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Park Rules

Genesee and Lapeer Counties
Revised March 2019

Pursuant to Act 261 of the Public Acts of the State of Michigan of 1965, as amended, the Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission herewith promulgates and publishes the following rules for the use, protection, regulation, and control of all its services, facilities, parks, recreation conservation, education, historic, scenic areas, preserves and parkways.

Definitions

For purposes of these Rules, the following definitions apply:

1. “Bicycle” means a device propelled by human power upon which a person may ride, having 2 or 3 wheels in a tandem or tricycle arrangement, all of which are over 14 inches in diameter, or any electric bicycle that is equipped with an electric motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and that disengages or ceases to function when the bicycle reaches a speed of 20 miles per hour. All other electric bicycles are considered a motor vehicle, and regulated as such.
2. “Camping” means the overnight lodging or sleeping of person on the ground or in any other manner, or in any sleeping bag, tent, trailer-tent, trailer coach, vehicle camper, motor vehicle, boat or in any other conveyance erected, parked or placed on the premises.
3. “Commission” shall mean the Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission, or its authorized representative.
4. “Commission property” shall mean all lands, waters and property administered by or under the jurisdiction of the Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission.
5. “Firearm” shall include any revolver, pistol, shotgun, rifle, air rifle, air gun, water gun, slingshot, BB gun or any gun, rifle, firearm or bow or other device that is designed to discharge projectiles or are models or facsimiles of these devices, which appear to be capable of doing so.

6. "Motor Vehicle" is defined as any vehicle, or personal conveyance, or mode of transportation that is self-propelled, by any type of motor or other means, with the exception of human power.

7. "Person" shall mean individuals, male or female, singular or plural, firms, corporations, or any group or gathering of individuals.

8. "Rules" shall mean the rules adopted by the Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission applicable to all property administered by the Commission and all amendments thereto.

9. "Wading" is defined as standing or walking in water above the knee joint of the person in any waters, watercourses, lakes, rivers, ponds, or sloughs.

Chapter 1 Permits and Hours

Section P910101-Permits

Failure to obtain and/or follow the terms of a permit is a violation of Park Rules.

(a) Permits are required for certain activities upon Commission properties, included but not limited to events, hunting, fishing, harvesting, drones and metal detecting.

(b) Any group may use certain areas, facilities or services within Commission property to the exclusion of others by receiving a permit from the Commission.

(1) Application for a permit for reserved park space or facilities shall be made upon forms furnished by the Commission.

(2) Each permit application shall be filed at least ten days prior to and be accompanied by the fee as required by the Commission.

(3) In the event more applications for reserved space or facilities are received than space available, such applications shall be considered in the chronological ordered received.

(4) Nothing contained herein exempts the users of reserved space or facilities from full compliance with all Park Rules.

Violation of this Park Rule is a Misdemeanor.

Section P910102-Special Permits

No person shall, upon the property administered by the Commission:

Erect, construct or maintain above or below ground, across or beneath the Commission properties, by any person, firm or corporation without first having obtained written permission from the Commission.

Violation of this Park Rule is a Misdemeanor.

Section P910103-Hours

Park Hours are 8:00 AM until dusk, unless otherwise designated or posted. The Commission upon application may extend parks hours.

No person shall, upon the property administered by the Commission:

(a) Remain or enter upon park property during hours such property or facilities are not posted open for public use and/or designated as closed for public use, this includes non-gated Commission properties.

(b) Remain in or upon the Commission property or waters designated as a 24 Hour Fishing Site from dusk to 8:00 AM unless actively engaged in fishing.

Violation of this Park Rule is a Misdemeanor.

Chapter 2 Protection of Property

Section P910201-Destruction, Theft of Property

No person shall, upon the property administered by the Commission:

(a) Destroy, deface, alter, change or remove any monument, stone marker, benchmark, stake, post or blaze, marking or designating any boundary line, survey line, or reference point.

(b) Cut, break, mark upon or otherwise injure any building, equipment, bridge, drain, wall, fountain, lamppost, fence, gate, hedge, or other structure.

(c) Deface, destroy or remove any placard, notice or sign, whether permanent or temporary, posted or exhibited within or upon Commission property.

(d) Destroy, injure, or otherwise damage any Commission property.

(e) Take or carry away, or attempt to take or carry away, any property.

(f) Interfere with or do any act, which would be likely to interfere with the normal operation of the railroad, including but not limited to, the throwing of objects at any of the equipment of said railroad or the placing of any objects upon or across the tracks upon which said railroad operates.

Violation of this Park Rule is a Misdemeanor.

Section P910202-Destruction of Plant Life

No person shall, upon the property administered by the Commission:

(a) Cut, remove, or destroy any tree, sapling, seedling, bush or shrub, whether alive or dead, or chip, blaze, box, girdle, trim or otherwise deface or injure any tree or shrub, or break or remove any branch, foliage, flower or any tree or shrub, or pick, gather, uproot, remove or destroy any flower, plant or grass.

(b) Remove or cause to be removed any sod, earth, humus, peat, boulders, gravel, sand or fungus without written permission of the Commission.

Violation of this Park Rule is a Misdemeanor.

Section P910203-Fires

No person shall, upon the property administered by the Commission:

(a) Willfully set or cause to be set afire any tree, woodland, brush land, grassland or meadow. Drop, throw or otherwise scatter any burning or flammable material on any Commission properties.

(b) Build any fire except within the fireplaces, fire rings, grills or open spaces approved and designated by the Commission. Fires shall be maintained so that the flames are no more than three feet in height.

(c) Burn pallets, treated wood, plastics or other noxious materials in campfires.

(d) Leave fires unattended. All fires shall be extinguished prior to leaving the immediate vicinity.

Violation of this Park Rule is a Misdemeanor.

Chapter 3 Protection of Wildlife

Section P910301-Release of Animals, Leash Law

No person shall, upon the property administered by the Commission:

Bring, or release any animals, fish, bird, living species, plant or organism except as follows:

(1) Dogs shall be allowed on Commission properties, while in the immediate control by use of a leash of less than six feet in length, unless otherwise designated. No dogs allowed upon beaches, in For-Mar Nature Preserve and Arboretum, Park buildings or pavilions, or other Commission properties designated as such.

(2) Guide dogs and service animals for persons with disabilities, in accordance with the State of Michigan and Federal Statutes.

(3) Dogs used in designated waterfowl hunting, dog shows, or field trial areas or used in connection with activities approved by the Commission.

(4) Horses, beasts of burden and draft animals may be ridden by persons in charge thereof or driven before a vehicle attached thereto, on such portions of Commission properties as designated.

Violation of this Park Rule is a Misdemeanor.

Section P910302-Hunting and Fishing

No person shall, upon the property administered by the Commission:

Hunt, trap, catch, wound, or kill any bird, fish or animal, molest or rob any nest of any bird or any lair, den, or burrow of any animal upon any land or waters except as specifically allowed by the Commission and in accordance with State of Michigan and Federal Statutes.

- (1) All obtained game, animals, fowl, birds, fish and other aquatic life, hunted, killed, taken or destroyed, bought, sold, bartered or had in possession, contrary to any of the provisions hereof, the same are declared to be contraband and subject to seizure.
- (2) Any firearm, weapon or equipment, used by any person in violation of these rules, shall be subject to seizure and forfeiture.

Violation of this Park Rule is a Misdemeanor.

Chapter 4 Regulations of Activities

Section P910401-Swimming

No person shall, upon the property administered by the Commission:

- (a) Swim, bathe or wade between the hours of 8:00 PM and 8:00 AM, in any of the waters, watercourses, lakes, rivers, ponds, or sloughs unless otherwise designated.
- (b) Swim, bathe or wade except at such times and places as provided or designated for such purposes.
- (c) Have in their possession any glass or metal container on any beach or in the water adjacent thereto.
- (d) Use any device in the waters not designed to be used in the aid of swimming.

Violation of this Park Rule is a Misdemeanor.

Section P910402-Boating

No person shall, upon the property administered by the Commission:

Bring into, use or navigate any boat, yacht, canoe, raft or other watercraft upon any waters, watercourse, lagoon, lake, river, pond or slough except at such time or places as designated for such purposes. All watercraft shall comply with and be used in accordance with the State of Michigan and Federal Statutes.

Violation of this Park Rule is a Misdemeanor.

Section P910403-Camping

No person shall, upon the property administered by the Commission:

- (a) Camp in areas not designated for such purposes.

- (b) Camp without a written permit. No permit shall be issued to any person under the age of 18 years old.
- (c) Occupy a campsite after check out time on the last day allowed by the permit.
- (d) Occupy campsites contrary to assignments as made by the Commission.
- (e) Be permitted to camp for a continuous period exceeding fourteen nights or fifteen days on any one camping site. A new permit may be issued at the Commission's discretion.
- (f) Have more than a single family or four unrelated persons to camp on one campsite.
- (g) Allow a child under the age of 18 years old to be left unaccompanied or unsupervised by a responsible adult.
- (h) Allow visitors to remain in the campground after 10:00 PM.
- (i) Have more than one camping unit and one tent or two tents and no camping unit to be on a single site. Additional permits may be issued at the Commission's discretion.
- (j) Cause, create or make any noise or disturbance, which is a hindrance to the peace, quiet and tranquility of the camping area, between the hours of 11:00 PM and 7:00 AM.
- (k) Wash dishes at pumps or drinking fountains; fail to clean campsites daily or to discharge wastewaters or any other wastes, except into designated containers, drains or dumping stations.
- (l) Dig a trench or make any excavation on any campsite.
- (m) Have more than two vehicles occupy an individual campsite. Each vehicle must be registered on the camp permit. Additional permits may be issued at the Commission's discretion.
- (n) Drive vehicles within the campground between the hours of 12:00 AM and 5:00 AM, except for emergencies.
- (o) Possess or consume intoxicating beverages or marijuana within the campground, refer to Sections P910607 and P910608.

Violation of this Park Rule is a Misdemeanor.

Section P910404-Winter Activities

No person shall, upon the property administered by the Commission:

Operate or use a snowmobile, sled, toboggan, ski, snow shoe or any other means of a motorized or non-motorized vehicles or devices that are designed to travel on snow, unless in a designated area for such activities and the ground is frozen, with a cover of three inches or more of snow.

Violation of this Park Rule is a Misdemeanor.

Chapter 5 Parking and Traffic **Section P910501-Parking**

No person shall, upon the property administered by the Commission:

- (a) Stop, stand or park a vehicle in any place marked as a passenger or loading zone, other than for the expeditious loading or unloading of passengers, materials or packages.
- (b) Stop, stand or park a vehicle upon any roadway or in any parking area in such manner as to form an obstruction to traffic thereon.
- (c) Park any vehicle in any posted or non-posted area that is not intended or designated as a parking zone.
- (d) Drive or park any motor vehicle in or upon property that is used for recreational purposes, unless otherwise allowed by these rules.
- (e) Allow any vehicle to remain upon Commission properties during hours such property or facilities are not open to public use. This includes non-gated Commission properties.

Violation of this Park Rule is a Civil Infraction. Vehicles will be removed immediately at the owner's expense.

Section P910502-Continuous Cruising

No person shall, upon the property administered by the Commission:

Continuously cruise, in or on any motor driven vehicle in or through any area of the park system, defined as the repeated driving of a motor vehicle in and through a park area without stopping for using park facilities.

Violation of this Park Rule is a Civil Infraction.

Section P910503-Driving Violations

No person shall, upon the property administered by the Commission:

- (a) Operate a motor vehicle, of any kind or nature, except on designated roads, trails or parking areas.
- (b) Operate a motor vehicle at speeds greater than 15 mph, unless otherwise posted. Operate a motor vehicle at speeds greater than is reasonable and proper, having due regard to the traffic, surface, width of the road and of any other existing condition.

(c) Operate any vehicle contrary to posted traffic signs, symbols, rules or regulations or marked roadways.

(d) Operate any motor vehicle in any manner that results in excessive noise or disturbs the peace, quiet, or tranquility of the area.

(e) Violate any of the State of Michigan Statutes, including, but not limited to the Michigan Motor Vehicle Code.

Violation of this Park Rule {(a) thru (d)} is a Civil Infraction.

Section P910504-Bicycles (See Definitions)

No person shall, upon the property administered by the Commission:

(a) Operate more than two bicycles abreast, or operate any bicycle outside of the right-hand curb or right-hand side of the path, trail or roadway, as conditions will permit.

(b) Operate any bicycle, with a second person that was not designed as intended to have a passenger.

(c) Operate any bicycle between the hours of sunset and sunrise without a visible light emitting from the front and rear of the bicycle or operate in any park closed to the public.

Violation of this Park Rule is a Misdemeanor.

Chapter 6 Conduct

Section P910601-Peddling and Soliciting

No person shall, upon the property administered by the Commission:

Peddle or solicit business of any nature whatsoever, or distribute handbills or other advertising matter, post unauthorized signs on any lands, waters, structures or use such lands, waters, structures or property without first having obtained written permission from the Commission.

Violation of this Park Rule is a Misdemeanor.

Section P910602-Unlawful Obstruction

No person shall, upon the property administered by the Commission:

Force, threaten, intimidate, unlawfully fence, enclose, or by any other means; prevent or obstruct any person from entering, leaving or making full use of any properties.

Violation of this Park Rule is a Misdemeanor.

Section P910603-Hindering Employees

No person shall, upon the property administered by the Commission:

Interfere with, or in any manner hinder any employee or agent of the Commission while performing their official duties.

Violation of this Park Rule is a Misdemeanor.

Section P910604-Resisting Police Park Ranger

No person shall, upon the property administered by the Commission:

Interfere with any Police Park Ranger in the discharge of their duties; or fail or refuse to obey any lawful command of any Police Park Ranger.

Violation of this Park Rule is a Misdemeanor.

Section P910605-Impersonation of Park Ranger

No person shall, upon the property administered by the Commission:

Represent themselves falsely to be a Park Ranger.

Violation of this Park Rule is a Misdemeanor.

Section P910606-Tobacco

The use of tobacco products is allowed, with the following exceptions:

No person shall, upon the property administered by the Commission:

(a) Use or smoke tobacco products at For Mar Nature Preserve and Arboretum, or any other designated Commission property as such.

(b) Use or smoke tobacco products except in posted dedicated areas at Crossroads Village, Huckleberry Railroad, or any beach.

Violation of this Park Rule is a Misdemeanor.

Section P910607-Alcohol

No person shall, upon the property administered by the Commission:

Use, consume or possess any alcoholic or intoxicating beverage, except with prior written approval by the Commission and any other authorizing agency.

Violation of this Park Rule is a Misdemeanor.

Section P910608-Marijuana

No person shall, upon the property administered by the Commission:

Use, possess, smoke, vape or consume any marijuana, or product, or any substance containing marijuana or derivative of Tetrahydrocannabinol, commonly known as THC.

Violation of this Park Rule is a civil infraction.

Section P910609-Personal Conduct

No person shall, upon the property administered by the Commission:

- (a) Be under the influence of intoxicants or drugs, or engage in any violent, abusive, loud, boisterous, vulgar, lewd, wanton, obscene or otherwise disorderly conduct, or to disturb or annoy others.
- (b) Conduct or to participate in any form of gambling lottery or game of chance upon park property.
- (c) Intentionally or unintentionally, engage in circumstances in which the following conduct is likely to be viewed by others:
 - (1) Expose their private parts, including buttocks, with less than a full opaque covering and or engage in any actual or simulated sexual conduct.
 - (2) Violate any State of Michigan or Federal Statutes related to nudity and/or public indecency.

Violation of this Park Rule is a Misdemeanor.

Section P910610-Loudspeaker

No person shall, upon the property administered by the Commission:

Use a loudspeaker, public address system, or amplifier without a written permit issued by the Commission.

Violation of this Park Rule is a Misdemeanor.

Section P910611-Fireworks

No person shall, upon the property administered by the Commission:

Possess, fire, discharge, any sparkler, firecracker, firework, or any composition or device for the purpose of producing a visible or an audible effect by combustion, deflagration, or detonation without a written permit issued by the Commission and any other authorizing agency.

Violation of this Park Rule is a Misdemeanor.

Section P910612-Firearms

No person shall, upon the property administered by the Commission:

- (a) Possess, brandish or control any firearm, or weapon except those as allowed by the State of Michigan or Federal Statutes, unless by prior written permission of the Commission, or as allowed by the Commission in designated areas.
- (b) Discharge any firearm, or weapon except by prior written permission of the Commission, or as allowed by the Commission in designated areas.

(c) Carry a firearm or weapon onto the Commission properties where an admission fee is collected to enter the property, except by prior written permission of the Commission.

This section shall not apply to any law enforcement officer acting in the course of their official duties.

Violation of this Park Rule is a Misdemeanor.

Section P910613–Littering

No person shall, upon the property administered by the Commission:

(a) Discard or deposit refuse of any kind or nature, except by placing said refuse in containers provided for such purpose.

(b) Throw, cast, lay, drop or discharge into or leave in waters any substance, matter or thing, liquid or solid, which may or shall result in the pollution of water.

(c) Bring domestic or commercial refuse for the purpose of discarding or dumping, onto the property or within its refuse containers provided.

Violation of this Park Rule is a Misdemeanor.

Section P910614-Skating and Coasting

No person shall, upon the property administered by the Commission:

(a) Use roller skates, roller blades, ice skates or other similar devices, or walk upon the ice, except at such times and places as may be designated.

(b) Coast with hand sleds, bobs, carts, skateboards or other vehicles or other similar devices except at such times and places as may be designated.

Section P910615-Aircraft and Drones

No person shall, upon the property administered by the Commission:

Make any ascent or descent, operate, or possess any balloon, airplane, parachute, drone, manned or unmanned aircraft on Commission properties or waters, except in designated areas, without first obtaining written permission from the Commission or except as may be necessary in the event of an emergency.

Violation of this Park Rule is a Misdemeanor.

Section P910616-Public Exhibition

No person shall, upon the property administered by the Commission:

Exhibit any machine, show any animal, indulge in any acrobatic exhibitions, conduct a performance, or do anything whatsoever, which shall cause persons

to congregate, or interfere with the proper use of Commission properties by the public, without first having obtained written permission from the Commission.

Violation of this Park Rule is a Misdemeanor.

Section P910617-Fees

No person shall, upon the property administered by the Commission:

Use any facility, land or area for which a fee or charge has been established by the Commission without payment of such fee or charge.

Violation of this Park Rule is a Misdemeanor.

Chapter 7 Enforcement

Section P910701-Authority

(a) Police Park Rangers enforce all applicable Park Rules, State of Michigan and Federal Statutes.

(b) Violations of these Park Rules may result in the confiscation as evidence and/or forfeiture of any real property used while committing the offense.

Section P910702-Extended Authority

Nothing in these Park Rules:

(a) Prohibit or hinder duly authorized agents of the Commission or any peace officers from performing their official duties or enforcing these Park Rules.

(b) Prohibit the Commission from establishing emergency rules required to protect the health, welfare and safety of park visitors and to protect park property: including, but not limited to, the right of the Commission to order all persons off Commission property, and close all or any portion of said park.

Section P910703-Fines

The Courts assess all fines and penalties.

Civil Infractions, as herein provided, shall be punishable by a fine of not more than \$500.00.

Misdemeanors, as herein provided, shall be punishable by a fine of not more than \$100.00 or imprisonment for not more than 90 days, or both.

Section P910704-Powers Reserved

The Commission shall have the power to regulate the use of any properties by resolution.

Approved and adopted by the Genesee County Parks and Recreation Commission August 8, 1968, and as amended April 10, 1969, November 12, 1970, November 11, 1971, January 22, 1976, October 14, 1976, November 17, 1977, July 12, 1979, July 24, 1980, September 25, 1986, July 24, 1993, September 23, 1993, April 12, 2007, March 13, 2008, and December 13, 2018.

Approved and adopted by the Genesee County Board of Commissioners, August 13, 1968, and as amended May 1, 1969, November 24, 1970, November 23, 1971, February 10, 1976, November 8, 1976, December 27, 1977, July 24, 1979, August 12, 1980, October 14, 1986, September 7, 1993, November 16, 1993, April 24, 2007, April 15, 2008, and January 23, 2019.

Approved and adopted by the Lapeer County Board of Commissioners April 4, 1973, and as amended April 1, 1976, December 2, 1976, January 15, 1978, August 1, 1979, September 3, 1980, November 6, 1986, April 21, 1994, July 5, 2007, April 23, 2008 and March 28, 2019.