

**CONSERVATION AND PUBLIC PARK REGULATIONS
OF THE HANCOCK COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD**

The following portions of the State Code of Iowa apply to County Parks and Wildlife areas.

350.10 STATUTES APPLICABLE. Sections 461A.35 through 461A.57 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 sections 461A.35 through 461A.57, "natural resources 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 However, sections 461A.35 through 461A.57 may be modified or superseded by rules adopted as provided in section 350.5.

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 purposes any structure, or to remove any plant life, trees, buildings, 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 purposes 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 35 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 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.

Under the authority provided for in the above section (461A.36), the Hancock County Conservation Board has established a 10 mile per hour speed limit on all county park roads, unless otherwise designated by official signs.

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 the Directors representative and will depend upon the load and road conditions.

461A.46 CLOSING TIME. Except by arrangement or permission granted by the Director or the Directors authorized representative, all persons shall vacate state parks and preserves before ten-thirty o'clock 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.

Under the authority provided for in 461A.46, the Hancock County Conservation Board has set the closing time for parks under their jurisdiction at eleven o'clock p.m..

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 a reasonable value of such privileges.

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 a specific state park or preserve, and in no event longer than for a period of two weeks.

461A.50 REGISTERING -- VACATING. Any person who camps in any state park or preserve shall register the persons 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.

ICE, SAND, GRAVEL REMOVAL

461A.52 AGREEMENT WITH COMMISSION. No person shall remove any ice, sand, gravel, stone, wood or other natural material from any land or waters under the jurisdiction of the commission without first entering into an agreement with the commission.

461A.53 PERMITS. The commission may enter into agreements for the removal of ice, sand, gravel, stone, wood, or other natural material from lands or waters under the jurisdiction of the commission, if after investigation, it is determined that such removal will not be detrimental to the states interest. The commission may specify the terms and consideration under which such removal is permitted and issue written permits for such removal.

461A.54 BARRIERS ON ICE FIELD. Any person removing ice under a permit shall erect barriers on any part of an ice field where ice is cut, where said field crosses or traverses any part of a stream or lake that is used as a way of passage.

461A.38 PARKING. All vehicles shall be parked in designated parking areas, and 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, or 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 therefore, and such fire shall be extinguished when 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.

For exceptions to 461A.41 see section 7

461A.42 USE OF FIREARMS, EXPLOSIVES, WEAPONS, AND FIREWORKS PROHIBITED -- EXCEPTIONS. The use by the public of firearms, 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.

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 Directors 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.

461A.55 DREDGING. In removing sand, gravel, or other material from state-owned waters by dredging, the operator shall so arrange the operator's equipment that other users of the lake or stream shall not be endangered by cables, anchors, or any concealed equipment. No waste material shall be left in the water in such manner as to endanger other craft or to change the course of any stream.

461A.56 DISTURBING NATURAL BANK. Where operations are entirely on private property adjacent to a public lake or stream the natural bank between the state and privately owned areas shall not be removed except by permission of the commission.

461A.57 PENALTIES. Any person violating any of the provisions of section 461A.35 to 461A.56 and section 461A.85 is guilty of a simple misdemeanor.

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 the state. The regulations shall not take effect until ten days after their adoption by the Board and after their publication as provided in section 331.305 and after a copy of the regulations has been posted near each gate or principal 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 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 the apprehension of violators upon all property under its control within and without the county. The Board may grant the Director and those employees of the Board designated as police officers the authority to enforce the provisions of chapters 321G, 461A, 462A, 481A, on land not under the control of the Board within the county.

SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS. Pursuant to the authority of Chapter 350.5 of the Code of Iowa, the Hancock County Conservation Board, hereby promulgates and places unto effect the following regulations.

A. "Basic Unit or Basic Camping Unit" shall mean any portable shelter used for camping as defined in section 1(D).

B. "Beach" shall mean the portion of park or recreation areas designated for swimming activity, including the water area contiguous to the beach.

C. "Board" shall mean the Hancock County Conservation Board.

D. "Camping" shall mean any use of a shelter such as a tent, trailer, or motor vehicle specifically designed for such use as a temporary residence at the camp area.

E. "Campsite" shall mean a segment of a campground designated by the Board for camping by one basic unit or camping party.

F. "Director" shall mean the Executive Director of the Hancock County Conservation Board.

G. "Noise" shall mean any loud, confused or senseless shouting or outcry: a sound lacking in agreeable musical quality or which is noticeably unpleasant or excessively loud as could disturb others.

H. "Swim" or "Swimming" shall mean to propel oneself in water by natural means such as movement of limbs including but not limited to wading and the use of inner tubes or beach toy-type swimming aids. This does not include persons engaged in the act of fishing.

I. "Camping Party" shall mean any individual group of not more than six persons occupying one campsite.

J. "Blind" shall mean a constructed place of ambush concealment for the purpose of hunting, observing, or photographing any species of wildlife.

K. "Target Shooting" shall mean the discharge of a firearm at an object to test accuracy.

SECTION 2. SCOPE. The provisions of these regulations shall apply to all areas under the control or management of the Board.

SECTION 3. CAMPING.

A. Violation of any state law or county regulation by any member of a camping party shall be considered just cause for revocation of the camping permit and the entire camping party may be required to leave the park or area.

B. It shall be unlawful for any person to camp in any campground contrary to that set forth in section 1(D).

C. All persons shall maintain quite and avoid making noise after 11:00 p.m. and until 6:00 a.m. the following day.

D. Any person not registered to camp campers must vacate the park at 11:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. the following day.

E. All campers are restricted to the campground after 11:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. the following day except by arrangement or permission granted by the Director or his representative.

F. Camper registration is done by self registration process on forms provided by the Board. Campers shall within one hour of arrival at the campground, complete the registration process by: filling out the registration form, placing the appropriate fee in the envelope and placing it in the depository. One copy must be retained and placed in the holder at the campsite.

G. When the requirements of 3(F) are met, the campsite is considered occupied.

H. Camping is restricted to one "basic unit" per campsite, except that one additional small tent or other type camping unit may be placed on the same campsite for dependant members of the family occupying said campsite.

I. Campers occupying a campsite shall vacate the campground or register for another night prior to 4:00 p.m. daily. Registration can be made for more than one night at a time. Campers must vacate the campground on the fourteenth consecutive day and may not return to the same campground until a minimum of three days has passed.

J. Each campsite will be allowed a maximum of two motor vehicles in addition to that being used as a camping unit. Such motor vehicles must be parked within the boundaries of that particular campsite.

K. Campers shall not leave their campsite in worse condition than it was when they first arrived at said site.

SECTION 4. CLOSING AND OPENING TIME. Except by arrangement or permission granted by the Director or the Directors representative, all persons shall vacate all county parks, or parks under the control or management of the county, before 11:00 p.m. each day, and no person or persons shall enter into such parks until 6:00 a.m. the following day. The provisions of this section shall not apply to registered and authorized campers in areas authorized for camping.

SECTION 5. DOMESTIC REFUSE PROHIBITED. It shall be unlawful to transport garbage, refuse, or litter from any household, business, industry, or any other place for the purpose of disposing it in or on any areas of the Board or in their refuse receptacles provided for the use by the Board and its current facility users.

SECTION 6. NOISE PRODUCING DEVICES. It shall be unlawful to operate or use any radio, television, stereo, musical instrument, electricity generating units, or similar equipment in or on any area in such a manner as to create noise and/or disturbing others. This section shall also include senseless shouting or loud laughter and voices.

SECTION 7. CUTTING OF TREES PROHIBITED. It shall be unlawful to cut any standing trees; dead or alive, at any time in or on any areas under the control of the Board. County personnel may harvest trees under a forestry management plan, in the interest of public safety, or with permission granted by the Board.

SECTION 8. PICKING OF PLANTS, FLOWERS, AND FRUITS EXCEPTIONS. It shall be lawful to collect fruits, plants, and flowers from areas of the Board, only upon receiving permission by the Director or the Directors representative.

SECTION 9. KEG BEER RESTRICTED. No person or persons shall possess individually or as a group a keg of beer in or on any areas under the control of the Board without first being granted permission by the Director or the Directors representative. For the purposes of this chapter, a "keg" is defined as any container capable of holding a quantity of one gallon or more. Kegs are prohibited in or on beach areas, campgrounds, shelters, or areas immediately adjacent to these areas. Any person wishing to possess a keg in or on any area under control of the Board shall contact the Director or the Directors representative in advance and comply with the following procedure:

- a. A designated agent shall be named, who shall sign a responsibility agreement provided by the Board.
- b. The designated agent shall be available for personal contact by Board personnel at all times during a kegger. "Kegger" shall mean the presence of a keg.
- c. The designated agent shall pay a deposit of \$100.00 to be held by the Board as a damage deposit. The Board, Director, or Directors representative will designate the area in which the kegger shall be conducted.
- d. The designated agent shall assume responsibility to assure that all state laws and county regulations are complied with in the conduct of persons attending the kegger, and that the area used for the kegger is left in a clean, and un-littered condition and no state or county property is damaged.
- e. The designated agent shall notify the Board's representative when the kegger is concluded.
- f. Violation of any state law or county regulation by any member of the kegger shall be just cause to terminate the continuation of the kegger and the entire group shall be required to leave the area.
- g. If it is necessary for Board personnel to clean up the area or repair any damage, a log of the time spent in such clean up or repair shall be kept. The damage deposit refund shall be reduced by an amount equivalent to the applicable hourly wage of the employees for the time necessary to clean the area or costs to repair the damage. The \$100.00 shall not be construed as a limit of liability for damage to state or county property. The Board may take any legal action necessary to recover additional damages.

SECTION 10. SWIMMING RESTRICTED. It shall be unlawful for any person to swim in any waters on any area under the jurisdiction of the Board, except that persons may swim within the boundaries of a designated beach. The boundaries of such beaches are marked by ropes, buoys, or signs. If no designated beach exists within a particular area, swimming is prohibited in that area.

SECTION 11. SQUEALING OF TIRES PROHIBITED. The causing of squealing tires or displacement of gravel through too rapid of acceleration or too high speed turning of a motor vehicle is unlawful within the boundaries of areas under the jurisdiction of the Board.

SECTION 12. INVIOATE REFUGES. It shall be unlawful for any person to enter on to any area or disturb or attempt to disturb any wildlife within any area under the jurisdiction of the Board that has been proclaimed an inviolate refuge without first being granted permission by the Director or the Directors representative. Inviolate refuges shall be posted as such with signs placed around the perimeter stating "INVIOATE REFUGE NO TRESPASSING NO ADMITTANCE".

SECTION 13. HUNTING, TRAPPING RESTRICTED. It shall be unlawful for any person to trap or attempt to trap, or take or attempt to take any birds or wild animals on any areas under the jurisdiction of the Board, except for those areas designated as Public Hunting areas. Public Hunting areas shall be posted as such with signs placed around the perimeter stating "PUBLIC HUNTING" or "HUNTING IS ALLOWED".

SECTION 14. OFFICIAL SIGNS. It shall be unlawful for any person to enter, use, or occupy any area or facility under the jurisdiction of the Board contrary to or in disregard to any official signs.

SECTION 15. MOTOR VEHICLES UNATTENDED NOT PERMITTED. It shall be unlawful to leave any motor vehicle unattended on or in any area under the jurisdiction of the Board after the closing time of that particular area pursuant to section 4, without permission by the Director or the Directors representative. Any motor vehicle left in violation hereof shall be subject to removal and storage at the expense of its owner. If not reclaimed within six months of its removal, all such motor vehicles shall be considered abandoned and shall be disposed of as directed by the Board.

SECTION 16. MOTOR RESTRICTIONS. All vessels being operated on or in Eldred Sherwood Lake (Indian Lake) are restricted to electric trolling motors only. All gasoline motors are prohibited from operation.

SECTION 17. OFFICIAL DUTY EXEMPTED. Peace officers, members of the Board, Board employees, and any other county, state, or federal natural resources management personnel are exempt from all rules and regulations while acting within the scope of their employment.

SECTION 18. USE OF BLINDS RESTRICTED

a. Any person may construct a blind on a public hunting area under control of the Board using only natural vegetation found on the area, except no trees or parts of trees other than willows may be cut for that purpose. The construction of such blinds does not give that person any proprietary right to use the blind.

b. No person shall bring onto a public hunting area of the Board, to use for the construction of a blind thereon, any sawed lumber, wire, nails, bolts, screws, posts or pipe, metal cable, or any hardware of any type, except when these materials are parts of portable blinds which are self contained units readily moveable from one site to another.

c. All portable blinds mentioned in "b" shall be removed by February 1st of each year and remain removed until September 1st of that year.

d. All portable blinds used in an attempt to take waterfowl on Public Hunting areas of the Board shall be removed by one hour after legal shooting time until midnight each day. Decoys shall be removed by one hour after legal shooting time until midnight each day.

e. No person shall drive or otherwise place any nail, spike, pin, or any other object, metal or otherwise, into any tree on a Public Hunting area for the purpose of placing or constructing a blind, or gaining access to a blind or hunting location above the ground.

f. Any blinds or materials found on areas under the control of the Board, in violation of any of the above sections shall be removed and confiscated by any peace officer or Board personnel.

SECTION 19. VEHICLES. Operation of any motorized vehicle shall be restricted to designated roadways and parking areas on all Board areas.

SECTION 20. TARGET SHOOTING. It shall be unlawful for any person to target shoot on any areas under the control of the Board between May 1, and September 1, yearly.

SECTION 21. USE OF NONTOXIC SHOT. It shall be unlawful to hunt any migratory game bird or resident game or furbearers, except deer and turkeys, or target shoot with a shotgun while having in one's possession any shot other than nontoxic shot approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on all Hancock County Conservation Board areas.