

# CHAPTER 10

## COUNTY PARKS

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**10.01 County Property.** (1) Except when the context provides otherwise, the provisions of this chapter shall apply to all lands, structures and property owned, leased, or administered by Sauk County under the management, supervision and control of the Sauk County Highway & Parks Committee.

(2) It shall be unlawful for any person to destroy, molest or deface any natural growth or natural or archaeological feature, or any Sauk County property; to enter or be in any building, installation or area that may be locked or closed to public use or contrary to posted notice. The picking of edible fruits or nuts is permitted.

(3) For the purposes of this chapter, the following definitions apply:

(a) ADULT GROUP. A group made up of adult members (18 years of age or older) of an established organization.

(b) CAMP OR CAMPING. The use of a shelter such as a tent, trailer, motor vehicle, tarpaulin, bedroll or sleeping bag for temporary residence or sleeping purposes.

(c) CAMPING PARTY. Any individual, family, individual group or juvenile group occupying a campsite.

(d) CAMPING UNIT. Any single shelter except sleeping bags and hammocks used for a camp by a camping party except those used exclusively for dining purposes.

(e) CAMPSITE. A segment of a campground which is designated for camping use by a camping unit or camping party.

(f) FAMILY. A parent or parents with their children and no more than two (2) lineal relatives or not more than two (2) minor guests.

(g) FAMILY CAMPGROUND. Any tract of land designated for camping by families.

(h) GROUP CAMPING. A campground designated for use by groups.

(i) HUNT. “Hunt” or “hunting” includes shooting, shooting at, pursuing, taking, capturing or killing or attempting to capture or kill any wild animal.

(j) INDIVIDUAL GROUP. A camping party of not more than five persons occupying one (1) camping unit.

(k) JUVENILE GROUP. A group made up of juvenile members of an established organization and under the leadership of at least one (1) competent, mature adult for each ten juveniles in the group and using any number of camping units or occupying a group campground.

(l) PICNIC AREA. Any tract of land developed and maintained for picnicking. Included in the definition of picnic area are adjacent playground and play field areas.

(m) SERVICE ANIMAL. A guide dog, signal dog, or other animal that is individually trained, or is being trained, to do work or perform tasks for the benefit of a person with a disability, including the work or task of guiding a person with impaired vision, alerting a person with impaired hearing to intruders or sound, providing minimal protection or rescue work, pulling a wheelchair, or fetching dropped items.

(n) SWIMMING BEACH. Any water area designated as a swim area by standard regulatory markers including those adjacent upland areas designated and maintained as a beach area.

**10.02 Public Meetings.** All public meetings, assemblies, entertainments, tournaments or public discussion on any subject, religious, social, political, or otherwise are prohibited within the limits of any park or parkway except when a written permit of the Sauk County Highway & Parks Committee has first been granted. No person shall make any oration, or harangue or public speech, nor use any loud speaker or other amplifying equipment in any park or parkway without a written permit of the Sauk County Highway & Parks Committee.

**10.03 Rules and Regulations of Park Usage.** (1) No person shall in any manner disturb, harass or interfere with any person or party holding a written permit as indicated above nor with any of their equipment or property. Radios and other devices must be tuned low at all times so as to not be heard from a distance beyond twenty feet from the instrument.

(2) No person shall engage in any sport, game, race or amusement in any park or parkway except upon such portions thereof as may be designated for that purpose, and then only under such rules and regulations as may be established by the Sauk County Highway & Parks Committee.

(3) Permits for the exclusive use of any picnic or play area for any specified date or time may be granted at the discretion of the Sauk County Highway & Parks Committee and no person or persons shall in any manner disturb or interfere with any person or party occupying the grounds under such a permit, nor with any of their equipment or property.

(4) No person shall sell, keep or offer for sale, any tangible or intangible article, merchandise or thing, nor solicit for any trade, occupation, business or profession, or for alms, within any park or parkway, without a written permit of the Sauk County Highway & Parks Committee.

(5) No person shall distribute, post, affix or display any card, handbill, sign placard, target, banner, flag (except that of the United States), or advertisement of any kind within any park or parkway, or upon any of the gates or enclosures thereof without a written permit of

the Sauk County Highway & Parks Committee. The word "distribute" shall include the scattering of printed matter from aircraft.

(6) No person shall carry, fire or discharge any gun, pistol or firearm, nor carry any dangerous weapon of any type, nor discharge any arrow, shot, bullet, projectile or bolt, rocket, torpedo or other fireworks of any description, except in areas designated and permitted by the Department of Natural Resources or the Sauk County Highway & Parks Committee.

(7) No person shall have in his or her possession or under his or her control any bottle, jar, container, cup, or receptacle made of glass, ceramic, earthenware, or similar breakable material. No person shall take any breakable glass material, including, but not limited to, window glass into or upon any Sauk County Park property, with the exception of campers within the campground. Nothing herein shall prohibit any person from having or possessing any eye glasses or lenses or any glass which is an integral part of sporting equipment which is used on such property.

(8) No person shall hunt or trap in any way or manner in any Sauk County Park, except in areas designated by the Department of Natural Resources or the Sauk County Highway & Parks Committee.

(9) No person shall throw stones or missiles in or into any park or parkway.

(10) No person shall make or kindle a fire for any purpose except in places provided therefor, and then subject to such regulations as may be prescribed.

(11) Possession of firewood that originates from more than fifty (50) miles away from a Sauk County Park is prohibited. Violation of this ordinance section is cause for confiscation of prohibited firewood.

(12) No person shall wash any vehicle or pet except at authorized locations within the parks.

(13) Animals.

(a) All animals must be under control. A barking dog is not controlled. Animals must not be left unattended. Animal owners are not allowed to let their animals interfere in any manner with the enjoyment of the park by others. Animals must not be allowed

to cause a public nuisance or disturbance of any kind. Animal owners are responsible for proper removal and disposal of waste products by their animals. Waste should be disposed of in dumpsters.

(b) Animals are not allowed within beach designated areas or areas so designated. No animals are allowed in the showers or bathrooms. Exception is provided for service animals accompanying persons with disabilities.

(c) No person having control or care of any dog shall suffer or permit such dog to enter or remain in a public park or parkway unless it be led by a leash of suitable strength not more than six (6) feet in length. Dogs found running at large within any park or parkway may be impounded by any peace officer or by an employee of the Sauk County Highway & Parks Committee.

(14) No person shall send or throw any animal or thing into or upon, any of the waters of the parks or parkways, or unnecessarily disturb any waterfowl or other birds or animals, wild or domestic, within any of the parks or parkways. Nor shall any person rob or disturb the nest or eggs of any bird or other animal therein.

(15) No person shall pluck any flower, wild or cultivated, or break, cut down, trample upon, remove or in any manner injure or deface, write upon, defile or ill-use any tree, shrub, flower, flower bed, turf, fountain, ornament, statue, building, fence, apparatus, bench, table, official notice, sign, bridge, structure or other property within any park or parkway. No person shall pound or screw any hardware into trees. Nor shall any person remove any device for the protection of trees or shrubs; nor shall any person fasten a horse or other animal next to any tree, shrub, or grass plot which may become damaged by the action of the animal.

(16) No person shall ascend or land with any aircraft nor engage in stunt flying or parachute landing in any park or parkway without a written permit of the Sauk County Highway & Parks Committee.

(17) No person shall drive any automobile or other vehicle of traffic or burden upon any part of the parks or parkways except the proper drives and parking areas, or permit

the same to stand upon the drives or any part thereof so as to congest traffic or obstruct the drive. No person operating a motor vehicle shall exceed the speed of 15 miles per hour, or posted speed, on any roadway, driveway, parkway or other areas of land owned and operated by Sauk County, pursuant to Wis. Stat. Ch. 346.

(18) Disturbance of the Peace with a Motor Vehicle. No operator of any motor vehicle, including motorcycles, all-terrain vehicles and motor bicycles, shall cause, by excessive and unnecessary acceleration, the tires of such motor vehicle to spin and emit loud noises or to unnecessarily throw stones or gravel; nor shall such operator cause to be made by excessive and unnecessary acceleration of an engine any loud noise as would disturb the public peace.

(19) It shall be the duty of every person operating an automobile or other vehicle of traffic or burden within the parks or parkways to comply with the State, County and municipal traffic codes and with all orders, directions and regulations of traffic officers, or officially displayed upon any post, standard, sign or device installed for the regulation of traffic.

(20) Recreational vehicles.

(a) Riders of bicycles shall comply with the rules and regulations of other vehicles as stated in Section 10.03(18) and in addition thereto, shall be subject to the following regulations: No person shall ride a bicycle upon the lawns or foot trails. Riders shall proceed in the extreme right-hand lane of the driver at all times, in single file only. Riding crosswise and curving to and fro are strictly prohibited. No rider shall take both hands off the handles or ride recklessly in any manner. A bicycle shall not be towed by a rope or otherwise, nor shall any rider hold on to any moving vehicle for the purpose of being drawn along. No bicycle shall be pushed upon any park or parkway drive where an adjoining footwalk is available.

(b) It is unlawful to operate any motor vehicle, including but not limited to, trail bikes, motorcycles, minibikes, and all-terrain vehicles on any portion of park lands or waters under the management, supervision and control of the Sauk County Highway & Parks Committee unless specifically authorized by ordinance or administrative rule.

(c) It shall be unlawful to operate any motor-driven sled, motor-driven toboggan or other motor-driven snow vehicle on any land under the supervision, management and control of the Sauk County Highway & Parks Committee, except in areas where their use is authorized by posted notice.

(d) No propeller-driven or motorized icecraft or watercraft shall be operated anywhere within the jurisdiction of this ordinance.

**(21) Regulation of Watercraft.**

(a) No person shall without a written permit of the Sauk County Highway & Parks Committee place upon the lagoons, rivers or any of the waters under the control of the Sauk County Highway & Parks Committee, any float, boat or other watercraft, nor land or go upon any of the islands of the lagoons or rivers, not designated as a landing place.

(b) Boats. It shall be unlawful for any person to operate a motorboat of any kind in any manner on the following specified water: (pursuant to authority granted by Wis. Stat. §§ 30.635, 30.77(2) and 281.31, and amendments thereto.)

1. White Mound Lake, White Mound Park, Section 11 and 12, T10N, R3E, except any person may operate a boat at a slow-no-wake speed.

2. Hemlock Park Lake, Hemlock County Park, Section 21, T13N, R3E, except, any person may operate a boat equipped with a single electric motor, at a slow-no-wake speed.

(c) Motorized watercraft. No person shall be allowed to operate, park or moor any motorized watercraft in swimming beach areas.

**(22) Swimming.** No person shall wade, bathe or swim within a park or parkway except at such pools or beaches as are or may be designated for that purpose by the Sauk County Highway & Parks Committee. No person shall wade, bathe, swim in or attend any such pool or beach without the proper bathing attire. Use of soaps or detergents for any purpose at the beach shall be prohibited.

**(23)** No drunken, noisy, disorderly or publicly offensive person shall be allowed to remain in any park or parkway, and no person shall do therein any obscene or indecent act. No

person shall use threatening, abusive, insulting, profane or indecent language nor be guilty of conduct that is abusive, insulting or constitutes a breach of the peace.

**(24)** No person shall be permitted to smoke, nor to hold a lighted cigarette, cigar, or pipe in any building or in any park or parkway area where notices so prohibit.

**(25)** No person shall discard or leave any refuse, sewage or other waste material on the ground, or in any building or installation or into the water or upon the ice of any lake or stream or other body of water, or dispose of any such refuse or waste material in any manner except by placing in receptacles or other authorized locations provided for such purposes. Where receptacles for such rubbish are not provided, all waste shall be carried away from the park by the person responsible for it.

**(26)** No person shall deposit, dump, throw or place any earth, rubbish, dust, manure, paper, garbage or any other refuse matter of any sand, stone, lumber or building material, or any substance of any kind, in or upon any part of the waters, grounds, or roadways of any park or parkway without a written permit of the Sauk County Highway & Parks Committee.

**(27)** The location of all sewers and receivers, gas pipes, water pipes, stopcock boxes, hydrants, lamp posts, telegraph, telephone and electric power posts and lines, manholes, conduits and pumps within any park or parkway shall be subject to the jurisdiction and control of the Sauk County Highway & Parks Committee; and their construction, erection, repair or relocation shall be undertaken only after a written permit is received from said Committee.

**(28)** No person shall open a trench for any purpose, or dig into or take up any part of any park or parkway, without a written permit of the Sauk County Highway & Parks Committee. The person to whom such permit is granted shall complete the work within the time specified in said permit, and shall do said work and refill and replace or remove in a substantial and workmanlike manner all materials disturbed by him, and leave the place where said work was done in a good condition as before said work was begun. No such trench or opening shall be

dug in any location or manner which may injure the roots of any tree.

**(29)** Every person who shall receive a permit to open a trench, to cut a curb or to deposit materials in or upon any park or parkway shall at all times after such work has been commenced or materials deposited, and until the same has been completed and until all accumulations of materials resulting from such work has been removed, so guard and protect the same that person driving or passing along the roadway or sideway or in the vicinity of the place where the work is being done, shall not be likely to meet with any accident therefrom; and shall also during the time from sunset to sunrise of each night, while said work is in progress, cause the same to be securely fenced and guarded by a red light or lights placed in a conspicuous position and so secured that the same shall not be extinguished.

**(30)** In case of an emergency, or when in the judgment of the Sauk County Highway & Parks Committee, the public interest demands it, any portion of the parks or parkways or buildings therein may be closed to the public, or to designated persons until permission is given to return.

**(31)** No person shall sleep, camp or lodge in any park or parkway, except in such places designated for such purposes, as overnight or tourist, or trailer camps, and then only subject to the rules and regulations of the Sauk County Highway & Parks Committee governing the use of such areas.

(a) No camping unit, sleeping bag or hammock shall be set up beyond the limits of the campsite.

(b) No camping party shall move from its assigned campsite to another campsite without prior approval.

(c) All camping permits expire at 1:00 p.m. on the last day of the permit period.

(d) Extensions within the 21 day limit may be granted on camping permits. Extensions must be obtained prior to 10:00 a.m. on the expiration date of the permit.

(e) No person shall camp and no camping unit shall remain for a period greater than 21 days in any four (4) week period in the property of registration from June 1st to Labor Day. After 21 days, the camping unit must be

removed from the property for at least seven (7) days before being eligible to return.

(f) No camping party shall start setting up or taking down its camping unit between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and the following 6:00 a.m.

(g) It shall be unlawful to park any motor vehicle outside the parking areas designated at each campsite and not more than two (2) motor vehicles are permitted to any campsite.

(h) Violation of any state law or any rules of the Sauk County Highway & Parks Committee by a member of a camping party is cause for revocation of the camping permit.

(i) During the period of May 25th through Labor Day, a campsite must be occupied by a member of the camping party on the first night of the permit period and no campsite may be left unoccupied for more than 48 hours.

(j) Camping permits shall be posted in designated places.

**(32)** No person shall interfere with or in any manner hinder any employee of the Sauk County Highway & Parks Committee, nor any employee of a contractor while engaged in constructing, repairing or caring for any portion of the park or parkways, or while in the discharge of the duties conferred by this ordinance.

**(33)** Except for the vehicular traffic moving upon "thru" roadways, and except when the Committee published general permission to use all or certain parks or parkways upon summer nights, the parks and parkways shall be closed each night between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. the following morning, and no person shall remain therein during said hours; provided that, the Sauk County Highway & Parks Committee may from time to time, in all or any of the parks or parkways, publish or post closing hours different from the above, or discontinue closing hours, as in the exercise of the judgment of the committee may appear reasonable and necessary. Campers check in time is 3:00 p.m. and check out time 1:00 p.m. This is up to the discretion of the Park Director.

**(34)** All permits shall be issued by any member of the Sauk County Highway & Parks Committee or Supervisor of Parks in

writing, except camping permits or shelter house permits issued by the Park Director, and subject to park rules and regulations, and the persons to whom such permits have been granted shall be bound by said rules and regulations as fully as though the same were inserted in said permits, and any person or persons to whom such permits have been granted shall be liable for any loss, damage or injury sustained by the Sauk County Highway & Parks Committee or by negligence of the person or persons to whom such permits have been granted, their servants or agents.

(35) Until otherwise directed by the Sauk County Board of Supervisors, the Sauk County Highway & Parks Committee is hereby authorized to adopt additional or revised rules and regulations for the proper conduct and administration of the parks and parkways in the County of Sauk not inconsistent with this ordinance, to grant permits in conformity with the provisions hereof, and to perform such other acts with reference to the management of said parks and parkways as are lawful and as they may deem expedient to promote the beauty and usefulness of said parks and parkways and to increase the comfort, safety, convenience and public welfare of the citizens of Sauk County and of visitors to said parks and parkways in their use of the same.

**10.04 Fees.** (1) The Sauk County Highway & Parks Committee, upon authorization of the County Board, will establish reasonable fees for the use of the Sauk County Parks, camping and pavilion facilities in accordance therewith. The fees to be charged shall be prominently posted on the park premises to provide notice to the public.

(2) It shall be unlawful for any person to use any facility, land or area for which a fee or charge has been established by resolution of the Sauk County Board of Supervisors without payment of such fee or charge. Failure to obtain and visibly display proof of payment of fee or charge in or on the accompanying vehicle will result in liability of the owner of the vehicle as laid out in Wis. Stat. § 27.014 (2009), which is incorporated herein by reference.

(3) The fees established by the Sauk County Highway & Parks Committee may be

extended to the facilities of other municipalities upon mutual agreement by the governing body of the municipality and the Sauk County Board of Supervisors pursuant to a revenue sharing and enforcement agreement. Such Agreement shall expressly permit the enforcement of these fees on the same basis at the municipal facility as at County facilities in accordance with § 10.05 Sauk County Code.

**10.05 Enforcements and Penalties. (1)**

Any peace officer of Sauk County or proper state official, may without warrant forthwith arrest any offender whom he may detect in the violation of any of the provisions of this ordinance, and take the person so arrested forthwith before a magistrate having competent jurisdiction and he shall have at all times the right to enter the premises of any building, structure or enclosure in any park or parkway, including such grounds, buildings, structures or enclosures which may be leased to or set aside for private or exclusive use of any individual or group of individuals, for the purpose of arresting violators hereof, and may use all necessary means to attain that end.

(2) The civil and criminal provisions of the ordinance shall be enforced by employees of the Sauk County Sheriff's Department or other persons authorized by the Sauk County Board of Supervisors. This ordinance may be enforced by citation or civil forfeiture and the Sauk County Corporation Counsel is authorized to prosecute violations of this ordinance. Any person violating this ordinance may be issued a citation in which case they shall be punished by the forfeiture provided in Chapter 20 Sauk County Code of Ordinances.

**10.06 Penalties.** Any person, firm, company, or corporation who violates, disobeys, omits, neglects or refuses to comply with or who resists the enforcement of any of the provisions of this ordinance shall be subject to a forfeiture of not less than ten dollars (\$10.00) nor more than one hundred dollars (\$100.00) together with the costs of action, and in default of payment thereof.

**10.07 General Provisions. (1)** This ordinance repeals all ordinances and/or

amendments dealing with the regulation of Sauk County parks and parkways which were previously in effect.

(2) Should any part or section of this ordinance be held to be invalid for any reason, the remaining provisions shall continue in full force and effect, the intent being that all provisions are separable.

Amended by the Sauk County Board of Supervisors on June 18, 1981. Amended by the Sauk County Board of Supervisors on May 17, 1988 - Ordinance No. 45-88. Amended by the Sauk County Board of Supervisors on June 16, 1998 - Ordinance No. 90-98. Amended by the Sauk County Board of Supervisors on December 19, 2000 - Ordinance No. 273-00. Amended by the Sauk County Board of Supervisors on May 20, 2003 - Ordinance No. 90-03. Amended by the Sauk County Board of Supervisors on May 19, 2009 - Ordinance No. 58-09. Amended by the Sauk County Board of Supervisors on January 19, 2016 - Ordinance No. 1-16.