

**ORDINANCE  
ROCK COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS**

Supervisor Mawhinney  
INITIATED BY



11/07/2023  
DATE DRAFTED

Amending Chapter 5 of the Rock County Code of Ordinances (Parks)

1 Now therefore be it resolved that the Rock County Board of Supervisors assembled this  
2 14<sup>TH</sup> day of December, 2023 does ordain as follows:

3  
4 I. Chapter 5 of the Rock County Code of Ordinances shall be amended to read as  
5 follows (new language underscored, deleted language crossed out):

6  
7  
8 **CHAPTER 5**

9  
10 **PARKS**

11  
12 **5.01 Definitions**

13  
14 **Park** - means any recreational or public area in Rock County under the supervision  
15 and control of Rock County.

16  
17 **Motor Vehicle** - means any motorized vehicle.

18  
19 ~~**Director Supervisor**~~ – means ~~Director~~ Park Services Supervisor of Rock County  
20 Parks.

21  
22 **Hunt, Trap, and Wild Animals** - have the meaning respectively ascribed to them  
23 by Section 29.01 of the 1987 Wisconsin Statutes.

24  
25 **5.02 Parks Regulated**

26  
27 (1) Regulation of Motor Vehicles

28  
29 (A) No person shall drive a motor vehicle in any park in excess of 15 miles per  
30 hour.

31  
32 (B) No person shall operate a motor vehicle in any park unless upon a  
33 highway, public way or thoroughfare, except that snowmobiles may be operated  
34 within the boundaries of Lee Park in the Town of Clinton, Happy Hollow Park in  
35 the Town of Rock and Royce Dallman Park in the Town of Milton provided that  
36 the ground snow cover in said areas is at least six inches deep and provided that  
37 all liability from any damages suffered by any party as a result of the operation of  
38 any snowmobile in the aforementioned areas be assumed solely by the operator  
39 and/or owner of said snowmobile. Snowmobiles may be operated only on  
40 specifically designated snowmobile trails.

41  
42 (C) No person shall park, stop, or leave standing any motor vehicle whether  
43 attended or unattended, in any park, except upon a duly designated parking area.  
44 A vehicle left unattended over 48 hours shall be considered abandoned and shall  
45 be dealt with as provided in section 3.105(2) of the Rock County Ordinances.

46  
47 (D) No commercial vehicles shall be allowed in any park outside of regular park  
48 hours.  
49

50 (E) Disabled persons may use a motorized wheelchair or similar means of  
51 personal conveyance.

52  
53 (F) Golf carts may be authorized for transporting physically challenged persons  
54 on trails designated by the ~~Director~~ Supervisor.

55  
56 (G) All e-bicycles, e-scooters, and other vehicles shall be restricted to 15 mph  
57 when on County Bike Paths that allow their use and shall comply with Wisconsin  
58 Statutes, sections 346.77 through 346.82, at all times.

59  
60 (H) No person shall operate a Remote Controlled (RC) vehicle within park  
61 boundaries

62  
63 (2) Regulation of Horses and Ponies

64  
65 No person having ownership, possession, custody, or control of any horse or pony  
66 shall permit same to be in any park, except upon a duly designated bridle path, or  
67 in any duly designated parking area. Persons shall maintain sufficient control  
68 over the animal to prevent it from interfering in any manner with the enjoyment  
69 of the area by others. Trails may be closed at the discretion of the ~~Director~~  
70 Supervisor due to soft trail conditions, inclement weather or other adverse  
71 conditions which he/she deems likely to cause damage to the park or endanger  
72 participants.

73  
74 (3) Park to be Closed from 10:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m

75  
76 (A) Park to be closed from 10:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. No person shall be in any  
77 park from the hours of 10:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. without the express written  
78 permission of the ~~Director~~ Supervisor. Such permission shall include a brief  
79 description of the general area within any park to which any person receiving  
80 such permission shall be limited.

81  
82 (B) Exceptions to (4)(a) are permitted for persons utilizing County designated  
83 boat launches.

84  
85 (4) No Distribution of Advertising Matter

86  
87 No person shall distribute or post any handbills or other advertising matter of  
88 any type within any park, without the express written consent of the ~~Director~~  
89 Supervisor.

90  
91 (5) Noise Regulation

92  
93 No person shall operate or use any sound truck, loud speaker, microphone, or  
94 other mechanical device the primary purpose of which is to amplify voice, music,  
95 or other sound, in any park without the express written consent of the ~~Director~~  
96 Supervisor. Nor shall any person create unreasonably loud sounds in any other  
97 manner.

98  
99 (6) Removal or Destruction of Property

100  
101 No person shall disturb, disfigure, deface, carve, injure, destroy or remove any of  
102 the following in any park.

103  
104 (A) Any tree, tree stump, shrub, flower or other natural plant growth, living,  
105 dormant or dead.

106  
107 (B) Any rock, stone, earth or other natural mineral product.

108  
109 (C) Any walk, sign, fence, table, building, or shelter, or any structure of any kind.

110  
111 (7) Littering and Dumping Prohibited in Any Park or Adjacent Lakes, Rivers or  
112 Streams

114 No person shall dump, deposit, place, throw, or otherwise dispose of any paper,  
115 cans, bottles, debris, refuse, or other solid waste material in any park or lake,  
116 river or stream within or adjacent to a park nor dispose of any waste material  
117 except by placing in receptacles provided for that purpose. No person shall use  
118 park refuse receptacles for household, commercial or other refuse not generated  
119 by park activities.  
120

121 (8) Washing in Lakes, Rivers or Streams Prohibited  
122

123 No person shall bathe, rinse, or wash, with or without soap or detergent, any dog  
124 or other animal, clothing, cooking utensils, bicycle, or motor vehicle in any lake,  
125 river or stream within or adjacent to any park.  
126

127 (9) Use of Soap or Detergents in Lakes, Rivers or Streams Prohibited  
128

129 No person shall use or place any soap or detergent in any lake, river or stream  
130 within or adjacent to any park.  
131

132 (10) No Fires Permitted Except in Fireplaces or Grills  
133

134 No person shall build, light or tend any fire in any park, except in fireplaces or  
135 grills constructed for that purpose. No person may leave any fire unattended or  
136 throw away any embers before completely extinguishing the same. A permit is  
137 required for any fire in designated fire rings.  
138

139 (11) Cigarettes, Cigars and Pipe Ash Must be Extinguished  
140

141 No person shall dispose of any cigarette, cigar, or pipe ash in any park without  
142 completely extinguishing the same. Once fully extinguished, they should be  
143 placed in a park refuse container or packed out.  
144

145 (12) Hunting or Trapping Prohibited  
146

147 No person shall hunt, trap, poison, kill, injure, molest, disturb, or tease any wild  
148 animal in any park. Netting or seining of fish or other aquatic organisms is  
149 prohibited in all parks and adjacent waters. Nothing in this subsection shall be  
150 construed to prohibit the lawful taking of fish by hook and line.  
151

152 (13) Release of Animals Prohibited  
153

154 Except as provided in Sec. 17, no person shall release any domestic or other non-  
155 native animal into any park, without the express written consent of the ~~Director~~  
156 Supervisor.  
157

158 (14) Removing of Animals from Park Prohibited  
159

160 No person shall take or remove or cause to be taken or removed any wild animal,  
161 caged or uncaged, from any park without the express written consent of the  
162 ~~Director~~ Supervisor. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to prohibit  
163 the removal of any fish lawfully taken by hook and line.  
164

165 (15) Pets  
166

167 (A) Dogs, cats and other domesticated pets shall be allowed in all county parks  
168 except within picnic areas, playgrounds, ball diamonds or any posted prohibited  
169 areas. Exception is made for those visually impaired and using an assist dog.  
170 Persons must keep any pet on a six-foot maximum lead and control the animal  
171 to prevent it from interfering in any manner with the enjoyment of the area by  
172 others.  
173

174 (B) Except for visually or physically impaired persons, any person in immediate  
175 control of a dog, cat or other pet shall promptly remove any fecal matter  
176 deposited by such pet in any park and transmit the excrement to property  
177 owned or occupied by such person. Any person causing or permitting such pet to

178 be in any park shall have in his or her immediate possession a device or object  
179 suitable for removing excrement and a depository suitable for transmitting the  
180 excrement to the property owned or occupied by such person.

181  
182 (C) Nothing in this section shall prohibit the use of dogs by the blind or  
183 handicapped persons or all such dogs in training.

184  
185 (16) Intoxicants Prohibited

186  
187 (A) No person shall consume or possess any fermented malt beverage or  
188 intoxicating liquor, as defined by ~~1987~~ Wisconsin Statutes, sec. 125.02, on any  
189 property owned by Rock County, except that portion of the county airport  
190 designated by the ~~Public Works Committee~~ Southern Wisconsin Regional Airport  
191 Board or those areas of the fairgrounds designated by the Agriculture and  
192 Extension Education Committee. ~~Such possession and consumption of fermented~~  
193 ~~malt beverages on the airport premises shall be subject to all applicable State~~  
194 ~~Statutes and local ordinances including licensing of the restaurant operation by~~  
195 ~~the appropriate municipal authority.~~ The consumption of fermented malt  
196 beverages and wine, in all parks, except the 4-H County Fair Grounds, is allowed  
197 under a temporary permit issued by the Parks ~~Manager~~ Supervisor. The  
198 consumption of fermented malt beverages and wine on the 4-H County Fair  
199 Grounds is allowed under a temporary permit issued by the Agriculture and  
200 Extension Education Committee. Such temporary permits shall be subject to local  
201 licensing requirements and such other restrictions as the respective Committees  
202 may deems to be in the public interest.

203  
204 (B) The Public Works and Agriculture and Extension Education committees may  
205 establish fees for the issuance of the permits referred to in sub (a) above to help  
206 defray the cost of park clean up.

207  
208 (17) General Rules

209  
210 (A) The ~~Director~~ Supervisor or designees may close, by posted notice, any land,  
211 structure or property under the ~~Director~~ Supervisor's control in any park. No  
212 person may enter or be in any building installation or area that may be locked or  
213 closed to public use or contrary to posted notice without a written permit from  
214 the ~~Director~~ Supervisor. Except when necessary to prevent substantial damage to  
215 the park, the ~~Director~~ Supervisor shall first obtain permission from the Public  
216 Works Committee to close such area. In emergency situations the ~~Director~~  
217 Supervisor shall advise the Committee of his closing an area at its next regular  
218 meeting and act upon the Committee's further direction.

219  
220 (B) The ~~Director~~ Supervisor may cancel or delay any event in a park due to soft  
221 trail conditions, inclement weather or other adverse conditions which he/she  
222 deems likely to cause damage to the park or endanger participants.

223  
224 (C) No person shall remove or deface any posted rules.

225  
226 (D) No person may engage in violent, abusive, indecent, profane, boisterous,  
227 unreasonably loud or otherwise disorderly conduct or conduct that tends to cause  
228 or provoke a breach of the peace.

229  
230 (E) The ~~Director~~ Supervisor or designees may expel any person or persons from  
231 any park for violation of any state law, this ordinance or any posted rules.

232  
233 (F) The use of metal detectors in any park is prohibited without a current  
234 County issued permit.

235  
236 (G) No person may hike or snowshoe on designated cross-country ski trails  
237 when the trails are snow covered in any park.

238  
239 (H) No person may operate a boat or watercraft within any park water area  
240 marked as a bathing beach. No person may leave unattended any boat in any park  
241 except in areas specifically designated for that purpose.

242

243 (I) No person may operate an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV), also known as a  
244 drone, without the written consent of the Supervisor. Other flying related  
245 activities, including but not limited to, hang gliding, parasailing, hot air  
246 ballooning, land sailing, flying model airplanes, or sky diving, is prohibited in all  
247 parks without the written consent of the Supervisor.  
248

249 (J) No person shall operate or drive a motorized or non-motorized bicycle on a  
250 path or trail within a park except on trails designated and marked for their  
251 defined use.  
252

253 (K)(I) Park facilities shall be available on a first come, first served, basis unless  
254 reserved. From time to time the Public Works Committee shall establish  
255 reasonable reservation policies balancing the needs of parties to plan activities in  
256 advance with the rights of the entire public to use such facilities. The ~~Director~~  
257 Supervisor shall maintain a written copy of the current reservation policy.  
258

259 (18) A permit is required for anyone to cut and/or remove wood from any park.  
260 No person shall import out-of-county firewood into any County park.  
261

262 (19) A current permit is required for launching or retrieving any watercraft from any  
263 park with a designated boat launch facility.  
264

265 (20) Ice fishing shanties must be removed from parks within 72 hours after the  
266 mandatory removal from the ice date as set by the Wisconsin DNR. All shanties  
267 shall display name and address of owner as required per State Statute.  
268

269 (21) There are no lifeguards on the beach. Swim, wade, boat, launch your boat in the  
270 designated areas AT YOUR OWN RISK. None of the Rock County Parks have  
271 officially designated swimming areas; if you choose to swim or wade, it is totally  
272 at your own risk.  
273

274 (22) No peddling, soliciting or commercial enterprise is allowed in a County park,  
275 unless approved by the ~~Director~~ Supervisor.  
276

277 (23) No person shall prevent any other person from using any park or any of its  
278 facilities, or interfere with such use, which is in compliance with this ordinance.  
279

280 (24) Any property left in a park unattended for more than 24 hours without prior  
281 approval of park personnel, shall be considered abandoned and may be disposed  
282 of at the discretion of the ~~Director~~ Supervisor or designee.  
283

284 (25) Penalty for Violating Sections 5.02(1) through (20) and (22) through (24)  
285

286 Any person, firm, or corporation who fails to comply with or violates the  
287 provisions of this ordinance shall, upon conviction, thereof, forfeit those  
288 amounts as established by reference in Resolution 08-SA-054 and any  
289 subsequent amendments thereto. Each day a violation exists or continues shall  
290 constitute a separate offense. Community service work shall be considered as an  
291 alternative by the court pursuant to Wis. Stats., s. 973.03(3).  
292

293 (26) Enforcement  
294

295 Effective January 1, 2009, the ~~Director~~ Supervisor or his/her designees shall  
296 enforce all provisions of this ordinance pursuant to sec. 66.0113 Stats. and Rock  
297 County Ordinances Chapter XXI The Rock County Sheriffs Department along  
298 with the DNR Warden's shall also have authority to enforce this ordinance. All  
299 parties enforcing this ordinance will use the county ordinance citations.  
300

301 (27) Prior Ordinances Repealed  
302

303 Any and all prior ordinances pertaining to "Parks" as defined by Section 5.01(1) of  
304 this ordinance are hereby repealed.  
305

306 II. The amendments to Chapter 5 shall be effective upon publication.  
307

FISCAL NOTE:

Minimal fiscal impact.

Sherry Oja  
Finance Director

LEGAL NOTE:

The County Board is authorized to take this action pursuant to § 59.02(2), Wis. Stats.

Richard Greenlee  
Corporation Counsel

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTE:

1

Recommended.

Josh Smith  
County Administrator