Wapello County Conservation

Park Rules and Regulations

www.wapellocounty.org

I. GENERAL

Scope:

By the authority granted to the Wapello County Conservation Board by the laws of the State of Iowa Chapter 350.5 of the Code of Iowa (2003), the following rules and regulations are deemed by said Board to be necessary for the protection, regulation, and control of all areas under the jurisdiction and management of said Board. The rules and regulations governing the use of park and recreation areas are intended to protect the visitor and the area itself from abuse and misuse. In addition to the rules and regulations adopted by the Wapello County Conservation Board, all state laws apply to conduct in county areas. Chapters 461A.35 through 461A.57 of the Code of Iowa Public Lands and Waters, apply to county park and recreation areas unless modified by the Conservation Board. The traffic laws of the State of Iowa apply to County Parks and recreation area roads in the same manner as they apply to state roadways. Other chapters of the Code of Iowa concerning alcoholic beverages and destruction of public property apply in all county park and recreation areas.

II. STATE STATUES

The following portions of the State Code of Public Lands and Waters apply to county parks and recreation areas.

461A.35 PROHIBITED DESTRUCTIVE ACTS

It shall be unlawful for any person to use, enjoy the privileges of, destroy, injure or deface plant life, trees, buildings, or other natural or material property, or to construct or operate for private or commercial purpose any structure, or to remove any plant life, trees, building, sand, gravel, ice, earth, stone, wood, or other natural material, or to operate vehicles, 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.36 SPEED LIMIT

The maximum speed limit of all vehicles on state park and preserve drives, roads and highways shall be thirty-five miles per hour. All driving shall be confined to designated roadways. Whenever the Commission shall determine that the speed limit herein before set forth 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, said Commission shall determine and declare a reasonable and safe speed limit thereat which shall be effective when appropriate signs giving notice thereof are erected at such places of congestion or other parts of the park roads, drives or highways.

461A.37 EXCESSIVE LOADS

Excessively loaded vehicles shall not operate over state park or preserve drives, roads or highways. The determination as to whether the load is excessive will be made by the Director or his authorized representative and will depend upon the load and the road conditions.

461A.38 PARKING

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 an emergency.

461A.39 HITCHING TO TREES

No horse or other animal shall be hitched or tied to any tree or shrub, in such a manner as to result in injury to state property.

461A.40 FIRES

No fires shall be built, except in a place provided thereof, and such fire shall be extinguished when the site is vacated unless it is immediately used by some other party.

461A.41 REMOVING PLANTS, FLOWERS OR FRUIT

No person shall, in any manner, remove, destroy, injure or deface any tree, shrub, plant, or flower, or the fruit thereof, or disturb or injure any structure or natural attraction, except that upon written permission of the Commission certain specimens may be removed for scientific purposes.

This section shall not apply to activities of the Commission or its officers, or employees when caring for and managing state-owned land and waters under the jurisdiction of the Commission. This section shall not apply to the gathering or removal of any tree, shrub, plant, flower, structures or natural attractions under terms, conditions, limitations and restrictions adopted by the Commission as rules under Chapter 17A.

For exceptions to 461A.41 see Section 4 of the county park rules and regulations.

46A.42 USE OF FIREARMS, EXPLOSIVES, WEAPONS, & FIREWORKS PROHIBITED – EXCEPTIONS

The use by the public of firearms, fireworks, explosives, and weapons of all kinds is prohibited in all state parks and preserves, except preserves or portions of preserves designated as hunting areas by the State Advisory Board on preserves upon the request of the Commission. However, any person may use a bow and arrow with attached bow fishing reel and ninety-pound minimum line attached to the arrow to take rough fish under rules and regulations prescribed by the Commission. For exceptions to 461A.42 see Section 5 of the county park rules and regulations.

461A.43 LITTERING GROUNDS

No person shall place any waste, refuse, litter or foreign substance in any area or receptacle except those provided for that purpose.

461A.44 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 authorized representative.

461A.45 ANIMALS ON LEASH

No privately owned animal shall be allowed to run at large in any state park or preserve or upon lands or in waters owned by or under the jurisdiction of the Commission except by permission of the Commission. Every such animal shall be deemed as running at large unless the owner carries such 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. For exceptions to 461A.45 see Section 7 of the county park rules and regulations.

461A.46 CLOSING TIME

Except by arrangement or permission granted by the Director or the Director's authorized representative, all persons shall vacate state parks and preserves before 10:30 p.m. Areas may be closed at an earlier or later hour, of which notice shall be given by proper signs or instructions. The provisions of this section shall not apply to authorized camping in areas provided for that purpose. For exceptions to 461A.46 see Section 9 and 25 of the county park rules and regulations.

461A.47 CAMPING

The Commission is hereby authorized to fix fees for camping and other special privileges which shall be in such amounts as may be determined by the Commission upon a basis of the cost of providing and reasonable value of such privileges. For exceptions to 461A.47 see Section 9 of the county park rules and regulations.

461A.48 CAMPING AREAS

No person shall camp in any portion of a state park or preserve except in portions prescribed or designated by the Commission.

461A.49 TIME LIMIT

No camping unit shall be permitted to camp for a period longer than that designated by the Commission for the specific state park or preserve, and in no event longer than for a period of two weeks. For exceptions to 461A.49 see Section 9 of the county park rules and regulations.

461A.50 REGISTERING – VACATING

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.51 CAMPING REFUSED

Custodians are given authority to refuse camping privileges and to rescind any and all camping permits for cause.

461.A57 PENALTIES

Any person violating any of the provisions of Chapter 461A.35 to 461A.56 is guilty of a simple misdemeanor.

123.46 CONSUMPTION IN PUBLIC PLACES

A person shall not use or consume alcohol liquor, wine, or beer upon the public streets or highways. A person shall not use or consume alcoholic liquor in any public place except premises covered by a liquor control license. For exceptions to 461A.47 see Section 23 of the county park rules and regulations.

350.5 REGULATIONS – PENALTY – OFFICERS

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. The regulations shall not be contrary to, or inconsistent with, the laws of this state. The regulations shall not take effect until ten days after their adoption by the board and after their publication as provided in Chapter 331.305 and after a copy of the regulations has been posted near each gate or principle entrance to the public ground to which they apply. After the publication and posting, a person violating a provision of the regulations which are then in effect is guilty of a simple misdemeanor. The board may designate the Director and those employees as the Director may designate as police officers who shall have all the powers conferred by law on police officers, peace officers, or sheriffs in the enforcement of the laws of this state and apprehension of violators upon all property under its control within and without he county. The board may grant the Director and those employees designated as police officers the authority to enforce the provisions of Chapters 321G, 461A, 462A, 481A, and 483A on land not under the control of the board within the county.

350.10 STATUTES APPLICABLE

Chapters 461A.35 through 461A.57 of the Code of Iowa apply to all lands and waters under the control of a county conservation board, in the same manner as if the lands and waters were state parks, lands or waters. As used in Chapters 461A.35 through
461A.57 of the Code of Iowa ("natural resource commission" includes a county conservation board, and "director" includes a county conservation board or its director, with respect to lands or waters under the control of a county conservation board.
However, Chapters 461A.35 through 461A.57 of the Code of Iowa may be modified or superseded by rules adopted as provided in Chapter 350.5 of the Code of Iowa.

II. Wapello COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

By the authority granted to the Wapello County Conservation Board through Chapter 350.5 of the Code of Iowa, the following rules and regulations are hereby adopted by said Board.

SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS

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.
1. "Board" shall mean the Wapello County Iowa Conservation Board.
2. "Director" shall mean the Executive Director of the Wapello County Conservation Board.
3. "Area" means all or any part of the land and/or water owned, leased, managed, or by other means under control of the Board.
4. "Authorized Representative" shall include Park Rangers and other persons designated by the Director.
5. "Special Use Permit" shall mean any use permit issued by the Director pursuant to authority delegated by the Board.
6. "Camp" or "Camping" shall mean any use of a shelter such as a tent, trailer, or motor vehicle specifically designated for such use as temporary residence at a campground.
7. "Camping Area" or "Campground" shall mean any area designated by the Board for camping.
8. "Camping Day" shall mean a period or any portion of a period from 3:00 p.m. of one day to the established check-out time for the following day.
9. "Camping Unit" means either a single tent, pickup camper, motor home or converted bus, recreation trailer, or motor vehicle specifically designed for camping use. In addition, a small tent may be placed on a site with the primary unit so long as the persons occupying the tent are under eighteen years of age and the responsibility of the primary unit.
10. "Camping Party" shall mean the number of occupants allowed based on the capacity of the camping unit allowed on one campsite.
11. "Commercial Activity" shall mean any activity carried out by a private party or organization for the purpose of economic gain or profit.
12. "Group Campground" shall mean any campground designated by the Board which allows more than one camping unit per site.
13. "Family" Shall mean one set of parents and their minor dependent children.
14. "Youth Group" shall mean a group consisting of minor members of an established chartered organization with by-laws and under the leadership of at least one adult for each eight minors in the group.
15. "Capacity" shall mean the maximum number of people or units that the Board shall determine may occupy any given area.
16. "Official Signs" shall mean signs provided for in the Iowa D.O.T. "Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Iowa Streets and Highways" and other signs designated and erected by the Board or an authorized representative.
17. "Noise" shall mean any loud, confused or senseless shouting or outcry, a sound lacking in agreeable musical quality or which is noticeably unpleasant or disturbs the peace.
18. "Metal detector" means a portable electronic device carried by an individual used only for detecting metal above or below the surface of the ground.
19. "Political Activity" shall mean any activity if its purpose is support of a candidate or political cause whether partisan or non-partisan.
20. "Special Event" shall mean any activity which will attract a large number of participants and/or spectators or other activity which the area is not designed to accommodate or could potentially impact other park users.

SECTION 2. SCOPE

The provisions of these regulations apply to all lands and waters owned or managed by the Wapello County Conservation Board.

SECTION 3. FEES & CHARGES

The Board may establish fees or deposits for the use of facilities, privileges and conveniences within all areas under the Boards' management or jurisdiction. All camping fees, shelter fees and other special use permits or deposits shall be paid in full, by the responsible party, prior to the use of the area.

SECTION 4. COLLECTION OF FRUITS, NUTS & NATURAL FEATURES

Chapter 461A.41 of the Code of Iowa is hereby modified under the authority of Chapter 350.10 as follows:

1. It shall be lawful to collect the fruit of all nut and berry producing plants for home use provided the collector does not damage the parent plant.
2. Mushrooms may be collected for home use.
3. Collection of nuts, fruits or mushrooms for any commercial purpose is prohibited.
4. The collection of flowers is not allowed within Pioneer Ridge Nature Area.

SECTION 5. HUNTING

Restrictions – It is unlawful to hunt, pursue, or in any manner molest any birds or wild animals or to use or carry firearms, fireworks, explosives, and weapons of any kind, except as otherwise provided by law, in or on any area not designated as a hunting area by the Board.

Target Shooting –It shall be unlawful to target shoot on any property owned or managed by the Board, except those areas which may be designated by the Board as target shooting areas.

SECTION 6. TRAINING & EXERCISING DOGS

Section 461A.45 of the Code of Iowa is hereby modified under the authority of Section 350.10 of the Code of Iowa as follows: It is lawful to permit dogs to run at large for the purpose of training or exercising them in or on any area designated as a hunting area by the Board, and parts of other areas so designated by the Board. Animals must be accompanied by the trainer or owner. Training or exercising is not permitted between March 15th and July 15th unless a special use permit is issued by the Director.

SECTION 7. TRAPPING RESTRICTED

It shall be unlawful to trap or attempt to trap any wild animal in or on any area not designated as a hunting area by the Board, except that protection of areas and facilities shall be accomplished as needed by the Director or another authorized representative.

SECTION 8. CAMPING

Section 461A.47 and 49 of the Code of Iowa is hereby modified under the authority of Section 350.10 of the Code of Iowa as follows:

1. Violation of any state law or any county park rule or regulation by any member of a camping party is cause for revocation of camping privileges and the entire camping party shall be required to leave the area.
2. Campsites cannot be held without a reservation. Campers must register on via online reservation system before setting up camp. Campers must register as soon as possible and payment is required prior to set up. Non-registered camping units are subject to impoundment and/or disposal.
3. No camping unit or camping party shall occupy any camp area for more than fourteen (14) days out of any twenty-one (21) day period.
4. Campers are allowed only one rug per site and shall not exceed 18sq/ft in size.
5. It is unlawful for more than one camping party or camping unit to occupy a campsite. An additional tent may be used for a $5 fee. (Group camp areas are exempt).
6. All motor vehicles must park in designated parking areas. No Parking on Grass or Roadways. No more than 2 cars at a site.
7. All campers shall maintain quiet and remain in their respective campgrounds between the hours of 10:30 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. (except when engaged in legal bank fishing or with WCCB permission.)
8. No refunds will be issued.
9. Check in time is 3:00PM and check out time is 1:00PM
10. No dishwashing will be allowed at drinking fountains, hydrants, or in restrooms.
11. Beer and Wine in a keg or any other container larger than one gallon shall not be allowed in campgrounds or in parking areas or immediately adjacent to those areas.

12. No ropes, cables, chains or lines can be affixed to trees.
13. No pets shall be left unattended.
14. All non-registered visitors must be out of the park by 10:30 p.m.
15. No wading, swimming pools, or water features are allowed in the campground.
16. Fires and Firewood. The burning of any non-combustible items is prohibited. The possession of out-of-state firewood from a quarantined area is prohibited. (IDALS regulations). The collection of firewood in the parks is prohibited.
17. Campfires are only permitted in grills or fire rings provided.
18. Must be 18 years of age or older to register.
19. Horse trailers are allowed as a camping unit BUT horses are not allowed at the campsite
20. Horses are not allowed to be tied to camper or any other camping unit.
22. Horses are not allowed to stay in trailer if it is occupying a campsite.
22. Camping in the Red Haybarn parking lot, horse trailer parking, and pond side parking lots is prohibited.

SECTION 9. ANNOYANCES OR DISTURBANCE

1. NOISE PRODUCING DEVICES. It is unlawful to operate or use any radio, stereo, television, musical instrument, electrical generating plant, power or chain saw, or any similar equipment in or on any area in such a manner as to create excessive noise and/or disturb other persons.
2. PETS. It shall be unlawful to have in possession any animal which causes a disturbance or displays aggressive or threatening behavior.

SECTION 10. UNHEALTHY OR UNSANITARY CONDITIONS

It shall be unlawful to allow pets to discharge feces in public use area except areas open to hunting. All feces shall be removed and disposed of in a legal and sanitary manner.

SECTION 11. RECREATION USE ONLY

It is unlawful for any person to occupy any portion of any area for repairing vehicles, advertising, political campaigning, hawking, soliciting, peddling or any other commercial activity or any other purpose not primarily recreational, except acting under a special use permit from the Board.

SECTION 12. USE OF HORSES RESTRICTED

It is unlawful to ride, lead, or otherwise allow the entry of a horse or horse drawn conveyance on any road or trail or on any area except for those trails or roads which the Board shall designate or allow by special use permit. Cleanup required in designated areas.

SECTION 13. ATV'S & SNOWMOBILES RESTRICTED

It shall be unlawful to operate any snowmobile, 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 other than roadways.

SECTION 14. UNATTENDED MOTOR VEHICLES NOT PERMITTED.

It shall be unlawful to leave any motor vehicle unattended on any area for more than twenty-four hours, and the vehicle may be removed and stored at the expense of the owner.

SECTION 15. SKATEBOARDS, ROLLERBLADES, AND BIKING.

Skateboarding, rollerblading, and/or biking is not permitted on the main roadways in the park or on the paved trail around the Pioneer Ridge Nature Center. Biking is allowed on unpaved trails and roadways within the Pioneer Ridge Nature Area.

SECTION 16. EXHIBITION DRIVING

Any person who drives a vehicle within the boundaries of any park or preserve under the jurisdiction of the Wapello County Conservation Board in such a manner that creates or causes unnecessary engine noise or tire squeal or muffler noise or who shall skid or slide upon acceleration or stopping, or who simulates a temporary race, or who cause the vehicle to unnecessarily turn away abruptly or sway, or performs a wheelie on a motorcycle, shall be guilty of exhibition driving.

SECTION 17. RESERVING PARK FACILITIES

1. It shall be unlawful for a person under 21 years of age to reserve a cabin and under the age of 18 to reserve a campsite.
2. Usage fees are required in advance and are nonrefundable.
3. Shelter and Horse Loafing Shed Facilities which are not reserved are available on a first come basis.
4. The Board has the authority to set and limit capacities and occupancy.

SECTION 18. DOMESTIC REFUSE NOT PERMITTED

It is unlawful to place any garbage, refuse or litter from any household, business, or outside source on any area or into any refuse container for the purpose of disposal.

SECTION 19. Water Recreation

1. FISHING AND BOATING. All fishing and boating on conservation board lands and waters must be done in accordance with Conservation Board Rules and Iowa DNR Regulations. For Your Safety; keep away from all swimming areas, spillways, and control structures.
2. UNATTENDED BOATS NOT PERMITTED. It shall be unlawful to leave unattended, any watercraft on or attached to any area for more than twelve consecutive hours, or between the hours of 10:30p.m. and 6:00am. Unattended watercraft may be removed and stored at the expense of the owner.
3. BAITFISH. Minnows are strictly prohibited on all waters controlled by the Board.
4. BOATING RESTRICTIONS. Only vessels designated as watercraft are allowed (No air mattresses, inner tubes, or pool toys). The use of gas engines is prohibited. A Coast Guard approved Personal Floatation Device must be present for each occupant.
5. SWIMMING. Swimming is prohibited in any of the bodies of water on Wapello County Conservation properties.

SECTION 20. OFFICIAL SIGNS, GATES, & BARRICADES

1. The Board may from time-to-time close or regulate the use of areas or parts of areas for the protection of humans, plants, animals, or natural or man-made features. No person shall use, enter or occupy any restricted area or facility in violation or disregard of any official sign, gate or barricade.
2. Campsites or parking areas marked with the international symbol of accessibility shall be used only by persons or groups containing persons qualifying for and displaying a handicap identification device on their vehicle.
3. No person shall post, fasten or affix any notice or sign within any area without written permission to do so. Freestanding temporary directional signs are permitted with a valid facility rental and must be removed.

SECTION 21. POSSESSION AND CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL

No person or group shall bring, use, or have in his/her possession on any area, beer or wine in a keg or any other container larger than one gallon without first obtaining a special use permit from the Board. (Additional fees or deposits may apply).

SECTION 22. DISORDERLY CONDUCT

No person shall use threatening, abusive, insulting, profane or indecent language, nor be guilty of conduct or display of anything that is abusive, insulting, obscene or guilty of any act that constitutes a breach of peace, in any county park or preserve.

SECTION 23. CLOSING TIME

All areas shall be closed to the public between the hours of 10:30 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. unless otherwise specified. The provisions of this Section shall not apply to registered campers in designated camping areas.

SECTION 24. EQUINE TRAIL USE, HORSE TRAILER PARKING, AND HORSE LOAFING SHED

1. Trailers are allowed to be parked overnight in the designated trailer parking for no additional charge
2. Overnight camping in the trailer parking is prohibited.
3. Horses must be kept in a loafing shed stall or trailer in trailer parking overnight.
4. Horses are prohibited from using Wapello County Conservation Board trails when they are deemed “closed” by WCCB staff.
5. Horses are only allowed on the road system and equine trails. Horses are not allowed on the grass or paved trail surrounding the Pioneer Ridge Nature Center or Red Haybarn.
6. Horse loafing shed stalls can be reserved via the online reservation system, but will remain first come, first serve if no reservation has been made.

SECTION 25. METAL DETECTING

Chapter 64 of the Iowa Natural Resource Commission Administrative Code, 571-64 (Iowa Code section 461A.35) is modified under the authority of Chapter 350.10 as follows:
1. Metal detecting is permitted only during park open hours.
2. Any personal items or artifacts must be turned in to Conservation officials.
3. Metal detecting at any other location should comply with the requirements of 571-64.2(2) to 571—64.8(461A)

SECTION 26. GEOCACHING

Geo-caching is allowed on Wapello County Conservation Board property with the submittal of Special Event Permit and approval of the Director. Unregistered geo-caches may be removed. Digging soil or other forms of disturbance to conceal a geo-cache is prohibited.

SECTION 27. SCAVENGING

No person will be allowed to scavenge through any park waste or recycling containers to search for any items, including cans.

SECTION 28. EXCEPTIONS

Nothing in these rules and regulations shall prohibit or hinder the Board, or duly authorized agents or any other peace officers from performing their official duties.

Thank you for supporting Wapello County Conservation!

www.wapellocounty.org
www.mycountyparks.com
641-682-3091
pioneerridge@wapellocounty.org