

GENERAL RULES AND REGULATIONS

1) Statutes Applicable.

- a. Sections 461A.35 through 461A.57 apply to all lands and waters under the control of the County Conservation Board. However, these sections may be modified or superseded by rules adopted as provided in § 350.5. [§ 350.10]
- b. The County Conservation Board may make, alter, amend, or repeal regulations for the protection, regulation, and control of all museums, parks, preserves, parkways, playgrounds, recreation centers, and other property under its control. Such regulations shall not be contrary to, or inconsistent with, the laws of the State of Iowa. The regulations shall not take effect until 10 days after their adoption by the Board and after their publication as provided in § 331.305 and after a copy of the regulations has been posted near each gate or principal entrance to the public ground to which they apply. [§ 350.5]
- c. The Board may grant the Director and those employees of the Board designated as police officers the authority to enforce the provisions of chapters 321G, 321I, 461A, 462A, 481A, and 483A on land not under the control of the Board within the County. [§ 350.5]

2) Scope. The provisions of these regulations shall apply to all areas under the jurisdiction and control of the County Conservation Board.

3) Rules and Regulations Not Restrictive of Park Personnel. Nothing in these rules and regulations shall prohibit or hinder the Department, its Supervisors, Resource Managers, or duly authorized agents or any other peace officers from performing their official duties.

4) Violations and Penalties

- a. Unless another punishment is provided, any person violating any park rule or regulation shall be guilty of a simple misdemeanor, and, upon conviction, shall be fined an amount not less than \$50 nor more than the maximum amount allowable under the law or be imprisoned in the County Jail not to exceed 30 days. [§ 461A.57]
 - i. A separate penalty shall apply to each violation. [§ 461A.57]

5) Definitions.

- a. **"Board"** – the Woodbury County, Iowa Conservation Board
- b. **"Department"** – the Woodbury County, Iowa Department of Conservation
- c. **"Director"** – the Director of the Woodbury County, Iowa Department of Conservation and Conservation Board
- d. **"Area"** – all or any part of the land and/or water owned, leased, managed, or by other means under the control of the Board
- e. **"Authorized representative"** – includes Resource Managers and other persons designated from time to time by the Director
- f. **"Special use permit"** – any use permit, issued by the Department, pursuant to authority delegated by the Board, and signed by the Director or his authorized representative
- g. **"Camp"** or **"camping"** – the use of a "camping unit", as described below
- h. **"campground"** – any area designated by the Board for camping
- i. **"family campground"** – any campground designated by the Board for camping by families or groups consisting of six persons or less
- j. **"group campground"** – any campground designated by the Board for camping by groups consisting of seven persons or more
- k. **"campsite"** – a segment of a campground designated by the Board for camping by a camping unit or camping party
- l. **"camping unit"** – either a single tent not larger than 144 square feet in size at its base, boat, boat trailer, pickup camper, motor home or converted bus, recreation trailer, or a motor vehicle used for a camp by a camping party, tarpaulin, or sleeping bag, except those shelters used exclusively for dining purposes, plus, at the option of the said camping party, a second tent or an additional tent no larger than 144 square feet in size at its base, if the same is used and occupied by minor members of the same family
- m. **"camping party"** – any individual, family, or informal unorganized group of not more than six persons occupying one campsite
- n. **"camping day"** – a period or any portion of a period from 4:00 p.m. of one day to the established check-out time for the following day
- o. **"family"** – a parent or parents with their dependent minor children and not more than two minor guests
- p. **"youth group"** – a group consisting of minor members of an established organization and under the leadership of at least one competent, mature adult for each eight minors in the group and using any number of camping units or occupying a group campground
- q. **"adult group"** – any group of adults, whether or not organized into a formal organization
- r. **"capacity"** – the maximum number of camping parties or camping units that the Board shall from time to time determine may occupy an area, campground, or campsite
- s. **"official signs"** – signs provided for in the Iowa Department of Transportation Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Iowa Streets and Highways and other signs designated from time to time by the Board
- t. **"noise"** – any sound of such a nature as to seriously and unreasonably interfere with the peace and enjoyment of nearby park users
- u. **"commercial activity"** – any activity carried out by a private party or organization for the purpose of raising funds for charitable or community service purposes

- v. **“general public events”** – an event sponsored by any private organization or individual to which the general public is invited by advertising (distributing hand-bills or posters, etc.) or any like method
 - w. **“private party group”** – any group or organization that cannot be classified as commercial, community service, general public, or special event, and that reserve a facility. Such groups are not subject to the Commercial/Social Activity Permit Requirements
 - x. **“organized social gathering or special events”** – any gathering or activity which will attract a large number of participants and/or spectators for which the area is not designated to accommodate
 - y. **“blind”** – a constructed place of ambush or concealment for the purpose of hunting, observing, or photographing any species of wildlife
- 6) **Prohibited Areas.** No person shall enter upon portions of any state park or preserve in disregard of official signs forbidding same, except by permission of the Director or the Director’s representative. [§ 461A.44]
- 7) **Prohibited Destructive Acts.** It shall be unlawful for any person to destroy, injure, deface, or remove any plant life, trees, buildings, sand, gravel, ice, earth, stone, wood, or other natural material property. It shall further be unlawful to operate a vehicle within the boundaries of any state park, preserve, or stream or any other lands or waters under the jurisdiction of the commission for any purpose whatsoever, except upon the terms, conditions, limitations, and restrictions as set forth by the commission. [§ 461A.35]
- a. A person who violates this section commits a simple misdemeanor punishable as a scheduled violation pursuant to § 805.8B(6)(c).
- 8) **Fees**
- a. The Department shall not impose a fee upon a person for entering into a state park or preserve. [§ 461A.35A]
 - b. Fees or charges made for services or for the use of land, facilities, equipment, materials, or supplies on any area to be collected by the Department or authorized concessionaires shall be prescribed and approved by the Board.
 - c. It shall be unlawful for any person or persons to enter or use any facilities for which entrance or use any land, facility, equipment, material, or supplies on any area for which entrance or user fees are prescribed without payment of same, except those persons on official business or authorized by special use permit.
- 9) **Littering/Refuse**
- a. No person shall place any waste, refuse, litter, or foreign substance in any area or receptacle except those provided for that purpose. [§ 461A.43]
 - b. It shall be unlawful to deposit garbage, refuse, or litter from any household, business, or any other place to any area or facility under the jurisdiction or control of the Board, for the purpose of disposing of the same in any refuse or litter container.
 - c. Dumpster diving and/or scavenging is strictly prohibited.
- 10) **Closing Time**
- a. All areas shall be closed to public use between the hours of 10:30 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.
 - b. The Board may designate closing times outside these times. In such a case, official signs will be erected, giving the public constructive notice of such change.
 - c. The Director or his authorized representative may issue special use permits in conformity with Board policy which, when issued, shall allow the permit holder to observe other hours.
 - d. The provisions of this Section shall not apply to authorized camping by registered camping groups in designated camping areas and reserved cabins.
- 11) **Noise Producing Devices.** It shall be unlawful to operate or use any radio, television, stereo, musical instrument, energy generators, power saws, bug zapper, or any similar equipment in or on any area in such a manner as to create excessive noise and/or disturb other persons.
- 12) **Public Address Systems Restricted.** It shall be unlawful to operate or use any public address system, whether fixed, portable, or vehicular mounted, in or on any area except when such use or operation has been approved in writing by the Director or his authorized representative.
- 13) **Radio, Television, or Telephone Equipment Restricted.** It shall be unlawful to install aerial or other special radio, telephone, or television equipment in or on any area without the approval in writing of the Director or his authorized representative.
- 14) **Vehicles**
- a. **Speed Limit**
 - i. The maximum speed limit of all vehicles on drives, roads, and highways within the areas under the jurisdiction or control of the Board is 35 miles per hour. [§ 461A.36]
 - ii. When the Board determines that a 35 mile per hour speed limit is greater than is reasonable or safe under the conditions found to exist at any place of congestion or upon any part of the park roads, drives, or highways, the commission shall determine and declare a reasonable and safe speed limit, which shall be effective when appropriate signs giving notice of the changed speed limit are erected at such places where the new speed limit shall apply. [§ 461A.36]
 - iii. The Board may, at its discretion, establish other speed limits under the authority of § 321.236(1)(e)(5). [§ 461A.36]

- b. **Excessive Loads.** Excessively loaded vehicles shall not operate over drives, roads, and highways within the areas under the jurisdiction or control of the Board. The determination of whether a load is excessive will be made by the Director or the Director's representative and will depend upon the load and the road conditions. [§ 461A.37]
- c. **Parking**
 - i. All vehicles shall be parked in designated parking areas. No vehicle shall be left unattended on any state park or preserve drive, road, or highway, except in the case of emergency. [§ 461A.38]
 - ii. Motor vehicles may not be left unattended on any area, including designated parking area for more than 24 hours without the permission of the Director or an authorized representative. Any motor vehicle left in violation hereof shall be removed and stored at the expense of its owner, which expense shall not be less than \$25.00 per day. If not reclaimed within 6 months of its removal, all such motor vehicles shall be considered abandoned and shall thereafter be disposed of by a means as defined by the Board.
- d. **ATVs, Snowmobiles, and Other Vehicles.** It shall be unlawful to operate any snowmobile, tote bike, air sled, swamp buggy, all-terrain vehicle, or any other mechanically propelled land conveyance, in or on any area, except for those trails and roads which the Board shall from time to time designate and those other areas for which a special use permit has been issued.
- e. **Boats.** It shall be unlawful to leave unattended any boat or other form of water conveyance on or attached to any area for more than 12 consecutive hours. Any water conveyance left in violation hereof shall be removed and stored at the expense of its owner, which expense shall not be less than \$25.00 per day. If not reclaimed within 6 months of its removal hereunder, such water conveyance shall be considered abandoned and shall thereafter be disposed of by means as defined by the Board.

15) Activities

- a. **Fires.** No fires shall be built, except in a place provided therefor, and such fire shall be extinguished when site is vacated unless it is immediately used by some other party. [§ 461A.40]
- b. **Collection of Fruits and Nuts.** It shall be lawful to collect the fruit of all nut and berry producing plants or mushrooms for non-commercial personal use, provided the collector does not otherwise damage the parent plant. [§ 461A.41, as modified by § 350.10]
- c. **Hunting**
 - i. It shall be unlawful to hunt, pursue, or in any manner molest any birds or animals in or on any areas not designated as a hunting area by the Board.
 - ii. The Department shall post all areas designated as hunting areas with official signs to notify the public that hunting is lawful in that area.
- d. **Trapping**
 - i. It shall be unlawful to trap or attempt to trap any birds or animals except as otherwise provided by law, in or on any area not designated as a trapping area by the Board.
 - ii. Trapping is permitted on any area designated by the Board as a Public Hunting Area, unless otherwise posted.
- e. **Firearms and Explosives**
 - i. The possession and use of fireworks and explosives are absolutely prohibited in all County parks and conservation areas under the Board's jurisdiction. [§ 461A.42 as modified by § 350.10]
 - ii. Firearms and weapons of all kinds are prohibited on all areas except as provided in this section, as otherwise provided by law, or for which a special use permit has been issued. [§ 461A.42 as modified by § 350.10]
 - 1. It shall be lawful to use or carry firearms to hunt or pursue birds or animals in or on all areas designated as hunting areas by the Board during dates established by the Board. [§ 461A.42 as modified by § 350.10]
 - 2. It shall be lawful to use firearms in or on shooting ranges designated by the Board at designated times during the year. [§ 461A.42 as modified by § 350.10]
 - 3. Target shooting shall be restricted to designated ranges. [§ 461A.42 as modified by § 350.10]
 - 4. All other firearm laws, including those related to concealed weapons, must be followed at all times. [§ 461A.42 as modified by § 350.10]
 - iii. The use of any item generally referred to as a "paintball gun" is prohibited from all County parks and conservation areas under the Board's jurisdiction.
 - iv. A person violating this subsection is guilty of a serious misdemeanor. The Court may order restitution for damages caused by the violation which may include, but not limited to, community service. [§ 461A.42 as modified by § 350.10]
- f. **Downhill Winter Sports Activities.** Downhill winter sports activities, including but not limited to sledding and downhill skiing, are prohibited in all County parks and conservation areas under the Board's jurisdiction.
- g. **Swimming.** It shall be unlawful to swim, wade, or engage in related water activities in or on any pond or waters in or on any area, except for those swimming beaches specifically designated by the Board.

i. Commercial and Social Activities

- i. It shall be unlawful to engage in any activity listed below except by contract or special use permit issued by the Board, the Director, or authorized representative on a non-discriminatory basis:
1. Washing or repairing cars or vehicles
 2. Commercial activity carried out for private gain or profit
 3. Community service activities of private, nonprofit groups
 4. General public events
 5. Organized social gatherings or special events

j. **Drones.** The use of drones or similar devices is prohibited except with special use permit.

k. **Metal Detecting.** Metal detecting or similar activity is prohibited except with special use permit. [461A as modified by 350.10].

16) Animals

a. Dogs

i. Dogs are permitted to run at large for the purpose of training or exercising in or on all areas designated for hunting, with the exception of March 15 through July 15. Dogs are prohibited from being off leash in areas not designated for hunting at all times of the year.

ii. The Board may close any area or portion of any area to all dogs and the training or exercising of dogs.

b. **Dog Sleds.** It shall be unlawful to ride, lead, or otherwise allow the entry or use of any land conveyance propelled by dogs and run on wheels, tracks, or runners in or on any area, except for those trails and roads which the Board shall from time to time designate and those other areas for which a special use permit has been issued.

c. Horses

i. It shall be unlawful to ride, lead, or otherwise allow the entry or use of horses or horse-drawn wagons on any portion of any area, except as provided herein.

ii. The Board shall from time to time designate trails and roads for the use of horses, the Director or his authorized representative may, by issuing a special use permit, allow such activity on any area.

d. **Hitching to Trees.** No horse or other animal shall be hitched or tied to any tree or shrub, or in such a manner as to result in injury to County property. [§ 461A.39]

17) Camping

a. The Board is hereby authorized to fix fees for camping and other special privileges which shall be in such amounts as may be determined by the Board upon a basis of the cost of providing and reasonable value of such privileges. [§ 461A.47]

b. Violation of any state law or any county park rule and regulation by any member of a camping party is cause for revocation of the camping permit, and the entire camping party shall be required to leave the area.

c. When any campground is open and in a usable condition, all charges and fees shall be in effect and shall be enforced as set forth in the official fee schedule approved by the Board.

d. Any person who camps in any state park or preserve shall register the person's name and address with the park custodian and advise the custodian when the camp is vacated. [§ 461A.50]

e. Custodians are given authority to refuse camping privileges and to rescind any and all camping permits for cause. [§ 461A.51]

f. Campsites cannot be reserved. In order to register for a campsite, a camping unit must occupy a campsite.

i. Park facilities, including campsites, may not be reserved by minors.

ii. If a group consists of mixed adults and minors, a ratio of at least one adult to each eight minors must be maintained unless the group is a "registered youth group". A registered youth group may maintain different ratios if the group is approved or the activity by the Director or his authorized representative.

g. Campsite registration must be in the name of a person 18 years of age or older who will occupy the camping unit on that site for the full term of the registration. Registration and payment is required within one hour of setting up camp.

h. No camping unit or party shall move from its registered campsite to another campsite without prior approval from the Director or his authorized representative.

i. Youth groups and adult groups who register any group campground shall have the exclusive use of the campground only if they utilize 50% or more of the capacity of that campground.

j. No camping party or camping unit of any kind shall occupy any campground more than 14 consecutive days. After 14 consecutive days of camping, the camping party or camping unit must vacate the campground for a minimum of 72 hours before returning to any campground in a County park or conservation area supervised by the Board. On parks or areas with more than one campground, this shall apply to the entire area and all campgrounds in the area. [§ 461A.49]

k. It shall be unlawful for more than one camping party or camping unit to occupy a campsite, except that up to 8 members of youth group may occupy a campsite in a family campground on properties which do not have a designated group camp area or when group camps are not available. When youth groups allowed to use campsites in family campgrounds, reasonable provisions shall be made to allow them to exceed such equipment limits.

- l. It shall be unlawful to park any motor vehicle outside the parking area designated at each campsite, and not more than one licensed vehicle (including motorbikes), in addition to the camping unit, is permitted to any campsite.
- m. All campers shall maintain quiet and avoid excessive noise in the campgrounds between the hours of 10:30 p.m. and 9:00 a.m.
- n. Campers shall restore their campsite to the same approximate condition or better than when they found it.
- o. Check-out time at all campgrounds is 4:00 p.m. The Director or an authorized representative has authority to extend the check-out time to 8:00 p.m. when it is in the public interest and furthers the orderly management of the facility.

18) Alcohol

a. Possession and Consumption of Alcohol

- i. Persons may possess or consume any beer or wine, as defined in § 123.3(7) and § 123.3(47) in any county park and conservation areas under the Boards' jurisdiction, including reserved shelters, cabins, and campgrounds, with the following exceptions:
 - 1. No person shall possess or consume any beer or wine, as defined in § 123.3(7) and § 123.3(47) at the following locations without special use permit:
 - a. Bigelow Park/Brown's Lake
 - b. Dorothy Pecaut Nature Center
 - c. Owego Wetland Complex
 - d. Riverside Bluffs Area
 - e. Snyder Bend Park
 - ii. The possession or consumption of hard liquor, as defined in § 123.3(3) and § 123.3(5) is prohibited from all lands and waters under the control of the County Conservation Board, unless exempted below.
 - iii. All other alcohol laws, including open container laws, must be followed at all times.
 - iv. Any alcohol possessed in violation of these rules shall be confiscated by the Director or an authorized representative, and destroyed.
 - v. Beer in kegs, or any other container larger than one gallon is prohibited from all lands and waters under the control of the County Conservation Board.

19) Removal of Ice, Sand, Gravel, Stone, Wood, Etc.

- a. No person shall remove any ice, sand, gravel, stone, wood, or other natural material from any lands or waters under the jurisdiction of the commission without first entering into an agreement with the commission. [§ 461A.52]
- b. **Permits**
 - i. The Board may enter into agreements for the removal of ice, sand, gravel, stone, wood, or other natural material from lands or waters under the jurisdiction of the commission if, after investigation, it is determined that such removal will not be detrimental to the state's interest. [§ 461A.53]
 - ii. The Board may specify the terms and consideration under which such removal is permitted and issue written permits for such removal. [§ 461A.53]
- c. **Barriers on ice field.** Any person removing ice under a permit shall erect barriers on any part of an ice field where ice is cut, where said field crosses or traverses any part of a stream or lake that is used as a way of passage. [§ 461A.54]
- d. **Dredging.** In removing sand, gravel, or other material from any waters under the control of the Board by dredging, the operator shall so arrange the operator's equipment that other users of the lake or stream shall not be endangered by cables, anchors, or any concealed equipment. No waste material shall be left in the water in such manner as to endanger other craft or to change the course of any stream. [§ 461A.55]
- e. **Disturbing Natural Bank.** Where operations are entirely on private property adjacent to a public lake or stream the natural bank between the state and privately owned areas shall not be removed except by permission of the commission.

The Woodbury County Conservation Board complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act and all other local, state, and federal laws, pertaining to equal treatment. If anyone believes he or she has been subjected to discrimination on the basis of race, creed, color, sex, national origin, religion, disability, or age, they may file a complaint alleging discrimination with either: The Woodbury County Conservation Board or the Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of the Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.