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CHAPTER 5

PARKS

5.01 Definitions

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

Motor Vehicle - means any motorized vehicle.

Supervisor - means Park Services Supervisor of Rock County Parks.

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

5.02 Parks Regulated

(1) Regulation of Motor Vehicles

- (A) No person shall drive a motor vehicle in any park in excess of 15 miles per hour.
- (B) No person shall operate a motor vehicle in any park unless upon a highway, public way or thoroughfare, except that snowmobiles may be operated within the boundaries of Lee Park in the Town of Clinton, Happy Hollow Park in the Town of Rock and Royce Dallman Park in the Town of Milton provided that the ground snow cover in said areas is at least six inches deep and provided that all liability from any damages suffered by any party as a result of the operation of any snowmobile in the aforementioned areas be assumed solely by the operator and/or owner of said snowmobile. Snowmobiles may be operated only on specifically designated snowmobile trails.
- (C) No person shall park, stop, or leave standing any motor vehicle whether attended or unattended, in any park, except upon a duly designated parking area. A vehicle left unattended over 48 hours shall be considered abandoned and shall be dealt with as provided in section 3.105(2) of the Rock County Ordinances.
- (D) No commercial vehicles shall be allowed in any park outside of regular park hours.
- (E) Disabled persons may use a motorized wheelchair or similar means of personal conveyance.
- (F) Golf carts may be authorized for transporting physically challenged persons on trails designated by the Supervisor.

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

(H) No person shall operate a Remote Controlled (RC) vehicle within park boundaries.

(2) Regulation of Horses and Ponies

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

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

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

(B) Exceptions to (3)(a) are permitted for persons utilizing County designated boat launches.

(4) No Distribution of Advertising Matter

No person shall distribute or post any handbills or other advertising matter of any type within any park, without the express written consent of the Supervisor.

(5) Noise Regulation

No person shall operate or use any sound truck, loudspeaker, microphone, or other mechanical device the primary purpose of which is to amplify voice, music, or other sound, in any park without the express written consent of the Supervisor. Nor shall any person create unreasonably loud sounds in any other manner.

(6) Removal or Destruction of Property

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

- (A) Any tree, tree stump, shrub, flower or other natural plant growth, living, dormant or dead.
 - (B) Any rock, stone, earth or other natural mineral product.
 - (C) Any walk, sign, fence, table, building, or shelter, or any structure of any kind.
- (7) Littering and Dumping Prohibited in Any Park or Adjacent Lakes, Rivers or Streams

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

- (8) Washing in Lakes, Rivers or Streams Prohibited

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

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

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

- (10) No Fires Permitted Except in Fireplaces or Grills

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

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

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

- (12) Hunting or Trapping Prohibited

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

(13) Release of Animals Prohibited

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

(14) Removing of Animals from Park Prohibited

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

(15) Pets

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

(B) Except for visually or physically impaired persons, any person in immediate control of a dog, cat or other pet shall promptly remove any fecal matter deposited by such pet in any park and transmit the excrement to property owned or occupied by such person. Any person causing or permitting such pet to be in any park shall have in his or her immediate possession a device or object suitable for removing excrement and a depository suitable for transmitting the excrement to the property owned or occupied by such person.

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

(16) Intoxicants Prohibited

(A) No person shall consume or possess any fermented malt beverage or intoxicating liquor, as defined by Wisconsin Statutes, sec. 125.02, on any property owned by Rock County, except that portion of the county airport designated by the Southern Wisconsin Regional Airport Board or those areas of the fairgrounds designated by the Agriculture and Extension Education Committee. The consumption of fermented malt beverages and wine, in all parks, except the 4-H County Fair Grounds, is allowed under a temporary permit issued by the Parks Supervisor. The consumption or sale of fermented malt beverages and wine on the 4-H County Fair Grounds is allowed under a temporary permit issued by the Agriculture and Extension Education Committee. Such temporary permits shall be subject to all local licensing requirements and such other restrictions as the respective Committees may deems to be in the public interest.

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

(17) General Rules

- (A) The Supervisor or designees may close, by posted notice, any land, structure or property under the Supervisor's control in any park. No person may enter or be in any building installation or area that may be locked or closed to public use or contrary to posted notice without a written permit from the Supervisor. Except when necessary to prevent substantial damage to the park, the Supervisor shall first obtain permission from the Public Works Committee to close such area. In emergency situations the Supervisor shall advise the Committee of his closing an area at its next regular meeting and act upon the Committee's further direction.
- (B) The Supervisor may cancel or delay any event in a park due to soft trail conditions, inclement weather or other adverse conditions which he/she deems likely to cause damage to the park or endanger participants.
- (C) No person shall remove or deface any posted rules.
- (D) No person may engage in violent, abusive, indecent, profane, boisterous, unreasonably loud or otherwise disorderly conduct or conduct that tends to cause or provoke a breach of the peace.
- (E) The Supervisor or designees may expel any person or persons from any park for violation of any state law, this ordinance or any posted rules.
- (F) The use of metal detectors in any park is prohibited without a current County issued permit.
- (G) No person may hike or snowshoe on designated cross-country ski trails when the trails are snow covered in any park.
- (H) No person may operate a boat or watercraft within any park water area marked as a bathing beach. No person may leave unattended any boat in any park except in areas specifically designated for that purpose.
- (I) No person may operate an unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV), also known as a drone, without the written consent of the Supervisor. Other flying related activities, including but not limited to, hang gliding, parasailing, hot air ballooning, land sailing, flying model airplanes, or sky diving is prohibited in all parks without the written consent of the Supervisor.

- (J) No person shall operate or drive a motorized or non-motorized bicycle on a path or trail within a park except on trails designated and marked for their defined use.
- (K) Park facilities shall be available on a first come, first served, basis unless reserved. From time to time the Public Works Committee shall establish reasonable reservation policies balancing the needs of parties to plan activities in advance with the rights of the entire public to use such facilities. The Supervisor shall maintain a written copy of the current reservation policy.
- (18) A permit is required for anyone to cut and/or remove wood from any park. No person shall import out-of-county firewood into any County park.
- (19) A current permit is required for launching or retrieving any watercraft from any park with a designated boat launch facility.
- (20) Ice fishing shanties must be removed from parks within 72 hours after the mandatory removal from the ice date as set by the Wisconsin DNR. All shanties shall display name and address of owner as required per State Statute.
- (21) There are no lifeguards on the beach. Swim, wade, boat, launch your boat in the designated areas AT YOUR OWN RISK. None of the Rock County Parks have officially designated swimming areas; if you choose to swim or wade, it is totally at your own risk.
- (22) No peddling, soliciting or commercial enterprise is allowed in a County park, unless approved by the Supervisor.
- (23) No person shall prevent any other person from using any park or any of its facilities, or interfere with such use, which is in compliance with this ordinance.
- (24) Any property left in a park unattended for more than 24 hours without prior approval of park personnel, shall be considered abandoned and may be disposed of at the discretion of the Supervisor or designee.
- (25) Penalty for Violating Sections 5.02(1) through (20) and (22) through (24)

Any person, firm, or corporation who fails to comply with or violates the provisions of this ordinance shall, upon conviction, thereof, forfeit those amounts as established by reference in Resolution 08-8A-054 and any subsequent amendments thereto. Each day a violation exists or continues shall constitute a separate offense. Community service work shall be considered as an alternative by the court pursuant to Wis. Stats., s. 973.03(3).

(26) Enforcement

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

(27) Prior Ordinances Repealed

Any and all prior ordinances pertaining to "Parks" as defined by Section 5.01 of this ordinance are hereby repealed.

Repealed and Recreated 1/10/13, Res. No. 12-12A-190
Revisor's change to 5.02(c) changing reference to section of Ordinance
Revisor's change to 5.02(3)(b) correcting citation listing.
Section 5.02(16)(a) Amended, 04/12/2018, Resolution 18-3B-467
Chapter 5 amended, 12/14/2023, Ordinance O-2023-7