

Summary of Rules & Regulations

It is essential that you feel secure when visiting an area for legitimate recreational reasons. Since parks and other conservation areas are public property, all people are welcome. Your conduct should be governed by a sense of respect and consideration for the land, plants, animals, facilities, and other people visiting the area. Compliance with state laws as well as these rules and regulations will enhance your recreation experience. The enforcement of these laws by peace officers is designed to protect the “rights of the many from the selfishness of a few,” to protect the natural resources, and help people enjoy the park.

TRAFFIC: Motorized vehicles must stay on roadways or designated parking areas. Park roads are public roads and operators of motor vehicles must have a valid license.

SPEED LIMIT: Maximum of 15 miles per hour.

CAMPING: Allowed in designated areas; fees required in areas so posted.

PICNICS: Please use facilities provided.

FIRES: Restricted to fire rings or grills.

LITTER: “Pack it home if you packed it in” is the best rule. Use containers provided at some park areas.

PETS: Must be on leash at all times except for areas open for public hunting.

CLOSING: Most areas close at 10:30 p.m.

FIREARMS: Permitted only in areas open for public hunting.

Chapter 350, Code of Iowa COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

350.5 REGULATIONS – 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 this 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 regulation 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 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.

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 resource commission” includes a county conservation board, and “director” includes a county conservation board 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

COUNTY RULES AND REGULATIONS ADOPTED

May 9, 2016

**Reviewed Annually by the Hardin County
Conservation Board**

DEFINITIONS: Pursuant to the authority of Chapter 350.5 of the Code of Iowa, the Hardin County, Iowa, Conservation Board hereby promulgates and places into effect the following regulations. The following terms, as used in these regulations, shall for the purpose of these regulations have the meanings assigned hereto, unless a different meaning is clearly indicated.

A. The term “**Board**” shall mean the Hardin County, Iowa Conservation Board.

B. The term “**Director**” shall mean the director of the Conservation Board.

C. The term “**area**” shall mean all or any part of the land and/or water owned, leased, managed or by other means under the control of the Board.

D. The term “**authorized representative**” shall include park rangers and other persons designated from time to time by the director.

E. The term “**special use permit**” shall mean any use permit, issued by the Director pursuant to authority delegated by the Board, and signed by the Director or his authorized representative.

F. The term “**camp or camping**” shall mean the use of a shelter such as a tent, trailer, motor vehicle, tarpaulin, or sleeping bag for temporary overnight stay at a campground.

G. The term “**campground**” shall mean any area designated by the Board for camping.

H. The term “**campsite**” shall mean a segment of a campground designated by the Board for camping by a camping unit or camping party.

I. The term “**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 as a camp by a camping party, except for those shelters used exclusively for dining purposes, plus, at the option of said camping party, a second tent or an additional tent no larger than 140 square feet in size at its base, if the same is used and occupied by members of that camping party.

J. The term “**camping party**” shall mean any individual, family, or informal unorganized group of not more than five persons occupying one campsite.

K. The term “**youth group**” shall mean a group consisting of minor members of an established organization and under the leadership of at least one competent, mature adult for each eight minors in the group and using any number of camping units or occupying a group campground.

L. The term “**capacity**” shall mean the maximum number of camping parties or camping units that may occupy an area, campground, or campsite.

M. The term “**official signs**” shall mean signs provided for in the Iowa 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.

N. The term “**noise**” shall mean any excessive sounds that disturb other persons.

O. The term “**County**” shall mean Hardin County, Iowa

All Hardin County Conservation Board Rules and Regulations are based upon the Code of Iowa sections 461A.35 through 461A.57.

The provisions of these regulations shall apply to all areas.

FEES and CHARGES: Fees or charges made for services or for the use of land, facilities, equipment, materials or supplies on any area shall be approved by the Board. It shall be unlawful for any person to enter or use any facilities for which user fees are charged without payment of such fees except those persons authorized by special permit.

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 county park or any other lands or waters under the jurisdiction of the County for any purpose whatsoever, except upon the terms, conditions, limitations and restrictions as set forth by the County.

SPEED LIMIT: The maximum speed limit of all vehicles on state park and preserve drives, roads and highways shall be fifteen miles per hour. All driving shall be confined to designated roadways.

EXCESSIVE LOADS: Excessively loaded vehicles shall not operate over County Park or preserve drives, roads or highways. The determination as to whether the load is excessive will be made by the director or the director’s representative and will depend upon the load and the road conditions.

PARKING: All vehicles shall be parked in designated parking areas, and no vehicle shall be left unattended on any county park or preserve drive, road or highway, except in the case of an emergency.

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.

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 Board certain specimens may be removed for scientific purposes. This section shall not apply to activities of the Board or its officers, or employees when caring for and managing County owned land and waters under the jurisdiction of the Board. An exception to this is that it shall be lawful to collect the fruit of all nut and berry producing plants or mushrooms for noncommercial home use, provided that the collector does not otherwise damage the parent plant.

USE OF FIREARMS: Section 461A.42 of the Code of Iowa entitled “Use of firearms prohibited-exceptions” is hereby modified under authority of Section 350.10 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 designated as hunting areas by the Board. The board shall post all such areas with official signs to constructively notify the public that this activity is lawful.

USE OF FIREWORKS: The use of fireworks, as defined in section 727.2, in state parks and preserves is prohibited except as authorized by a permit issued by the department. The commission shall establish, by rule adopted pursuant to chapter 17A, fireworks permit system which authorizes the issuance of a limited number of permits to qualified persons to use or display fireworks in selected state parks and preserves. A person violating this subsection is guilty of a simple misdemeanor. In addition to any other penalties, the punishment imposed for a violation of this subsection shall include assessment of a fine of not less than two hundred fifty dollars. The court shall order restitution if any damages were caused by the violation which may include, but is not limited to, community service.

ANIMALS ON LEASH: No privately owned animal shall be allowed to run at large in any County Park or preserve or upon lands or in waters owned by or under the jurisdiction of the Board. 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. It shall be lawful to permit dogs to run at large for the purpose of training or exercising them in or on all areas designated as public hunting areas except between March 15 and July 15 of each year.

HUNTING and TRAPPING RESTRICTED: The use by the public of firearms, fireworks, explosives, and weapons of all kinds is prohibited in all County parks and preserves designated as a wildlife refuge. Traps may not be attached to any established wildlife refuge boundary fence. 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 said rules and regulations prescribed by the State of Iowa. Hunting and trapping are permitted in designated public hunting areas during open seasons and in compliance with State law. The Board shall post all areas with official signs to notify the public that this activity is lawful. Tree stands are allowed on areas open to public hunting for a continuous period from September 1st to February 1st. All tree stands, ladders and/or climbing devices must be tagged with name and address. Tree stands, ladders and/or climbing devices not removed by February 1st are subject to confiscation and penalty. Portable blinds or stands placed on an area do not guarantee the owner exclusive use of the blind or stand when unattended or exclusive use of the site. The use of any spike, nail, pin or other object which is driven or screwed into a tree is prohibited.

CAMPING: Violation of any state law or any county park rule/regulation by any member of a camping party is cause for revocation of the camping privilege and the entire camping party shall be required to leave the area.

A. Camp sites may not be reserved.

B. When any campground is open and in a usable condition all charges and fees shall be in effect and shall be enforced as set forth in the official fee schedule approved by the Board. Registration, including person's name and address, is required prior to setting up camp.

C. No camping party or camping unit of any kind shall occupy a **modern** campground more than **fourteen-days** out of any twenty-eight-day period. No camping party or camping unit of any kind shall occupy a **primitive** campground more than **seven-days** out of any twenty-eight-day period.

D. A member of the registered camping party shall occupy each campsite or camping unit on the first night of the camping period and no campsite or camping unit shall be left unoccupied by the camping party for more than twenty-four hours. Unattended camping equipment still in place beyond the twenty-four-hour limit is subject to impoundment. Camping equipment which may be impounded shall be removed and disposed of as provided by law.

E. It shall be unlawful for more than one camping party or camping unit to occupy a campsite.

F. 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.

G. No person shall camp in any portion of a county park or preserve other than areas designated by the Board.

H. All campers shall maintain quiet and avoid excessive noise in the campgrounds between the hours of 10:30 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.

I. Campers shall restore their campsite to the same approximate condition or better than when they found it.

NOISE PRODUCING DEVICES: It shall be unlawful to use any radio, TV, stereo, musical instrument, public address system – fixed or portable, electric generating

plants, power saws, or other noise producing equipment in or on any area is such a way as to disturb other persons. Said equipment shall under no circumstances be used between 9 p.m. and 9 a.m.

PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEMS RESTRICTED: It shall be unlawful to operate or use any public address system whether fixed, portable, or vehicular mounted in or on any area except when such use or operation has been approved in writing by the Director or his authorized representative.

RECREATION USES ONLY: 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, or any other purpose not primarily recreational, except concessionaires acting under the authority of a lease or contract with the Board.

USE OF HORSES RESTRICTED: It shall be unlawful to ride, lead or otherwise allow the entry of horses or horse drawn wagons on any road or trail in or on any area except for those trails and roads which the Board shall from time to time designate by official signs or allow by special use permit. 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 County property.

ATV's and SNOWMOBILES RESTRICTED: It shall be unlawful to operate any snow machine, tote bike, air sled, swamp buggy, all-terrain vehicle or any other land conveyance propelled by gasoline, diesel, or electric engine and run-on wheels, tracks, runners in or on any area except in areas or trails which the Board may designate.

SLEDDING EQUIPMENT RESTRICTED: It shall be unlawful to use any part of a car body, plywood or metal sheet, or any similar unsafe device for use in any downhill winter sports activities in or on any area.

SWIMMING RESTRICTED: It shall be unlawful to swim, wade, or engage in related water activities in or on any ponds or waters in or on any area, except for those waters specifically designated by the Board.

RESERVING PARK FACILITIES: Shelter houses, other buildings, or camping areas are available on a first come basis and cannot be reserved unless said facility is posted as may reserve. A minor may not reserve any facility.

LITTERING: No person shall place any waste, refuse, litter or foreign substance in any area or receptacle except those provided for that purpose. It shall be unlawful to bring domestic garbage, refuse or litter from any household or business to any area for the purpose of disposing of the same by littering or placement in refuse containers if provided at an area.

BOATS UNATTENDED NOT PERMITTED: It shall be unlawful to leave unattended any boat or other form of water conveyance on or attached to any area, except those areas designated by the Board, for more than twelve consecutive hours. Any water conveyance left in violation hereof shall be removed and stored at the expense of its owner. If not reclaimed, such water conveyance shall be

considered abandoner and thereafter be disposed of as provided by law.

UNATTENDED MOTOR VEHICLES NOT

PERMITTED: Any motor vehicle left unattended on any area for more than twenty-four hours without the permission of the Director or his authorized representative shall be removed and stored at the expense of its owner. If not reclaimed, such motor vehicles shall be considered abandoned and shall be disposed of as provided by law.

OFFICIAL SIGNS: It shall be unlawful for any person to enter, use, or occupy any area or facilities within said area in disregard of any official signs.

POSSESSION of BEER RESTRICTED: It shall be unlawful for any person to possess or consume beer between the hours of 10:30 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. in or on any area, except that beer may be possessed within a camping unit between said hours by an adult member of any camping party. No person or group shall bring, use, or have in their possession on any area, beer in a keg or any other container larger than one gallon without first obtaining a special use permit from the Director. The request for the special use permit shall be made in writing at least two weeks prior to the date of the activity. Any keg beer possessed in violation of this rule shall be confiscated and destroyed.

CLOSING TIME: All areas shall be closed to public use from 10:30 p.m. to 5:00 a.m. unless otherwise specified by the Board, in which case official signs will be erected giving the public notice of such change. The provisions of this shall not apply to authorized camping by registered campers in designated camping areas.

EXCEPTIONS: Nothing in these rules and regulations shall prohibit or hinder the Conservation Board, its Director, Park Rangers, or duly authorized agents or any other peace officers from performing their official duties.

PENALTIES: Any person violating any of the provisions of the code of Iowa sections 461A.35 to 461A.56 is guilty of a simple misdemeanor.

The Hardin County Conservation Board is dedicated to a policy of non-discrimination on any basis including age, color, disability, marital status, national origin, race, religion, sex or sexual preference. If anyone believes he or she has been subjected to such discrimination, he or she may file a complaint alleging discrimination with the Hardin County Conservation Board or the Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Department of Interior, 1849 C Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20240.

HARDIN COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

Park Rules & Regulations



**Hardin County
Conservation Headquarters
15537 S Avenue Ackley, IA 50601**

Phone: 641-648-4361

**Email: conservationhq@hardincountya.gov
Website: www.hardincountyconservation.com**