

CHAPTER 10
PARKS AND RECREATION
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CHAPTER 10

PARK AND RECREATION

10.100 DEFINITIONS

(a) MOTORCYCLE/MINI-TRAIL BIKE

A motor vehicle designed to travel on not more than 3 wheels which is capable of speeds in excess of 10 mph with a 150 lb. rider on dry level ground excluding a tractor or an All-Terrain Vehicle.

(b) OFF ROAD VEHICLE

Any motorized vehicles designed for or capable of cross-country travel on or immediately over land, water, sand, snow, ice, marsh or other terrain which would include, but would not be limited to, such vehicles as four-wheel drive, trucks, air cushion vehicles; except that such term excludes:

- (1) any registered motorboat
- (2) any military, fire, emergency, or law enforcement vehicle when used for official or emergency purposes, and
- (3) any vehicle whose use is expressly authorized by the Forest, Parks and Recreation/Land Information Committee (Committee) under permit, lease, license, or contract.
- (4) All-Terrain Vehicles.

(c) FORESTRY VEHICLE

A vehicle or piece of equipment or machinery designed for the harvesting or transport of forest products, used exclusively in the conduct of forestry operations.

(d) AUTOMOBILE

A passenger vehicle designed for operation on public roadways, typically having four wheels and a gasoline/diesel internal combustion engine or electrically propelled.

(e) DEPARTMENT

Oconto County Forestry, Parks and Recreation Department.

(f) PARK ADMINISTRATOR

Park Administrator means the Oconto County Forest and Parks Administrator.

(g) CAMP OR CAMPING

The use of a camping unit for temporary residence or sleeping purposes.

(h) CAMPsite

An area of a campground which is designated by the operator as capable of accommodating and independent or dependent camping unit. A campsite may be one, or a combination, or the following:

- (1) Individual campsite
- (2) Group campsite
- (3) Seasonal campsite
- (4) Rustic campsite

(i) CAMPING UNIT

A structure, including a tent, camping cabin, yurt, recreation vehicle, mobile home or manufactured home, bus, van or pickup truck.

(j) CAMPING PARTY

Any individual, family or unorganized group occupying a campsite. An unorganized group may not exceed 4 persons who are 18 years of age or older.

(k) FAMILY

Parents and minor children living together in a household.

(l) PICNIC AREA

Any tract of land developed and maintained for picnicking including adjacent playground and play field areas.

(m) BATHING BEACH

Any water area or adjacent land area designated as a swim area by standard regulatory markers or posted notice.

(Amended on 03/22/2018 Ord. #2018-03-03)

(n) WATERCRAFT

Shall include all motorized and non-motorized boats, personal watercraft, hydroplanes, amphibious vehicles, jet skis, sailboats, hovercraft, or any other craft or vehicle used upon the water.

(Added on 04/15/2025 Ord. #2025-04-01)

(o) POWER LOADING

Is the practice of putting on or taking off, front a trailer, carriage or device, a watercraft while under motor power, whether by main, auxiliary or trolling power devices.

(Added on 04/15/2025 Ord. #2025-04-01)

(p) SNOWSHOE

A flat device resembling a racket, which is attached to the sole of a boot and used for walking on snow.

(Added on 04/15/2025 Ord. #2025-04-01)

10.200 ADMINISTRATION

The Oconto County Board of Supervisors has assigned the administration of lands entered under Section 28.11 and all park lands as well as any lands designated as reserved lands in the official copy of the reserved lands book files in the office of the County Clerk to the Land and Water Resources Committee. Hereinafter called the Committee.

10.300 AUTOMOBILES, MOTORCYCLES, MINIBIKES, DIRT BIKES, TRUCKS, OFF-ROAD VEHICLES (OTHER THAN ATV'S) AND SNOWMOBILES.

(a) PERMITTED USE OF VEHICLES

Emergency, Law Enforcement, Forestry and Park vehicles are permitted to use all roads, trails, and lands under the management, supervision or control of the Committee.

Disabled person(s) may use vehicles as a means of personal conveyance (excluding non-disabled person(s) by written permit obtained by Committee or designee).

(b) RESTRICTED USE OF VEHICLES

No person shall operate any motor vehicle, including, but not limited to, automobiles, motorcycles, mini bikes, dirt bikes, trucks, off-road vehicles, snowmobiles or motor bicycles, as defined in s. 340.01(30), Wis. Stats., on park or forest lands under the management, supervision or control of the Committee, except as follows:

- (1) Automobiles, motorcycles, trucks and off- road vehicles that are currently registered with the Department of Transportation are permitted on County Forest Roads (approved by the State Department of Transportation), and existing trails (over 12 feet cleared width) that are not closed by a gate, berm, stumps or posting, or roads that are not designated recreation trails for such purposes as, including but not limited to hiking, cross country skiing, snowmobiling, horseback riding, or ATV operation.
- (2) The Forest, Parks & Recreation/Land Information Systems Sub-Committee may authorize and permit snowmobiles on designated snowmobile trails.
- (3) A non-electric motor bicycle: without the motor engaged, running or otherwise in operation.

(c) VEHICLE OWNER'S LIABILITY

When any vehicle is involved in a violation of any provision of Sec. 10.501, 10.802, 10.809, 10.810, 10.815, 10.1001, 10.1002 AND 10.1004, the owner of said vehicle as shown by the ownership registration of the vehicle supplied by the Wisconsin Department of Transportation, Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, or a comparable authority of any other State, shall be presumed to have violated the applicable Sections of the Oconto County Code of Ordinances set forth herein. The following are defenses to a violation of this section.

- (1) That a report that the vehicle was stolen was given to a traffic officer before the violation occurred or within a reasonable time after the violation occurred.
- (2) If the owner of the vehicle provides an issuing officer with the name and address of the person operating the vehicle at the time of the violation and the person so named admits operating the vehicle at the time of the violation, then the person operating the vehicle and not the owner

shall be charged under this section.

- (3) If the vehicle is owned by a lessor of vehicles and at the time of the violation the vehicle was in possession of the lessee, and the lessor provides an issuing officer with information required, then the lessee not the lessor shall be charged under this section.
- (4) If the vehicle is owned by a dealer, and at the time of the violation the vehicle being operated by any person on a trail run, and if the dealer provides the issuing officer with the name, address and operator's license number of the person operating the vehicle, that the person operating the vehicle, and not the dealer, shall be charged under this section.

10.400 CROSS-COUNTRY TRAILS

- (a) Animals on ski and snowshoe trails. No person shall allow a dog or any other animal on designated cross-country ski and snowshoe trails during that period of the year when such trails are open for cross-country skiing and snowshoeing or being groomed for opening in MACHICKANEE County Forest, except while hunting in accordance with applicable State statutes and applicable provisions of the Wisconsin Administrative Code setting forth regulations of the Department of Natural Resources.
- (b) Hiking, walking or running on ski and snowshoe trails. No person shall hike, walk or run on any designated cross-country ski or snowshoe trails during that period of the year when such trails are open or being groomed for opening in MACHICKANEE County Forest, except while hunting in accordance with applicable State statutes and applicable provision of the Wisconsin Administrative Code setting forth regulations of the Department of Natural Resources.

(Amended on 04/15/2025 Ord. #2025-04-01)

10.500 CAMPING

(a) CAMPING PERMITS

Camping is prohibited, except in designated areas of county parks or county recreation areas. It shall be unlawful to camp in such areas without a permit and payment of such fees as may be required.

(b) OCCUPANCY

A Maximum of 4 Adults or one family shall occupy a single site. Additional Adults may, at the discretion of the Forest Administrator or designee, occupy the same site and shall pay the camping fees.

(c) DEFINED LIMITS

No camping unit shall be set up beyond the defined limits of the Campsite.

(d) MOVING

No camping party shall move from its assigned site to another campsite without prior approval.

(e) EXPIRATION

All camping permits expire at 3:00 P.M. on the last day of the period.

(f) EXTENSIONS

Extensions within the 14-day limit may be granted on camping permits.

(g) TIME PERIOD

No person shall camp and no camping unit shall remain for a period greater than 14 days in any 4-week period in the property of registration. Thereafter, the camping unit must be removed from the property for at least 7 days before being eligible to return, except campers having a granted extension or signed seasonal contract for a greater period of time.

(h) TAKE DOWNS

No camping party shall set up or take down its camping unit between the hours established as curfew, as per s. 10.800(s).

(i) PARKING

It shall be unlawful to park any motor vehicle outside the parking area designated at each campsite and not more than 2 motor vehicles are permitted to any campsite. Except campers having a signed seasonal contract for a greater period of time.

(j) REVOCATION

Violation of any state law, or county ordinance, by a member of a camping party is cause for revocation of the camping permit.

(k) UNOCCUPIED SITES

A campsite must be occupied by a member of the camping party and no campsite may be left unoccupied for more than 16 hours.

(l) TABLE AND OUTLETS

Any party occupying a campsite shall be allowed the use of only one table and one electrical outlet.

10.600 RESERVATIONS

(a) ADVANCED RESERVATIONS

Reservations must be at least 2 days in advance and paid in full at the time the reservation is made.

(b) NON-MEMBER

It shall be unlawful for any person to obtain a camping permit for use by a camping party of which he/she is not a member.

(c) RESERVATION PERIOD

A minimum weekend reservation is 2 nights or 3 nights for stays during Memorial Day, Fourth of July and Labor Day. The site will be held until check-out time of the next day after the reservation was

made for.

(d) **REFUNDS**

No cash, check or credit card refunds will be given except by Forest Administrator approval.

(e) **CANCELLATIONS**

Camping vouchers will be issued in the form of a promotional code, only if cancellation notice is received five (5) days in advance of the commencement date of reservation. The promotional code is valid in the year issued and the following year.

(f) **SEPARATE RESERVATIONS**

A separate reservation must be made for each site in the name of the camping party that will occupy the site.

(Amended on 03/22/2018 Ord. #2018-03-03)

10.700 SHELTERS/ORGANIZED GROUPS USES

(a) Whenever more than 50 persons from an organized group request to use any park facility they shall apply for and obtain a special park use permit. The Committee shall establish a fee schedule for this permit and deposit.

(b) Any organized fishing tournament regardless of size shall obtain a special use permit when using launching facilities.

(Amended on 03/22/2018 Ord. #2018-03-03)

10.800 PARK GENERAL RESTRICTIONS

(a) **METAL DETECTORS**

The use of metal detectors is prohibited.

(b) **REFUSE**

It shall be unlawful for any person to discard or leave any refuse, sewage, or other waste material on the ground, or in any building or installation or into the water or upon the ice of any lake or stream or other body of water, or to dispose of any such refuse or waste material in any manner except by placing in receptacles or other authorized locations provided for such purposes.

(c) **PETS**

It shall be unlawful for any person to allow his or her dog, cat or other pet to be in any public building or to be upon any bathing beach, picnic area, or playground. In all other park areas, all campgrounds, and on posted trails, dogs, cats and other pets shall be kept on a leash not more than 8 feet in length and under the control of the owner at all time. No person shall fail to prevent his or her dog, cat or other pet from interfering in any manner with the enjoyment of the area by others. The Department shall designate a person to act as Poundmaster for the parks for the purpose of providing a pound for pets found running at large within the parks and which are referred to such Poundmaster for impoundment under provisions of State Statute 174.046 by those persons designated by the Committee to enforce the Ordinance. The Poundmaster may charge the owner of pets impounded for

the costs of impoundment prior to their release. If after 7 days an animal is not claimed, the Poundmaster may dispose of the animal. The Poundmaster shall present a monthly statement to the department for animals impounded and not reclaimed by the pet owner. Costs for such impoundment shall be payable to the Poundmaster out of the County's dog license fund.

(d) **FIRE**

It shall be unlawful for any person to start tend or maintain any fire on the ground or to burn any refuse except in fire places or fire rings in camping areas in any county park.

(e) **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 on any lands, structures, or property under the management, supervision, or control of the Committee or to use such lands structures or property for commercial operations, for soliciting or conducting business peddling or providing services within or without such lands, structures or property unless first authorized in writing by contractual agreement with the committee or its duly authorized agents.

(f) **WATER RIDES**

It shall be unlawful to use in any manner the dock, pier, wharf, boat landing, mooring facilities or the waters in the immediately adjacent to any lands under the management, supervision or control of the Committee for the purpose of soliciting rides of any kind unless authorized by the committee.

(g) **BOATS IN SWIMMING AREAS**

It shall be unlawful to operate a boat within a water area marked by buoys or other approved regulatory devices.

(Amended on 04/15/2025 Ord. #2025-04-01)

(h) **HORSES**

It shall be unlawful to ride, lead, or cause or suffer any horse in any county park.

(i) **PARKING**

No person shall park, stop or leave standing whether attended or unattended, any vehicle or watercraft, in any manner as to block, obstruct or limit the use of any road, trail, waterway, or winter port facility, or contrary to posted notice.

(j) **VEHICULAR ACCESS**

No person shall operate any motor vehicle in any county park or recreation area except on roads improved for vehicular traffic.

(k) **ABANDONED VEHICLES**

It shall be unlawful to leave any vehicle unattended without prior Committee approval for more than 48 hours under such circumstances as to cause the vehicle to reasonably appear to have been abandoned. An abandoned vehicle shall constitute a public nuisance.

(l) FIREARMS

It shall be unlawful for any person to have in his possession or under his control any firearm or air gun as defined in section 167.31(1)(c) Wisconsin Statutes, or any slingshot or spring-loaded device designed for shooting a projectile unless the same is unloaded and enclosed in a carrying case, or any bow unless it is unstrung or enclosed in a carrying case.

(m) WILDLIFE

No person shall take, catch, kill, hunt, trap, pursue, or otherwise disturb any wild animals or birds in any county park, campground or picnic area or contrary to posted notice on other areas under the control of the committee.

(n) FEES AND CHARGES

It shall be unlawful for any person to use any facility, land or area for which a fee or charge has been established by the committee without payment of such fee or charge.

(o) CLOSED/RESTRICTED AREAS

The department may close/restrict, by posted notice/sign, any park, park facility or park activity and county forest area recreation activity or activities, including but not limited to the following: any picnic area, beach, camp area, trail head, boat landing, unpaved road or similar recreation facility.

(1) Anderson Lake Boat Access – No person shall camp or picnic within the boat landing area.

(Amended on 04/15/2025 Ord. #2025-04-01)

(p) BEACHES

It shall be unlawful for any person to perform any ambulation or shampoo on any bathing beach or in the water adjacent to any bathing beach in any county park. It shall be unlawful to swim beyond or disturb or molest a bathing beach boundary buoy or marker in any swimming beach in any county park.

(q) 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 as authorized by the committee or its agents by written permit, contract or policy, are permitted.

(r) NOISE

It shall be unlawful for any person to operate any sound truck, loudspeaker, generator, air-conditioner or other device that produces excessive noise without first obtaining a written permit from the committee or their authorized agent.

(s) CURFEWS

No person shall use, occupy or be present in the boat landing area and park areas between the hours of 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m., except for registered campers in a campsite.

(1) DESIGNATION OF CURFEW AREAS
Ranch Lake Beach Area
Townsend Dams
Gillett Riverside (BB)
North River Road Boat Access
Iron Bridge Access
Anderson Lake
Grange Park
Patzer Park
Coulliardville Park

(Amended on 04/15/2025 Ord. #2025-04-01)

(t) SWIMMING IN LAUNCH AREAS

It shall be unlawful for any person to swim within 100 feet of a county boat landing.

(u) NORTH BAY SHORE HARBOR AND BREAK WATER

It shall be unlawful for any person to swim within the harbor area or between the breakwaters.

10.900 BOATS

(a) USER FEE

(1) Launch fee must be paid prior to using launch.
(2) That the fee be established by the Committee and reviewed every year for the launch or use of one of the designated Oconto County Launch Facilities. Such fee shall have a daily, annual component, and commercial component.
(3) That any revenues generated by these fees be placed into a special non-lapsing account that would be designated specifically for capital improvements of any County launch facility.
(4) There is hereby established a user fee for a boat or some other form of watercraft from Oconto County Boat Landings under Forest/Parks control, including:

(A) North Bay Shore Recreation Area (Park 2)
(B) D.E. Hall Park (Park 1)
(C) North River Road Boat Access
(D) Iron Bridge Access
(E) Machikanee Flowage Pond
(F) Chute Pond East
(G) Chute Pond Field House
(H) Chute Pond South
(I) Patzer Park
(J) Pensaukee Landing
(K) Gillett Riverside Park
(L) Anderson Lake

(b) DISPLAY OF RECEIPT

(1) Daily permit in the form of a sticker or some other form designated by the Department shall be displayed on the vehicle used for launching from the respective boat launch in the manner described by the department. All permits shall remain on display for the entire time the vehicle is on the premises of the respective boat launch.

(2) Seasonal Permit in the form of a sticker shall be displayed on vehicle windshield used for launching.

(3) Commercial sticker must be in vehicle while launching.

(Amended on 03/22/2018 Ord. #2018-03-03)

(c) FAILURE TO PAY

It shall be unlawful for any person or owner of a vehicle to fail to pay the required fee at the time of launch at any of the designated boat launches, and to display the receipt of same. The owner of a vehicle found in violation of this section of the code shall be liable for the violation.

(d) LATE FEE

It shall be established in lieu of issuance of a citation and payment of a forfeiture a late fee of \$20.00 is hereby established insomuch as the late fee is received no later than 7 days from the date of violation. If the late fee is not received within the seven day period a citation may be issued for failure to pay as stated in section 10.900(c) of this ordinance. Late fee will be reviewed and adjusted if necessary every year by the Committee.

(e) UNATTENDED WATERCRAFT

No boat, watercraft or personal watercraft shall be left on shore, moored, left unattended or anchored overnight in waters of any County Park or County Forest, except in areas designated for that purpose.

(f) POWER LOADING PROHIBITED

Watercraft must be loaded and unloaded from the watercraft trailer, or carriage or other device used to transport said watercraft with minimal use of the watercraft's main, auxiliary or trolling power devices. A rope, strap or similar device is to be used. It shall be unlawful to otherwise launch or trailer a watercraft.

(Added on 04/15/2025 Ord. #2025-04-01)

(g) SLOW NO WAKE

The following areas shall be slow no wake for all watercraft:

(a) North Bay Shore Harbor between North Bay Shore Breakwaters

(Amended on 04/15/2025 Ord. #2025-04-01)

(h) PENALTY

Any person violating any provisions of this ordinance shall, upon conviction, be subject to a forfeiture of not less than \$5.00 nor more than \$100.00, plus costs of prosecution, and in default of payment of said forfeiture and costs, shall be imprisoned in the Oconto County Jail until said forfeiture and costs are paid but not to exceed 90 days.

10.1000 STATE RECREATIONAL TRAIL (NICOLET AND OCONTO RIVER)

(a) ADMINISTRATION

The Oconto County Board of Supervisors, hereinafter called the Board, hereby assigns the administration of the recreation trail hereinafter described to the Committee of the County Board known as Land and Water Resources Committee, hereinafter referred to as the Committee.

(b) LAND

Management and regulatory control of all lands and facilities designated by this Ordinance is delegated to the Committee.

(c) SCOPE

The provisions of this Ordinance shall apply to all lands covered by the Nicolet Trail easement and the Oconto River Easement. The aforementioned lands shall be open to the public for the purpose of bicycling, hiking, snowmobiling, or other mutually agreed upon compatible uses.

(d) CODES REFERENCED

- (1) Sections 9.700(p) Abandoned Vehicles and Personal Property, 9.700(t) Camping, 9.700(u) Fire, 9.700(y) Trash/Litter, 9.700(z) County Property, 9.900 All-Terrain Vehicles Regulated, 10.300(a) Permitted Use of Vehicles, 10.300(b) Restricted Use of Vehicles, 10.800(b) Refuse, 10.800(d) Fires, 10.800(i) Parking, 10.800(l) Firearms, and 10.800(o) Closed Areas, shall apply to the recreation trail.
- (2) PENALTY. The penalty for violation of any provision of this ordinance shall be a forfeiture as hereinafter provided along with costs and penalty assessments. Any person failing to pay said forfeiture shall be imprisoned in the Oconto County Jail for a period not to exceed 60 days.
- (3) Local Regulations. Except as otherwise provided, any person found guilty of violating the provisions of this ordinance shall pay a forfeiture of not less than \$50.00 nor more than \$500.00.

(e) TRESPASS

It shall be unlawful to enter private lands adjacent to the recreational trail except with prior approval from the private landowner.

(f) HUNTING

Hunting will not be allowed on any State Recreation Trail (Nicolet & Oconto River).