

Rules & Regulations

The Conservation Board may adopt Rules and Regulations to govern the use of areas under their management as authorized in Chapter 350. Make sure to follow the law closely on this. It must be listed on the agenda for the Board to act. It must be published in an "Official" newspaper in the county for two consecutive weeks in the Official Notices section of the paper. Official papers are designated each year by the Board of Supervisors. Then to be in effect, it must be posted also as required in Chapter 350.

Listed below are the current Rules and Regulations:

Ch. 350.5 Code of Iowa – Rules & Regulations – officers. The County Conservation Board may make, alter, amend or repeal rules and regulations for the protection and control of all museums, parks, preserves, parkways, playgrounds, recreation centers, and other property under its control... The Board may designate the executive director and such employees as the executive director may designate as police officers who shall have the powers conferred by law on police officers, peace officers or sheriffs in the enforcement of the laws of the State of Iowa and the apprehension of violators thereof.

SECTION 1 – DEFINITIONS

Board – when used hereunder shall mean the Plymouth County, Iowa Conservation Board.

Person – shall mean any person, firm, partnership or corporation.

Camper – shall mean any person engaged in the act of camping or occupying a campsite.

Campsite – shall mean the site within a campground designated by the Board for the erecting of camping equipment or camping unit.

Campground – shall mean the area within a county park, recreation or conservation area set aside for the act of camping.

Director – shall mean the person employed by the Board to carry out its policies as prescribed in Chapter 350 of the Code of Iowa.

Authorized Representative – shall include Rangers and other persons designated from time to time by the Director.

Special Use Permit – shall mean any use permit issued and signed by the Director or his authorized representative pursuant to authority delegated by the Board.

Camping Unit – shall mean either a single tent not larger than 140 square feet in size at its base, pickup camper, motor home or converted bus, recreation trailer, or a motor vehicle used for a camp by a camping party, except those shelters used exclusively for dining purposes, plus, at the option of the camping party, a second tent or additional tent no larger than 140 square feet at its base, if same is used and occupied by members of that camping party.

Official Signs – shall mean signs provided for in the Iowa State Department of Transportation Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Iowa Streets and Highways and other signs designated from time to time by the Board.

SECTION 2 – CAMPGROUND REGULATIONS It shall be unlawful to camp or occupy a campsite on any campground under the control of the Board without observing the following rules.

2.1 Campers must restore campsite to the same approximate condition as existed when they found it.

2.2 Campers must erect their camping equipment and camp in designated campsites only. In campgrounds where sites are not designated that camper may camp any place within the campground except in those portions where camping is expressly prohibited with official signs giving notice to this restriction.

2.3 No camping will be allowed or provided for within 100 feet of any well or public restroom facility.

2.4 No camping equipment of any kind may occupy a campsite in any campground for more than 14 days out of any 21 day period. On all parks or units with more than one campground, this restriction shall apply to the entire unit and all campgrounds on the unit.

2.5 Each campsite must be occupied during the first night after camping equipment has been set up and the camping equipment may not be left unattended for more than 24 hours without the permission of the Director or authorized representative. Unattended camping equipment which is not removed in the prescribed time limit is subject to impoundment. Camping equipment impounded as a result of having violated the 24 hour unattended limit as forth herein, shall be removed and stored at the expense of the owner, such expense shall not be less than \$25.00. If not re-claimed within six months of its removal hereunder, all such camping equipment shall be considered abandoned and shall thereafter be disposed of as prescribed by law.

2.6 All campers shall maintain quiet in campgrounds during the hours of 10:30 PM and 6:00 AM.

2.7 It is unlawful to obtain a camping permit for a party of which you are not a member.

2.8 A single campsite may be occupied by: (a) a parent or parents with children and not more than 2 lineal relatives or guests. (b) an unorganized group of 5 or less persons who are 7 years of age or older (c) up to 10 people of an organized juvenile group.

2.9 Only registered campers are permitted in campgrounds during the hours of 10:30 PM and 7:30 AM.

2.10 It shall be unlawful to erect more than one camping unit at a campsite.

2.11 Check-out time for all campers will be 2:00 PM. Campers remaining in the campground past the check-out time will be required to pay an additional day of camping fees as set forth in the fee schedule. Exceptions to this check-out time will be Sundays and Holidays at which time, check-out time will be 8:00 PM.

2.12 It shall be unlawful to park any motor vehicle outside the parking area designated at each campsite, and not more than two licensed vehicles are permitted to any campsite.

2.13 No camping unit or party shall move from its assigned campsite to another campsite without prior approval from the Director or his authorized representative.

2.14 Violation of any state law or Conservation Board rule and regulation by any member of a camping party is cause for revocation of the camping permit and the entire camping party shall be required to leave the area.

SECTION 3 – VEHICLE REGULATIONS It shall be unlawful to leave any motor vehicle unattended or abandoned on any land under the jurisdiction of the Board for more than 24 hours without the permission of the Director or an authorized representative. Any motor vehicle left unattended or abandoned for more than 24 hours shall be considered abandoned and shall be thereafter be disposed of as prescribed by law.

SECTION 4 – REMOVING PLANTS, FLOWERS OR FRUIT Section 461A.41 of the Code of Iowa entitled “Removing plants, flowers or fruit” is hereby modified under the authority of Section 350.5 of the Code of Iowa as follows: It shall be lawful to collect the fruit of all nut and berry producing plants or mushrooms for non-commercial home use, providing that the collector does not otherwise damage the parent plant, except in those areas as may be designated from time to time by the Board as prohibiting such activity. Such areas shall be posted at their entrance with official signs to constructively inform the public that this activity is prohibited.

SECTION 5 – HUNTING

5.1 Section 461A.42 of the Code of Iowa entitled “Use of Firearms prohibited – exceptions” is hereby modified under the authority of Section 350.5 of the Code of Iowa as follows: It shall be lawful to hunt or pursue game birds or wild animals in or on all areas or portions of areas designated from time to time as hunting areas by the Board.

5.2 WEAPONS PERMITTED – Under the authority of Section 350.5 of the Code of Iowa, the Board hereby restricts the types of weapons which may be used for hunting as follows: It shall be lawful to use only shotguns, flintlock or percussion cap muzzle-loading muskets or rifles, long bows or .22 caliber rimfire rifles, pistols or revolvers in or on areas or portions of areas which the Board has designated as hunting areas.

5.3 –TIME PERIOD OPEN TO HUNTING – Under the authority of Section 350.5 of the Code of Iowa, the Board hereby restricts the time period which hunting areas designated by the Board shall be open to hunting as follows: **A. HILLVIEW RECREATION AREA** – Hunting shall be lawful from October 15 through December 31 of each year in or on the portion of Hillview Recreation Area that the Board has designated as a hunting area. **B. FIVE RIDGE PRAIRIE** – Hunting shall be lawful beginning the third Saturday in September through January 31 of the following year according to Iowa DNR regulations, seasons and hours. Hunting shall also be lawful until noon each day during the spring wild turkey season as established by the Iowa DNR.

5.4 – SPECIES RESTRICTED – Under the authority of Section 350.5 of the Code of Iowa, the Board hereby restricts the species which may be hunted as follows: It shall be unlawful to hunt coyote, badger, woodchuck, or fox in or on the Five Ridge Prairie area.

SECTION 6 – DOMESTIC ANIMALS Section 461A.45 of the Code of Iowa entitled “Animals on Leash” is hereby modified under the authority of Section 350.5 of the Code of Iowa as follows: It shall be lawful to permit dogs to run at large for the purpose of training, exercising them or hunting in or on all areas designated from time to time as hunting areas by the Board during the time periods when hunting is permitted, and the Director or his authorized representative may, by issuing a special permit allow such activity on any area or at other times.

SECTION 7 – USE OF HORSES RESTRICTED – It shall be unlawful to ride, lead or otherwise allow the entry or use of horses or horse-drawn wagons on any portion of any area, except as provided herein. The Board shall from time to time designate trails and roads for the use of horses and the Director or his authorized representative may, by issuing a special permit, allow such activity on any area.

SECTION 8 – TRAPPING –It shall be unlawful to trap on any land under the control of the Board without a special use permit issued by the Director or an authorized representative.

SECTION 9 – WATERCRAFT

9.1 – WATERCRAFT UNATTENDED – NOT PERMITTED – It shall be unlawful to leave unattended any boat or other form of water conveyance on or attached to land under the jurisdiction of the Board, except in certain specific areas which may be designated from time to time, for more than 12 consecutive hours. Any water conveyance in violation hereof shall be removed and stored at the expense of the owner, which expense shall not be less than \$25.00. If not reclaimed within six months of its removal hereunder, such water conveyance shall be considered abandoned and shall be disposed of as prescribed by law.

9.2 – WATERCRAFT MOTORS AUTHORIZED – Only electrically powered trolling motors shall be lawful for motorized watercraft on the waters managed by the Board.

SECTION 10 – RECREATION USE ONLY ALLOWED – It shall be unlawful for any person to occupy any portion of any area for washing or repairing vehicles; advertising or political campaigning; hawking; peddling; or any other commercial activity, except concessionaires acting under the authority of a lease or contract with the Board and those activities provided for by Board Policy; or any other purpose not primarily recreational.

SECTION 11 – FEES AND CHARGES

11.1 – SETTING FEES AND CHARGES – Fees or charges made for services or use of land, facilities equipment, materials or supplies on any area to be collected by the Director or his authorized representative or authorized concessionaires shall be prescribed and approved by the Board.

11.2 – PAYMENT OF FEES OR CHARGES – It shall be unlawful for any person or persons to enter or use any facilities for which entrance fees or user fees are prescribed without payment of same, except those persons on official business or authorized by special use permits.

SECTION 12 – WINTER SPORTS – It shall be unlawful to use any device for downhill winter sports which is either not safe or not designed for this purpose. The Board may designate from time to time those devices which may be used for downhill winter sports. Downhill winter sports areas shall be posted with official signs to constructively notify the public which devices are permitted.

SECTION 13 – SWIMMING – Swimming shall be allowed only at designated swimming areas during the hours of 9:00 AM to sunset. Glass containers and pets are prohibited on any beach or in any swimming area. It is unlawful for any person to fish in a designated swimming area. It is unlawful for any person to have any alcoholic beverage, as defined in the Code of Iowa, in their possession within 100 feet of the beach and swimming area.

SECTION 14 - Reserved for future use

SECTION 15 – AUDIO DEVICES – It is unlawful to operate or use any audio device including radio, television, musical instrument, or any similar noise producing devices in such a manner or at such times as to disturb other persons.

SECTION 16 – PORTABLE EQUIPMENT – Electric generating plants, power saws, or any similar equipment driven by a motor or engine may be used only at those times that they do not disturb other persons. Under no circumstances may these devices be used prior to 9:00 AM or later than 7:00 PM.

SECTION 17 – PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM – It shall be unlawful to operate or use any public address system whether fixed, portable, or vehicular mounted except when such use or operation has been approved by the Director or an authorized representative in writing.

SECTION 18 – METAL DETECTORS – It shall be unlawful to use a metal detector on any land under the jurisdiction of the Board without a special use permit issued by the Director or an authorized representative.

SECTION 19 – RESERVATIONS – It shall be unlawful to reserve a park facility which the Board has placed on the reservation list unless the person making the reservation has attained the age of 18 years.

SECTION 20 – Reserved for future use.

SECTION 21 – OPENING TIME – Except by arrangement or permission granted by the Director or an authorized representative, all persons shall vacate land under the jurisdiction of the Board during the hours of 10:30 PM until 4:30 AM. Areas may be closed or opened 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.

SECTION 22 – Reserved for future use.

SECTION 23 – OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES EXEMPT – These rules and regulations shall not prohibit or hinder activities of the Board, its officers, employees, duly assigned agents or any other peace officer from performing their official duties.

SECTION 24 – SEVERENCE – These rules and regulations are separate and complete, however separated. Should any section or part be declared unenforceable for any reason, the remaining portion or sections shall continue in full force and effect.

SECTION 25 – SPEECH OR CONDUCT UNREASONABLY INTERFERING WITH LAWFUL USE OF AN AREA BY OTHERS – Unprovoked speech commonly perceived as offensive or abusive is prohibited when such speech unreasonably interferes with lawful use and enjoyment of the area by another member of the public. A citation may be issued if such unreasonable interference continues after the speaker has been warned of the prohibition.

SECTION 26 – ADOPTION OF RULES AND REGULATIONS – The foregoing rules and regulations, having been adopted by the Plymouth County Conservation Board on April 3, 1979, amended by said Board on February 5, 1985 and on February 13, 1990 and on June 12, 1990 and on February 11, 1997 and on May 11, 1999 are hereby declared effective after having been published and posted according to law.

Other selected portions of the Code of Iowa that are applicable to County Conservation Areas include:

461A.35 – Prohibited Destructive Acts; 461A.36 – Speed Limit; 461A.37 – Excessive Loads; 461A.38 – Parking; 461A.39 – Hitching to Trees; 461A.40 – Fires; 461A.41 – Removing Plants, Flowers or Fruit; 461A.42 – Use of Firearms Prohibited – Exceptions; 461A.43 – Littering; 461A.44 – Prohibited Areas; 461A.45 – Animals on Leash; 461A.46 – Closing Time; 461A.47 – Camping Fees; 461A.48 – Camping Areas; 461A.49 – Camping Time Limit; 461A.50 – Registering to Camp; 461A.51 – Camping Privileges Refused; 461A.57 – Penalties; 321 – Iowa Motor Vehicle Code