

NOTICE

RULES AND REGULATIONS

Updated January 2006

JOHNSON COUNTY, IOWA CONSERVATION BOARD

Section 1. Definitions:

Pursuant to the authority of Chapter 350.5 of the Code of Iowa, the Johnson County Conservation Board hereby set forth 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 Johnson County Conservation Board.

B. The term "Director" shall mean the Executive Director of the Conservation Board.

C. The term "authorized representative" shall include park rangers and other persons designated from time to time by the director.

D. 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.

E. The term "special use permit" shall mean any use permit, issued by the director and signed by the director or his authorized representative.

F. The term "camp" or "camping" shall mean the use of a tent, trailer, motor vehicle, tarpaulin, or sleeping bag for temporary residence 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 party.

I. The term "camping unit" shall mean, a single tent, pickup camper, motor vehicle, recreation trailer, tarpaulin or sleeping bag used by a camping party. Camping is restricted to one basic unit per site except that a small tent may be placed on the site so long as the persons occupying the second unit are under 18 years of age and dependent members of the immediate family occupying the larger unit.

J. The term "camping party" shall mean any individual family or informal unorganized group of not more than 6 persons occupying one campsite.

K. The term "youth group camp" shall mean an area set aside for uses specified by the board for organized youth groups who have purchased a permit.

L. 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 ten minors in the group occupying a youth group camp site or the youth group camp building.

M. The term "building" shall mean the enclosed structure located within the youth group camp.

N. In the youth group camp area, "camping" shall mean the use of the building or campsites for overnight residence by a youth group. Tent camping only is allowed at five youth group campsites. Maximum capacity at each of these sites shall be 20 persons.

O. The term "capacity" shall mean the maximum number of camping parties or camping units that the board shall from time to time determine may occupy an area, campground or campsite.

P. The term "swimming beach" shall mean the portion of waters and land controlled by the board, which are designated for swimming and/or wading.

Q. The term "official signs" shall mean signs provided for by the Iowa DOT Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Iowa streets and highways, and other signs designated from time to time by the board.

R. The term "department" shall mean the Johnson County Conservation Department.

Section 2. Scope:

The provisions of these regulations shall apply to all areas:

A. Persons desiring camping privileges shall produce means of photographic identification upon request of the Director or the Director's designee. Failure to produce such identification may be grounds for denial of camping privileges, at the discretion of the Director or the Director's designee.

B. Fees and charges made for services or for the use of land, facilities, equipment, materials or supplies, shall be established by the board and collected by the director or his authorized representative.

C. It shall be unlawful for any person or persons to enter or use any facilities for which the entrance or user fees are prescribed without payment of same, except those persons on official business or authorized by special permits.

Section 3. Removal of Natural Features:

Mushrooms, asparagus, nuts, fruits and berries may be harvested. Any other plant material, bird nests, rock formations or cultural artifacts may not be altered or removed. Woodcutting and the use of chainsaws is prohibited except in areas so authorized by special permits from the director.

Section 4. Firearms Restrictions:

The use or possession by the public of firearms and weapons of all kinds is prohibited on all board-controlled property except those areas designated as game management areas.

Section 5. Animals on Leash:

No privately owned animals shall be permitted to run at large in any campgrounds, picnic area, playgrounds, fishing accesses or waters owned by or under the jurisdiction of the board. Every such animal shall be deemed running at large unless the owner carries such animal or leads it by a leash or chain not exceeding six (6) feet in length, or keeps it confined in or attached to a vehicle, EXCEPT that 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 hunting areas by the board. Training of dogs is prohibited between March 15 and July 15. The director or his designee may, in the interest of public safety, order the removal of any animal at any time from any area.

Section 6. Hunting and Trapping:

All hunting and trapping done on conservation board lands and waters shall be done according to Iowa Department of Natural

Resources Regulations and Iowa law. Hunting and trapping is allowed only in designated areas. Hunting and trapping privileges may be revoked by any law enforcement officer for violations of Iowa law or these regulations.

Section 7. Camping:

A. Registration is on a self-serve basis at F.W. Kent Park and the Hills Access Area. Instructions are located on the depositories in those respective campgrounds.

B. Campers must register and pay fee within one hour of arrival. Campsites are not reservable.

C. When any campground is open and in 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

D. No camping party or camping unit of any kind shall occupy Kent Park campground more than fourteen days out of any twenty-one day period. No camping party or camping unit of any kind shall be allowed to stay at Hills Access or River Junction Access more than seven days out of any twenty-one day period. Violators of this stay limit will be subject to eviction and impoundment of camping equipment.

E. A camping party must fully register by completely executing the camper registration form, which includes depositing payment in the depository and placing the receipt on the numbered post at the campsite. Some type of camping equipment, such as a vehicle, tent, chair etc., must be placed on the campsite. Campers occupying campsites with electrical service are required to pay the fee for electric sites. At the Hills Access: A campsite with electric service may be occupied by a second separate unit if both parties register and pay the electric site fee. No campsite or camping unit shall be left unoccupied by the camping party for more than 24 hours. Unattended camping equipment still in place beyond the 24-hour limit is subject to impoundment. Camping equipment, which may be impounded, shall be removed and disposed of as provided by law.

F. Violation of any park regulation or state law by any member of a camping party may be cause for revocation of camping privileges and the entire camping party may be required to leave.

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

H. All campers shall maintain quiet and avoid excessive noise in the campgrounds between the hours of 10:00 P.M. and 6:00 A.M.

I. Any non-registered person visiting a camping party in the campground must vacate the park grounds prior to 10:30 P.M.

J. Camping is permitted only in areas and locations designated.

K. 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. Persons under 18 will not be allowed to camp alone unless the director or his authorized representative is contacted by the parent or legal guardian and permission is granted.

L. Kent Park Lake facilities and road are closed to usage between the hours of 10:30 P.M. and 6:00 A.M. All members of the camping party must be in the campgrounds during those hours. Members of a camping party are not permitted to use any facilities of the park other than the campgrounds during those hours.

M. Certain sites within a campground may be designated as "handicapped sites." If these sites are not occupied by 8:00 P.M. they may be made available to the general public.

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

O. Check out time for all campgrounds is 5:00 P.M.

Section 8. All Terrain Vehicle's/Snowmobiles Restricted:

Operation of any motorized vehicle shall be restricted to designated roadways and parking areas. The maximum speed shall be fifteen (15) miles per hour. All roadways are considered to be public roads and governmental rules and regulations apply to all vehicles (including licensing requirements). It shall be unlawful to operate any snowmobile, tote bike, air sled, swamp buggy, all terrain vehicle or any other land conveyance propelled by gasoline or electrical engine and run on wheels, tracks or runners in or on any area, except for those trails and roads which the board shall from time to time designate.

Section 9. 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, soliciting, peddling, or any other commercial activity or any other purpose not primarily recreational.

Section 10. Fishing and Boating:

All fishing and boating done on conservation board lands and waters will be done according to Iowa Department of Natural Resources regulations and Iowa law. The privilege of fishing or boating on an area under the jurisdiction of the board may be revoked by any law enforcement officer for violation of Iowa law and these regulations.

Section 11. Swimming:

It shall be unlawful to swim, wade or engage in water related activities in or on any waters controlled by the board except swimming or wading are permitted at the swimming beach during designated beach operating hours. Pets are not allowed inside the designated beach area.

Section 12. Reserving Park Facilities:

Four of the six large shelters at Kent Park may be reserved in advance for meetings, reunions, etc. A shelter reservation permit must be obtained in advance of the event at the Conservation Department Office during normal business hours. Reservation fees are required in advance and are nonrefundable. Picnic shelters, which are not reserved, will be available on a first come first serve basis. Group size limits for each shelter are established based on parking lot capacity.

Section 13. Domestic Refuse Not Permitted:

No person shall place any waste, refuse, or litter into any area or upon the ground. Recepticals are provided for the depositing of litter. It shall be unlawful to transport garbage, refuse or litter

from any household, business or any other place to any area for the purpose of disposing of the same in any refuse or litter container there provided.

Section 14. Boating Restrictions:

Sail-powered vessels are prohibited on waters controlled by the board. Inflatable vessels less than seven feet in length are prohibited on waters controlled by the board. Vehicle inner tubes, air mattresses, surfboards, paddle boards, or any homemade swimming equipment are prohibited on waters controlled by the board, except at the beach during operation hours. Anglers may use a multi-chambered inflatable float while actively involved in fishing. Possession of a personal flotation device is required. Overnight mooring of boats is prohibited.

Section 15. Motor Vehicles Unattended Not Permitted:

It shall be unlawful to leave any motor vehicle unattended on any area for more than twenty-four hours without permission of the director or his authorized representative. Any motor vehicle left in violation hereof shall be removed and stored 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 thereafter be disposed of as provided by law.

Section 16. Official Signs:

It shall be unlawful for any person to enter, use or occupy any area or facilities within said area in disregard of official signs. No person shall post, fasten or affix any notice or sign within any area without written permission to do so.

Section 17. Alcohol Consumption:

Only beer and wine may be consumed in areas administered by the board; provided, however, that consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited on roads, in parking lots, in the designated beach area, or in the immediate vicinity of the Conservation Education Center and the Youth Group Camp. No person or group in any area shall use, or have in their possession, beer in a keg or any other container larger than one quart, unless such person or group shall have met the following two requirements: 1. Said person or group shall have obtained a shelter reservation permit in advance of the event and 2. Said person or group shall have received approval for the keg from a park ranger in advance of the event. The ranger has the discretion to deny a permit for any reason. Any beer possessed in violation of this rule shall be subject to seizure by any law enforcement officer.

Section 18. Closing Time:

All areas shall be closed to the public between the hours of 10:30 P.M. and 6:00 A.M. unless otherwise specified by the board. Campers are required to be at their registered campsite no later than 10:30 pm.

Section 19. 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.

Section 20. Speed Restrictions:

The maximum speed limit of all vehicles operated in areas under the jurisdiction of the board shall be (15) fifteen miles per hour, unless otherwise posted; but in no event shall any person operate a vehicle in such areas at a speed greater than is reasonable and proper, having due regard to the conditions then existing and the safety and welfare of other persons present in such areas.

Section 21. Horses/Restrictions:

No horse or any other animal shall be hitched or tied to any tree, shrub, or in such a manner as to result in any injury to county property. Horses are allowed only on hard-surfaced public roadways, except in the campground. Any off-road use or use on access roads and hiking trails is prohibited. Prior approval is required for the use of horse-drawn vehicles. In all cases, clean up after an animal is required.

Section 22. Fires:

No fire shall be built, except in a place provided therefore, and such fire shall be extinguished when site is vacated unless another party immediately uses it. The burning or depositing of pallets and construction waste or non combustible items is prohibited.

Section 23. Disturbance of the Peace:

The following conduct within areas administered by the board is prohibited at all times:

A. Quarreling, fighting, violent behavior and disturbance of the peace which interferes with the use and enjoyment of such areas by persons lawfully engaged in activities approved for such areas.

B. The use of profane, offensive, or obscene language which is intended to abuse the hearer.

C. Creating or sustaining any unreasonable noise in any portion of all conservation board lands and waters is prohibited at all times.

Section 24. Fireworks:

The use of fireworks, as defined in state code section 727.2, is prohibited in all areas controlled by the board.

Section 25. Geocaching:

Persons desiring to place geocaches are required to obtain a special permit for that purpose from the Director or his authorized representative prior to placement.

Section 26. Violations and Enforcement:

The director or his designee is hereby authorized to enforce the provisions of this ordinance, pursuant to sections 350.5 and 350.10 of the Code of Iowa.