

CHAPTER 19

COUNTY PARKS, BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS

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COUNTY PARKS, BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS 19.01

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, AND DEER FEEDING IN COUNTY PARKS.

(1) A person who complies with state law regarding the possession of firearms may have in his or her possession or under his/her control a firearm in County Parks unless there is a special event as defined by Wis. Stat. s. 943.13(1e)(h) and the person has been notified not to enter or remain at the special event in the County Park while carrying a firearm.

(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 at any time.

(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.

19.035 FIREARMS OR WEAPONS PROHIBITED IN COUNTY BUILDINGS.

(1) No person carrying a firearm or weapon as defined by state law shall enter any building owned, operated, or controlled by La Crosse County where the building is posted in accordance with state law by the Facilities Director and/or his or her designee that the person shall not enter or remain in the building while carrying a firearm or weapon.

(2) The prohibition under par (1) does not apply to any of the following:

(a) A law enforcement officer.

(b) A weapon in a courthouse or courtroom if a judge who is a licensee as defined in Wis. Stat. s. 175.60(1)(d) is carrying the weapon or if another licensee, whom a judge has permitted in writing to carry a weapon, is carrying the weapon.

(c) A weapon in a courthouse or courtroom if a district attorney, or an assistant district attorney, who is a licensee as defined in Wis. Stat. s. 175.60(1)(d) is carrying the weapon.

(3) It is unlawful for person carrying a firearm or weapon except a law enforcement officer to enter or remain at any special event on land owned by La Crosse County where the organizers of the special event have notified the person not to enter or remain at the special event while carrying a firearm. This provision does not apply if the firearm or weapon is in a vehicle driven or parked in the parking facility to any part of the special event grounds used as a parking facility.

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(4) All buildings and land affected by this ordinance shall be posted by the Facilities Director or by a person designated by the Facilities Director with signs that are at least 5 inches by 7 inches that notify a person that firearms or weapons in said building or on said property are prohibited.

19.04 DAMAGE TO 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 disturb, 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, damage 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 AND CATS RESTRICTED. No person having charge or control of any dog or cat shall allow such dog or cat to run at large within a County park, but shall keep such dog or cat under control on a leash at all times.

19.08 FIRES. No person shall build any campfire or burn any rubbish on any County lands except in designated fireplaces or sites in County parks; 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;

(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.

(3) RESTRICTIONS. It is illegal to operate any motorized vehicle, including but not limited to snowmobiles, trail bikes, and all terrain vehicles, on lands owned by the County of La Crosse except where their use is authorized by posted notice or permit.

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 nor shall any person verbally or in any other way produce 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 the Facilities Director may authorize 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.

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(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 Public Works and Infrastructure 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 as authorized by the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee.

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 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 the first business day of January 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. 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 in Veterans Memorial Campground and Goose Island Campground without a valid County permit. No person shall camp in any County park without a valid County permit. Camping is only allowed in 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 personnel designated by the Facilities Director.

(b) Discounts. A senior citizen shall receive a discount as determined by the County Board when the camper presents a valid discount card showing that the person is 60 years of age or older. 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. These discounts do not apply to monthly or seasonal use rates.

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

(d) 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. All camp units shall register for a permit prior to occupancy. Any camp unit must register upon request by County authorized personnel.

(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 shall be open for use as determined by the Facilities Director from year to year.

(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, ATV's, golf carts or other mechanized unlicensed vehicle shall be driven in any County Park, except as authorized by the Facilities Director.

(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.

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(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)(a) 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 Facilities Director or 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 or on any County lands where the waste is generated from outside of the County 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 COUNTY LAND RESTRICTIONS.

(1) It is illegal to build or use any elevated device for hunting, whether or not attached to a tree, on lands owned by the County of La Crosse unless it does not damage the tree and it is removed each day from the County land at the close of hunting hours.

(2) Horses. Horses shall be restricted from all county lands, including County parks, except where their use is authorized in advance or by posted notice or permit.

19.19 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.