

**NOTICE**  
**GEORGIA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

NOTICE OF PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF THE FOLLOWING RULE:

**Rule 391-5-1-.05 – Safety and General Conditions of Use**

TO ALL INTERESTED PERSONS AND PARTIES:

Notice is hereby given that, pursuant to the authority set forth below, the Georgia Department of Natural Resources proposes to amend its rules as set out above. A synopsis of the changes to the rules, (including the purpose and main features), a copy of the proposed rule amendments showing deletions with ~~strikeouts~~ and additions with underlines, and an exact copy of the proposed rule amendments are included to demonstrate the proposed changes.

This Notice, together with the synopsis, an exact copy of the proposed rule amendments, and a copy of the proposed rule amendments showing deletions and additions, is being mailed to all persons who have requested in writing that they be placed on the mailing list and have tendered the actual cost of such mailing. Copies of these documents are also available by electronic mail and are available for review on the Division's web page ([www.gastateparks.org/PressRoom](http://www.gastateparks.org/PressRoom)).

**Purpose:**

Effective April 12, 2022, the General Assembly added paragraph (2.1) to O.C.G.A. § 16-11-125.1, which defined "Lawful weapons carrier." To comply with these changes in the law, the State Parks and Historic Sites Division needs to update its rule covering weapons. Accordingly, possession of a valid weapons carry license is no longer required. A person must be a lawful weapons carrier to carry a handgun or long gun in all parks, historic sites and recreational areas.

**Main Features:**

The updated rule allows a lawful weapons carrier, as defined in O.C.G.A. § 16-11-125.1 (2.1), to carry a handgun or long gun, as defined in O.C.G.A. § 16-11-125.1, in all parks, historic sites, and recreational areas, except where prohibited by federal law.

Written comments are welcomed. To ensure their inclusion in the Department's package for the Board of Natural Resources, written comments should be received by close of business on February 28, 2023. Written comments may be e-mailed to [jeff.cown@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:jeff.cown@dnr.ga.gov) or sent via regular mail addressed to Jeff Cown, Director, State

Parks and Historic Sites Division, Department of Natural Resources, 2600 Highway 155 SW, Stockbridge, Georgia 30281.

The proposed rule amendments will be considered by the Board of Natural Resources at its meeting at the March Board meeting. The meeting is being held on March 28, 2023, at Department of Natural Resource's Board Room, 2 Martin Luther King, Jr. Drive, SE, 12th Floor, Atlanta, GA 30334. The meeting is open to the public.

The amended rules are proposed for adoption pursuant to the authority contained in O.C.G.A. § 16-11-125.1.

For further information, contact Jeff Cown, State Parks and Historic Sites Division Director @ [jeff.cown@dnr.ga.gov](mailto:jeff.cown@dnr.ga.gov).

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES OF THE DEPARTMENT  
OF NATURAL RESOURCES,  
RULE 391-5-1-.05, SAFETY AND GENERAL CONDITIONS OF USE  
(STRIKEOUT COPY)**

Rule 391-5-1-.05 (4), "Safety and General Conditions of Use," is being amended.

[Note: underlined text is proposed to be added. Lined-through text is proposed to be deleted.]

Rule 391-5-1-.05 (4)**Weapons.** The use and possession of weapons are prohibited in all sites except:

- (a)When used, or possessed by authorized federal, state and local law enforcement officers in the performance of their official duties;
- (b)When unloaded and packed, cased or stored in a manner that will prevent their ready use; ~~or~~
- (c)When such use or possession has been authorized in restricted areas and under terms and conditions specified in writing by the director; or
- (d)When a person is a lawful weapons carrier as defined in O.C.G.A. § 16-11-125.1, that person possesses a valid weapons carry license. A person possessing a valid weapons carry license issued pursuant to O.C.G.A. Section 16-11-129 may carry a handgun or a long gun (as defined in O.C.G.A. § 16-11-125.1), in all parks, historic sites and recreational areas, except in places where ~~carrying such handgun~~ is prohibited by federal law.

Authority: O.C.G.A. § 16-11-125.1

**PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO THE RULES OF THE DEPARTMENT  
OF NATURAL RESOURCES,  
RULE 391-5-1-.05, SAFETY AND GENERAL CONDITIONS OF USE  
(EXACT COPY)**

Rule 391-5-1-.05 (4), "Safety and General Conditions of Use," is being amended.

Rule 391-5-1-.05 (4) **Weapons.** The use and possession of weapons are prohibited in all sites except:

- (a) When used, or possessed by authorized federal, state and local law enforcement officers in the performance of their official duties;
- (b) When unloaded and packed, cased or stored in a manner that will prevent their ready use;
- (c) When such use or possession has been authorized in restricted areas and under terms and conditions specified in writing by the director; or
- (d) When a person is a lawful weapons carrier as defined in O.C.G.A. § 16-11-125.1, that person may carry a handgun or a long gun (as defined in O.C.G.A. § 16-11-125.1), in all parks, historic sites and recreational areas, except in places where prohibited by federal law.

Authority: O.C.G.A. § 16-11-125.1