

CHAPTER 22 PARKS

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5-22-1 TITLE AND PURPOSE. The purpose of these park regulations is to provide rules and regulations for the use of and conduct in the parks and recreation areas of the Town; to protect park areas of the Town from fire, abuse, and desecration and to provide for the recreational use of these areas; to control and regulate traffic and maintain general order therein; and to further the safety, health, comfort, morals, and welfare of all persons while within the limits of the park areas.

5-22-2 APPLICABILITY. These park regulations shall apply in all park areas under the jurisdiction of the Town, unless expressly exempted. For the issuance of permits, temporary designations, authorizations, granting of approval and other actions, authority shall be vested in the approving governing agency, the Town Chairperson or their designee.

5-22-3 DEFINITIONS.

1. Animals - includes cats, dogs, horses, any fowl or birds and any living creatures within the jurisdiction of the park area.
2. Town-shall mean the Town of Lake Mills
3. Town Board - means the present or future governing body of the Town
4. Merchandise - means personal property of any kind, including food, beverages, merchandise, goods or materials provided incidental to services offered or sold. This sale of merchandise includes donations required by the Seller for the retention of goods or services by a donor or prospective customer.
5. Park Event - Celebrations, special events, company or church picnics, gatherings of organizations or associations, family reunions and other similar activities requiring additional personnel, equipment or services of the Town of Lake Mills for protection/crowd control.
6. Park Areas - Town of Lake Mills parks are those public facilities, public lands, bike trails and public lake access areas that have been set aside for recreational purposes, such as but not limited to hiking, picnicking, biking, swimming, fishing, boat launching, team or individual sports, the use of playground areas, and other passive or active recreational activities enjoyed in an outdoor setting.
7. Permit - any written license issued by or under the authority of the approving governing agency permitting a special event or activity on park facilities.
8. Person - any natural person, corporation, company, association, joint stock association, firm, partnership, Limited Liability Company or Limited Liability Partnership.

9. Soliciting - persons selling goods or services by sample or taking orders for future delivery with or without accepting advance payment for the goods. Persons seeking any form of contributions.
10. Stopping or Standing When Prohibited - means any cessation of movement of a vehicle occupied or not, except when necessary to avoid conflict with pedestrians or other traffic including horses and bicycles.
11. Traffic - means pedestrians, ridden or herded animals and vehicles.
12. Vehicle - any conveyance (except baby carriages) including motor vehicles, trailers of all types, campers, tricycles, bicycles (motorized or not), sleds, sleighs, pushcarts, vehicles propelled by other than muscular power, or any horse or horse-drawn conveyance.
13. Vending - selling or trading any item or service.

5-22-4 RULES OF CONDUCT: It shall be unlawful for any person in a park area to:

1. Mark, deface, disfigure, injure, tamper with or displace or remove any buildings, playground equipment, bridges, tables, benches, fireplaces, railings, pavement, water lines or other public utilities or parts or appurtenances thereof, signs, notices or placards, whether temporary or permanent, monuments, stakes, posts, or other boundary markers, or other structures or equipment, facilities or park property or appurtenances whatsoever, either real or personal.
2. Fail to cooperate in maintaining restrooms and washrooms in a neat and sanitary condition.
3. Dig or remove any soil, rock, sand, stones, trees, shrubs or plants or other wood or materials, or make any excavation by tool, equipment, blasting or other means, unless specifically authorized by the approving governing agency.
4. Construct or erect any building or structure of whatever kind, whether permanent or temporary, or run or string any public service utility into, upon, or across such lands, unless specifically authorized by the approving governing agency.
5. Damage, cut, carve, mark, transplant or remove any plant, herb, shrub or tree, or injure the bark, or pick flowers or seed of any tree or plant, dig in or otherwise disturb grass areas, or in any other way injure the natural beauty or usefulness of any park area unless specific authorization has been obtained from the Town of Lake Mills.
6. Climb any tree, or walk, climb, stand or sit upon monuments, vases, planters, fountains, railings, fences or upon any other property not designated or customarily used for such purpose.
7. Attach any rope or cable or other contrivance to any tree, fence, railing, bridge, bench, or other structure.
8. Throw, discharge, or otherwise place or cause to be placed in the waters of any pond, lake, stream, river or other body of water in or adjacent to any park area or any tributary, stream, storm sewer, or drain flowing into such water, any substance, matter or thing, liquid or solid, which will or may result in the pollution of said waters.
9. Take into, carry through, or put into any park area, any rubbish, refuse, garbage, construction waste or other material. Such refuse and rubbish generated from the use of the parks by any person shall not be scattered, dropped, or left within the park areas. All such rubbish or waste shall be carried away from the park or recreation by the person responsible for its presence, and properly disposed of elsewhere.
10. Hunt, molest, harm, frighten, kill, trap, pursue, chase, tease, shoot or throw missiles at any animal, wildlife, reptile or bird; nor shall a person remove or have in one's possession the young of any wild animal, or the eggs or nest, or young of any reptile or bird.
11. Ride a horse except on designated bridle trails; horses shall be thoroughly broken and properly restrained, and ridden with due care, and shall not be allowed to graze or go unattended.
12. Allow any domestic animal under that person's control to be present within any public park or recreation area, other than those areas which the Town Board, or the designee thereof, has designated for the purpose of walking animals.
 - a. All pets within Town parks must be kept on a leash not longer than eight feet (8') in length and must be under the direct control of a responsible adult at all times. All feces from pets shall be removed and properly disposed of.
 - b. Pets are prohibited at the following park areas:
 - i. Phillips Park on Bridle Path.
 - c. The prohibition of this paragraph does not apply to working animals, which for purposes of this ordinance are animals trained to assist disabled persons, nor to police dogs, or dogs being

used specifically by park personnel or persons authorized by the Town Board for the removal of geese. In the case of working dogs being used for the removal of geese, no leash is required, but such dogs shall at all times be under the control of the person authorized to have such dogs in the parks for this purpose.

- d. The prohibition of this paragraph also does not apply to persons walking their dogs on leashes on public sidewalk areas adjacent to Town parks. Any such animals shall be required to be on a leash and may not run at large.
 - e. Cause or permit any animal to run loose.
 - f. Tie or hitch an animal to any tree or plant.
13. Play live, recorded or transcribed music on radios, compact discs, audio tapes, or by any other means, at a volume high enough as to interfere with the enjoyment of the park by other persons or groups.
 14. Alcoholic beverages in parks: Notwithstanding Town Ordinance 2-1 "Alcoholic Beverages," All possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited in Phillips Park, unless the Town Board, by specific action, has expressly permitted the possession and consumption of alcoholic beverages in connection with special events or specific activities.
 15. Glass containers prohibited: No persons may carry into any public park, or possess or use within the confines of any public park, any glass or similar container which, if broken, would cause an unnecessary hazard to the users of the public parks. This prohibition shall not apply to glass containers that are enclosed at all times in a cooler or ice chest or similar container
 16. Fish and game cleaning: No person may clean, butcher, scale, or skin any fish, game, livestock, or poultry in any park.

5-22-5: PARK HOURS: All Town public parks, except, boat launching facilities and the Rock Lake public access areas, shall be open between sunrise to sunset, seven days a week.

All Rock Lake public access areas shall be open only between the hours of 8:00

a.m. and 9:00 p.m. All boat launch facilities are open at all times.

Any persons in other park areas in violation of the hours during which the park is open shall be subject to citations for violation of this section.

5-22-6: PARKING, TRAFFIC & VEHICLE REGULATIONS:

1. Parking:

- a. No vehicles may be driven in any park, except on paved roads or areas designated for parking, the only exception to this paragraph is with a permit from the Town Board.
- b. Parking of vehicles is prohibited in all parks whenever the park areas are closed.
- c. For Special Events: Exceptions to one or more of the parking regulations in this section may be authorized by permit from the Town Board and any such permit shall be communicated to the Police Department prior to or during the special event. Refer to section 5-22-17 "Penalties" of this ordinance

2. Traffic:

- a. No operation of snowmobiles or all-terrain vehicles is permitted in any park, except for the purpose of entering directly onto or exiting directly off of Rock Lake at the North End Boat Launch, Ferry Park Boat Launch and Elm Point Boat Launch. Entering and exiting Rock Lake at Miljala Shores Park is prohibited.

3. Vehicles: It shall be unlawful for any person in a park area to:

- a. Drive or operate any motor vehicle on any area except the paved streets or designated parking areas within any park, and in such other areas as may on occasion be specifically designated as temporary parking areas, unless a permit has been issued therefore by the Town Board.
 - i. The Town Board may issue a permit to allow a person to drive or operate a motor vehicle in any area of a park or recreation area for the purpose of loading or unloading supplies or passengers.
 - ii. Any motor vehicle issued a permit under this Section while traveling on any such areas other than public streets or roadways shall be accompanied by a walking escort leading the vehicle to its destination and shall have the permit prominently displayed on said vehicle at all times while on park grounds.

- b. Park a motor vehicle anywhere in any public park or recreation area except in a designated parking area, unless a permit has been issued by the Town Board.
- c. Intentionally discard or discharge motor oil or any other vehicle fluid in a park area.
- d. Wash the exterior of a vehicle or any holding tanks for sanitary waste, or to empty sanitary waste from a vehicle, motor home or camper within a park area.
- e. Perform any type of vehicle maintenance activity which would involve changing of fluids, opening an engine access panel, removing or elevating one or more tires or a portion of the vehicle, or crawling beneath a vehicle within a park area, except in an emergency situation.

5-22-7: HUNTING AND FIREARMS PROHIBITED: Refer to Town Ordinance 4-1 "General Offenses". No person may hunt, trap or pursue wildlife at any time within any park. Shooting any kind of weapon within or into park areas is forbidden. The prohibitions of this paragraph are not applicable to persons engaged in activities authorized by the Town Board for the purpose of causing geese to remain out of the beach areas of the parks.

5-22-8: IGNITABLE, COMBUSTIBLE MATERIALS, FIREWORKS & FIRES IN PARK AREAS:

- 1. Fireworks: Refer to Town Ordinance 3-13 "Fireworks Prohibition"
- 2. Ignitable & Combustible Materials: Refer to Town Ordinance "3-10" Outdoor and Refuse Burning"
- 3. Fires in Park Areas:
 - a. Fires Prohibited in Certain Areas: No fires are permitted at any time at any boat launch site, bike trail, hiking or biking trail, or public lake access. Fires may be in charcoal grills in all other park areas.
 - b. Disposal Requirements: No hot coals or wood that may be smoldering may be left in any location in the park, and all extinguished coals, ashes and unburned materials remaining after a fire has been ignited shall be taken by the person responsible for its presence, and properly disposed of elsewhere.
 - c. Supervision Requirements: All fires in all park locations must be monitored by an adult at all times.
 - d. Open Fires Prohibited: No open fires are permitted in any park area at any time unless written permission is granted by the Town Chairperson.

5-22-9: MISCELLANEOUS CONDUCT: Notwithstanding Town Ordinance 3-1 "Public Nuisances",

- 1. No person may engage in loud, boisterous, threatening, abusive, insulting or indecent language, or engage in any conduct or behavior tending to breach the public peace, and no person may be so intoxicated that the person is unable to care for his or her own safety in any park.
- 2. Overnight camping is prohibited in all parks, unless specifically authorized by the Town Board as part of a special event, and unless a permit has also been issued by the Town Board.
- 3. No person may take part in the playing of any games involving horseshoes, weighted darts, bows and arrows, spears, stones or other propelled objects except in those areas designated for such forms of recreation.
- 4. No person may use roller skates, skateboards, bicycle or inline skates on any park structure, picnic table, playground equipment or retaining wall.
- 5. No person may enter an area posted as "closed to the public."
- 6. A person shall produce and exhibit any permit a person claims to have, upon request of any authorized person who shall desire to inspect the same for the purpose of enforcing compliance with any ordinance or rule, including park attendants, law enforcement officials or firefighters.
- 7. No person may disturb or interfere unreasonably with any person or party occupying any area or participating in any activity whether or not under the authority of a permit or under a rental agreement with the Town.
- 8. No person may erect or occupy any tent, stand or other structure in any park areas without permission of the Town Board.
- 9. No person may fly or launch any model airplanes, radio-controlled airplanes, aerial drones or model rockets.
- 10. No person may play or practice golf.

11. Personal music devices and car sound systems must be kept at a normal operating level that is not offensive or bothersome to surrounding park patrons. No sound amplification devices shall be allowed without the prior, written authorization by the Town Board.

5-22-10: SWIMMING and FISHING REGULATIONS:

1. At Ferry Park swimming is only permitted within the swim area designated by buoy lines.
2. Patrons may not hang onto or sit on lifelines.
3. Children under age ten (10) years must be supervised by an adult at all times.
4. Swimming hours are 8:00 A.M. - 9:00 P.M. at all swimming areas.
5. No person may throw sand, rocks or other potentially dangerous items in or near the designated swimming areas or beaches, or at or near any other person.
6. No person may engage in rough play, including but not limited to dunking, chicken fights, or similar activities in the water or on the beach or piers.
7. Fishing is not permitted in designated swimming areas, nor is it permitted on boat launch piers.
8. Running on piers is prohibited. Patrons shall also refrain from swimming or otherwise being under any pier or raft.
9. No person may dive from any pier. All flips and similar maneuvers are prohibited.
10. Eating, drinking or smoking is prohibited by persons in the water.
11. No person may erect or maintain any boat mooring, boat lift, hoist or motorized boat in the navigable waters within 50 feet of any designated swimming area.
12. No person may use the public pier areas or beaches or swimming areas without wearing appropriate attire at all times.
13. The town of Lake Mills does not provide Lifeguards at any of its beaches or swim areas so people are advised to "Swim at Their Own Risk".

5-22-11: BOAT LAUNCHING FACILITIES: Refer to Town Ordinance 5-13 "Regulating Launch Fees at Certain Launch Ramps on Rock Lake"

5-22-12: KAYAK/CANOE RENTAL/STORAGE RACKS: Kayak/Canoe racks have been placed at certain town owned parks located around Rock Lake for the use of Town resident.

1. The racks contain rental spaces for the seasonal storage of kayaks, canoes and other small watercraft.
2. The Town Clerk has the authority to issue permits and collect fees for the rental spaces. Refer to the Town of Lake Mills Fees, Bonds and Deposit Schedule for the rental fee. The fees may be revised from time to time by resolution of the Town of Lake Mills Town Board.
3. The rental space permits will be issued on a first come first serve basis.
4. More than one small watercraft may be stored in each rental space providing they fit and do not hang outside the space so as to create an unsightly nuisance.
5. The permit holders are to keep the storage racks and area around the racks clean and in an orderly manner or lose their permit and forfeit the right to obtain a permit in the future.
6. Any watercraft stored on the racks without a valid permit will be removed by the town and the owner shall be subject to fines as per Town of Lake Mills General Penalty Ordinance 1-5.

5-22-13: MERCHANDISING, ADVERTISING, AND SALES: Refer to Town Ordinance 2-5 "Regulations and Licensing for Direct sellers, Transient merchants and Solicitors.

No person may expose or offer for sale any article or thing, nor shall any person station or place any stand, cart, or vehicle for the transportation, sale or display of any such article or thing in the parks. No person may advertise, announce or call to the public's attention any article or service for sale, and no person may paste glue, tack or otherwise post any sign, placard or advertisement in any park, unless specifically authorized by the Town Board.

5-22-14: SPECIAL USE PERMITS OR RENTALS: Special Event permits for specific areas of the parks may be applied for or obtained from the Town Board. In all such cases, applications shall be required and certain conditions may need to be met prior to the issuance of any such special use permit. The fees charged for any such permits shall be established from time to time by resolution of the Town Board.

5-22-15: EMERGENCY MEASURES AND CLOSURES: Any section or part of any park may be declared closed to the public by the Town Board at any time and for any interval of time, either temporarily or at regular and stated intervals of time, and such closure may be entirely or merely to certain uses as the Town Board shall find reasonably necessary. Any continued usage in violation of any such closure shall be deemed a violation of this paragraph.

5-22-16: ENFORCEMENT:

1. The Town police department or approving governing agency shall, in connection with their duties imposed by law, diligently enforce the provisions of these park regulations.
2. The Town police department, Town Chairperson or Town Board Supervisors shall have the authority to order any person or persons acting in violation of these park regulations to leave the park or recreation area.

5-22-17: PENALTIES: Any person who shall violate any provision of this Chapter shall be subject to the issuance of a citation per Town of Lake Mills General Penalty Ordinance 1-5

1. Each violation and each day a violation continues or occurs shall constitute a separate offense.
2. This Section shall not preclude the Town from maintaining any appropriate action to prevent or remove a violation of this Chapter.
3. For abandoned, illegally parked vehicles refer to Town of Lake Mills Ordinance 6-3.

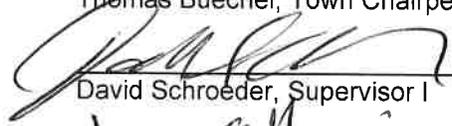
5-22-18: SERVERABILITY: If any provision of this Ordinance is found invalid or unconstitutional or if the application of this Ordinance to any person or circumstances is found to be invalid, such invalidity shall not affect the other provisions contained herein nor the application of this Ordinance which can be given effect without the invalid or unconstitutional provision of application.

5-22-19: ADOPTION: This ordinance shall be in full force and effect upon passage and publication as provided by law.

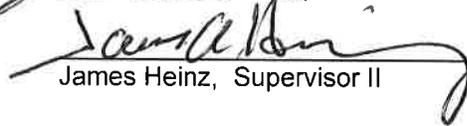
Adopted this 9th day of March, 2010
Amended this 11 day of February, 2025



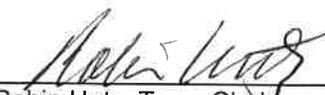
Thomas Buechel, Town Chairperson



David Schroeder, Supervisor I



James Heinz, Supervisor II

Attest: 

Robin Untz, Town Clerk

