

**Chapter No. 600 - Parks**

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Ordinance No. 600 Wood County Park

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**WOOD COUNTY ORDINANCE #600  
WOOD COUNTY PARK ORDINANCE**

To implement Chapter 27.05 of the Wisconsin Statutes, under which the Wood County Park Committee is granted specific powers relative to the supervision and regulation of the use and enjoyment of County Parks, subject to the general supervision of the Board of Supervisors, the Wood County Board of Supervisors does ordain as follows:

**Chapter 600 .01 GENERAL, ADMINISTRATIVE, AND TERMS**

**(1) Terms.**

**A. Park and Forestry Committee.** The terms "Committee" and "Park and Forestry Committee" shall mean the Wood County Park and Forestry Committee or its successor.

**B. Park.** The terms "park", "County Park" and "Wood County Park," are defined to mean all lands and water heretofore and hereafter acquired by the County for Park or recreational purposes or placed under the jurisdiction of the Park and Forestry Committee, and include, without limitations, parks, and privately owned lands, the use of which has been granted to the County for park, recreational, or like public purposes. The following areas are designated as **Wood County Parks** or **Areas** managed by the Park and Forestry Committee:

**PARKS**

North Wood County Park  
South Wood County Park  
Powers Bluff County Park  
Dexter County Park  
Nepco Lake County Park

**AREAS**

Richfield 360 Area  
Marshfield Pond Area  
Wood County ATV Area  
Wood County Rifle Range Area  
Lake Wazeecha Disposal Site Area

**C. Person.** The term "person" shall include any individual, firm, partnership, corporation and association of persons, and the use of singular form shall include the plural. The use of gender herein includes the masculine and feminine gender.

**(2) Scope.** Except when the context provides otherwise, the provision of this Ordinance shall apply to all lands, structures, and property owned, leased or administered by Wood County, Wisconsin, and under the management, supervision, and control of the Wood County Park and Forestry Committee, as established by the Wood County Board of Supervisors and recorded in the Journal of the Proceedings of the County Board.

**(3) Park Administrator.** The Park Administrator shall be the authorized agent of the Committee referred to herein.

**(4) Closing Hours and Dates.**

**A. After Hours.** It shall be unlawful for any person to be in any designated Wood County Park, between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and the following 8:00 a.m., except for those individuals authorized by permit issued by Park authority.

**1. Enclosed Shelter House Closing Time.** The area known as the Enclosed Shelter House area of designated Wood County Parks will have an official closing time of 12:00 midnight and shall re-open the following 8:00 a.m. Premises must be cleaned and vacated by 12:00 midnight.

**2. After Hours by Permit.** All individuals authorized by Park issued permits shall be exempted from the aforementioned, pursuant to said terms of said permit.

**B. After Hours at Boat Landings.** Notwithstanding paragraph A, persons are permitted at any hour in South Wood County, Dexter County, and Nepco Lake County Parks for the purpose of and while transporting watercraft to and from designated boat landings.

**C. Park Opening and Closing Dates.**

**1. Unauthorized Vehicles After Closing Dates.** It shall be unlawful for any unauthorized vehicles to enter or be in any County Park between the dates of November 1 and April 30, (except as provided herein or in conjunction with the early opening of the campgrounds, or other authorized park activities.)

a. **Snowmobiles and All Terrain Vehicles.** Snowmobiles and All Terrain Vehicles (ATV's) are allowed on designated trails only.

b. **Public and Campground Boat Landings.** Designated public boat landings may be used at any time for access to the lakes. Campground boat landings are restricted to camper's use only.

**2. Campground Opening and Closing Dates.** Designated camping areas will be open for camping from May 1 - October 31 (except as provided herein).

a. Except when May 1 falls on Saturday, Sunday, Monday, or Tuesday; then camping will open the preceding Friday.

b. Except Dexter park campground will be open until November 30 or the end of the deer gun season, whichever is later.

- c. **Ski Parking Lots.** Designated ski touring trails and skiing parking lots are open for skiing purposes, pursuant to posting by the Wood County Park and Forestry Department.
  - d. **Powers Bluff Winter Sports Area.** Powers Bluff Winter Sports Area facilities are open during scheduled hours which are subject to change, pursuant to weather conditions.
- 3. Other areas.** Open during scheduled dates and hours as approved by the Wood County Park and Forestry Committee.

**(5) Fees, Charges and Deposits.**

**A. Fee Schedule.** It shall be unlawful for any person to use any facility, shelter, land or area for which a fee or charge has been established by the Committee without payment of such fee or charge in advance, **except for open shelters which may be used if not reserved.**

**B. Special Fees.** Any park structure, facility, or area may be reserved or rented for special purposes subject to the approval of the Committee. The Committee, at its' discretion, may set the charge for this facility.

**(6) Additional Rules, Permits, Exceptions.**

**A. Additional Rules.** Rules and regulations may be made from time to time by the Committee governing the further use and enjoyment of parks, playgrounds, beaches, boat landings, campgrounds, lakes, streams and the facilities therein. Any person who shall violate such rules or regulations, or who refuses to subject himself thereto, may be excluded from the use of such facility and be subject to the penalties provided for in this Ordinance.

**B. Permits.** Any person to whom a permit shall have been issued by the Park Administrator or other authorized park personnel, shall be bound by the provisions of all Ordinances of Wood County as fully as though the same were inserted in each permit.

**C. Exceptions.** Nothing in this code shall prohibit or hinder the Wood County Park and Forestry Committee of Wood County, Wisconsin, its Administrator, Park Caretakers, or other duly authorized agents, or any peace officers from performing their official duties.

**(7) Installations, Public Utilities and Private Construction.**

**A. Public Utilities - Location.** The location of all sewers and receivers, gas pipes, water pipes, stopcock boxes, hydrants, lamp posts, telephone and electric power posts and lines, manholes, conduit and pumps within any park shall be subject to the jurisdiction and control of the Committee; and their construction, erection, or relocation shall be undertaken only after written permission is received from said Committee.

**Chapter 600 .02 PUBLIC MEETINGS AND SALES**

**(1) Public Meetings.**

**A. Special Use Permits.** Any person desiring to hold a public meeting of any kind whatsoever, in any park shall first obtain a permit from the Committee or its duly authorized agent. The permit must be applied for not less than 48 hours prior to the scheduled event.

**B. Permits For Public Assembly.** Permits may be granted for the purpose of holding any lawful public assembly in accordance with published regulations governing the reasonable use of the parks.

**(2) Peddling and Soliciting.** It shall be unlawful for any person to peddle or solicit business of any nature whatever, or to distribute handbills or other advertising matter, to post unauthorized signs or decorative matter on any lands, structures or property for soliciting or conducting business, peddling or providing services within or outside of such lands, structures, or property unless first authorized in writing by the Wood County Park and Forestry Committee or its duly authorized agent.

**Chapter 600 .03 BOATING**

**(1) State and Federal Regulations.** All federal and state regulations concerned with boating apply to the waters governed by the Committee.

**(2) Beach Mooring.** No boats shall be moored closer than 100' to any designated beach area.

**(3) North Wood County Park.** No sailboats or boats with motors will be allowed on waters within North Wood County Park.

**(4) Mooring.** Mooring of boats adjacent to Wood County Park & Forestry lands is prohibited.

## Chapter 600 .04 PERSONAL CONDUCT AND NUISANCES

- (1) **Personal Conduct.** It shall be unlawful for any person to engage in violent, abusive, indecent, profane, boisterous, unreasonably loud, or otherwise disorderly conduct under circumstances in which such conduct tends to cause or provoke a disturbance, or to be so intoxicated that he is unable to care for his own safety, in any County Park.
- (2) **Property of Others.** It shall be unlawful for any person to destroy, disturb, damage, or remove the property or personal effects of others.
- (3) **Unnecessary Noise.** It shall be unlawful for any person to operate sound trucks, loud speakers, motors, motorboats, motor vehicles or any other mechanical devices that produce loud noises without first obtaining a written permit from the Committee or its duly authorized agent.

## Chapter 600 .05 DESTRUCTION, ENTRY, CLEANING AND REFUSE

### (1) Destruction and Entry.

**A. Destruction, Defacement, or Removal.** It shall be unlawful for any person to disturb, alter, damage, deface, remove, or destroy any trees, shrubs, plants, or other natural growth; to carve on any rocks, archaeological or geological features, signs, walls, trees or structures; to drive nails or other foreign objects in trees; or to move, injure or deface in any manner any structures including buildings, sign, fences, tables, or other County property. The picking of edible fruits or nuts is permitted.

**B. Entry and Manipulation.** It shall be unlawful for any person to enter in any building, installation, or area that is under construction or locked or closed to public use; or to alter, damage or manipulate any water control structure, dam, or culvert; or to enter or be upon any building, installation or area after the posted closing time or before the posted opening time, or contrary to posted notice, in any park.

### C. Cleaning and Refuse.

**1. Washing.** The washing of **motorized vehicles**, persons, pets, cooking utensils, or clothing, is prohibited in any of the lakes or streams, on any picnic grounds, playgrounds, recreation areas, boat landings, parking lots or roadways, or within 50 feet of any pump, fountain, or drinking water outlet in any County Park. The washing of persons, cooking utensils and clothing is permitted at designated campgrounds, or at other authorized and posted locations.

**2. Fish and Game Cleaning.** It shall be unlawful for any person to clean, butcher, scale, or skin any fish, game, livestock, or poultry in any County Park except at designated fish-cleaning stations provided for such purposes. Refuse from such cleaning operations must be suitably wrapped or packaged and deposited in the refuse containers provided for that purpose.

**3. Refuse.** No person shall leave or dump any litter, rubbish, debris, dirt, stone, or other materials on County park lands. When garbage receptacles are provided by the County, only garbage generated on the site and associated with the special activity for which purpose the receptacle was provided may be placed in the receptacle. No personal or private garbage or materials may be deposited in the receptacles.

**4. Disposal of Hot Charcoal.** Charcoal residue must be left in a grate or fireplace until cool, or placed in receptacles provided for such purposes.

## **Chapter 600 .06 VEHICLES**

### **(1) Vehicular Traffic.**

**A. Speed Limits in County Parks.** No person shall operate any vehicle at a speed in excess of 15 miles per hour or contrary to official traffic signs in any County Park.

**B. Reckless Use of A Vehicle In County Parks.** No person shall operate any vehicle in any Park in a reckless manner contrary to the provisions of Section 346.62 of the Wisconsin Statutes.

**C. Unlawful Operating or Parking of Vehicles.** It shall be unlawful to operate or park any motor vehicle, except as provided for herein, upon any hiking trail, beach area, playground, picnic area, or any other area other than established roads, parking areas, boat ramps and service areas, or contrary to posted notice, or with any Park when it is seasonally closed to vehicular traffic.

**D. Designated Trails.** It shall be unlawful for any person to operate any motor driven sled, toboggan, all terrain vehicle (ATV) or other snowmobile in any County Park, except on designated trails.

**E. Unlicensed Motorized Vehicles.** No person shall operate any unlicensed motorized vehicle in any County Park on roads, trails, or otherwise. A person with a disability that limits or impairs the ability to walk, as defined in §340.01(43g), stats. ,may utilize specialized equipment that does not cause damage to park property, as used.

**(2) Parking.**

**A. Unlawful Parking, Stopping.** It is unlawful for the owner or operator of any vehicle, watercraft or other obstruction to leave or have left said vehicle, watercraft or other obstruction parked, stopped or standing, whether attended or unattended:

1. So as to block, obstruct, or limit the use of any road, trail, parking lot, boat landing, waterway or winter sport facility, or:
2. Outside of any area provided for such purposes when it is practical to use such areas, or
3. Contrary to posted notice, or
4. In any park area between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and the following 8:00 a.m. except that vehicle or watercraft owned by registered campers residing in adjacent campgrounds are permitted. Vehicles used to transport watercraft are permitted at designated boat landings at South Wood County Park, Dexter Park and Nepco Lake Park at any time.

**Chapter 600 .07 FIRE AND FIREWORKS**

**(1) Fires.**

**A. Unlawful Fires.** It shall be unlawful for any person to start, tend, or maintain any fire, except at designated fireplaces, fire rings, or grills within any County Park, except that, fires for cooking or heating may be made in portable stoves, heaters, or grills at designated campgrounds and picnic areas.

**B. Unattended Fires.** It shall be unlawful for any person to leave any fire unattended, or to throw away any matches, cigarettes, cigars, or pipe ashes or any embers without first extinguishing them, or to abandon any fire, or to start, tend, or use in any manner any fire contrary to posted notice in any County Park.

**C. Unlawful Firewood.** It shall be unlawful for park users to bring outside firewood into any Wood County Park facility, shelter, land or area. Untreated, clean, and fully debarked dimensional lumber may be brought in for burning. Down and dead wood may also be gathered inside the park for burning. Chainsaws are not allowed to be used for this purpose. Wood County shall have firewood available, for purchase, at each of its designated campgrounds.

**(2) Fireworks, Rockets, Explosive Devices.** It shall be unlawful for any person to possess, fire, discharge, explode or set off any squib, cracker, or other explosive or

pyrotechnic device containing powder, or other combustible or explosive material, within the limits of any County Park, excepting that exhibitions of fireworks given under the direction or by the permission of the Committee or its duly authorized agent are permitted.

## **Chapter 600 .08 ANIMALS**

**(1) Pets.** It shall be unlawful for any person to allow pets to enter any public building, bathing beach, picnic grounds, or playgrounds within any County Park, or to run at large at any time on County Park grounds.

In other County Park areas and campgrounds pets are permitted provided they shall at all times be kept on a leash not more than 10 feet long. All pets shall be effectively restrained or under the owner's control at all times. No person shall allow his pet to deprive or disrupt the enjoyment or use of any area by others. Pet owners are required to immediately clean up after their pets.

**(2) Horses.** It shall be unlawful for any person to ride a horse or have a horse in any Wood County Park without written authorization by Park Administrator or his authorized agent. Horses are allowed in the Areas identified in §600.01(1) (b) between April 15 and Dec 1, unless posted otherwise.

**(3) Hunting and Trapping.** It shall be unlawful for any person to take, catch, kill, hunt, trap, pursue or otherwise disturb any wild animals or birds in any County park.

**A. Park Exception.** That part of Dexter County Park lying South of Highway 54, that part of Dexter County Park lying North of Park Road, South of Swallow Lane, and West of the Yellow River.

**B. Area Exception.** Hunting is allowed in the Areas identified in §600.01 (1) (b) subject to postings.

## **Chapter 600 .09 ATHLETICS**

**(1) Games or Sports in Undesignated Areas.** It shall be unlawful for any person to play or practice ball, golf, tennis, archery, rope swings, other games or sports, upon or within any County Park except upon ball fields, tennis courts, archery ranges, or appropriate athletic grounds or golf links established and posted by the Committee.

**(2) Skating.** It shall be unlawful for any person to skate in any form or fashion including blade skating on roads in any part of the Park system in a reckless manner, or at a speed greater than is reasonable and proper, having regard to the number of people in such part of the Park system and the use thereof, or so as to endanger life or limb, or the property of any person; provided, however, that nothing herein contained, shall be construed to prohibit any exhibition of or contests in fast or fancy skating on such portions of any ice pond as may be set aside and posted for that purpose by the Committee.

## Chapter 600 .10 BEACHES

(1) **County Beaches.** The following areas constitute public swimming beaches:

Nepco County Park Beach.  
South Wood County Park, Red Beach.  
South Wood County Park, White Beach.  
North Wood County Park Beach.  
Lake Dexter County Park Beach.

(2) **Designation of Swimming Areas.** The Wood County Park Administrator shall determine what areas of public swimming beaches set forth in section 600.10 (1) shall be used for swimming and when. The Park Administrator shall provide reasonable notice to the public in establishing swimming areas and times. Those parts of public swimming beaches used as swimming areas shall be marked with buoys which meet the standards set in Wisconsin Administrative Code NR 5.09, at any time the swimming areas are open for swimming.

(3) **Food and Beverages.** It shall be unlawful for any person to possess or consume any food or beverages of any kind on any bathing beach or in the water adjacent to any bathing beach in any County Park except in designated areas.

(4) **Boundary Buoys Altering or Damaging.** It shall be unlawful to disturb, alter or damage a bathing beach boundary buoy or marker in any County Park.

(5) **Storms and Swimming Area Limits.** It shall be unlawful for any person to:

- A. swim, or wade in the water fronting any bathing beach during electrical storms or in dangerous weather, or
- B. swim, or wade within 50 feet of any dam within the County Park system, or
- C. swim, or wade within 50 feet of any boat landing.

(6) **Beach Athletics.** Except in locations designated for such purposes, it shall be unlawful for any person to engage in any athletic game or sport, or in any activity upon a swimming beach or in the water, when injury or inconvenience to others might result there from.

(7) **Swimming Apparel.** It shall be unlawful for any swimmer to enter the water or onto any beach area, unless clothed in suitable swimming apparel. The object of this section is to prevent nudity.

**A. Changing Clothing.** It shall be unlawful for any person to change clothes, except in a beach house or other enclosed place.

**B. Infectious Diseases.** Any person having, or apparently having, any infectious disease shall be prohibited from entering onto any swimming beach or into any beach house, or waters adjacent thereto.

## **Chapter 600 .11 CAMPING**

**(1) Reservations.** All designated campsites will be governed by a site reservation system and by self-registration when not reserved.

**A. Campground & Self-Registration Policy.** The Wood County Campground Reservations and Self-Registration Policy, including future amendments thereto is made a part of this ordinance.

**(2) Definitions.** For the purposes of this Ordinance, the following definitions apply:

**A. Camping or Camp.** The use of a shelter such as a tent, trailer, motor vehicle, tarpaulin, bed roll or sleeping bag for temporary residence or sleeping purposes.

**B. Camping Party.** Any individual, family, individual group or minor group occupying a campsite.

**C. Camping-Unit.** A single shelter, except sleeping bags and hammocks, used for a camp by a camping party except those used exclusively for dining purposes.

**D. Campsite.** A segment of a campground which is designated for camping use by a camping unit or camping party.

**1. Wilderness Campsite.** A campsite identified as such on county land. A camping permit is needed.

**E. Designated Campground.** Any tract of land designated exclusively for camping.

**F. Enclosed Shelter.** Any building or structure capable of being closed to public access, and which can be reserved for public or private group activities.

**G. Family.** A parent or parents with their children and not more than two lineal relatives and not more than two minor guests.

**H. Group Campground Area.** A campground area designated for use by organizational or minor group.

**I. Individual Group.** A camping party of not more than 6 persons occupying one camping unit.

**J. Minor Group.** A group made up of minor members of an established organization and under the leadership of at least one competent, mature adult for each 10 minors in the group and using any number of camping units or occupying a group campground.

**K. Open Shelter.** Any building or structure with roof and open side walls, and which can be reserved for public or private group activities.

### **(3) Camping Regulations.**

**A. Camping Prohibited.** Camping is prohibited in the Wood County Parks except in designated campgrounds or by special permit.

**B. Camping Limited-Designated Campgrounds.** No person shall camp and no camping unit shall remain in a designated campground for a period greater than 14 days from May 1 to October 31 (until November 30 in Dexter Park or the end of the deer gun season, whichever is earlier). Thereafter, the camping unit must be removed from the campgrounds for at least two days before being eligible to return.

**C. Campsite Occupancy.** It shall be unlawful for more than one family or individual group to occupy more than a single campsite in a designated campground.

**D. Campsite Changes.** No registered camping party shall move from its assigned campsite to another campsite in a designated campground without prior approval from the designated park attendant.

**E. Camping Permit Expiration.** All camping permits must be renewed by **10:00 a.m.** on the last day of the permit period. **Campsites must be cleaned and vacated by 12:00 noon. Sunday check out time is 3:00 p.m., unless site is reserved for Sunday night.**

**F. Camping Entry Hours.** No camping party shall start setting up or taking down its camping unit between the hours of **10:00 p.m.** and the following 8:00 a.m., without authorization of the Park attendant, except in the case of an emergency.

**G. Campsite Parking.** It shall be unlawful to park any motor vehicle outside the parking area designated at each campsite and not more than two motor vehicles are permitted to any campsite.

**H. Camping Permit - Issuance.**

**1. Underage 18.** It shall be unlawful for any person under the age of 18 to obtain a camping permit.

**2. Not a Member of Camping Party.** It shall be unlawful for any person to obtain a camping permit for use by a camping party of which he is not a member, except that parents or legal guardians and an adult leader of a minor group may obtain camping permits for use by minor groups.

**I. Campsite-Mandatory Occupancy.** During the period from May 1 through Labor Day, a campsite must be occupied by a member of the camping party on the first night of the permit period and no campsite may be left unoccupied for more than 24 hours or the permit is forfeited.

**J. Camping Violations.** Violations of any state law or any rules of the Wood County Park Committee or this Ordinance by a member of a camping party is cause for revocation of the camping permit and/or other penalties as provided.

**K. Camping Prohibitions-Posted Notice.** No person shall camp on any lands under the management, supervision or control of the Committee contrary to posted notice.

**Chapter 600 .12 VIOLATION OF THIS ORDINANCE**

**(1) Legal Action.**

**A. Arrest Powers.** Any law enforcement officer of Wood County, or any of its municipal subdivisions, or law officers of the state, may issue a citation for the violation of any of the provisions of this chapter. Said citation shall be in the format set forth in Wis. Stats. §66.119, which is incorporated herein by reference. Said law enforcement officers as well as agents of the Park & Forestry Department shall have, at all times, the right to enter the premises of any County Park, building, structure, or enclosure in any park, wayside, or special recreation area, including such grounds, buildings, structures, or enclosure which may be leased or set aside for private or exclusive use of any individual or group of individuals, for the purpose of determining that there is compliance with this Ordinance and the rules and regulations made by the Committee, and may use all necessary means to attain that end.

**B. Prosecution.** Whenever an arrest shall have been made or any violation shall occur, the District Attorney or Corporation Counsel shall prosecute or proceed as provided by law.

**C. Penalties.** Any person, firm company or corporation who violates the regulations set forth in this Ordinance, or rules and regulations made by the

Committee, shall be subject to a forfeiture of not less than \$25 or more than \$500.00 together with the costs of the action. Each day a violation exists shall constitute a distinct and separate violation of this Ordinance and as such, forfeitures shall apply accordingly.

**(2) Notice of Violation**

**A. Notice Issuance Authority.** Wood County Park and Forestry Department personnel, designated in writing by the Park Administrator and peace officers described in 600.12 (1) A. shall have the authority to issue a Notice of Violation on forms approved by and pursuant to procedures established by the Park Administrator and the Wood County Park and Forestry Committee.

**B. Penalties.** Persons to whom a Notice of Violation has been issued for violating this Ordinance or rules and regulations made by the committee, may enter into a stipulation of guilt with Wood County by posting the sum (established in the fee schedule set by the Wood County Park and Forestry Committee), within 5 days after the issuance of a Notice of Violation. Violators of this ordinance, who do not timely post said sum as a fee, shall be referred to Law Enforcement for the issuance of a citation as provided in Section 600.12 (1) of the Park Ordinance.

**(3) Damages.** In addition to the penalties specified in paragraph 600.12 (2), any person violating any of the provisions of this Ordinance shall be liable for any damages.

**Chapter 600 .13 EFFECTIVE DATE AND REPEALS**

**(1) Effective date.** This Ordinance shall take effect and be in force from and after its' passage and publication.

**(2) Repeals.** All Ordinances and parts of Ordinances in conflict herewith, are repealed.

**(3) Invalidation.** Invalidation of any one of the sub-sections of this Ordinance, by judgment or court order, shall in no way effect any of the other provisions thereof which shall remain in full force and effect.

**Chapter 600 .14 SPECIAL EXCEPTIONS**

**(1) Special Exceptions** - Special exception to the terms of this ordinance may be granted by prior approval of the Park and Forestry Committee and/or the Park Administrator.