of the Park Use Guidelines.

By submission of a Park Use Application, the User further agrees, voluntarily and knowingly, to waive, release and forever discharge the Association and its officers, directors, trustees, managers, employees, agents and their personal representatives, successors and assigns (the “**Released Parties**”) from any and all liabilities, claims, actions and damages of any nature whatsoever suffered by it in connection with any activities arising out of the use of the Park, whether caused by the act or failure to act of the Released Parties.

Approved by the Board of Trustees September 20, 2016