



Foundation Document

Weir Farm National Historic Site

Connecticut

October 2017





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Mission of the National Park Service

The National Park Service (NPS) preserves unimpaired the natural and cultural resources and values of the national park system for the enjoyment, education, and inspiration of this and future generations. The National Park Service cooperates with partners to extend the benefits of natural and cultural resource conservation and outdoor recreation throughout this country and the world.

The NPS core values are a framework in which the National Park Service accomplishes its mission. They express the manner in which, both individually and collectively, the National Park Service pursues its mission. The NPS core values are:

- **Shared stewardship:** We share a commitment to resource stewardship with the global preservation community.
- **Excellence:** We strive continually to learn and improve so that we may achieve the highest ideals of public service.
- **Integrity:** We deal honestly and fairly with the public and one another.
- **Tradition:** We are proud of it; we learn from it; we are not bound by it.
- **Respect:** We embrace each other's differences so that we may enrich the well-being of everyone.

The National Park Service is a bureau within the Department of the Interior. While numerous national park system units were created prior to 1916, it was not until August 25, 1916, that President Woodrow Wilson signed the National Park Service Organic Act formally establishing the National Park Service.

The national park system continues to grow and comprises more than 400 park units covering more than 84 million acres in every state, the District of Columbia, American Samoa, Guam, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. These units include, but are not limited to, national parks, monuments, battlefields, military parks, historical parks, historic sites, lakeshores, seashores, recreation areas, scenic rivers and trails, and the White House. The variety and diversity of park units throughout the nation require a strong commitment to resource stewardship and management to ensure both the protection and enjoyment of these resources for future generations.



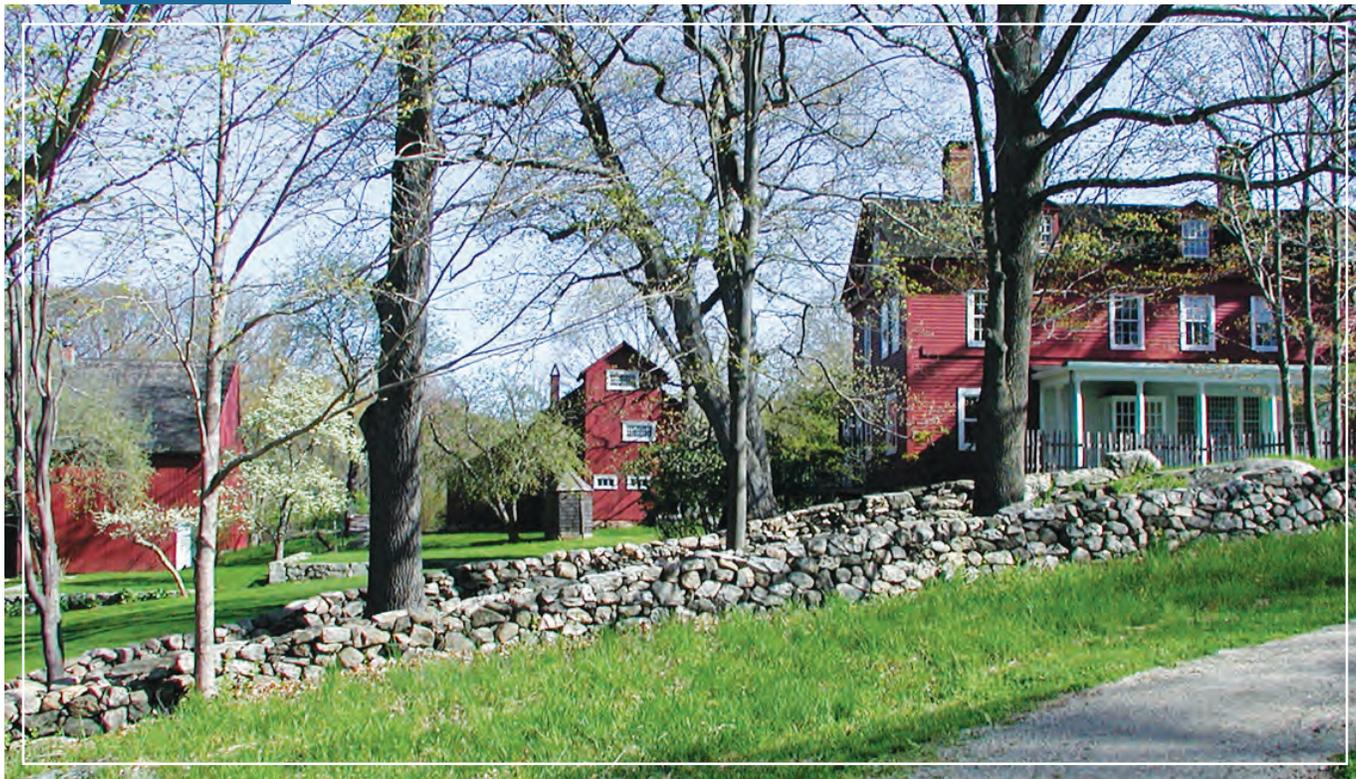
The arrowhead was authorized as the official National Park Service emblem by the Secretary of the Interior on July 20, 1951. The sequoia tree and bison represent vegetation and wildlife, the mountains and water represent scenic and recreational values, and the arrowhead represents historical and archeological values.

Introduction

Every unit of the national park system will have a foundational document to provide basic guidance for planning and management decisions—a foundation for planning and management. The core components of a foundation document include a brief description of the park as well as the park’s purpose, significance, fundamental resources and values, other important resources and values, and interpretive themes. The foundation document also includes special mandates and administrative commitments, an assessment of planning and data needs that identifies planning issues, planning products to be developed, and the associated studies and data required for park planning. Along with the core components, the assessment provides a focus for park planning activities and establishes a baseline from which planning documents are developed.

A primary benefit of developing a foundation document is the opportunity to integrate and coordinate all kinds and levels of planning from a single, shared understanding of what is most important about the park. The process of developing a foundation document begins with gathering and integrating information about the park. Next, this information is refined and focused to determine what the most important attributes of the park are. The process of preparing a foundation document aids park managers, staff, and the public in identifying and clearly stating in one document the essential information that is necessary for park management to consider when determining future planning efforts, outlining key planning issues, and protecting resources and values that are integral to park purpose and identity.

While not included in this document, a park atlas is also part of a foundation project. The atlas is a series of maps compiled from available geographic information system (GIS) data on natural and cultural resources, visitor use patterns, facilities, and other topics. It serves as a GIS-based support tool for planning and park operations. The atlas is published as a (hard copy) paper product and as geospatial data for use in a web mapping environment. The park atlas for Weir Farm National Historic Site can be accessed online at: <http://insideparkatlas.nps.gov/>.



Part 1: Core Components

The core components of a foundation document include a brief description of the park, park purpose, significance statements, fundamental resources and values, other important resources and values, and interpretive themes. These components are core because they typically do not change over time. Core components are expected to be used in future planning and management efforts.

Brief Description of the Park

Weir Farm National Historic Site, a National Park for the Arts, was associated with the development of American Impressionism during the height of the artistic movement in the 1890s and early 1900s. The farm was home to three generations of American artists. Julian Alden Weir (1852–1919), a leading figure in American art and the development of American Impressionism, acquired the farm in 1882. After Weir, the artistic legacy was continued by his daughter, painter Dorothy Weir Young and her husband, sculptor Mahonri M. Young, followed by New England landscape painters Sperry and Doris Andrews. The views and buildings that inspired the artistic works of Weir, Young, Andrews, and others—the house, studios, outbuildings, and domestic areas and the surrounding gardens, animal enclosures, and agricultural features, as well as the woodlands, pond, and meadows—are expertly preserved. Designed by artists, the park welcomes everyone to enjoy the power of creativity, art, and nature as part of the American experience.

Weir Farm National Historic Site was established by the 101st Congress on October 31, 1990, through Public Law 101-485. The park is in a residential neighborhood in the towns of Ridgefield and Wilton in the Southwest Hills Ecoregion of southern Connecticut. It includes successional old fields, mesic successional hardwood forests, vernal wetland areas, streams, a pond, and exposed bedrock ridges. The park boasts a 60-acre cultural landscape consisting of 15 historic structures as well as historic gardens, orchards, terraces, fields, stone walls, and hundreds of historic painting sites. There are 3 miles of trail on park property and more than 7 miles of trail in two bordering open spaces—the 110-acre Weir Preserve to the southwest (including 37 acres donated by Cora Weir Burlingham), and the 29-acre Nod Hill Refuge to the northeast. The Weir Preserve is owned by the Weir Farm Art Center, a private partner of the park, and managed by the Weir Preserve Stewardship Committee. Additionally, the park maintains a museum collection of more than 200,000 archives and objects including original paintings, prints, sculptures, decorative arts, and furnishings associated with the site and the history of the Weir, Young, and Andrews families.

The famously artistic Weir House, Weir Studio, and Young Studio officially opened to the public in May 2014, fully restored and historically furnished. Park grounds are open year-round from sunup to sundown with access to historic structures offered seasonally. The park welcomes more than 40,000 annual recreational visitors with 80% visiting May through October. The artistic tradition at Weir Farm National Historic Site continues through a variety of park programs including the Artist-in-Residence program, which is managed in partnership with the Weir Farm Art Center; the Visiting Artist Program; the Weir Farm Art Academy; Impressionist Painting and Art Therapy Workshops; and Take Part in Art. Thousands of artists travel to the park every year to be inspired by the rare quality of painter's light unique to Weir Farm National Historic Site and to paint and draw *en plein air* (a French term referring to painting outdoors and use of light) in the paintable landscape. The National Park Service, together with the Friends of Weir Farm National Historic Site, the Weir Farm Art Center, other partners, and a dedicated team of volunteers, create a visitor experience that empowers everyone to appreciate why a visit to the park is essential to personal creativity and inspiration.



Park Purpose

The purpose statement identifies the specific reason(s) for establishment of a particular park. The purpose statement for Weir Farm National Historic Site was drafted through a careful analysis of its enabling legislation and the legislative history that influenced its development. The park was established when the enabling legislation adopted by Congress was signed into law on October 31, 1990 (see appendix A for enabling legislation and legislative acts). The purpose statement lays the foundation for understanding what is most important about the park.

*WEIR FARM NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE
preserves the house, studio, farm
buildings, and rural Connecticut
landscape that inspired Julian Alden
Weir's transition into American
Impressionism and the artistic
expression of generations of artists
that continues to inspire and
educate visitors.*



Park Significance

Significance statements express why a park's resources and values are important enough to merit designation as a unit of the national park system. These statements are linked to the purpose of Weir Farm National Historic Site, and are supported by data, research, and consensus. Statements of significance describe the distinctive nature of the park and why an area is important within a global, national, regional, and systemwide context. They focus on the most important resources and values that will assist in park planning and management.

The following significance statements have been identified for Weir Farm National Historic Site. (Please note that the sequence of the statements does not reflect the level of significance.)

1. Weir Farm was the home, workplace, and rural retreat of Julian Alden Weir (1852–1919), a leading figure in American art and the development of American Impressionism. The farm was a focal point for fellow artists to experiment with Impressionism.
2. Since the 19th century, Weir Farm has been a source of inspiration for generations of artists, including Weir's daughter, Dorothy Weir Young, her husband Mahonri Young, and Sperry and Doris Andrews.
3. The landscape designed by Weir and his family is integral to the art created there and remains largely intact. The views captured in hundreds of paintings are still identifiable at Weir Farm National Historic Site.



Fundamental Resources and Values

Fundamental resources and values (FRVs) are those features, systems, processes, experiences, stories, scenes, sounds, smells, or other attributes determined to warrant primary consideration during planning and management processes because they are essential to achieving the purpose of the park and maintaining its significance. Fundamental resources and values are closely related to a park’s legislative purpose and are more specific than significance statements.

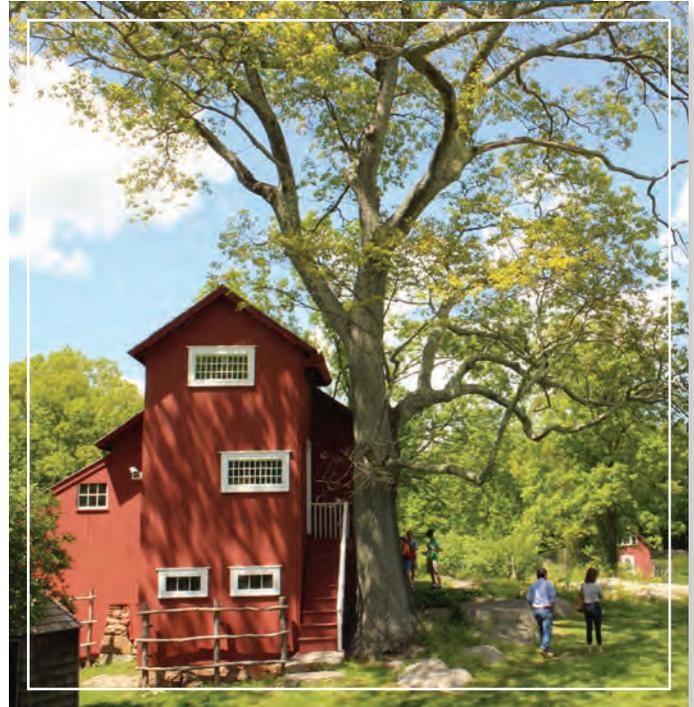
Fundamental resources and values help focus planning and management efforts on what is truly significant about the park. One of the most important responsibilities of NPS managers is to ensure the conservation and public enjoyment of those qualities that are essential (fundamental) to achieving the purpose of the park and maintaining its significance. If fundamental resources and values are allowed to deteriorate, the park purpose and/or significance could be jeopardized.

The following fundamental resources and values have been identified for Weir Farm National Historic Site:

- **Archeological Resources.** The park contains numerous archeological sites and features associated with the Weir House, Weir Studio, and Young Studio, the Burlingham Complex, the Caretaker’s House, numerous outbuildings and associated cultural landscape. In addition to the archeological resources associated with the Weir, Young, and Andrews families, the park also contains Native American archeological resources.
- **Collections and Archives.** The park’s collections and archives provide a broad understanding of the lives and work of the artists and families associated with the park’s history. The art collection includes works by Julian Alden Weir and other famous artists associated with American Impressionism.
- **Continuity of Artists Working in the Park.** The park is one of the finest remaining landscapes in American art and continues to inspire artists working in various mediums. The park supports an Artist-in-Residence program. In addition, the park offers opportunities for visitors to experience making art by providing art supplies as part of a park visit.



- **Cultural Landscape.** The rural Connecticut landscape was the home and workplace of Julian Alden Weir, a leading American Impressionist painter. The farm’s buildings and grounds were the subject of many of Weir’s significant paintings and the property is therefore of national historic importance. The fact that other important American artists were also inspired by the farm contributes to its value as a nationally significant cultural landscape.
- **Historic Structures.** The Weir Farm Historic District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1983 and includes nine historic buildings. One of the most significant structures is the Weir House, built from 1779 to 1781 and remodeled in the Greek Revival style circa 1830. Weir later hired the architectural firms of Charles Adams Platt in 1900 and then McKim, Mead & White in 1911 to enlarge the house. Other notable Colonial and vernacular structures in the park include the Weir Barn and the Burlingham House and Barn.
- **Views – Historic Painting Sites.** The picturesque farm buildings situated on a gently rolling landscape of woodlands, rock outcrops, meadows, and pond provided inspiration for Weir and other important painters. They painted *en plein air*, inspired by the setting, light, and colors of the Connecticut landscape, in a more localized and specific style than the prevailing panoramic landscape approach. Hundreds of historic painting sites have been recorded and others remain to be documented.



Other Important Resources and Values

Weir Farm National Historic Site contains other resources and values that are not fundamental to the purpose of the park and may be unrelated to its significance, but are important to consider in planning processes. These are referred to as “other important resources and values” (OIRV). These resources and values have been selected because they are important in the operation and management of the park and warrant special consideration in park planning.

The following other important resources and values have been identified for Weir Farm National Historic Site:

- **Viewsheds Outside Park Boundary.** The landscape surrounding the park is a mix of woodland, meadows, and residential properties. The woodlands and meadows contribute to the historic setting of Weir Farm and provided a backdrop for many paintings created at the farm.
- **Natural Resources.** This area is part of the New England Upland section of the New England Province in the larger Appalachian Highlands. Defined by successional historic fields and meadows, vernal wetland areas, streams, a manmade pond, mesic successional hardwood forests, and exposed bedrock and glacial erratics, the park’s natural resources are part of designated protected natural zones because of their fragility and ecological significance. The ecological value of the park is enhanced by adjacent forested land protected by the Weir Preserve and the Town of Ridgefield. These resources provide the setting and backdrop to hundreds of paintings associated with the park.

Interpretive Themes

Interpretive themes are often described as the key stories or concepts that visitors should understand after visiting a park—they define the most important ideas or concepts communicated to visitors about a park unit. Themes are derived from, and should reflect, park purpose, significance, resources, and values. The set of interpretive themes is complete when it provides the structure necessary for park staff to develop opportunities for visitors to explore and relate to all park significance statements and fundamental and other important resources and values.

Interpretive themes are an organizational tool that reveal and clarify meaning, concepts, contexts, and values represented by park resources. Sound themes are accurate and reflect current scholarship and science. They encourage exploration of the context in which events or natural processes occurred and the effects of those events and processes. Interpretive themes go beyond a mere description of the event or process to foster multiple opportunities to experience and consider the park and its resources. These themes help explain why a park story is relevant to people who may otherwise be unaware of connections they have to an event, time, or place associated with the park.

The following interpretive themes have been identified for Weir Farm National Historic Site:

- Weir Farm’s history as a creative haven for nurturing the transformation of artistic expression sheds light on how and why artistic ideas and techniques take root and mature.
- Beginning with the ownership of Julian Alden Weir, Weir Farm continued to function as a retreat, a place apart, that now provides the 21st-century artist and visitor with a setting that nurtures inspiration, reflection, collaboration, and community.
- Weir Farm has a continuing tradition of artistic expression and imagination built on a foundation established by Julian Alden Weir and his experimentation with color and light. This tradition continued for several generations through the talents of owners/ artists and today is preserved and sustained by the National Park Service and partners for visitors today and in the future.
- The artistry of Julian Alden Weir and the many artists associated with Weir Farm challenge us to look carefully and observe purposefully the palette of light, color, and pattern in nature all around us.



Part 2: Dynamic Components

The dynamic components of a foundation document include special mandates and administrative commitments and an assessment of planning and data needs. These components are dynamic because they will change over time. New special mandates can be established and new administrative commitments made. As conditions and trends of fundamental and other important resources and values change over time, the analysis of planning and data needs will need to be revisited and revised, along with key issues. Therefore, this part of the foundation document will be updated accordingly.

Special Mandates and Administrative Commitments

Many management decisions for a park unit are directed or influenced by special mandates and administrative commitments with other federal agencies, state and local governments, utility companies, partnering organizations, and other entities. Special mandates are requirements specific to a park that must be fulfilled. Mandates can be expressed in enabling legislation, in separate legislation following the establishment of the park, or through a judicial process. They may expand on park purpose or introduce elements unrelated to the purpose of the park. Administrative commitments are, in general, agreements that have been reached through formal, documented processes, often through memorandums of agreement. Examples include easements, rights-of-way, arrangements for emergency service responses, etc. Special mandates and administrative commitments can support, in many cases, a network of partnerships that help fulfill the objectives of the park and facilitate working relationships with other organizations. They are an essential component of managing and planning for Weir Farm National Historic Site.

Special Mandates

- **Weir Farm National Historic Site Establishment Act of 1990.** The enabling legislation, the act of October 31, 1990, established Weir Farm National Historic Site, comprising a 2-acre core parcel containing the Weir House, Weir Studio, Young Studio, Weir Barn, and other outbuildings along with 60 acres and the remaining historic structures of the Burlingham property owned by the State of Connecticut. It authorized the acquisition of real and personal property by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, or exchange. Lands and improvements owned by the State of Connecticut may be acquired only by donation. Works of art associated with the Weir family and other artists who lived at or visited the site may be acquired only by donation or purchase with donated funds. It authorized appropriations not to exceed a total of \$1,500,000 for the acquisition of real and personal property. The act authorized the Secretary of the Interior to enter into cooperative agreements for activities related to operation of the site.
- **Weir Farm National Historic Site Establishment Act as Amended 1998.** The act of November 10, 1998, authorized the acquisition of up to 15 additional acres for the development of visitor and administrative facilities contiguous to or in proximity to the lands comprising the national historic site. Once acquired, the additional acreage is to be included within the boundary of the national historic site. The statutory ceiling for land acquisition was increased from \$1,500,000 to \$4,000,000.
- **Amendments to Existing Units of the National Park System.** The act of March 30, 2009, eliminated the requirement imposed by Public Law 105-363 that additional acres for the development of visitor and administrative facilities be contiguous to or in proximity to the lands comprising the national historic site, requiring instead only that the additional acres be within Fairfield County, Connecticut. The act permits the acquisition of such property that may have been previously developed without the requirement to remediate such pre-existing development. The act also directed that post-acquisition development of such property be kept to a minimum.

Administrative Commitments

For more information about the existing administrative commitments for Weir Farm National Historic Site, please see appendix B.

Assessment of Planning and Data Needs

Once the core components of part 1 of the foundation document have been identified, it is important to gather and evaluate existing information about the park’s fundamental and other important resources and values, and develop a full assessment of the park’s planning and data needs. The assessment of planning and data needs section presents planning issues, the planning projects that will address these issues, and the associated information requirements for planning, such as resource inventories and data collection, including GIS data.

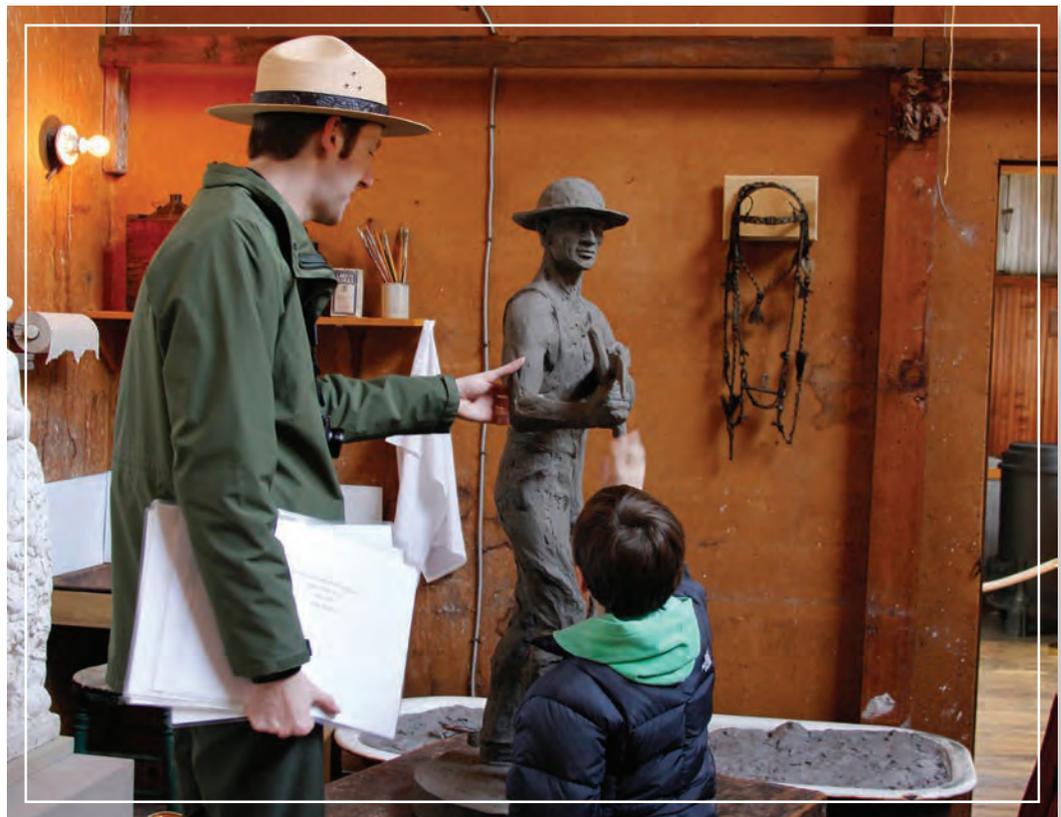
There are three sections in the assessment of planning and data needs:

1. analysis of fundamental and other important resources and values
2. identification of key issues and associated planning and data needs
3. identification of planning and data needs (including spatial mapping activities or GIS maps)

The analysis of fundamental and other important resources and values and identification of key issues leads up to and supports the identification of planning and data collection needs.

Analysis of Fundamental Resources and Values

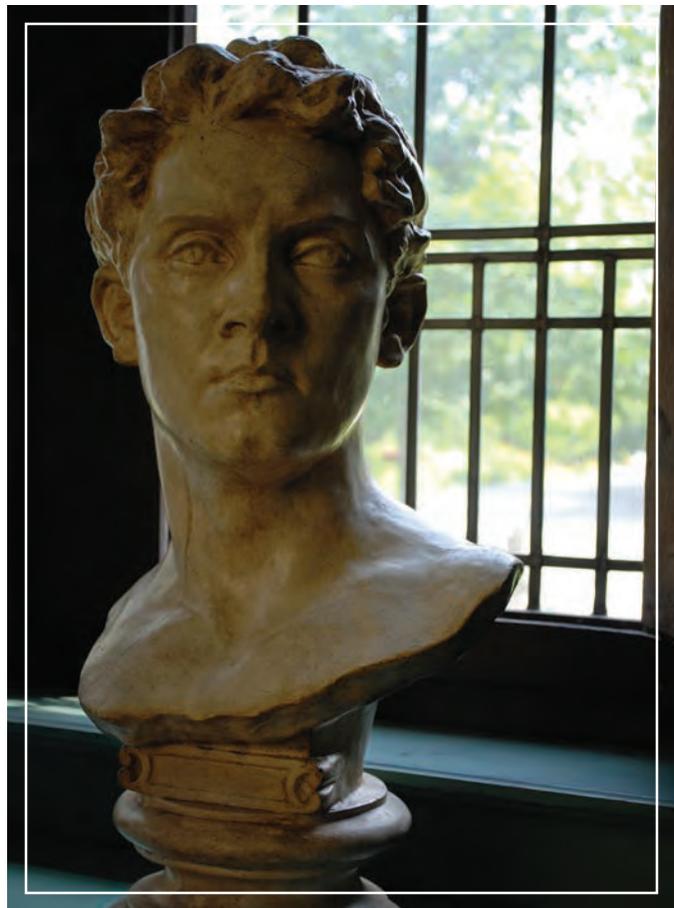
The fundamental resource or value analysis table includes current conditions, potential threats and opportunities, planning and data needs, and selected laws and NPS policies related to management of the identified resource or value.





Fundamental Resource or Value	Archeological Resources
Related Significance Statements	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Weir Farm was the home, workplace, and rural retreat of Julian Alden Weir (1852–1919), a leading figure in American art and the development of American Impressionism. The farm was a focal point for fellow artists to experiment with Impressionism. 2. Since the 19th century, Weir Farm has been a source of inspiration for generations of artists, including Weir’s daughter, Dorothy Weir Young, her husband Mahonri Young, and Sperry and Doris Andrews.
Current Conditions and Trends	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sites known and managed by the park are in good condition. • Archeological resources are not currently interpreted at the park. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Public interest in potentially new types of uses at the park, such as geo-caching, may negatively impact archeological resources. • Increased visitation and use of park grounds and trails by visitors. Visitation doubled over the course of 3 years, from approximately 20,000 visitors in 2012 to approximately 40,000 visitors in 2014, 2015, and 2016.
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change (manifested by warmer temperatures and events including intense storms and floods that cause erosion) may impact the integrity of archeological sites. • Visitors conducting unauthorized digging/exploration and removing artifacts. • No NPS presence on-site before and after business hours and at night. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with federally recognized tribes with ancestral connections to the landscape. • Ethnographic/ethnohistoric overview of the three families and others associated with the farm landscape. • Provide deeper research opportunities related to the Beers and Webb Farms and landscape before Weir purchased the properties.
Existing Data and Plans Related to the FRV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Archeological site data in the Archeological Site Management Information System (ASMIS).
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More directed archeological research. • Ethnohistoric/ethnographic overview of the park. • Focused research and remote sensing, including geophysical survey. • Detailed archeological surveys in peripheral areas of the park. • Climate change vulnerability assessment.

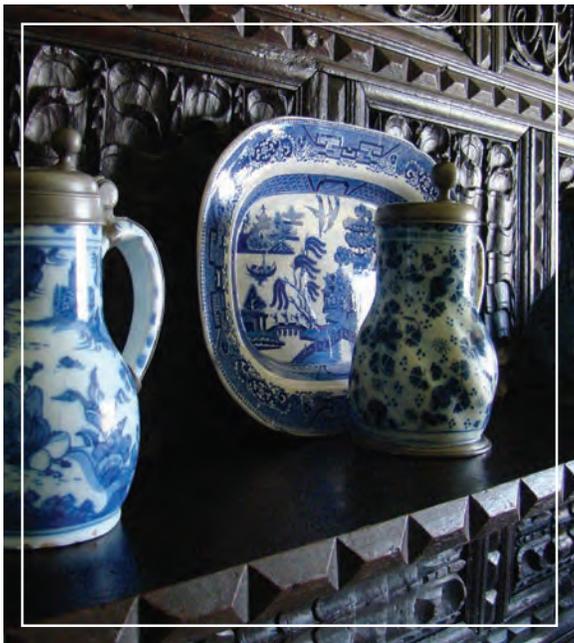
Fundamental Resource or Value	Archeological Resources
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning for adaptation to climate change.
Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended • Antiquities Act of 1906 • Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979 • Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 • Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act of 1990 • "Protection of Historic Properties" (36 CFR 800) • Secretarial Order 3289, "Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America's Water, Land, and Other Natural and Cultural Resources" <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director's Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (chapter 5) "Cultural Resource Management" • Director's Order 28: <i>Cultural Resource Management</i> • Director's Order 28A: <i>Archeology</i> • <i>The Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation</i> • Director's Policy Memorandum 12-02, "Applying National Park Service Management Policies in the Context of Climate Change" • Director's Policy Memorandum 14-02, "Climate Change and Stewardship of Cultural Resources"





Fundamental Resource or Value	Collections and Archives
<p>Related Significance Statements</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Weir Farm was the home, workplace, and rural retreat of Julian Alden Weir (1852–1919), a leading figure in American art and the development of American Impressionism. The farm was a focal point for fellow artists to experiment with Impressionism. Since the 19th century, Weir Farm has been a source of inspiration for generations of artists, including Weir’s daughter, Dorothy Weir Young, her husband Mahonri Young, and Sperry and Doris Andrews.
<p>Current Conditions and Trends</p>	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The park maintains a museum collection of more than 200,000 archives and objects including original paintings, prints, sculptures, decorative arts, and furnishings associated with the site and the history of the Weir, Young, and Andrews families. Exhibit space in the visitor center and historic buildings is very limited. Collections not on exhibit are in closed storage and are not available to the public, except upon research request. The majority of collections not on exhibit are in a park-owned building outside of the historic core. Other collections are in historic buildings and an off-site, rented building close to the park. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The park is working to make its collection and archives accessible to the public electronically. The park has experienced a small increase in donations of artwork and other items since full operations began in 2014. The park is working to improve storage and environmental conditions.
<p>Threats and Opportunities</p>	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The current acquisition process (using donated funds) makes it difficult to purchase art on short notice. Lack of fire suppression in collections storage buildings is a vulnerability; however, every effort is made to reduce the risk. Environmental conditions in the historic structures need improvement. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan more art and collection exhibits. Increase relationships with institutions with related resources: Brigham Young Museum, West Point, Yale, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Philips Collection, and Windham/Willimantic. Work with family descendants to accept donations. Seek volunteers to assist with digitization. Share more of the collection to demonstrate the artistic talents of Weir and the ability to create artistic spaces. Move collections to off-site storage with climate control. Use the digitized collection for education and programming.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Collections and Archives
<p>Existing Data and Plans Related to the FRV</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Museum Collections Emergency Operations Plan, 2016 (draft). • Scope of Collections Statement, 2011. • Weir House Historic Furnishings Report Addendum & Implementation Plan, 2009. • An Artist’s Retreat, J. Alden Weir’s Farm in Connecticut, Weir Farm National Historic Site Historic Resource Study, 2009. • Weir Farm: Historical Information on the House and Studios and a Furnishing Plan for the J. A. Weir and Mahonri M. Young Studios, 2003. • Collection Storage Plan, 2003. • Collections Management Plan, 2001. • Finding Aid for the Burlingham/Weir Archive of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, 1997. • Finding Aid for the Weir Family Papers, 1996. • Finding Aid for the Dorothy Weir Young Research Papers, 1996. • Integrated pest management plan.
<p>Data and/or GIS Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Special history studies for different themes/aspects of the collection.
<p>Planning Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collections acquisition and donation plan. • Collections management plan (update). • Electronic data management plan. • Integrated pest management plan (update).
<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</p>	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Museum Properties Management Act of 1955, as amended • “Curation of Federally-Owned and Administered Archaeological Collections” (36 CFR 79) <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director’s Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPS Management Policies 2006 (chapter 5) “Cultural Resource Management” • Director’s Order 24: NPS Museum Collections Management • Director’s Order 28: Cultural Resource Management • NPS Museum Handbook, parts I, II, and III





Fundamental Resource or Value	Continuity of Artists Working in the Park
<p>Related Significance Statements</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Weir Farm was the home, workplace, and rural retreat of Julian Alden Weir (1852–1919), a leading figure in American art and the development of American Impressionism. The farm was a focal point for fellow artists to experiment with Impressionism. 2. Since the 19th century, Weir Farm has been a source of inspiration for generations of artists, including Weir’s daughter, Dorothy Weir Young, her husband Mahonri Young, and Sperry and Doris Andrews.
<p>Current Conditions and Trends</p>	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The house and studios on-site tell the story of three generations of artists from the Weir, Young, and Andrews families. • The Artist-in-Residence program has one artist per month and is closed in December and January. During the residency, the artist provides some public programming. • Both professional and amateur artists continue to create all types of visual arts in the park. • The Artist-in-Residence program has a high profile in the National Park Service and the larger artistic community. • The park works with professional artists to engage the local artist community through workshops. • Visitors and artists use art supplies provided by the park to be part of the artistic legacy and continue the tradition of <i>en plein air</i> sketching and painting at Weir Farm. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More people are “discovering” the park. • Climate change modeling shows a correlation between temperature and an expansion of the visiting season. • Artist-in-Residence programs in the National Park Service are becoming more competitive with a focus on public programming. • Art workshops are becoming popular with local artists. Many local artists and artists-in-residence exhibit Weir Farm-related work locally and at the park, fostering a vibrant community of creative collaboration, much like that of Weir and the American Impressionists in his day.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Continuity of Artists Working in the Park
<p>Threats and Opportunities</p>	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Funding for art programs in the park is discretionary. For long-term planning, a more stable source of funding is desirable. • Concern about the future financial growth of the Weir Farm Art Center because it is a volunteer organization. • Parking is limited and it can be challenging for artists to bring their supplies into the park if they have to park far away. • The popularity of the park’s art programs makes it increasingly difficult to provide thousands of school children a year with art supplies. • Park volunteers help run the program on weekends, which creates some uncertainty in the program. • Continued preoccupation with digital and virtual experiences may change visitor experiences at the park. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outreach to local communities and artists to raise awareness about the park. • Increase access to artists and public programming with art and artist demonstrations. • Consider the installation of art in the park. • Actively promote the park as a place of artistic inspiration that has high-quality painter’s light. • Increase virtual programming. Opportunities could include virtual classroom visits by interpreters and artists. • Better use of contacts and the art created by former artists-in-residence, visiting artists, and local artists and organizations who use the park such as those involved in art therapy. • Expand the Artist-in-Residence program by inviting artists who create in new media. • Mentor parks wishing to create artist-in-residence programs and <i>en plein air</i> painting events. • Educate visitors about the importance of art in work and daily life. • Identify painting/drawing locations that are fully accessible. • There is interest by local artists to work with the park to provide programs and experiences to the public related to the park’s significance statements.
<p>Existing Data and Plans Related to the FRV</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None identified.
<p>Data and/or GIS Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Track number of artists in the park by season. • Visitor use study.
<p>Planning Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contingency plan for Artist-in-Residence program. • Education program plan. • Long-range interpretive plan. • Art in the Park plan.
<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</p>	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 • Architectural Barriers Act of 1968 • “Accessibility Guidelines” (36 CFR 1191.1) • Rehabilitation Act of 1973 <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director’s Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPS Management Policies 2006 (§1.5) “Appropriate Use of the Parks” • Director’s Order 42: <i>Accessibility for Visitors with Disabilities in National Park Service Programs and Services</i>



Fundamental Resource or Value	Cultural Landscape
<p>Related Significance Statements</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Weir Farm was the home, workplace, and rural retreat of Julian Alden Weir (1852–1919), a leading figure in American art and the development of American Impressionism. The farm was a focal point for fellow artists to experiment with Impressionism. 2. Since the 19th century, Weir Farm has been a source of inspiration for generations of artists, including Weir’s daughter, Dorothy Weir Young, her husband Mahonri Young, and Sperry and Doris Andrews. 3. The landscape created by Weir and his family is integral to the art created there and remains largely intact. The views captured in hundreds of paintings are still identifiable at Weir Farm National Historic Site.
<p>Current Conditions and Trends</p>	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In addition to the historic buildings and structures, the National Register of Historic Places nomination includes the following contributing sites and objects: Weir Farm Landscape, Secret Garden, Vegetable Gardens, Weir Orchard, Sunken Garden, South Terrace Garden, Burlingham Orchard, Sunken Garden Urn, Secret Garden Fountain, and Sundial. • The cultural landscape is in good condition although this is dynamic because trees and plants change and the dry-stacked walls settle. • Additional fields and meadows need to be restored according to the recommendations of the cultural landscape report. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There is an increase in trail connectivity within the park and to adjacent partner properties. • There is a desire to create more gathering spaces for visitors. • Nature is viewed as being a place of healing and relaxation for urban dwellers, and the park landscape offers an opportunity to experience it.
<p>Threats and Opportunities</p>	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities on adjacent lands, including vegetation planting and removal, have the potential to impact the historic viewsheds from the park. • There may be effects of climate change due to warmer, wetter conditions that cause trees and bushes to bloom earlier, changing viewsapes and seasonal visitation. • Climate change may increase extreme precipitation and heat events, flooding, erosion, invasive species, and cause a northward shift in species ranges, all of which threaten to alter the cultural landscape. • Invasive vegetation including nonnative species along the stone walls could impact the condition of the cultural landscape. • Changing traffic patterns and parking on the grounds or near structures may increase the potential for damage. • The loss of expertise in building and preserving the dry-stacked stone walls limits the park’s ability to maintain them. • Increased visitation will have impacts on the cultural landscape and other resources.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Cultural Landscape
<p>Threats and Opportunities</p>	<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are opportunities to implement more of the cultural landscape report recommendations and open more of the fields to increase access. Some historically maintained meadows and open fields have become overgrown or partially reforested. This trend began in the 1950s and 1960s as fewer grazing and farming areas were kept open and free of trees. The cultural landscape report recommends that certain parts of the park be returned to open fields to correspond with the circa 1940s period of significance. • The landscape could look less manicured and suburban, which would make the setting more consistent with its historic use as a working farm. Since the 1950s, less of the park was farmed and the effect has been the loss of certain farming features, management of fields, paths, equipment tracks and animal marks, such as chicken scratchings and horse tracks. The park could implement more of a farming look including haystacks, worn paths by the Weir Barn, opening the Weir Barn to the public and more garden plantings to instill the feeling of a working farm. There are opportunities to interpret the landscape by strategically placing wayside signs. • Continue to manage the apple orchard for apple picking and cider making. • Manage the gardens, including Cora’s Victory Garden. • Engage the public, with a focus on youth and school groups, in service learning and volunteer opportunities to preserve/restore cultural landscape features like stone walls, historic gardens, etc.
<p>Existing Data and Plans Related to the FRV</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural Landscapes Inventory Weir Farm, 2003. • Cultural Landscape Report, 1996. • Cultural Landscapes Inventory – Burlingham Complex, 2013. • Cultural Landscapes Inventory – Weir Complex, 2013. • Cultural Landscapes Inventory – Weir Farm National Historic Site Landscape, 2013. • Cultural Landscape Report for Weir Farm: Treatment and Record of Treatment, Volume II, 2013.
<p>Data and/or GIS Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inventory the condition of stone walls. • GIS mapping of features, resources, and painting sites in the park and adjacent “partner” properties, as appropriate.
<p>Planning Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meadow restoration plan. • Transportation/circulation management plan. • Garden management plan including Cora’s Victory Garden.
<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</p>	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended • “Protection of Historic Properties” (36 CFR 800) • Executive Order 11593, “Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment” • Secretarial Order 3289, “Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America’s Water, Land, and Other Natural and Cultural Resources” <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director’s Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (chapter 5) “Cultural Resource Management” • Director’s Order 28: <i>Cultural Resource Management</i> • <i>The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes</i>

Fundamental Resource or Value	Historic Structures
<p>Related Significance Statements</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> Weir Farm was the home, workplace, and rural retreat of Julian Alden Weir (1852–1919), a leading figure in American art and the development of American Impressionism. The farm was a focal point for fellow artists to experiment with Impressionism. Since the 19th century, Weir Farm has been a source of inspiration for generations of artists, including Weir’s daughter, Dorothy Weir Young, her husband Mahonri Young, and Sperry and Doris Andrews.
<p>Current Conditions and Trends</p>	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Weir Farm is the only place in the National Park Service where a significant portion of the landscape that was integral to the artistic vision of multiple generations of artists remains intact. The Weir House is a valuable example of the development of an 18th-century structure through the Greek Revival style with turn-of-the-20th-century alterations by the famous architects Charles Adams Platt and McKim, Mead & White. The Weir House with its two studios and farm outbuildings is a nationally significant building complex. The following are identified as historic buildings and structures in the updated 2015 National Register of Historic Places nomination: Weir House, Weir Studio, Weir Barn, Young Studio, Caretaker’s House, Woodshed, Burlingham House, Stone Shed, Burlingham Barn, Weir Complex Stone Boundary Walls, Picket Fence, Stone Picnic Table, Granite Well House, Terrace Walls, Garden Shed, Stone Pig Pens, Tack House, Ice House, Animal Shelter, Pump House, Corn Crib, Caretaker’s Retaining Wall, Caretaker’s Picket Fence, Truant’s Meadow Retaining Wall, Path to Weir Pond, Wagon Road, Pond Stone Boundary Walls, Weir Pond and Dam, Weir Pond Footpath, Burlingham Complex Stone Boundary Walls, Stone Terrace, Sunken Garden Walls, South Terrace Garden Walls, Cold Frames, Woodshed, and Wellhead Cover. Most of the park’s historic structures are in good condition. From 2005 to 2014 the park invested project funds in the restoration of most of the historic structures on-site. A phased approach to the restoration allowed for a strategic process of project management to maximize funding and bundle projects. Specifically, the Weir House, Weir Studio, and Young Studio were fully restored and historically furnished for the first time in the history of the park. The rehabilitation of the Caretaker’s Garage created a new Artist-in-Residence Studio near the Caretaker’s House. New roofs were put on the Burlingham House, Weir Barn, Woodshed, and Potting Shed. New systems and utilities were added to the Weir House and studios. Ongoing maintenance is a large fixed cost that impacts the park’s ability to complete other tasks. Ongoing maintenance of new systems is complex and expensive given the need for service contract support that cannot be found locally. The cost of replacement parts is prohibitive. New exhibits are being developed parkwide for the visitor center—Weir House, Weir Studio, and Young Studio. The kitchen in the Weir House will be partially restored and furnished based on the furnishings plan. The park will continue to be creative in how Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) access is provided at the park to balance access and preservation of historic resources based on the general management plan. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Both operational costs and the cost to address the maintenance backlog are increasing. Maintenance costs for fire and alarm systems have increased.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Historic Structures
<p>Threats and Opportunities</p>	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased public use has the potential to impact historic interiors if group sizes increase. • Security of collection items on exhibit when no staff are present as the park considers more self-guided visitation. • Damage from storms and flooding. • The park full-time employee limit does not allow the park to keep the buildings open at all times. Visitation to the two studios is reliant on a cadre of trained docents. On busy days in the summer, the number of visitors on-site exceeds on-site parking. Visitors often have to park in small lots around the park, which disperses the sense of arrival at the park and visitors are crossing the local roads at multiple locations. • Climate change (manifested by warmer temperatures, moisture, and more extreme climate events, including intense storms and floods) may impact the integrity or condition of historic structures and the need for increased cyclic maintenance. Lightning strikes are an annual occurrence in the park given the hilltop location and the exposed bedrock. All the buildings have lightning protection, but strikes do occur, resulting in loss of power and damage to systems and utilities. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Build interpretive themes pending exhibit development (i.e., the kitchen); increase interpretation of historic architecture and landscape design. • Explore new ways of interpreting historic houses and studios. • Educate visitors and Preservation and Skills Training (PAST) interns in the architectural and preservation history of the site. • Expand partnerships with architectural programs to involve students in the preservation history on-site. • Become more of a preservation leader for other historic sites in the area. • Maximize use of outdoor spaces, such as porches and alcoves, for sitting and reflecting. • Open more buildings to visitors including the Weir Barn. • Maintain the Burlingham Barn educational space and open it seasonally to the public for workshops and programming. • Provide more self-guided opportunities to the public.
<p>Existing Data and Plans Related to the FRV</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Historical Information and Furnishing Plan for the Weir and Young Studios, 2003. • Historic Furnishings Report Addendum and Implementation Plan, 2009. • List of Classified Structures database. • National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, 2015. • Historic structure reports for Weir House, Weir Studio, and Young Studio.
<p>Data and/or GIS Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing record of treatment, organization of project files, as well as a record of all restoration completed from 2005 to 2014. • Complete or obtain CAD files of the building plans for the park's historic structures. • Climate change vulnerability assessment.
<p>Planning Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cyclic maintenance plan for historic structures. • Furnishings and operations plans for the Weir Barn and other outbuildings. • Planning for adaptation to climate change.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Historic Structures
<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</p>	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended • Archeological and Historic Preservation Act of 1974 • "Protection of Historic Properties" (36 CFR 800) • Executive Order 11593, "Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment" • Secretarial Order 3289, "Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America's Water, Land, and Other Natural and Cultural Resources" <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director's Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPS Management Policies 2006 (chapter 5) "Cultural Resource Management" • Director's Order 28: Cultural Resource Management • The Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties • Director's Policy Memorandum 12-02, "Applying NPS Management Policies in the Context of Climate Change" • Director's Policy Memorandum 14-02, "Climate Change and Stewardship of Cultural Resources" • Director's Policy Memorandum 15-01, "Addressing Climate Change and Natural Hazards for Facilities"





Fundamental Resource or Value	Views – Historic Painting Sites
<p>Related Significance Statements</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Weir Farm was the home, workplace, and rural retreat of Julian Alden Weir (1852–1919), a leading figure in American art and the development of American Impressionism. The farm was a focal point for fellow artists to experiment with Impressionism. 2. Since the 19th century, Weir Farm has been a source of inspiration for generations of artists, including Weir’s daughter, Dorothy Weir Young, her husband Mahonri Young, and Sperry and Doris Andrews. 3. The landscape created by Weir and his family is integral to the art created there and remains largely intact. The views captured in hundreds of paintings are still identifiable at the Weir Farm National Historic Site.
<p>Current Conditions and Trends</p>	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Although some of the historic painting sites (indoors and outdoors) are identified in the National Register of Historic Places nomination form and the park brochure, locations of many of the historic painting sites are not documented. • Painting sites are a major character-defining feature of the park. The period of significance for the buildings and the landscape relate in part to painting sites and how the exteriors and grounds were depicted in Weir’s work. Other painters frequented the farm as well and their artwork contributes to the portfolio of works that define the look and integrity of the park today. Painting sites are so critical to the site that they direct management decisions, and avoidance of these sites is a best practice for signage, parking, and development. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Weir Art Academy is involved with reviving American Impressionism, which has created an increase of visitors and artists wishing to learn the art of Impressionist painting. • There is increasing interest in <i>en plein air</i> painting, both for artists and the public. • There is increasing interest in night painting, both for artists and the public. • Although new painting sites are being created by contemporary visiting artists, the focus is on preservation of historic painting sites. • There is an opportunity to open up more historic views depicted in painting scenes and add these sites to the inventory. • Temporary installations that depict painting sites in the landscape have proven to be a successful means of engaging the public in the painting sites. For example, in 2016, seven Centennial Art Bison were a smash hit with visitors.

Fundamental Resource or Value	Views – Historic Painting Sites
Threats and Opportunities	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The removal of trees on the park’s northern boundary impacts the integrity of the views into and from the park. • An increase in the number of interpretive features and waysides may impact views. • There are potential threats to the quality of light, including air quality, climate change, changes in tree canopy cover, and space encroachment. • Parked cars are visually intrusive to landscape views. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Research additional historic painting sites not currently documented. • Digitally sharing painting sites on maps and showing “now” and “in the past / as painted.” • Rehabilitate the landscape of the painting sites to match the paintings. • Explore ways for visitors to access and view these sites year-round and experience them in different seasons. • Installations in the landscape have the potential to engage visitors in the historically artistic landscape.
Existing Data and Plans Related to the FRV	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cultural Landscape Report for Weir Farm: Treatment and Record of Treatment, Volume II, 2013. • Updated National Register of Historic Places Registration Form, 2015.
Data and/or GIS Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comprehensive survey/research of the painting sites. • Take high-quality photographs of the historic painting sites. • Log GIS points of the painting sites as a data layer for the park atlas. • Conduct research on quality of light and how it is defined. • Climate change vulnerability assessment.
Planning Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Planning for adaptation to climate change.
Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the FRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended • “Protection of Historic Properties” (36 CFR 800) • Executive Order 11593, “Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment” • Secretarial Order 3289, “Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America’s Water, Land, and Other Natural and Cultural Resources” <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director’s Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (§1.6) “Cooperative Conservation Beyond Park Boundaries” • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (chapter 5) “Cultural Resource Management” • Director’s Order 28: <i>Cultural Resource Management</i> • <i>The Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties with Guidelines for the Treatment of Cultural Landscapes</i> • Director’s Policy Memorandum 12-02, “Applying National Park Service Management Policies in the Context of Climate Change” • Director’s Policy Memorandum 14-02, “Climate Change and Stewardship of Cultural Resources”

Analysis of Other Important Resources and Values

Other Important Resource or Value	Viewsheds Outside Park Boundary
<p>Current Conditions and Trends</p>	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Currently there are some visual intrusions from adjacent properties. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Artists are creating more contemporary art in the park, some of which contain views outside of park boundaries. • Increased traffic on roads due to higher commuter use could have an effect on the viewsheds outside of park boundaries.
<p>Threats and Opportunities</p>	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activities on adjacent lands including vegetation planting and removal have the potential to impact the historic viewsheds from the park. Additional visual intrusions from new infrastructure and residential development are possible (e.g., cell towers, homes). • Roads are a point of vulnerability for visual intrusions because the Department of Transportation maintains the right-of-way. New pavement, additional signage, or changes in vegetation management are examples of potential visual impacts. • Fire, vandalism, and severe weather may impact vegetation and affect viewsheds. <p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Create opportunities for community members to understand and appreciate the importance of screening views of trees and stone walls to minimize visual impacts. • Create service events and opportunities for volunteers to assist with tree screening projects and stone wall design and repair. • Work in partnership with Weir Preserve to preserve historic meadow viewsheds.
<p>Existing Data and Plans Related to the OIRV</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • None identified.
<p>Data and/or GIS Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify and inventory viewsheds.
<p>Planning Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short- and long-term plan for screening key views, including popular painting sites.
<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the OIRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</p>	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the OIRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended • Executive Order 11593, "Protection and Enhancement of the Cultural Environment" • National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director's Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (§1.6) "Cooperative Conservation Beyond Park Boundaries" • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (chapter 5) "Cultural Resource Management"

Other Important Resource or Value	Natural Resources
<p>Current Conditions and Trends</p>	<p>Conditions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deciduous forest is the primary vegetation, with nonforested vegetation occurring only in areas too wet to support trees and in human-made fields maintained by mowing. A human-made pond adds to the diversity of the site. • The matrix forest at Weir Farm National Historic Site is a northeastern dry oak – hickory forest dominated by northern red oak, sweet birch, maples and hickories with maple leaf viburnum notable in the understory. Embedded within this forest type are patches of lower New England slope chestnut oak forest, occurring in small areas where bedrock occurs near the surface, creating drier soil conditions. Together these two associations account for 80% of the park’s forest cover. • The rock record preserved within the park, including geologic features such as hills, valleys, bedrock outcrops, and glacial erratics, figured prominently in Julian Alden Weir’s paintings. • The mean existing sound levels at the park are lower than the sound levels in nearby developed areas. This demonstrates that sounds intrinsic to the park are a resource important to protect. • Although the park night sky quality is partially impacted due to the proximity of population centers, the park provides important habitat for nocturnal wildlife and a unique opportunity for the public to enjoy night sky resources. Night painting was practiced by Weir and his contemporaries and continues as public programming. • Wetlands and intermittent streams dissect the main site. The most common wetland type at Weir Farm National Historic Site is southern New England / northern piedmont red maple seepage swamps, occurring in low-lying contours across the site and accounting for just over half of the wetland area at the park. <p>Trends</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Climate change will influence the ecology of the park, including species composition.
<p>Threats and Opportunities</p>	<p>Threats</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Potential impacts to the pond system from visitor use, including trampling/erosion and introduction of invasive aquatic plants. • Increasing populations of nonnative invasive species in fields and woodlands, including the emerald ash borer, viburnum leaf beetle, Japanese barberry, Oriental bittersweet, and burning bush. • Structural integrity of Weir Pond dam threatens biological species in and below the pond. • Increasing natural populations of megafauna (bear, coyotes, bobcat) leads to conflicts with neighbors and visitors. • An overabundance of white-tailed deer affects the composition of park vegetation. • Climate change may increase extreme precipitation and heat events, flooding, erosion, invasive species, and cause a northward shift in species ranges. • Air pollution and atmospheric deposition is a key concern affecting forest health and soil quality across the region. • The park provides important open space and wildlife habitat for many species including 21 mammal species (5 bats), at least 70 bird species, 3 fish species, 12 amphibian species, 7 reptile species, and 21 butterfly species. More than 40 of these species are designated by the Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection as Species of Greatest Conservation Need. The northern long-eared bat is listed on the federal threatened species list due to impacts from white-nose syndrome. Several wildlife species documented in the park have additional state or regional conservation status.

Other Important Resource or Value	Natural Resources
<p>Threats and Opportunities</p>	<p>Opportunities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drawing more connections between art created on-site and natural resources is important to the visitor experience. • The pond water systems are new areas for public interest. • Citizen scientist programs will match the monitoring needs of the park. • Additional Bioblitz events will increase the number of documented species on-site. • Partner with NPS Northeast Temperate Network to compile climate data and identify future trends. • Education programs with natural resource themes will increase stewardship of local youth and communities, inspiring future protection of the park’s natural resources.
<p>Existing Data and Plans Related to the OIRV</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Natural Resource Evaluation Project, 1995. • Resource Management Plan, 1995 (incomplete). • Amphibian and Reptile Inventory, 2005. • Integrated Pest Management Plan, 2006. • Vegetation Classification and Mapping, 2009. • Geologic Resources Inventory, 2012. • Climate Change Resource Brief, 2014. • Forest Vulnerability Project Brief, 2015. • Species Full List with Details, 2015. • Park Visitation and Climate Change, 2015. • Natural Resource Condition Assessment, 2016. • Annual Forest Monitoring Reports, 2009-2015. • Various monitoring reports conducted by the NPS Northeast Temperate Network Inventory and Monitoring Program.
<p>Data and/or GIS Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fill the data gaps identified in the natural resource condition assessment (2016). • Climate change vulnerability assessment.
<p>Planning Needs</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meadow restoration plan. • Pollinators plan. • Planning for adaptation to climate change.
<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the OIRV, and NPS Policy-level Guidance</p>	<p>Laws, Executive Orders, and Regulations That Apply to the OIRV</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 • Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended • National Invasive Species Act • Clean Water Act • Clean Air Act (42 USC §7401 et seq.) • Executive Order 13112, “Invasive Species” • Secretarial Order 3289, “Addressing the Impacts of Climate Change on America’s Water, Land, and Other Natural and Cultural Resources” <p>NPS Policy-level Guidance (NPS Management Policies 2006 and Director’s Orders)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (§1.6) “Cooperative Conservation Beyond Park Boundaries” • NPS <i>Management Policies 2006</i> (chapter 4) “Natural Resource Management” • NPS <i>Natural Resource Management Reference Manual 77</i> • NPS-75 <i>Natural Resources Inventory and Monitoring Guideline</i> • Director’s Policy Memorandum 12-02, “Applying National Park Service Management Policies in the Context of Climate Change”

Identification of Key Issues and Associated Planning and Data Needs

This section considers key issues to be addressed in planning and management and therefore takes a broader view over the primary focus of part 1. A key issue focuses on a question that is important for a park. Key issues often raise questions regarding park purpose and significance and fundamental and other important resources and values. For example, a key issue may pertain to the potential for a fundamental or other important resource or value in a park to be detrimentally affected by discretionary management decisions. A key issue may also address crucial questions that are not directly related to purpose and significance, but which still affect them indirectly. Usually, a key issue is one that a future planning effort or data collection needs to address and requires a decision by NPS managers.

The following are key issues for Weir Farm National Historic Site and the associated planning and data needs to address them:

- **Space Utilization.** The needs and uses of the buildings in the park as originally articulated in the general management plan are outdated and no longer apply. A new plan is needed to analyze space requirements and needs to adequately house park collections still in leased space, maintenance equipment, and park operations. Fifty percent of park operations have been housed in leased space since the park's establishment. Additional factors to be considered include site security, building environmental control, proximity to the park, and the effects of climate change, especially in local areas prone to flooding. This planning effort would also analyze the feasibility of using off-site storage.
 - *Associated planning and data needs:* Space utilization plan
- **Transportation / Circulation / Accessibility.** The Volpe Center completed a transportation study to look at the feasibility of a shuttle system for all park visitors, but other alternative methods of transportation to reach the park, including pedestrian and train connections, also need to be examined. Safe circulation in the park as well as connectivity to trails also needs to be studied. The park still relies on the 18-spot temporary parking lot designed in 1993. Limited parking capacity at the park has created a safety concern for staff and visitors during peak visitation periods. For example, the visitor parking lot has limited capacity, and can be difficult to enter and exit due to the speed of motorists and commuters traveling on Nod Hill Road and the convergence of crosswalks, driveways, turning, and low visibility. Vehicles parked on road shoulders and in proximity to stone walls cause damage to the cultural landscape.
 - *Associated planning and data needs:* Visitor use study, transportation/circulation management plan, accessibility plan

Planning and Data Needs

To maintain connection to the core elements of the foundation and the importance of these core foundation elements, the planning and data needs listed here are directly related to protecting fundamental resources and values, park significance, and park purpose, as well as addressing key issues. To successfully undertake a planning effort, information from sources such as inventories, studies, research activities, and analyses may be required to provide adequate knowledge of park resources and visitor information. Such information sources have been identified as data needs. Geospatial mapping tasks and products are included in data needs.

Items considered of the utmost importance were identified as high priority, and other items identified, but not rising to the level of high priority, were listed as either medium- or low-priority needs. These priorities inform park management efforts to secure funding and support for planning projects.

Planning Needs – Where A Decision-Making Process Is Needed			
Related to an FRV, OIRV, or Key Issue?	Planning Needs	Priority (H, M, L)	Notes
Key Issue	Space utilization plan	H	Include storage, security, operations, and maintenance components.
N/A	Administrative history	H	This report is needed to document the establishment of the park, acquisition of parcels, and conservation steps taken by the park staff.
FRV, Key Issue	Transportation/circulation management plan	H	Include circulation through the park, visitor safety, and also a component that explores alternate ways to reach the park (e.g., train, pedestrian) using Branchville as a gateway. This plan also addresses parking concerns.
FRV, OIRV	Planning for adaptation to climate change	H	Integrate climate change considerations into park planning frameworks.
FRV	Cyclic maintenance plan for all park assets	H	
OIRV	Short- and long-term plan for screening key views	H	
FRV	Education plan	H	
FRV, OIRV	Meadow restoration plan	M	The plan would be consistent with the cultural landscape report. Meadow restoration plan would be integrated with a proposal for possible prescribed fire use. Weir Farm National Historic Site would take part in the multi-Northeast Region park field restoration initiative.
FRV	Collections acquisition and donation plan	M	
FRV	Electronic data management plan related to the collection	M	
FRV	Furnishings and operations plans for Weir Barn and other outbuildings	M	
Key Issue	Accessibility plan	M	
FRV	Contingency plan for Artist-in-Residence program	M	
FRV	Integrated pest management plan (update)	M	
FRV	Long-range interpretive plan	M	
FRV	Art in the Park plan	M	
FRV	Collections management plan (update)	L	
OIRV	Pollinators plan	L	
FRV	Garden management plan	L	This plan would include Cora's Victory Garden.

Data Needs – Where Information Is Needed Before Decisions Can Be Made			
Related to an FRV, OIRV, or Key Issue?	Data and GIS Needs	Priority (H, M, L)	Notes, Including Which Planning Need This Data Need Relates To
FRV	Comprehensive survey/ research of the painting sites	H	
FRV	GIS mapping of features, resources, and painting sites in the park and adjacent “partner” properties	H	Include these data sets in the park atlas.
FRV	Inventory the condition of stone walls	M	
FRV	Focused research and remote sensing, including geophysical survey	M	
OIRV	Fill the data gaps identified in the natural resource condition assessment	M	
FRV	Detailed archeological surveys in peripheral areas of the park	M	
FRV, Key Issue	Visitor use study	M	Include artists in addition to day visitors.
FRV	Ethnohistoric/ethnographic overview of the park including related genealogical study of the families that pre-dated or followed the Weir family	M	
FRV, OIRV	Climate change vulnerability assessment	M	Assess vulnerability of park natural and cultural resources and assets to climate change.
FRV	Track number of artists in the park by season	M	
FRV	Ongoing record of treatment, organization of project files, as well as a record of all restoration completed from 2005 to 2014	M	
FRV	Conduct research on quality of light and how it is defined	M	
OIRV	Identify and inventory viewsheds	L	
FRV	Take high-quality photographs of historic painting sites	L	
FRV	Complete or obtain CAD files of the building plans for the park’s historic structures	L	
FRV	Special history studies for different themes/aspects of the collection	L	
FRV	More directed archeological research	L	
FRV	Log GIS points of the painting sites as a data layer for the park atlas	L	

Part 3: Contributors

Weir Farm National Historic Site

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Photo Credits

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Pages: cover, 4, 5 (top right), 8, 11, 12 (left and right), 14 (left and right), back cover
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Appendixes

Appendix A: Enabling Legislation and Legislative Acts for Weir Farm National Historic Site

Weir Farm National Historic Site Establishment Act of 1990.

Public Law 101-485
101st Congress

An Act

To establish the Weir Farm National Historic Site in the State of Connecticut.

Oct. 31, 1990

[S. 2059]

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled.

Weir Farm
National
Historic Site
Establishment
Act of 1990.
National parks,
Art.

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Weir Farm National Historic Site Establishment Act of 1990".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

As used in this Act—

- (1) The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.
- (2) The term "historic site" means the Weir Farm National Historic Site established in section 4.

SEC. 3. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that—

(1) the Weir Farm in Connecticut is listed on the National Register of Historic Places as a historic site associated with major American artists and several artistic developments;

(2) the Weir Farm, acquired in 1882 by J. Alden Weir, a founder and principal exponent of American Impressionism, has been continuously occupied by working artists and their families who have maintained its significance and integrity as a historic site; and

J. Alden Weir.

(3) the Weir Farm, including the house, barns, studios, pond, field, and woods thereon, and the approximately 113 acres of adjacent natural areas owned by the Nature Conservancy and the Town of Ridgefield, Connecticut, provide opportunities for illustrating and interpreting cultural themes of our Nation's heritage and provide opportunities for public use and enjoyment.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

- (1) to preserve a significant site of the tradition of American Impressionism;
- (2) to maintain the integrity of a setting that inspired artistic expression and encourages public enjoyment; and
- (3) to offer opportunities for the inspirational benefit and education of the American people.

SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF WEIR FARM NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE.

16 USC 461 note.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There is established, as a unit of the National Park System, the Weir Farm National Historic Site in the State of Connecticut.

(b) DESCRIPTION.—The historic site shall consist of—

- (1) the approximately 2-acre core parcel containing the Weir house, studio, and barn; and
- (2) the approximately 60 acres and improvements thereon owned by the State of Connecticut;

both as generally depicted on a map entitled "Land Ownership Map, Weir Farm Historic Site", Figure 5, dated October 1989, as contained in the National Park Service Weir Farm Suitability/Feasibility Study, February, 1990. Such map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

SEC. 5. ACQUISITION OF REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY AND SERVICES.

(a) **REAL AND PERSONAL PROPERTY.**—The Secretary is authorized to acquire by donation, exchange, or purchase with donated or appropriated funds, the lands and improvements within the boundaries of the historic site, except that any such lands and improvements owned by the State of Connecticut may be acquired only by donation. The Secretary may also acquire by the same methods personal property associated with, and appropriate for, the interpretation of the historic site: *Provided*, That the Secretary may acquire works of art associated with the Weir family, J. Alden Weir, and other artists who lived at or visited the site only by donation or purchase with donated funds.

(b) **OTHER PROPERTY, FUNDS, AND SERVICES.**—The Secretary is authorized to accept and use donated funds, property, and services to carry out this Act.

SEC. 6. ADMINISTRATION OF HISTORIC SITE.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall administer the historic site in accordance with this Act and the laws generally applicable to units of the National Park System, including the Act entitled "An Act to establish a National Park Service, and for other purposes", approved August 25, 1916 (16 U.S.C. 1 et seq.), and the Act entitled "An Act to provide for the preservation of historic American sites, buildings, objects, and antiquities of national historic significance, and for other purposes", approved August 21, 1935 (16 U.S.C. 461 et seq.), except that the Secretary shall take no action with respect to the 60 acres owned by the State of Connecticut within the boundaries of the historic site until such time as the State has transferred all right, title, and interests therein to the Secretary.

(b) **COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.**—(1) The Secretary may consult and enter into cooperative agreements with the Weir Farm Heritage Trust, the State of Connecticut, the American Academy of Arts and Letters, and other organizations and groups in the development, presentation and funding of art exhibits, resident artist programs, and other appropriate activities related to the preservation, development, and use of the historic site.

(2) The Secretary may consult and enter into cooperative agreements with the Nature Conservancy and the towns of Ridgefield and Wilton for the purpose of coordinating activities on the historic site with activities on the Nature Conservancy's Weir Preserve and lands adjoining the historic site owned by the towns.

(c) **EXHIBITS.**—The Secretary may display, and accept for the purpose of display, works of art associated with J. Alden Weir, the Weir Farm, and the American Impressionist movement, as may be necessary for the interpretation of the historic site.

(d) **GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN.**—Within 2 complete fiscal years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the United States House of Representatives and to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the United States Senate a general management plan for the historic site. The plan shall be prepared in accordance with section 12(b) of the Act of August 18, 1970 (16 U.S.C. 1a-1 through 1a-7) and other applicable law.

SEC. 7. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act, except that not more than \$1,500,000 may be appropriated for the acquisition of real and personal property.

Approved October 31, 1990.

Weir Farm National Historic Site Establishment Act as Amended 1998. The act of November 10, 1998, authorized the acquisition of up to 15 additional acres for the development of visitor and administrative facilities contiguous to or in proximity to the lands comprising the national historic site. Once acquired, the additional acreage is to be included within the boundary of the national historic site. The statutory ceiling for land acquisition was increased from \$1,500,000 to \$4,000,000.

112 STAT. 3296

PUBLIC LAW 105-363—NOV. 10, 1998

Public Law 105-363
105th Congress

An Act

Nov. 10, 1998
[S. 1718]

To amend the Weir Farm National Historic Site Establishment Act of 1990 to authorize the acquisition of additional acreage for the historic site to permit the development of visitor and administrative facilities and to authorize the appropriation of additional amounts for the acquisition of real and personal property, and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. WEIR FARM NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE, CONNECTICUT.

(a) **ACQUISITION OF LAND FOR VISITOR AND ADMINISTRATIVE FACILITIES.**—Section 4 of the Weir Farm National Historic Site Establishment Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 461 note; Public Law 101-485; 104 Stat. 1171) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d) **ACQUISITION OF LAND FOR VISITOR AND ADMINISTRATIVE FACILITIES; LIMITATIONS.**—

“(1) **ACQUISITION.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—To preserve and maintain the historic setting and character of the historic site, the Secretary may acquire not more than 15 additional acres for the development of visitor and administrative facilities for the historic site.

“(B) **PROXIMITY.**—The property acquired under this subsection shall be contiguous to or in close proximity to the property described in subsection (b).

“(C) **MANAGEMENT.**—The acquired property shall be included within the boundary of the historic site and shall be managed and maintained as part of the historic site.

“(2) **DEVELOPMENT.**—The Secretary shall keep development of the property acquired under paragraph (1) to a minimum so that the character of the acquired property will be similar to the natural and undeveloped landscape of the property described in subsection (b).

“(3) **AGREEMENTS.**—Prior to and as a prerequisite to any development of visitor and administrative facilities on the property acquired under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall enter into one or more agreements with the appropriate zoning authority of the town of Ridgefield, Connecticut, and the town of Wilton, Connecticut, for the purposes of—

“(A) developing the parking, visitor, and administrative facilities for the historic site; and

“(B) managing bus traffic to the historic site and limiting parking for large tour buses to an offsite location.”.

(b) **INCREASE IN MAXIMUM ACQUISITION AUTHORITY.**—Section 7 of the Weir Farm National Historic Site Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 461 note; Public Law 101-485; 104 Stat. 1173) is amended by striking “\$1,500,000” and inserting “\$4,000,000”.

Amendments to Existing Units of the National Park System. The act of March 30, 2009, eliminated the requirement imposed by Public Law 105-363 that additional acres for the development of visitor and administrative facilities be contiguous to or in proximity to the lands comprising the national historic site, requiring instead only that the additional acres be within Fairfield County, Connecticut. The act permits the acquisition of such property that may have been previously developed without the requirement to remediate such pre-existing development. The act also directed that post-acquisition development of such property be kept to a minimum.

123 STAT. 1190

PUBLIC LAW 111-11—MAR. 30, 2009

Subtitle B—Amendments to Existing Units of the National Park System

SEC. 7101. FUNDING FOR KEWEENAW NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK.

(a) **ACQUISITION OF PROPERTY.**—Section 4 of Public Law 102-543 (16 U.S.C. 410yy-3) is amended by striking subsection (d).

(b) **MATCHING FUNDS.**—Section 8(b) of Public Law 102-543 (16 U.S.C. 410yy-7(b)) is amended by striking “\$4” and inserting “\$1”.

(c) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**—Section 10 of Public Law 102-543 (16 U.S.C. 410yy-9) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking “\$25,000,000” and inserting “\$50,000,000”; and

(B) by striking “\$3,000,000” and inserting “\$25,000,000”; and

(2) in subsection (b), by striking “\$100,000” and all that follows through “those duties” and inserting “\$250,000”.

16 USC 461 note.

SEC. 7102. LOCATION OF VISITOR AND ADMINISTRATIVE FACILITIES FOR WEIR FARM NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE.

Section 4(d) of the Weir Farm National Historic Site Establishment Act of 1990 (16 U.S.C. 461 note) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(B), by striking “contiguous to” and all that follows and inserting “within Fairfield County.”;

(2) by amending paragraph (2) to read as follows:

“(2) **DEVELOPMENT.**—

“(A) **MAINTAINING NATURAL CHARACTER.**—The Secretary shall keep development of the property acquired under paragraph (1) to a minimum so that the character of the acquired property will be similar to the natural and undeveloped landscape of the property described in subsection (b).

“(B) **TREATMENT OF PREVIOUSLY DEVELOPED PROPERTY.**—Nothing in subparagraph (A) shall either prevent the Secretary from acquiring property under paragraph (1) that, prior to the Secretary’s acquisition, was developed in a manner inconsistent with subparagraph (A), or require the Secretary to remediate such previously developed property to reflect the natural character described in subparagraph (A).”; and

(3) in paragraph (3), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “the appropriate zoning authority” and all that follows through “Wilton, Connecticut,” and inserting “the local governmental entity that, in accordance with applicable State law, has jurisdiction over any property acquired under paragraph (1)(A)”.

Appendix B: Inventory of Administrative Commitments

Name	Agreement Type	Start Date – Expiration Date	Stakeholders	Purpose	Notes
Weir Farm Art Center	Cooperative agreement #P12AC31140	09/06/2012 – 09/30/2017	Board of directors and members of the Weir Farm Art Center	AIR Program Art Partnership Weir Preserve	
Friends of Weir Farm National Historic Site	Friends agreement	06/13/2016	Friends of Weir Farm National Historic Site	Official friends group of the national historic site	
Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area	Cooperative agreement – task agreement #P12AC30725	05/01/2016	Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area partners	Collaborate on media development and resource management	
Fire and Aviation Management Services	Interpark agreement	03/2011 – 03/2016	Acadia National Park + 9 NPS Northeast Region parks	Fire and aviation management technical assistance	Nine NPS parks make up the “North Country Park Group”
Groundwork USA	Task agreement #P15AC00034	06/30/2015 – 12/31/2016		Cooperative learning program	
Student Conservation Association	Task agreement #P16AC00189	02/28/2017 – 12/31/2016			CA #P15AC00031
Drystone Conservancy, Inc.	Cooperative agreement	08/30/2018 (expiration)		Stone wall preservation training	
Georgetown Volunteer Fire Department	General agreement	08/28/2015 – 08/28/2020		Mutual aid	
Town of Wilton Fire and Police Departments	Planned	Unsigned – 5 years from date signed			Draft submitted to town
Town of Ridgefield Fire and Police Departments	Planned	Unsigned – 5 years from date signed			Draft submitted to town
Remote Monitoring of Fire and Security Alarms	Interagency #P13PG00343	03/01/2014 – 09/30/2018		Protection and safety	
Conservation Legacy / Environmental Stewards	Cooperative agreement / Task # P17AAC00609	06/02/2017 – 12/31/2018		Youth Partnership Program summer interns	



**Northeast Region Foundation Document Recommendation
Weir Farm National Historic Site**

September 2017

This Foundation Document has been prepared as a collaborative effort between park and regional staff and is recommended for approval by the Northeast Regional Director.

Linda A. Cook

9/12/17

RECOMMENDED

Linda Cook, Superintendent, Weir Farm National Historic Site

Date

Gay Vietzke

10/2/2017

APPROVED

Gay Vietzke, Regional Director, Northeast Region

Date



As the nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has responsibility for most of our nationally owned public lands and natural resources. This includes fostering sound use of our land and water resources; protecting our fish, wildlife, and biological diversity; preserving the environmental and cultural values of our national parks and historic places; and providing for the enjoyment of life through outdoor recreation. The department assesses our energy and mineral resources and works to ensure that their development is in the best interests of all our people by encouraging stewardship and citizen participation in their care. The department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in island territories under U.S. administration.

WEFA 413/140286

October 2017

Foundation Document • Weir Farm National Historic Site

