



Mackinac Island State Park Commission
Policy

Drones

Minutes: September 25, 2015, p. 4207

Preamble

The Mackinac Island State Park Commission is the custodian of all MSHP properties and approves the following policy for the protection of its residents, visitors and historic resources.

General Policy

WHEREAS, there is an increasing use of recreational and commercial Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (Drones) in the Mackinac State Historic Parks, and

WHEREAS, recreational operators of Drones are generally not required to have training in the use of their equipment, and

WHEREAS, Drones have limitations in “vision” compared to the vision of human pilots and do not have the same ability to avoid natural terrain, buildings, and other surface features as manned aircraft systems, and

WHEREAS, Drones rely on battery power and a communications link to remain airborne and could unexpectedly fall to the ground if one or both of those systems were to fail, and

WHEREAS, the potential for Drones to hit a person either because of system failure or user negligence presents an unreasonable threat to the safety of residents, visitors, staff, and other members of the public in the Mackinac State Historic Parks, and

WHEREAS, Drones present an unreasonable threat to human safety on Mackinac Island by potentially scaring horses and causing them to bolt, and

WHEREAS, the use of Drones in and around the sites, museums and buildings of Mackinac State Historic Parks is inconsistent with the Commission’s efforts to protect structures and preserve the historic nature and ambiance of these properties, and

WHEREAS, the use of Drones equipped with cameras poses a potential invasion of privacy for residents, visitors, staff and other members of the public in the Mackinac State Historic Parks.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (Drones) are banned from the airspace above the Mackinac State Historic Parks without permission from the Mackinac Island State Park Commission.