



RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE LOUISA COUNTY, IOWA CONSERVATION BOARD

Section 1. Definitions Pursuant to the authority of Chapter 350.5 of the 1993 Code of Iowa, the Louisa County, Iowa Conservation Board hereby promulgates and places into effect the following regulations. The following terms, as used in these regulations, shall for the purpose of these regulations have the meanings assigned hereto, unless a different meaning is clearly indicated.

- A. The term “**board**” shall mean the Louisa County, Iowa Conservation Board.
- B. The term “**director**” shall mean the Executive director of the Louisa County, Iowa Conservation Board.
- C. The term “**area**” shall mean all or any part of the land and/or water owned, leased, managed or by other means under the control of the Louisa County, Iowa Conservation Board.
- D. The term “**authorized representative**” shall include park rangers and other persons designated from time to time by the director.
- E. The term “**special use permit**” shall mean any use permit, issued by the director pursuant to authorization by the board, and signed by the director or an authorized representative.
- F. The term “**camp**” or “**camping**” shall mean the use of a shelter, such as a tent, trailer, motor vehicle, tarpaulin, or sleeping bag for temporary residence at a campground.
- G. The term “**campground**” shall mean any area designated by the board for camping.
- H. The term “**camping party**” shall mean any individual, family or informal unorganized group of not more than five persons occupying one campsite.
- I. The term “**camping unit**” shall mean either a single tent not larger than 140 square feet in size at its base, pickup, camper, motor home, or converted bus, motor vehicle used for a camp by a camping party, except for those shelters used exclusively for dining purposes, plus at the option of said camping party, a second tent or an additional tent no larger than 140 square feet in size at its base, if the same is used and occupied members of that camping party.
- J. The term “**family**” shall mean a parent or parents with their unmarried children and not more than two other lineal relatives or not more than two minor guests.
- K. The term “**campsite**” shall mean a segment of a campground designated by the board for camping by a camping unit or camping party.
- L. The term “**youth group**” shall mean 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 occupying any number of camping units.
- M. The term “**capacity**” shall mean 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.
- N. The term “**official signs**” shall mean signs provided for in the Iowa State Department of Transportation Manual on uniform Traffic Control Devices for Iowa Streets and Highways, and other signs designated from time to time by the board.
- O. The term “**noise**” shall mean any loud, confused, or senseless shouting or outcry; a sound lacking in agreeable musical quality, or which is noticeably unpleasant to a reasonable person.
- P. The term “**minor**” shall mean any unmarried individual who has not attained the age of 18 years.
- Q. The term “**organized group**” shall mean the members, advisers, guests, or officials of any affiliate, chapter, or other division of a legally recognized or organized association or organization.

Section 2. Scope: The provisions of these regulations shall apply to all areas.

Section 3. Fees, Charges, and Reservations:

- A. 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 board or authorized concessionaires shall be prescribed and approved by the board.
- B. It shall be unlawful for any person or persons to enter or use any areas or facilities for which entrance fees, user fees or reservations are prescribed or required without paying said fee, or obtaining a reservation, except those persons on official business or authorized by special terms.

Section 4. Preservation of Property: No person shall injure, deface, remove, disturb, nor in any manner destroy or cause to be destroyed any part of an area, nor any buildings, signs, structures, equipment, cultural artifact, or other property found therein. It shall be unlawful to remove, injure or destroy any tree, flower, shrub, plant, or other vegetation or any rock, or other mineral in any area, except so designated by the board. This provision shall not apply to berry picking, mushroom collection or nut gathering, provided such activity is for personnel use.

Section 5. Traffic and Parking: A speed limit of 15 miles per hour shall be observed, except where otherwise posted. All driving shall be confined to designated parking areas.

Section 6. Animals on Leash:

No privately owned animal shall be allowed to run at large in any county park or area, except by permission of the board or authorized representative. An animal shall be deemed as running at large unless the owner carries the animal or leads it by a leash or chain not exceeding six feet in length, or keeps it confined in or attached to a vehicle.

Animals used for hunting shall be allowed to run without a leash on areas open to hunting, provided owners maintain some control through visual, voice or other sound production method; and such activity is part of an actual legal hunt or training action. No privately owned animal shall be allowed without a leash on any area during the following times: March 15- July 15.

Section 7. Hunting:

- A. It shall be unlawful to hunt, pursue or molest any birds or wild animals on any area designated as a “no hunting area”.
- B. No one may use or carry firearms, explosives, or weapons of any kind, on any area designated as a “no hunting area”, without the permission of the director or authorized representative, except this provision shall not apply to authorized use of any shooting range, or to approved hunter safety classes.
- C. No permanent deer stands, duck blinds or other hunter shelters shall be allowed on any area.
- D. Stationary blinds may be constructed using only the natural vegetation found on the area. No trees or parts of trees other than willows may be cut for use in constructing a blind. No other man-made materials of any type may be used for building or providing access to a stationary blind.
- E. The use of any stationary blind constructed in violation of Section 7d. is prohibited.
- F. Any person who constructs or uses a stationary blind shall not have any proprietary right-of-ownership to the blind.
- G. Portable blinds may be constructed of any natural or man-made material, as long as it is a self-contained unit capable of being readily moved from one site to another. Portable blinds shall be prohibited from one-half hour after sunset until midnight each day.
- H. Portable blinds placed in trees and used for purposes other than hunting waterfowl may be left on an area for a continuous period of time beginning seven days prior to the open season for hunting deer or turkey and ending seven days after the final day of that open season. Portable blinds left on game management areas do not guarantee the owner exclusive use of the blind when unattended, or exclusive use of the site.
- I. The use of any spike, nail, pin, or other object driven or screwed into a tree is prohibited.
- J. Waterfowl decoys are prohibited on all county hunting areas from one-half hour after legal shooting time until midnight each day and decoys cannot be left unattended for over 30 minutes between midnight and one-half hour after sunset.
- K. It shall be unlawful to hunt, shoot or carry a loaded gun within 200 yards of any buildings, camping areas or picnic areas.

Section 8. Camping:

- A. Violation of any state law or any county park rule and regulation by any member of a camping party, youth group or organized group shall be cause for revocation of the camping privilege; and the entire camping party or group shall be required to leave the area.
- B. Several sites are reservable online, with others walk-in only.
- 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. No camping party, camping unit or group of any kind shall occupy a campsite for more than fourteen (14) consecutive days; and twenty-one (21) total days per calendar year in all parks and campgrounds.
- E. It shall be unlawful for more than one camping party, camping unit or group of any kind to occupy a campsite.
- F. It shall be unlawful to park any motor vehicle outside the parking area designated at each campsite, and not more than two (2) licensed vehicles shall be permitted to any campsite.
- G. All campers shall maintain quiet and avoid excessive noise, or other disturbances, in the campgrounds between the hours of 10:30 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.
- H. Campers shall restore their campsite to the same approximate condition or better than when they found it.

Section 9. Noise Producing Devices: It shall be unlawful to operate or use any radio, television, stereo, musical instrument, electric generating plants, power saws or any similar equipment in or on any area in such a manner as to create excessive noise and/or disturb other persons. Said equipment shall not be used outside of a camping unit between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m.

Section 10. 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 had been approved in writing by the director or an authorized representative.

Section 11. Recreation Uses Only Allowed: It shall be unlawful for any person to occupy any portion of any area for washing or repairing vehicles; advertising or political campaigning; hawking, peddling, or any other commercial activity; or any other purpose not primarily recreational, except concessionaires acting under the authority of a lease contract with the board.

Section 12. Use of Horses Restricted: It shall be unlawful to ride, lead or otherwise allow the entry of horses or horse drawn wagons on any road or trail in or on any area except for those trails and roads which the board shall from time to time designate by official signs or allow by special use permit.

Section 13. ATV's and Snowmobiles Restricted: It shall be unlawful to operate any snowmobile, tote bike, air sled, swamp buggy, all terrain vehicle or any other land conveyance propelled by a gasoline or electrical engine and run-on wheels, tracks or runners in or on any area, except for those trails and roads which the board shall designate. The board may issue special permits to use motorized vehicle on trails for handicap accessibility.

Section 14. Trapping:

- A. It shall be unlawful to trap or attempt to trap any wild animal in or on any area designated as a “no hunting area” except that protection of areas and facilities shall be accomplished as needed by the director or other authorized representative.
- B. No snares shall be permitted on any area.
- C. No leg hold trap larger than #2 double coil; nor any Conibear or similar body-gripping trap larger than #110 shall be allowed on land.

Section 15. Sledding Equipment Restricted: It shall be unlawful to use any part of a car body, plywood or metal sheet, or any similar device for use in any downhill winter sports activities in or on any area.

Section 16. Swimming Restricted: It shall be unlawful to swim in or on any ponds or waters in or on any area, except for those ponds or waters specifically designated from time to time by the board for those activities.

Section 17. Reserving Park Facilities: All shelter houses or other group facilities are generally available for reserving on a first-come basis. Reservations may be made by contacting the conservation board office. A minor may not reserve any facility.

Section 18. Littering and Domestic Refuse Not Permitted: No person shall place any waste, refuse, litter or foreign substances in any area or receptacle except those provided for that purpose. In areas not provided, all refuse must be taken with the user. It shall be unlawful to deposit garbage, refuse or litter from any household, business or from any source outside the park in containers provided for park users.

Section 19. Boats and Motor Vehicles:

- A. It shall be unlawful to leave any boat or motor vehicle on any area for more than twenty-four (24) hours without the permission of the director or an authorized representative. Any boat or motor vehicle left in violation thereof shall be removed and stored at the owner's expense, which expense shall not be less than \$100. If not reclaimed within six months of its removal, all such vehicles shall be considered abandoned and shall thereafter be disposed of as provided by law. A removal fee shall be set by the board and assessed for any boat or motor vehicle reclaimed by the owner.
- B. It shall be unlawful to operate any boat on any pond on any area with any motor, except for electric trolling motors.

Section 21. Official Signs: It shall be unlawful for any person to enter, use or occupy any area or facilities within said area in disregard of any official signs.

Section 22. Possession and Consumption of Beer Prohibited; Container Size Regulated: It shall be unlawful for any person to possess or consume beer, as defined in Section 123.3 (7) of the Code of Iowa between the hours of 10:30 p.m. and 6 a.m. in or on any area, except that beer may be possessed and consumed within a camping unit between said hours by an adult member of any camping party or group. No person or group shall bring, use, or have in possession on any area, beer in a keg or any other container larger than one quart without first obtaining a special use permit from the director or authorized representative. The request for the special use permit shall be in writing at least two weeks prior to the date of the activity. Any beer possessed in violation of this rule shall be confiscated by the director or authorized representative and destroyed.

Section 23. Adult Supervision: Any minor, or group of minors, whether organized or not and not exceeding eight individuals, shall be accompanied by a minimum of one adult supervisor. For groups of minors exceeding eight individuals, one adult supervisor for each eight persons shall be required. Under no circumstances shall minors be allowed to camp at any authorized camping area without the proper number of adult supervisors.

Section 24. Closing Time: The board may designate closed hours for any or all of its areas.

Section 25. State Park Rules: All rules and regulation of the Louisa County Conservation Board shall take precedence over state park rules, unless otherwise prohibited by state law. In the absence of a comparable county park regulation, all other state park rules and regulation shall apply.

Section 26. Exceptions: Nothing in these rules and regulations shall prohibit or hinder the conservation board, its director, park rangers or duly authorized representative or any peace officer from performing official duties and responsibilities.

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