

Janet Serra
Waterbury Travel Examiner

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Celebrate Connecticut's only National Park August 25

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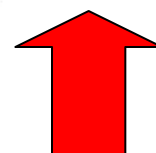
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Weir Farm Living Room

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The State of Connecticut has one National Park, **Weir Farm** that spans the towns of Wilton and Ridgefield in the western part of the state. A special year-round celebration is being planned to fete the ninety-ninth birthday of the **National Park Service**. The National Park Service has just launched a special website in preparation for a year long celebration called **Find Your Park**. One way to get started is to find a park experience by visiting the website and searching through the site's featured experiences such as: experience history, learn new things, go exploring and make a difference. The website also features many stories about the history of each park from dives into a kelp forest and drinking rainwater at Hawai'i volcanoes to walking through a historic doorway at Weir Farm National Park in Connecticut.

On August 25, 1916, President Woodrow Wilson signed legislation that established the National Park Service, thus ensuring our country's parks would be preserved and thoughtfully maintained for future generations. Today, there are 408 **National Parks** throughout the country that tell the story of our cultural heritage as well as conserve beautiful landscapes and historic attractions throughout the United States.

Connecticut's Weir Farm National Park was established in 1990 to preserve the landscape, colors, light and sheer beauty that inspired many artists beginning with J. Alden Weir since 1882. It is the only National Park dedicated to American painting. Today, Weir Farm offers tours of the Weir House as well as classes in painting and sketching for young and old alike, beginners and advanced art students. Many visitors come to stroll along the trails of this beautiful park and enjoy the natural beauty preserved here.

All National Parks are offering free entrance on August 25 to commemorate their founding as a way to celebrate this very special "brithday". At this time, there of the 408 National Parks, only **127 charge** an entrance fee, so if you are planning a trip that includes a visit to a National Park you might want to consider visiting a one on August 25. At this time, there is no entrance fee associated with exploring Weir Farm.

For more information on things to do and see in western Connecticut visit the website of the **Litchfield Hills**.