

CHAPTER 19

PARKS

19.01	Applicability
19.02	Park Hours
19.03	Firearms, Hunting, Target Practice and Deer Feeding
19.04	Disturbing Vegetation and Public Property Prohibited
19.05	Disturbing Private Property Prohibited
19.06	Littering
19.07	Dogs Restricted
19.08	Fires
19.09	Vehicles Regulated
19.10	Unnecessary Noise
19.11	Advertising and Sales Regulated
19.12	Disorderly Conduct Prohibited
19.13	Sales of Intoxicating Beverages Prohibited
19.14	Shelter House Reservations
19.15	Camping
19.16	Waste Disposal Restrictions
19.17	Naming of County Buildings and County Property
19.18	Penalty

19.01 APPLICABILITY. This chapter shall apply to all County parks and County-owned buildings and grounds in La Crosse County.

19.02 PARK HOURS. Except as provided in s. 19.15, no person shall be in any County park between 10 p.m. and 5 a.m. without the written permission of the Facilities Director or his/her assigned designee.

19.03 FIREARMS, HUNTING, TARGET PRACTICE, AND DEER FEEDING.

(1) No person shall have in his/her possession, or under his/her control, any firearm or airgun unless the same is unloaded and enclosed within a carrying case.

(2) No person shall trap or disturb any wild animals or birds within any County park, but any person may use a County park for access to public hunting areas and grounds.

(3) No person shall discharge, or cause to be discharged, any missile from any firearm, airgun, slingshot, bow and arrow or other weapon in any County park, except in properly designated areas or ranges.

(4) No person in Goose Island Park shall feed deer, even for recreational viewing purposes.

(5) Exception: The Public Works and Infrastructure Committee may approve deer management plans, allow special deer hunts in County parks, and grant exceptions to the prohibitions set forth in subsections 1 through 4 above, subject to County Board approval.

19.04 DISTURBING VEGETATION AND PUBLIC PROPERTY PROHIBITED. No person shall disturb, molest, deface, remove or destroy any trees, shrubs, plants or other natural growth; carve on any rocks, signs, walls or structures; drive nails in trees; or destroy, damage or deface any park building, sign, fence, table, fireplace or other County property.

19.05 DISTURBING PRIVATE PROPERTY PROHIBITED. No person shall disturb, molest or remove the property or personal effects of others while in a County park or on County lands.

19.06 LITTERING. No person shall dispose of any garbage, bottles, tin cans, paper or other waste material in any manner except by placing the same in receptacles provided for such purpose; nor shall any person dump any such refuse on County park lands or in any lake or stream within any County park.

19.07 DOGS RESTRICTED. No person having charge or control of any dog shall allow such dog to run at large within a County park, but shall keep such dog on a leash at all times.

19.08 FIRES. No person shall build any campfire or burn any rubbish on County park lands except in designated fireplaces; nor shall any person throw away any cigarettes, cigars or pipe ashes without first extinguishing them.

19.09 VEHICLES REGULATED.

(1) DRIVING. No person shall drive any automobile, truck, motorcycle or other vehicle in a reckless manner or at a speed greater than the established speed limits as posted on signs along County park roads; nor shall any person drive any vehicle unnecessarily on County park roads.

(2) PARKING. No person shall park or leave unattended any automobile, truck, trailer, wagon, motorcycle, boat or other similar equipment except in areas designated for such purposes.

19.10 UNNECESSARY NOISE. No person shall operate any stereo, sound track, amplified loud speaker or other mechanical device that produces undue or unreasonable noise in any County park which disturbs or tends to disturb or annoy others. No live music bands, mobile disc jockey services, or amplified musical instruments shall be allowed in any County park; except campground managers may be allowed to offer live music bands, mobile disc jockey services or amplified musical instruments at County approved special events or use a amplified loudspeaker in case of an emergency.

19.11 ADVERTISING AND SALES REGULATED.

(1) ADVERTISING. No person shall distribute any handbill or other advertising matter in any County park without a written permit from the Facilities Director.

(2) SALES. No person shall peddle or solicit business or operate concessions or stands in any County park without the written permission of the County Board or its duly authorized agent or committee.

19.12 DISORDERLY CONDUCT PROHIBITED. No person shall engage in any disorderly conduct as defined by s. 947.01(1), Wis. Stats., in any County park, nor shall any intoxicated person be or remain in any County park.

19.13 SALES OF INTOXICATING BEVERAGES PROHIBITED. No person shall sell or offer for sale any intoxicating liquors or fermented malt beverages in any County park, except a campground manager who, if provided by written contract with the County, is allowed to sell and store alcoholic beverages.

19.14 SHELTER HOUSE RESERVATIONS.

(1) PROCEDURE.

(a) Any person 18 years of age or older, desiring to reserve a park shelter house, shall apply in person, by telephone or by mail to the Facilities Department for a shelter house permit. Such requests shall be handled by the Facilities Department on a "first come, first serve" basis.

(b) No reservations shall be accepted prior to January 2 of any year.

(2) FEES. Rental fees and deposits for shelter houses and park facilities shall be determined by the County Board and shall be subject to change from time to time. A deposit is required in addition to the rental fee to be used for payment of excessive clean-up charges and/or damage to the rental facility. The deposit shall be held until after the date of the shelter use and may be returned to the person making the reservation if there are no excessive clean-up charges or damage to the rental facility. Youth organizations using the shelter houses and facilities during the week shall be entitled to use the facilities for one-half the regular fee. All groups and individuals using park facilities shall be held responsible for excessive clean-up charges and for damages to the facilities for such use.

(3) EXCEPTIONS. Nothing herein shall prohibit the Public Works & Infrastructure Committee from making advance reservations for such special events and conventions as the Committee deems necessary.

19.15 CAMPING.

(1) PERMIT REQUIRED. No person shall camp, picnic, or remain in the designated camping areas, Veterans Memorial Park and Goose Island Park without a permit from the campground manager or the Facilities Director, and no person shall camp in any County park except in such designated camping areas.

(2) PERMIT FEES.

(a) Fees as determined by the County Board, per night per camping unit and for electrical and water hook-up, shall be paid on receipt of the camping permit. The permit must be placed where it can be inspected by the Facilities Director or the campground manager. Persons camping 7 consecutive nights shall receive the 7th night free of the regular fee, however, payment must be made for electrical and/or water service.

(b) A senior citizen shall receive a discount as determined by the County Board when the campground manager is presented with a valid discount card showing that the person is 60 years of age or older. This discount does not apply to monthly or seasonal use rates.

(c) The monthly (28 nights) site rental charge and the seasonal rate for a site at Veterans Memorial Park and Goose Island Park shall be determined by the County Board. These sites shall be made available upon a first come, first serve basis. Reservations for Goose Island Park may be accepted after January 2 of each year. (Monthly and seasonal rates will not be available to tenters.) Monthly and seasonal camping sites shall be designated by the campground manager and/or Facilities Director.

(d) The charges for electric and water hook-ups shall be determined by the County Board.

(e) All of the rates under this section shall be determined from time to time by the County Board without the requirement of an amendment to this Code.

(3) CAMP UNIT DEFINED. For the purpose of this section, any of the following groups is a "camp unit" and shall be subject to the provisions of this section:

(a) One tent occupying 1 unit site.

(b) Two connected tents occupying only 1 unit site and used by only 1 family.

(c) One trailer equipped to be lived in or slept in.

(d) One car, truck, bus or other vehicle used for living or sleeping quarters.

(e) A sleeping bag, hammock or similar device used for sleeping with no other shelter.

(f) Any special situation regarding "camp units" not covered above shall be handled by the Facilities Director.

(4) REGISTRATION. Any camp unit shall register with the campground manager upon his/her request.

(5) CAMPING RESTRICTED.

(a) Length of Stay. Campers may remain in the camp area for no more than 14 days provided, upon leaving the camp area for 2 days, a camper may re-enter for another 14-day period. This provision is not applicable to the monthly or seasonal rental spaces provided in s. 19.15(2)(c).

(b) Camping Season. Camp areas and facilities in County parks will be open for use May 1 through September 30.

(c) Tables. Each camp unit shall be allowed 1 table only.

(d) Quiet Time. Visitors must be out of the camp area and quiet maintained at 11:00 p.m.

(e) Mini-Bikes. No mini-bikes or other mechanized unlicensed vehicle shall be driven in any County Park.

(f) Utility Building and Laundry Room Restrictions. No person shall clean fish or water fowl, wash dishes, or take hot water from the utility building or laundry room.

(6) UNOCCUPIED CAMPS. Camp units set up but not occupied by the owner or person in charge thereof shall be subject to permit fees and sub. (5)(b) regulating the length of stay in the same manner as occupied sites.

(7) ADDITIONAL REGULATIONS. Campers and camping activities shall be subject to all other provisions of this chapter and any rules or policies adopted by the Public Works & Infrastructure Committee.

19.16 WASTE DISPOSAL RESTRICTIONS. No person shall dispose of any garbage, bottles, tin cans, or any other solid waste material, including demolition material, in any County park where the waste is generated from outside of the County park property.

19.17 NAMING OF COUNTY BUILDINGS AND COUNTY PROPERTY. The following procedure shall be followed when naming or renaming County properties:

(1) La Crosse County shall not name or rename any building that is over 3,000 square feet in size after an individual.

(2) La Crosse County may name or rename an internal building space (i.e. conference room, courtroom), County owned land (i.e. donated park land), or building less than 3,000 square feet in size (i.e. park shelter) after an individual.

(3) In all cases, the request to name or rename County property shall be reviewed by the standing committee that has governing control over the property that is the subject of the request. If the request is approved by the standing committee, a resolution will be drafted and presented for review to the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee.

(4) The following items shall be considered in reviewing the request:

(a) The merit of the proposal.

(b) The fiscal impact of a name change.

(c) If the County building, internal building space or property is proposed to be named after an individual, has he/she performed outstanding public service that is worthy of recognition?

(5) A resolution requesting the naming or renaming of any County property requires County Board approval by a two-thirds vote of the Supervisors present.

19.18 PENALTY. Any person who shall violate any provision of this chapter or any regulation, rule or order made hereunder shall be subject to a penalty as provided in s. 25.04 of this Code.