

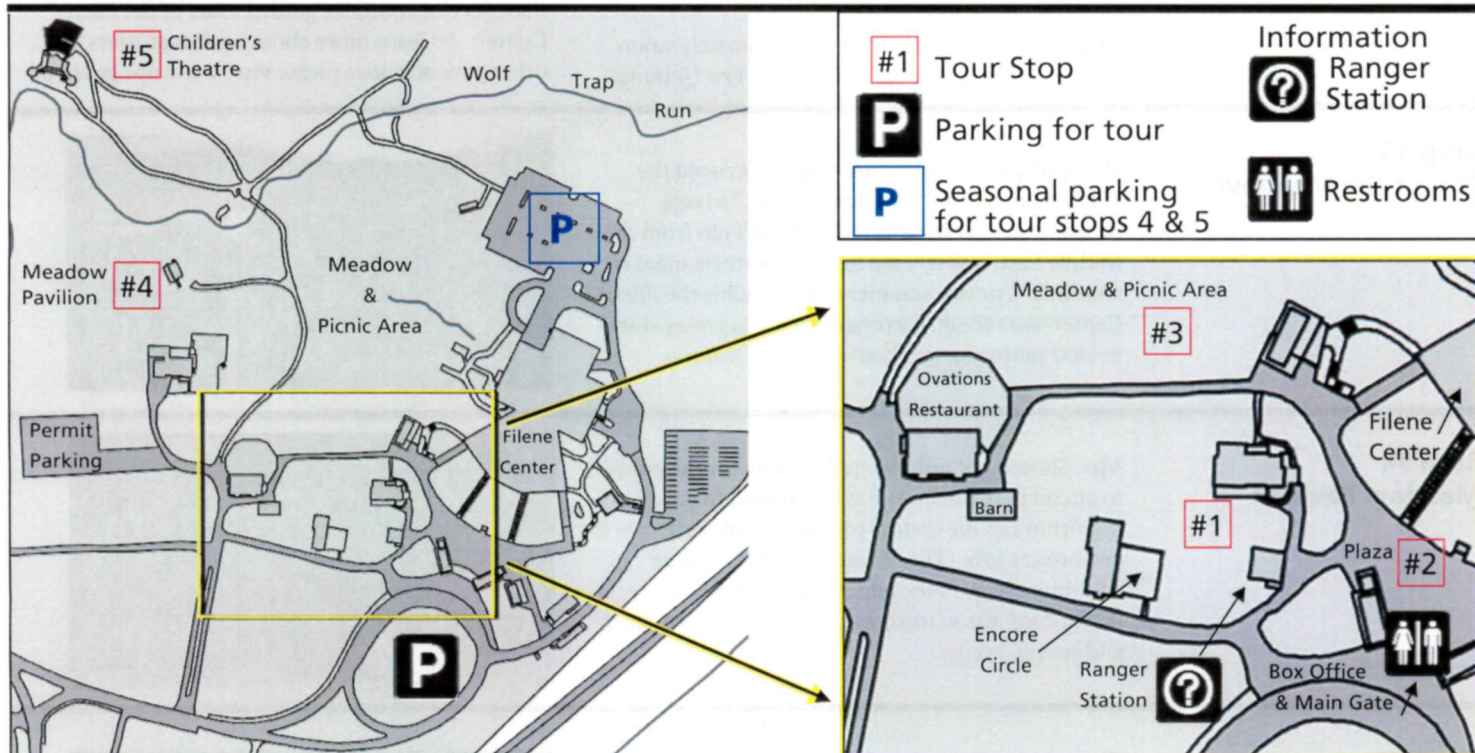
Wolf Trap National Park for the Performing Arts

National Park Service
U.S. Department of the Interior

Wolf Trap National Park
for the Performing Arts
Vienna, Virginia



Self Guided Tour



Taking the Tour

This tour explores the history of the park and its features. Buildings and areas on this tour are not marked with Stop numbers; please use the numbers on the map to find the tour stops. Rangers direct traffic during the performance season; please follow their direction during these times, otherwise parking is available at the areas marked **P**. If you are unable to access Stops 4-5 easily, you may park in Lot #1 **P** during non-performance times of the year (October – April).

Stop #1 Old Farmhouse

Before Wolf Trap became the only National Park for the Performing Arts, this area was Wolf Trap Farm. Purchased by Catherine Filene Shouse in 1930, this was a working farm and her family's country home.

Mrs. Shouse often enjoyed hosting people at the farm for fun parties and carnivals, which often featured musicians and performers of various types.



A bust of Mrs. Shouse is located in a flower bed near the Encore Circle outdoor seating area.

She had a life long love of the performing arts and wanted to create a venue for people to enjoy the arts in an outdoor setting. She donated her land to the National Park Service to establish a park for the performing arts. On October 15, 1966, Wolf Trap Farm Park (the park's original name) was created by an Act of Congress.

Who was Catherine?

Mrs. Shouse was a woman of numerous achievements and honors. She was the first woman to receive a Master's degree in Education from Harvard University. She wrote the book *Careers for Women* in 1920, the same year the 19th Amendment was ratified, securing women's right to vote. She was also appointed to the first Board of Trustees of the National Cultural Center by President Eisenhower, later it was renamed the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts. She was reappointed to the Board in 1962 and again in 1970 by President Nixon.

Stop #2 Filene Center

*Theater can be viewed
from the paved plaza area.*

The curtain goes up for more than 90 performances from May – September each year. As one of the largest stages in the United States, a wide array of performances can be presented including musicals, rock ‘n roll, country, opera, and dance. The Filene Center is also considered the summer home for the National Symphony Orchestra.

The theater has a capacity of approximately 7,000 patrons in the seats and on the lawn. The National

Park Service and their partner, the Wolf Trap Foundation, provide the live performing arts in this park setting.

What goes on behind the curtain?

During the non-performance season, the National Park Service conducts guided tours of the Filene Center. To learn more about backstage tours and other park activities please visit www.nps.gov/wotr.

Stop #3 Top of the Meadow

On April 4, 1982, a fire completely destroyed the Filene Center. The “Meadow Center,” a large hangar style tent transferred to Wolf Trap from the Middle East, was erected to allow performances to continue. For two summer seasons while the Filene Center was rebuilt, patrons dotted this grassy slope to view performances housed in the Center.



Stop #4 Meadow Pavilion

Mrs. Shouse not only wanted a venue for the public to attend performances but also hoped to create opportunities for visitors to learn about the performing arts. The “Meadow Pavilion” is an additional stage in the park used for festivals, performing arts workshops, educational programs, and special events.



Stop #5 Children’s Theatre-in-the-Woods

For seven weeks each summer, this stage offers performances for children; for many it is their introduction to live performing arts. From the puppeteers, singers and dancers on stage, to the animals and birds in the surrounding woodland, the performances and lessons learned here are not soon forgotten. Throughout the rest of the year, this environment provides the backdrop for school children, scouts, and other visitors to gain insight not only into the performing arts, but the historical and natural resources of Wolf Trap.



Are there wolves at Wolf Trap?

In 1739 “Wolf Trap” appeared on an official survey as a branch of Difficult Run. Wolves were trapped in this area of Virginia during the early colonial period in an effort to eradicate the animals that were threatening livestock. Wolves are no longer found in northern Virginia. When Mrs. Shouse bought the farm, she adopted the creek’s name for her entire property.



Park Information



The Ranger Station offers park orientation, first-aid assistance, and information about park programs, including the Junior Ranger Activity Booklet.

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1551 Trap Road
Vienna, Virginia 22182



Park Phone: (703) 255-1800
Web site: www.nps.gov/wotr