

SECTION 9. CAMPING - CONTINUED

- 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
- Tents must move to a different campsite after 7 days. (Units may be asked to move depending on weather and turf conditions.)
- Campers are allowed only one rug per site and shall not exceed 18sq/ft in size.
- It is unlawful for more than one camping party or camping unit to occupy a campsite without the express permission of the Director our authorized designee. An additional tent may be used for children under eighteen years old. Group camp areas and campsites marked as "Buddy" at Big Hollow are exempt. Any Buddy site may have a maximum of 2 camping units and two additional tents for children under eighteen years old.
- All motor vehicles must park in designated parking areas. No parking on grass or roadways.
- 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 Ranger permission.)
- No refunds will be issued without Ranger authorization.
- Camping units shall be set up and registered by 10:00 p.m. Check-out time is 3:00 p.m.
- No dishwashing will be allowed at drinking fountains, hydrants, or in restrooms.
- 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.
- No ropes, cables, chains or lines can be affixed to trees.
- No pets shall be left unattended.
- All non-registered visitors must be out of the park by 10:30 p.m.
- No wading, swimming pools, or water features are allowed in the campground.
- 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.
- Campfires are only permitted in grills or fire rings provided.
- Must be 18 years of age or older to register. (Photo ID required) Parental consent required for minors camping without a parent or guardian.
- No rinsing or washing of vehicles or campers allowed in park.

SECTION 10. ANNOYANCES OR DISTURBANCE

- 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.
- PETS.** It shall be unlawful to have in possession any animal which causes a disturbance or displays aggressive or threatening behavior.

SECTION 11. 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 12. 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 13. 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 14. MOTORIZED VEHICLES PROHIBITED

It shall be unlawful to operate any snowmobile, all-terrain or utility vehicle, golf cart, or any other land conveyance propelled by a gasoline or electrical engine and run on wheels, tracks, or runners in or on any area. Exceptions may be made by special permit issued through the Des Moines County Conservation Main Office for park staff, volunteers, contractors, or individuals with documented disabilities. In accordance with Des Moines County ATV/UTV Ordinance #56, established park roads and parking areas customarily used for public motor vehicular travel are considered part of the county "roadway" system and subject to the regulations stipulated in said ordinance as well as any other applicable park rules.

SECTION 15. 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 16. SKATEBOARDS AND ROLLERBLADES

Skateboarding and/or rollerblading is not permitted on the main roadways in the park.

SECTION 17. EXHIBITION DRIVING

Any person who drives a vehicle within the boundaries of any park or preserve under the jurisdiction of the Des Moines 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 18. SWIMMING

- It is unlawful to swim or wade in or on any lake, pond or any impounded waters except for designated swimming areas.
- It shall be unlawful to bring any pet or alcohol onto any designated swimming area.
- Des Moines County Conservation Board has swimming facilities available at Big Hollow Recreation Area, and these facilities are made available to the general public and families in general. We are expected to maintain a high degree of public decency at these facilities; therefore, swimmers must wear adequate attire to cover the crack of the buttock.

SECTION 19. RESERVING PARK FACILITIES

- It shall be unlawful for a person under 18 years of age to reserve a park facility.
- The Big Hollow cabin and all shelter house facility reservations can be made up to two years in advance. Reservable campsite reservations can be made up to one year in advance. Usage fees are required at the time of reservation and are nonrefundable.
- Facilities which are not reserved are available on a first come basis, but usage and deposit fees may be required.
- The Board has the authority to set and limit capacities and occupancy.

SECTION 20. 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 21. FISHING AND BOATING

- FISHING AND BOATING.** All fishing and boating on conservation board lands and waters must be done in accordance with Iowa DNR regulations and Iowa law.
- 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.
- BAITFISH.** The use of minnows as baitfish is permitted according to Iowa DNR regulations.
- BOATING RESTRICTIONS.** Wind surfers, inner tubes or floatation devices, surfboards, and the use of gas engines are prohibited on waters controlled by the Board. All watercraft must be Coast Guard approved. A Coast Guard approved floatation device must be present for each occupant. Anglers may use a multi-chambered inflatable float while actively involved in fishing.

SECTION 22. OFFICIAL SIGNS, GATES, & BARRICADES

- 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.
- 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.
- 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 23. POSSESSION AND CONSUMPTION OF ALCOHOL

- It is unlawful to possess or consume any alcohol other than wine or beer (no hard liquor) in or on any Board area, except on those premises which have a liquor control license.
- 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).
- It shall be unlawful for any person to possess or consume any alcohol in or on any area designated as an official swimming area or beach area.

SECTION 24. 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 25. 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 26. SPECIAL EVENTS

The Des Moines County Conservation Board has adopted a Special Event Policy, which requires an application process for any special event on board property. Additional insurance, sanitation facilities, and other requirements or fees may apply.

SECTION 27. 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:

- Metal detecting is permitted only during park open hours.
- Metal detecting is permitted at the Beach area at Big Hollow Recreation Area only during open hours. Any personal items or artifacts must be turned in to Conservation officials.
- Metal detecting at any other location should comply with the requirements of 571-64.2(2) to 571-64.8(461A)

SECTION 28. COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS

The following organizations maintain and operate the following facilities at Big Hollow Recreation Area via Cooperative Agreements with the Des Moines County Conservation Board. In addition to the rules stated herein, the rules and regulations established by these organizations further govern the use of the following facilities.

- The Model Airplane Field at Big Hollow Recreation Area is maintained and operated by the Burlington Model Airplane Club.
- The Witte Observatory Complex is maintained and operated by the Southeast Iowa Astronomy Club.
- The 3-D Archery Course is maintained and operated by the Flint River Bow Hunters Association.

SECTION 29. GEOCACHING

Geocaching is allowed on Board property with the submittal of Special Event Permit and approval of the Park Manager. Unregistered geocaches may be removed. Digging soil or other forms of disturbance to conceal a geocache is prohibited.

SECTION 30. SCAVENGING

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

SECTION 31. 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.

OUR MISSION

Des Moines County Conservation is dedicated to the sustainability of natural resources through land stewardship, conservation education, and by providing quality outdoor recreation opportunities.

Des Moines County Conservation in the provision of services and facilities to the public does not discriminate against anyone on the basis of race, color, sex, creed, national origin, age or handicap. If any believe he or she has been subjected to such discrimination, he or she may file a complaint with either the Des Moines County Conservation Board or the Office of Equal Opportunity, US Dept. of the Interior, Washington, DC 20240



PARK RULES & REGULATIONS

This brochure is intended to help you use and enjoy your Des Moines County parks. The rules and regulations governing the use of the park area are intended to protect the park visitor and the park itself from abuse and misuse. In addition to the rules and regulations adopted by the Conservation Board, state laws apply to conduct in County Parks. Section 461A.35 through 461A.57 of the State Park Law applies to County Parks unless they have been modified by the Conservation Board. The traffic laws of the State of Iowa apply to County Park roads in the same manner as they do on state highways. Other sections of the law concerning alcoholic beverages and destruction of public buildings, apply in all county parks.

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I. GENERAL

Scope:

By the authority granted to the Des Moines 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 Des Moines 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 STATUTES

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 hereinbefore 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.

461A.57 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.

III. DES MOINES COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

By the authority granted to the Des Moines 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 Des Moines County Iowa Conservation Board.
2. **"Director"** shall mean the Executive Director of the Des Moines 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.

SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS - CONTINUED

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 Des Moines 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 Board's 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. No collecting of nuts, fruits or mushrooms shall be allowed at Starr's Cave Park and Preserve for any purpose.

SECTION 5. FIREARMS

Section 461A.42 of the Code of Iowa entitled "Use of Firearms" is hereby modified under authority of Section 350.10 of the Code of Iowa as follows: Workplace Violence prohibits possession of a weapon while on county property or while on county business, unless required for position.

SECTION 6. 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 7. 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 in a hunting area is not permitted between March 15th and July 15th unless a special use permit is issued by the Director. When in a campground, animals must be controlled by leash, training collar, or other electronic means at all times.

SECTION 8. 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 9. 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 other than those specifically designated as "Reservable" cannot be reserved. Reservable sites must be reserved online following the guidelines set forth under the facility rental contract. For non-reservable sites, campers must have the camping unit that will occupy the site on the campsite before registering. Campers must register as soon as possible after setting up camp, and the registration card must be posted immediately after registration. Non-registered camping units are subject to impoundment and/or disposal.