

CHAPTER 14

PARKS AND RECREATION

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(Ord. No. 179, Am. #56, § 2, 12-15-04, Am. #141-Rescind and Replace, 6-26-2025)

14.01 - PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY

- (1) PURPOSE. The purpose of this chapter is to promote the health, safety and general welfare of the community and to protect, safeguard and regulate the use of County parks, campgrounds, shooting ranges, trails, and other lands under the management and supervision of the County.
- (2) AUTHORITY. The regulations contained in this chapter are adopted under the authority granted by §§59.02 and 59.52, Wis. Stats.

14.02 - DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY

No person shall destroy, molest, deface or remove any natural growth, personal property or any structures, buildings or fixtures or parts thereof in or from any park, campground, shooting range, trail, or other land under the jurisdiction of this chapter.

14.03 - SOLID WASTE

- (1) No person shall dump, abandon or deposit, inject or spill any solid waste, as defined at §289.01(33), Wis. Stats., into or upon the real estate or water of or on the ice of any lake, river, or stream under the jurisdiction of the County in any park, campground, shooting range, trail, or other land subject to the jurisdiction of this chapter nor dispose of any solid waste in any manner except by placing the same in receptacles as may be provided for such purpose by the County.
- (2) No person shall discard in any waste container solid waste which was not generated during the course of use of the park, campground, shooting range, trail or other land in question.
- (3) Charcoal residue shall be left in a park grate or fireplace until cool before being disposed of in waste containers or placed in receptacles provided for such purpose.
- (4) No person shall dump any animal carcasses, on any County property, any lake, river, or stream under the jurisdiction of the County.

14.04 - FIRES

- (1) No person shall start, tend or maintain any fire except at designated fireplaces in any County park or campground.
- (2) No burning shall be allowed in the area of any County shooting range.

14.05 - HOURS AND PERMITS

- (1) All County parks and campgrounds shall be open between the hours of 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m., Sunday through Saturday. These hours do not apply to shooting ranges, which are subject to §14.10 below.
- (2) It shall be unlawful for any person, except registered campers in designated camping areas, to be in any County park or campground outside park hours.

- (3) Any group or organization wishing to use a County park or campground for a special event between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. shall obtain a permit from the Pepin County Land Conservation Office.
- (4) Hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. are designated as quiet hours. Minimal noise disruptions by guests will be enforced between these times.

14.06 - CAMPING

- (1) Anyone wishing to camp overnight in a County campground shall register and pay the prescribed fee.
- (2) Campers must self-register prior to setting up camp.
- (3) No camping shall be allowed except in designated areas.
- (4) Camping units must remain within campsite boundaries.
- (5) No camping unit may be registered for more than 14 consecutive days at any County campground with the exception of the camp host and those with pre-approval from the Land Conservation office.
- (6) Camping units must be removed from the designated site or campground before 11:00 a.m. following the last night registered and must remain removed from the campground for a minimum of 72 consecutive hours before being eligible for an additional 14-day registration.
- (7) Camping unit are not allowed to occupy their paid site until after check in time of 1:00 p.m.

14.07 - TRAFFIC

- (1) No person shall operate any vehicle at a speed in excess of 15 mph in any County park or campground.
- (2) No person shall operate or drive any motor vehicle on a County owned or managed trail. For purposes of this chapter, "motor vehicle" is defined, without limitation by enumeration, as an automobile, truck, van, bus, motorcycle, tractor, mini-bike, moped, go-cart, golf cart, or all-terrain vehicle. The Land Conservation Committee shall be authorized to enter into letters of understanding with owners of properties adjacent to a trail for the purpose of management of the properties.
- (3) No person shall operate or drive a motor vehicle within a County park, campground or shooting range except on roads and in parking areas designated for motor vehicle travel.
- (4) Motor vehicles used by or on behalf of the County in the authorized maintenance or management of a County park, campground, trail or shooting range or which are used during the course of responding to an emergency which is life-threatening to persons are exempt from the restrictions set forth in subsections (2) and (3), above.

14.08 - DISORDERLY CONDUCT

No person shall engage in violent, abusive, indecent, profane, boisterous or unreasonably loud or otherwise disorderly conduct under circumstances in which such conduct tends to cause or promote a disturbance.

14.09 - ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES

No person shall ride or utilize an all-terrain vehicle within a County park, campground, or shooting range or on a County trail. All-terrain vehicle shall have the meaning as provided in §340.01(2g), Wis. Stats.

14.10 - SHOOTING RANGES

- (1) Shooting on any County shooting range shall take place only between sunrise and sunset, excepting law enforcement officers during official law enforcement firearm training, and in accordance with all rules and regulations, including hours of operation, adopted by the Land Conservation Committee.
- (2) Shooting ranges located on County owned property shall be under the jurisdiction of the Land Conservation Committee, which shall have authority to adopt such rules and regulations as it deems to be necessary.
- (3) All rules and regulations, including hours of operation, adopted by the Land Conservation Committee shall be clearly posted at each range.
- (4) The Land Conservation Committee shall be empowered to enter into memorandums of understanding or agreement or lease agreements with organizations or clubs for the purposes of development, management, hours of operation, and maintenance of these facilities.
- (5) No person shall enter or use any County shooting range except during those times authorized in accordance with §14.10(3) above.

14.11 - SNOWMOBILE TRAILS

See §7.04 of this Code of Ordinances.

14.12 - RESTRICTION—VEHICLES ON LAKE ICE

The County may, from time to time as necessary, restrict the use of motorized vehicles upon the ice of Silver Birch Lake located in Silver Birch County Park. Notice of such restrictions shall be evidenced by the placing of signs, barricades or markers in, on or around the ice. No person shall disregard said signs, barricades or markers and operate a motorized vehicle upon the ice of Silver Birch Lake when such restrictions have been activated.

14.13 - ANIMALS IN PARKS, CAMPGROUNDS, OR SHOOTING RANGES OR ON TRAILS

- (1) No person having the control or care of a dog shall permit such dog to enter or remain in a park, campground or shooting range or on a trail unless it is on a leash not longer than 8 feet. Dogs found running at large within a park, campground, or shooting range or on a trail may be impounded by an animal control officer or a law enforcement officer.
- (2) No person having the control or care of a dog in a park, campground or shooting range or on a trail shall fail to remove and properly dispose of excrement deposited by said dog in a park, campground, or shooting range or on a trail.
- (3) All visiting animals must be up to date on vaccinations and documentation must be provided upon request.
- (4) No person in control of or in possession of a horse shall enter a trail with that horse or allow it to enter and remain on a trail.

14.14 - BICYCLES AND ELECTRIC PERSONAL ASSISTIVE MOBILITY DEVICES

Except as otherwise specifically provided in this chapter, all provisions of §§346.79 and 346.803, Wis. Stats., describing and defining regulations with respect to bicycles and electric personal assistive mobility devices are adopted and by reference made a part of this chapter as if fully set forth in this section. Any act required to be performed or prohibited by any statute incorporated in this section by reference is required or prohibited by this chapter.

14.15 - FIREARMS AND FIREWORKS

- (1) No person, other than a law enforcement officer, shall carry an un-cased gun, pistol or other firearm, or fire or discharge any gun, pistol or firearm within any campground or picnic/playground area nor shoot on, from, or across any recreation trail. The word "gun" shall include pellet gun and air gun.
- (2) No person shall carry or discharge a bow and arrow within any campground, picnic/playground area or shooting range nor shoot on, from, or across any recreation trail.
- (3) No person shall discharge any fireworks, as defined in §167.10(1), Wis. Stats., in a park, campground or shooting range or on a trail without a written permit of the Land Conservation Committee and any other authority required by law. The Land Conservation Committee may establish conditions for issuance of the permit, including reasonable security for costs which may result due to such use.
- (4) No firearm shall be discharged in any shooting range except in conformity with all the applicable rules and regulations as are adopted in accord with §14.10 above.

14.16 – USE OF COMMERCIAL TOBACCO PRODUCTS

- (1) No person shall use commercial tobacco products as defined in (Ord. No. 179, § 2, 5-18-16) in any county owned building or within 50 feet of a public entrance to a county owned building.

14.17 - VIOLATIONS

Except as otherwise provided, any person convicted of a violation of any provision of this chapter shall be subject to a forfeiture as provided in §25.04 of this Code of Ordinances.