

CHAPTER 30

PARKS

30.01 PURPOSE. The purpose of this chapter is to promote the safety, health, and welfare of all individuals using or maintaining the parks, while safeguarding and preserving property, facilities, and natural resources.

30.02 AUTHORITY. This ordinance is authorized by Wis. Stat. §§ 59.54(6) and 59.56(9).

30.03 DEFINITIONS.

- (A) “Administrator” means St. Croix County Parks Administrator or Community Development Director.
- (B) “ATV or UTV” is the meaning specified in Wis. Stat. § 340.01(2g) and Wis. Stat. § 23.33(1)(ng).
- (C) “Bicycle” is the meaning specified in Wis. Stat. § 340.01(5).
- (D) “Camp or Camping” means the use of a shelter such as a tent, trailer, motor vehicle, tarpaulin, bedroll or sleeping bag for temporary residence or sleeping purposes.
- (E) “Camper Cabin” means a single structure used for camping and sleeping purposes by a family or non-family group consisting of not more than five people.
- (F) “Camper Day” means the period beginning at 3:00 p.m. and ending at 1:00 p.m. the following day.
- (G) “Camping Party” means any individual, family, or non-family group occupying a campsite.
- (H) “Camping Permit” means any permit for camping overnight that requires registration and payment of a daily fee.
- (I) “Campsite” means a segment of a campground which is designated for camping use by a camping unit or camping party.
- (J) “Campsite Reservation” means the securing of a campsite, group area, or cabin through the Parks Department in advance of arriving at the campground or park.
- (K) “Closed Area” means a road, trail, pathway, route, or area that is considered closed to unauthorized motor vehicles when designated by the presence of a sign, gate, berm, barricade or any other device placed by the County for the purpose of notifying or blocking.
- (L) “Committee” refers to the St. Croix County Community Development Committee.

- (M) “Commercial Photography and Filming Services” refers to creating images for commercial use, such as in advertisements, product promotion, marketing campaigns, and branding. It includes photography for commercials, catalogs, movies, or any visual media aimed at selling a product, service, or idea. Unlike portrait photography, commercial photography is not focused on capturing individuals or families but rather serves a business or promotional purpose.
- (N) “Commercial Vendor” refers to any commercial business or individual that sells goods or services to consumers.
- (O) “Cross-Country Ski Trail” means a trail authorized, groomed, and maintained by the Parks Department for public recreational skiing purposes.
- (P) “Cross-Country Travel” means any land travel through parks property off a developed road or trail.
- (Q) “Parks Department” means all lands operated and maintained by St. Croix County for park or recreational purposes or placed under the jurisdiction of the Community Development Department Parks Division under the oversight of the Community Development Committee.
- (R) “County Trail” means a recreational trail designated by the Parks Department.
- (S) “Damage” means any action with negative consequences to the natural resources, features, or facilities operated by the Parks Department as determined by the Administrator or their designee.
- (T) “Designated Use Area” means an area that has been authorized, designed, and approved by the Parks Department for a specific use or activity.
- (U) “Developed Road or Trail” means roads or trails which have been authorized by the Parks Department for an intended use.
- (V) “DNR” refers to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.
- (W) “Dog sled” means any vehicle that glides on runners or wheels and is designed or used for conveying cargo or people and to be pulled by dogs.
- (X) “Electric Bicycle or E-Bike” refers to the meaning in Wis. Stat. § 340.01(15ph). Note: Only pedal assisted Class-I and Class-II electric bicycles are allowed in St. Croix County Parks.
- (Y) “Equine” means any horse, pony, donkey, mule or hinny.
- (Z) “Employee” means full-time, part-time, permanent, or temporary worker employed by St. Croix County.
- (AA) “Fee Schedule” means the fees required for users of St. Croix County Facilities as approved by the Committee.

- (BB) “Feed” means a substance or attractant composed of grain, mineral, fruit, vegetable, or any other food material or combination of these materials, whether natural or manufactured, that may attract Wildlife.
- (CC) “Feeding” means the depositing, distributing, or tending of feed in an area frequented by Wildlife.
- (DD) “Firearm” refers to a weapon that acts by force of gunpowder.
- (EE) “Firewood” includes limbs, branches, roots, unprocessed logs, slabs with bark, cut firewood, and chips.
- (FF) “Fireworks” refers to the meaning given in Wis. Stat. § 167.10(1).
- (GG) “Group Campground” means a campground designated for use by juvenile or adult groups.
 (1) “Adult Group” means a group made up of adult members (18 years of age and older) of an established organization. Adult groups may include families.
 (2) “Youth Group” means a group made up of members under the age of 18 and under the leadership and supervision of at least one adult.
- (HH) “Hunting” means shooting, shooting at, pursuing, taking, capturing or killing or attempting to capture or kill any wild animal.
- (II) “Individual Group” means a camping party of not more than six persons occupying one camping unit.
- (JJ) “Livestock” means cattle, horses, sheep, pigs, goats, llamas, alpacas, and poultry.
- (KK) “Moped” refers to the meaning given in Wis. Stat. § 340.01(29m).
- (LL) “Non-peak off season” refers to the period from October 15th to April 30th annually.
- (MM) “Park Shelter” means the sheltered area and the area immediately surrounding a shelter. Playground equipment, garbage cans, and toilets are part of a shelter area but are available to the general public for use on a first-come, first-serve basis.
- (NN) “Pedestrian” refers to any person afoot without the use of skis, skates, or other similar devices or any physically disabled person in a wheelchair, either manually or mechanically propelled, or other low-powered mechanically propelled vehicle designed specifically for use by a physically disabled person but does not include any person using an electric personal assistive mobility device.
- (OO) “Physically Disabled Person” refers to a person who by reason of a physical impairment is a “qualified individual with a disability” as defined in 28 C.F.R. 35.104. Note: The procedures for DOT special identification cards are found in Wis. Stat. § 343.51, and Wisconsin Administrative Code Trans Chapter 130. Note: The Americans with Disabilities Act (Pub. Law 101–336, 104 Stat. 327, 42 U.S.C. 12101–12213 and 47 U.S.C. 225 and 611) is interpreted by 28 C.F.R. 35.104.

Qualified individual with a disability means an individual with a disability who, with or without reasonable modifications to rules, policies, or practices, the removal of architectural, communication, or transportation barriers, or the provision of auxiliary aids and services, meets the essential eligibility requirements for the receipt of services or the participation in programs or activities provided by a public entity.

- (PP) “Picnic Area” means any tract of land developed and maintained for picnicking.
- (QQ) “Power Loading” means the use of force from a motorized propeller or other motorized means to load or unload a watercraft.
- (RR) “Self-Registration” means the act of providing accurate information and submitting full payment through either physical or digital means and depositing payment in a designated drop-box or online payment system, when entering a St. Croix County Park that requires admission fees.
- (SS) “Snowmobile” has the meaning specified in Wis. Stat. § 340.01(58a).
- (TT) “Swimming Beach” means any water area or adjacent land area designated as a swim area by standard regulatory markers or posted notice.
- (UU) “Trapping” means the taking, or the attempting to take, of any wild animal by means of setting or operating any device that is designed or made to close upon, hold fast, or otherwise capture a wild animal.
- (VV) “Vehicle” has the meaning specified in Wis. Stat. § 340.01(74). For purposes of this chapter, a snowmobile is considered to be a vehicle.
- (WW) “Watercraft” refers to any device capable of being used as a means of transportation on water. This includes boats, canoes, kayaks, paddleboats, and paddleboards.
 - (1) “Motorized Boat” means any boat equipped with mechanical propulsion.
 - (2) “Nonmotorized Boat” means a boat propelled by non-mechanical means.
- (XX) “Wheeled and Boarded Sports Equipment” means any equipment that uses either wheels, boards or a combination of both. Example items could include, in-line skates, roller skates, scooters, bicycles, skateboards, mountain boards, snowboards, segways, wheeled skis, or hoverboards.
- (YY) “Wildlife” means all species of wild animals that are protected or otherwise regulated by law, regulation, ordinance, resolution, or administrative rule.
- (ZZ) “Yard Waste” means any tree branches, tree limbs, parts of trees, bushes, shrubbery cuttings or clippings, or other items created as a result of trimming, cutting, or pruning trees or bushes, also the accumulation of lawn grass, shrubbery, vine, and other vegetative cuttings or clippings, and/or dry leaf or needle rakings.

30.04 APPLICABILITY. This ordinance applies to all county parks, trails, recreation areas, boat landings, forest lands, facilities and structures leased, owned and/or operated and maintained by the St. Croix County Community Development Department – Parks Division, including, but not limited to:

- (A) Glen Hills Park on Glen Lake
- (B) Homestead Parklands on Perch Lake
- (C) Troy Beach on the St. Croix River
- (D) Eckert Blufflands on the St. Croix River
- (E) Orf Family Overlook on Bass Lake
- (F) St. Croix River Crossing Loop Trail
- (G) Bass Lake Boat Landing
- (H) Apple Lake Boat Landing
- (I) Pine Lake Park and Boat Landing
- (J) Wildwood Trail
- (K) Apple River Park
- (L) Kinnickinnic County Forest
- (M) Stanton County Forest

30.05 INTERPRETATION. It is not the intent of this ordinance to abrogate, impair or interfere with the legal rights of individuals as they may be guaranteed by the state and federal constitutions, statutes and administrative rules.

30.06 SEVERABILITY. If any section, clause, provision or portion of this ordinance is adjudged unconstitutional or invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this ordinance shall not be affected.

30.07 FEES AND PERMITS. The Committee shall establish fees necessary for the use of any park facility, shelter, land area, permit, concessions, or rental/activities. These fees will be reviewed annually as part of the fee schedule evaluation.

- (A) **VEHICLE ADMISSION AND BOAT LAUNCH FEE** – All vehicles entering a fee-based park shall clearly have their admission pass displayed at all times while in the park.
 - (1) Each annual admission pass will be valid from January 1 – December 31 of the designated pass year. Passes purchased in advance of the upcoming year will be valid for the remainder of the current year.
 - (2) Admission fees shall be waived at all fee-based parks for the following activities:
 - (a) Authorized primary and secondary public or private school activity.
 - (b) Students visiting the property in conjunction with an accredited Wisconsin college or university.
 - (c) Persons on official government business in government-owned vehicles.
 - (d) Volunteers entering the property to participate in an authorized volunteer activity.
 - (e) For vehicles in which persons are picking up or dropping off juvenile group campers.
 - (f) For official open house days and other county-sponsored events where free admission is approved by the Administrator.

- (g) Documented military veterans on Armed Forces Day (Third Saturday in May) and Veterans Day (November 11th). Documented emergency service personnel on National First Responders Day (October 28th) and May 6th of each year in honor of St. Croix County Sheriff Deputy Kaitie Leising.

(B) SHELTER RESERVATIONS AND FEES

- (1) Park visitors may reserve shelters and picnic areas online or in person per the fee schedule prior to the scheduled event.
- (2) Unreserved shelters and picnic areas are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. Visitors occupying shelters without a reservation must vacate if that shelter has been reserved.
- (3) Shelter reservation visitors may purchase and reserve parking spaces in advance of a scheduled shelter event.

(C) SANITARY DUMP STATION

- (1) Use of the sanitary dump station is included with camping reservations. Non-registered campers may use the dump station with a fee per the fee schedule.

(D) SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT – This permit is for temporary use of park property for an activity that is otherwise not specifically allowed under this chapter. A special event permit must be obtained for all events with more than 25 persons, but group camping does not require a special event permit. Group camping or special events involving a vendor requires an additional commercial-use permit. Special event applications must be submitted at least thirty (30) days prior to the event with a detailed site map, if applicable. Administrator approval criteria for special event permits is as follows:

- (1) Requires exclusive use or closure of all or part of public facilities or areas within a property or effectively restricts or limits use of a property by non-participants.
- (2) Special event permit fees are based on the current year's fee schedule.
- (3) Placement of temporary structures or event apparatus.
- (4) Sale or offering of beverages, food, merchandise, or an event requiring a commercial-use permit.
- (5) Requires non-routine services of any Parks Department employee.
- (6) Will take place during hours beyond normal property open hours.
- (7) Requires use of equipment or facilities not otherwise authorized for the proposed public use.
- (8) Requires event participation fees.
- (9) Non-profit Special Event Permits require proof of 501(C)(3) status.
- (10) A Certification of Insurance in the amount of \$1,000,000.00 is required, with the County as the additional insured for all public and private events.

(E) FORAGING, GATHERING, AND TREASURE HUNTING PERMIT

- (1) Persons are permissible to metal detect within a county park. Digging and disturbance are only permitted at beach areas and are limited to one cubic foot. Persons are responsible for restoring disturbed sites back to the original condition.
- (2) Edible fruits, edible nuts, wild mushrooms, wild asparagus, and watercress may be removed by hand without a permit for the purpose of personal consumption by the

collector. Note: The collection of seeds from herbaceous plants such as grasses and wildflowers is not allowed without written authorization from the Parks Department.

- (3) Rocks, minerals or fossil materials may be collected for noncommercial purposes. A collector may not remove more than 5 pounds of rock, mineral or fossil material per day.

(F) **COMMERCIAL-USE PERMIT**

- (1) All commercial vendors must obtain a commercial-use permit from the Parks Department to provide services in any county park. Vendors may operate for profit or not for profit. Types of commerce may include:
 - Food and Beverage
 - Recreational Services
 - Entertainment
 - Fitness and Wellness
 - Specialty Services
 - Commercial Photography and Filming Services
- (2) Commercial-Use permits are valid for the approved application dates only unless otherwise approved by the Administrator. Application fees are based on the current year's fee schedule.
- (3) St. Croix County located businesses may apply for a permit electronically or in-person beginning on January 1st. Non-St. Croix County businesses may apply for a permit electronically or in-person beginning on January 8th.
- (4) Each permit application must include:
 - (a) Vendors name and contact information.
 - (b) Commercial-use description and preferred location.
 - (c) Duration or dates of the permit.
 - (d) Proof of local and/or state licenses.
 - (e) Proof of liability insurance.
 - (f) Applicable fees as determined by the fee schedule.
- (5) Commercial entities are only permitted to operate in designated areas of the park property as assigned by the Administrator.
- (6) Commercial entities may only operate during park hours unless authorized by the Administrator.
- (7) Commercial-use applications must be submitted at least 14 days prior to the first event. Applications submitted less than 14 days in advance may be approved by the Administrator or designee and are subject to double the normal permit fee.
- (8) The number of vendors will be limited to the space available at each park and the Administrator may deny an application if no location exists for the vendor.
- (9) The Administrator may revoke an approved permit if the applicant is not adhering to the terms and conditions specified in the permit.

(G) **SEASONAL COMMERCIAL VENDOR CONTRACT**

- (1) All seasonal vendors must obtain a signed Seasonal Commercial Vendor Contract from the Parks Department to provide services in any county park. Types of commerce may include:

Food and Beverage
Recreational Services
Entertainment
Fitness and Wellness
Specialty Services
Commercial Photography and Filming Services

- (2) Seasonal Commercial Vendor contracts are valid for the approved application dates only unless otherwise approved by the Administrator.
- (3) Seasonal vendor fees are negotiated with St. Croix County and pricing may vary.
- (4) Each permit application must include:
 - (a) Vendors name and contact information.
 - (b) Commercial-use description and preferred location.
 - (c) Duration or dates of the permit.
 - (d) Proof of local and/or state licenses.
 - (e) Proof of liability insurance.
- (5) Commercial entities are only permitted to operate in designated areas of the park property as assigned by the Administrator.
- (6) Commercial entities may only operate during park hours unless authorized by the Administrator.
- (7) Seasonal vendor applications are due no later than April 1st.
- (8) The number of vendors will be limited to the space available at each park.
- (9) The Administrator may revoke an approved contract if the applicant is not adhering to the terms and conditions specified in the contract.

(H) FIREWOOD PERMIT

- (1) No person may cut, gather, buy, sell, use, transfer, or possess firewood, from any property for use off that property unless the person possesses a valid firewood permit issued by the Parks Department. Any person with a valid firewood permit must be able to show staff the permit when requested.
- (2) The Parks Department may impose the following conditions along with a fee on any firewood permit.
 - (a) Only slash, dead, dead standing or downed wood may be cut or harvested.
 - (b) Permittee identifies and holds harmless the County from any claims, damages or liability resulting from any action or inaction of the permittee.
 - (c) The permittee agrees to process the work in an effective manner and maintain and leave roads or trails unobstructed and in good condition.
 - (d) No firewood permits for oak trees will be issued from March 1 to August 15 due to Oak Wilt and Northern Long-Eared Bat concerns.
 - (e) Firewood will not be transported further than 10 miles from park property.
 - (f) No refunds for permits will be issued.
 - (g) Cutting shall be limited to County property boundaries.
 - (h) Vehicle use on trails or off-road must be approved by Administrator.
- (3) The Parks Department may revoke a firewood permit for a violation of any condition of the permit. Revocations under this subsection shall apply countywide and be limited to a one year from the date of revocation.
- (4) Firewood collected or gathered under a firewood permit shall be for personal use only,

and may not be sold or otherwise exchanged for anything of value. Exceeding the scope of this permit shall be considered a violation of Wis. Stat. § 26.05.

30.08 GENERAL RULES.

(A) COUNTY PROPERTY

- (1) No person may destroy, molest, deface, damage, remove or attempt to remove, carve or mark on, drive nails in, or injure in any manner any park or forest structure including, but not limited to, buildings, signs, tables, benches, fences, roads, parking lots, or other County property.
- (2) The Parks Department may close, by posted notice, any land, structure, or property owned or administered by St. Croix County and under the management, supervision, and control of the Parks Department. Closure may include prohibiting access for one or more types of activities and shall be implemented for the purpose of protecting public health, safety and welfare, or for protection of natural resources or property as determined by the Administrator. No person may enter or be in any building, installation or area that may be locked or closed to public use or contrary to posted notice without permission from the park manager.
- (3) Flying related activities, including but not limited to, hang gliding, parasailing, hot air ballooning, land sailing, flying model airplanes, operating a drone, or sky diving on county parks, forests, and recreation areas shall be prohibited unless authorized by the Administrator or designee.
- (4) Wheeled and boarded sports equipment are allowed on all park roadways and paved trails under Parks Department management and supervision except where posted.
- (5) The Parks Department may, by posted notice, restrict climbing activities on any lands subject to this chapter. Notice of climbing restrictions shall be posted at the site where the climbing restrictions apply.
- (6) No person may transplant, relocate, stock, or release any plant or animal, domesticated or wild, without written permission from the Parks Department.
- (7) Remote control cars, trucks, boats, helicopters, and planes are prohibited in all county parks or air space without prior Park Manager permission.

(B) PARK HOURS AND DATES

- (1) No person may enter or be within the boundaries of any county park, recreation area, or forest between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and the following 6:00 a.m. except:
 - (a) Registered campers in or enroute to their designated campsites.
 - (b) Hunters or trappers entering Parks Department lands during an open hunting or trapping season on the land, provided the entry is no earlier than 90 minutes prior to sunrise.
 - (c) Individuals or groups with prior authorization from the Administrator for a specific purpose.
- (2) Paragraph (a) does not apply to any person who enters for the sole purpose of fishing.
- (3) October 15th to April 30th is considered Non-Peak off-season, so facilities may not be maintained or staffed on a regular basis and some will be winterized.
- (4) Campground quiet hours are from 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m. During quiet hours, all campers should be respectful of other campers and are prohibited from making

excessive noise. Only registered campers are allowed on the campsite during quiet hours.

(C) PERSONAL CONDUCT

(1) Noise.

- (a) No person may operate any sound truck, loudspeaker, generator, chainsaw, or other device that produces excessive, loud or unusual noises between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 am.
- (b) The Parks Department may authorize or permit musical shows, cultural events, public gatherings and exhibitions which are not limited by this section.
- (c) No person shall use or operate any mechanical sound amplification device in a park at a level that it can be heard at a distance greater than a hundred (100) feet from the above-described device or beyond the park boundary.

(2) Disorderly Conduct. No person may engage in violent, abusive, indecent, profane, boisterous, unreasonably loud or otherwise disorderly conduct, or conduct which tends to cause or provoke a disturbance or create a breach of the peace.

(3) Lewd and Lascivious Behavior. See Wis. Stat. § 944.20.

(4) Refuse and Littering

- (a) Any debris, waste, or recyclable material must be placed in the appropriate receptacles.
- (b) No person may dispose of any waste or recyclable materials from a residence or business offsite in any park waste or recyclable receptacles.

(5) Soliciting

- (a) No person may collect funds, peddle, or solicit business of any nature, post signs, or distribute advertising matter unless approved by the Parks Department.
- (b) No person may engage in commercial filming, photography, or provide services for a fee without a commercial use permit.
- (c) No person may use in any manner the dock, pier, wharf, boat landing or mooring facilities for the purpose of soliciting rides of any kind, unless authorized by the Parks Department.

(6) Evictions. The Parks Department or agents thereof may expel any person or persons for violations of any state law, county ordinance, or posted rules or regulations. The period of time for which a person may be expelled is 10 days or for the period of their camping permit, whichever is longer. Persons expelled are not eligible for refunds for unused camping fees or admission fees. People charged with violent, assaultive or disorderly behavior may be expelled until after the case is adjudicated in court.

30.09 FIRES AND FIREWOOD.

(A) CAMPFIRES

- (1) Campfires are allowed in designated fire-rings only unless authorized by the Parks Department.
- (2) Must be attended to and extinguished prior to departure.
- (3) Dead and down wood may be gathered for campfire use on the property without the need for a firewood permit.
- (4) No person may possess or transport firewood into any county park.

- (5) Trash shall not be burned or left in any campfire ring. Persons found disposing of burned or unburned trash in a campfire ring may be charged a cleaning fee as determined by the fee schedule.
 - (a) Treated wood, laminated wood containing glue, pallets, or other combustible items containing metal, plastics, or chemicals are not allowed to be burned. Firewood from sources approved by the Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection, or dimensional lumber that is debarked, kiln dried, or artificial fireplace logs are allowed to be burned and transported in.
 - (6) The Parks Department, in the event of threat to natural resources by the presence of forest fire hazards, may establish emergency use and burning regulations by posted notice.
 - (7) All unauthorized fires on park property and any resulting damages are the liability of the individuals or parties responsible.
- (B) **FIREWORKS** - No person may possess or discharge any fireworks regulated by Chapter 36 of the St. Croix County Code of Ordinances or Wis. Stat. § 167.10(1).
- (C) **GRILLS** - Only Charcoal is permitted within the stationary grills provided within the parks. Campfires in elevated cooking grills are prohibited. Any portable grills must be used in a way to prevent any fires.

30.10 TRAIL USE.

- (A) **BICYCLES** - Except where provided in this chapter, bicycles are prohibited on all Parks Department lands except on public roads, parking lots and areas or trails posted for their use.
- (1) Bicyclists shall adhere to all traffic signage located on designated bicycle trails.
 - (2) Lighting requirements. No person may operate a bicycle during hours of darkness on a designated bike trail unless the person or the bicycle is equipped with a lamp emitting a white light visible from a distance of at least 500 feet to the front and a lamp emitting a steady or flashing red light visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear.
 - (3) No person may ride a bicycle in a careless, negligent, or reckless manner so as to endanger the life, property, or persons.
 - (4) All riders must use designated bicycle lanes when noted.
- (B) **ELECTRIC BICYCLES** - Only pedal assisted Class-I and Class-II electric bicycles are allowed.
- (1) Electric Bicyclists shall adhere to all traffic signage located on designated bicycle trails.
 - (2) Lighting requirements. No person may operate an electric bicycle during hours of darkness on a designated bike trail unless the bicycle is equipped with a lamp emitting a white light visible from a distance of at least 500 feet to the front and a lamp emitting a steady or flashing red light visible from a distance of 500 feet to the rear.
 - (3) No person may ride an electric bicycle in a careless, negligent, or reckless manner so as to endanger the life, property or persons of others.
 - (4) All riders must use designated bicycle lanes when noted.
 - (5) E-bicycles are only allowed on the following designated trails:
 - (a) Wildwood Trail
 - (b) St. Croix County Loop Trail

(C) **HORSES AND HORSEBACK RIDING**

- (1) No person may ride, lead, or fail to prevent any equine animal or livestock from being on any property regulated by this ordinance unless on a public road within the property boundaries.

(D) **WHEELED AND BOARDED SPORTS EQUIPMENT** - Wheeled and boarded sports equipment are allowed on all park roadways and paved trails under Parks Department management and supervision except where signage prohibits such use.

(E) **SPEED LIMITS** - All trail users must adhere to marked speed limit signs.

(F) **TRAIL CLOSURES** - In case of an emergency, maintenance, or other justifiable circumstances, any portion of a trail may be closed to the public or to designated users until permission is given to return.

30.11 MOTORIZED AND NON-MOTORIZED WATERCRAFT.

(A) **OPERATION**

- (1) No person may operate a watercraft within a water area marked by buoys or other approved regulatory devices as a swimming beach; or operate a boat in a restricted use area contrary to regulatory notice marked on buoys or other approved regulatory devices. This subsection does not apply in the case of emergency, or to patrol or rescue craft.
- (2) No person may launch, load, moor, anchor or leave unattended any watercraft or aircraft in county park except in areas designated for that purpose.
- (3) No person may “power load” watercraft of any kind in any manner.

30.12 WILDLIFE.

(A) **FISHING**

- (1) Fishing is permitted unless prohibited by posted signs, and provided Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources rules and regulations are observed.
- (2) No person may fish in any marked swimming beach in any county park, forest, or recreation area.

(B) **ANIMAL HARASSMENT**

- (1) No person may transplant, relocate, stock or release any plant or animal, domesticated or wild, without written permission from the Parks Department.
- (2) Baiting and feeding wildlife, including deer, waterfowl, turkeys and small game must comply with DNR regulations and is prohibited outside of hunting season.

30.13 DOMESTIC ANIMALS.

(A) **LEASHES AND RESTRAINTS**

- (1) No person may allow a dog, cat or other pet in any building, on any swimming beach, playground, or any area posted prohibiting their presence. Dogs, cats and other pets shall be kept on a leash not more than 8 feet long and under control at all times within park,

trail, forest, and recreation areas. No person may allow their dog, cat or other pet to interfere in any manner with the enjoyment of the area by others.

- (2) Nothing in this section shall prohibit or restrict the use of dogs for hunting purposes in any area which is open to hunting. The use of dogs for dog trials and dog training shall be restricted to areas designated by the park manager.

(B) **ANIMAL FECES**

- (1) Persons bringing or allowing pets in designated use areas shall be responsible for proper removal and disposal of any waste produced by these animals. Proper disposal shall not include flushing or throwing waste products into a Park maintained toilet facility.

(C) **SERVICE ANIMALS**

- (1) Notwithstanding the provisions of this chapter, service animals as defined in Wis. Stat. § 106.52(1)(fm) and WAGS (Wisconsin Academy for Graduate Service) dogs in training, may accompany persons with disabilities or their trainer.

30.14 BEACHES.

(A) **RULES AND SAFETY REGULATIONS**

- (1) No person may possess or use any soap, detergent or shampoo on any swimming beach or in the water adjacent to any swimming beach.
- (2) No person may swim beyond or disturb or molest a swimming beach boundary buoy or marker in any beach.
- (3) There are no lifeguards at any swimming beach/areas. Swim, wade, boat, or launch watercraft in the designated areas at your own risk.
- (4) The Parks Department may prohibit swimming in areas adjacent to water access sites by posted notice. No person may swim within the area delineated by the posted notice.
- (5) Glass is prohibited in any swimming beaches in all county parks, forests, or recreation areas.

30.15 AIRCRAFT. No person may land, launch or fly any aircraft, parachute, hot air balloon, drone or remote-controlled aircraft within park boundaries or air space without authorization of the division.

30.16 MOTOR VEHICLES; RECREATIONAL VEHICLES.

(A) **MOTOR VEHICLES**

- (1) Traffic and Parking
 - (a) No person may operate any vehicle at a speed in excess of 25 miles per hour or contrary to state highway or Parks Department traffic signs.
 - (b) All vehicles shall stop at Parks Department property entrance stations when such stop is ordered by Parks Department signs.
 - (c) No person may operate or park any vehicle as defined in Wis. Stat. § 340.01(74) on lands under this ordinance, except:
 1. On roads and highways as defined in Wis. Stat. § 340.01(22).
 2. In posted parking areas and boat ramps.

- 3. As otherwise specifically authorized by law.
- (d) No person may park, stop or leave standing, whether attended or unattended, any vehicle or watercraft:
 - 4. In any manner as to block, obstruct or limit the use of any road, trail, waterway or facility, or
 - 5. Outside of any area provided for such purposes when it is practical to use such areas, or
 - 6. Contrary to posted notice.
- (e) Any vehicle or watercraft in violation of par. (d) may be towed off the property and stored at the owner's expense.
- (2) Abandon Vehicles
 - (a) No person may leave any vehicle unattended without prior Parks Department approval for more than 24 hours under such circumstances as to cause the vehicle to reasonably appear to have been abandoned.
 - (b) An abandoned vehicle shall constitute a public nuisance and may be towed off the property and stored at the owner's expense.
- (3) Persons with physical disabilities.
 - (a) The Parks Department may authorize by permit persons with physical disabilities that affect the person's mobility to use a motorized vehicle as a mode of personal conveyance.
 - (b) The Parks Department shall accept proof of disability as required by 28 C.F.R. 35.137 (c) (2). Up to two additional people may occupy the device if their primary purpose is to assist the permittee. Permits must be obtained from the property manager or designee. Note: Wheelchairs used by the physically disabled are not motorized vehicles and do not require a permit.

(B) RECREATIONAL VEHICLES

- (1) ATV/UTVs. No person may operate or park any ATV or UTV without permission on any lands under this ordinance, except:
 - (a) ATVs and UTVs may be operated on roadways within county property if the adjoining roadway is designated by the County or Town as an ATV/UTV route. ATVs and UTVs are then considered a vehicle and must follow all applicable rules and laws pertaining to vehicles including admission fees.
 - (b) The Parks Department may include reasonable permit conditions and designate specific areas for their use to protect safety and resources. No person may violate a condition of a permit issued under this paragraph.
- (2) Wintertime use of ATVs and UTVs at the Bass Lake, Apple Lake, and Pine Lake Boat Launches and on the ice of Glen Lake as long as the vehicle is trailered to the park.
- (3) Golf Carts. Golf carts may only be operated to and from the Glen Hills Golf Course within the Peninsula Campground.
- (4) Snowmobiles. No person may conduct or engage in snowmobile races on any lands under this ordinance.

30.17 REFUSE.

(A) RECEPTACLES

- (1) No person may dispose of any debris, waste or recyclable material except by placing the material in receptacles provided for those purposes. No person may dispose of any waste or recyclable materials in any waste or recyclable receptacles or at any location if the waste or recyclable material is generated from a permanent or seasonal residence or a business or other commercial or industrial operation.

(B) FISH CLEANING

- (1) All persons cleaning, butchering, scaling or skinning any fish shall double bag and place the entrails or offal in trash bins.

30.18 RESERVATIONS.

(A) RESERVATIONS - The Parks Department may grant reservations for family, outdoor group, and camper cabins, and day use facilities under the following conditions:

- (1) Reservation applications may be accepted up to 367 days before the date of occupancy.
- (2) The following minimum stays shall apply:
 - (a) Campsites and Camper Cabins: 1 night during the week, 2 nights on any weekend, and a minimum of 3 nights around the Fourth of July and Memorial/Labor Day.
 - (b) Day Use Facilities: single day reservations at all times.

30.19 CAMPING.

(A) GENERAL

- (1) Camping is prohibited except within designated camping areas.
- (2) No person may camp in designated camping areas without a permit and the payment of prescribed daily fees where required.
- (3) A camping permit shall be obtained prior to setting up camp, unless otherwise posted.
- (4) No camping party may move from its assigned campsite to another campsite without prior approval from the park office.
- (5) All camping permits expire at 1:00 p.m. on the last day of the permit period.
- (6) Violation of any state law, county ordinance or any rules of the Parks Department by a member or guest of a camping party is cause for revocation of the camping permit and eviction from the property.
- (7) No person may use campground shower facilities unless that person is a registered camper.
- (8) Quiet hours are from 10:00 p.m. to 6:00 a.m. During quiet hours all campers should be respectful of other campers and are prohibited from making excessive noise. Only registered campers are allowed on the campsite during quiet hours.
- (9) No person may camp more than 21 days in a row unless they have obtained a monthly camping permit. After camping 21 days, the camping unit and camping party shall not return for another reservation for at least 7 days.

(B) FAMILY CAMPING

- (1) No more than one camping party may occupy a single campsite. No camping party consisting of a non-family group may exceed 6 persons.
- (2) No person may camp more than 21 days in a row unless they have obtained a monthly or seasonal camping permit.
- (3) No person may park any motor vehicle outside the parking area designated at each campsite.
- (4) No person may park more than 2 motor vehicles in the parking area of any campsite, except that as many as 6 motorcycles are permitted for members of a camping party registered as a non-family group.
- (5) No more than one recreation trailer, pickup truck camper or motor home may occupy a campsite. Pickup campers or motor homes pulling a trailer shall be treated as a single unit.

(C) CAMPER CABINS

- (1) No more than one camping party may occupy a single cabin. No camping party consisting of a non-family group may exceed 5 persons.
- (2) No person may park any motor vehicle outside the parking area designated at each Cabin. No person may park more than 2 motor vehicles or 5 motorcycles in the parking area of any cabin.
- (3) Additional campers, trailers and RVs set up for sleeping purposes are prohibited on cabin sites. Small tents, screen tents, and canopies are allowed.

(D) GROUP CAMPING

- (1) No group may camp more than 21 days in a row. Juvenile groups shall be accompanied by at least one responsible adult for each 10 members of the group.
No more than 10 persons may be permitted at each designated group campsite.
- (2) No more than one camping party is permitted in any single designated site.

(E) FEES

- (1) Admission Fee. All camping vehicles must purchase an admission pass. Exceptions include a towed vehicle behind a motorized RV.
- (2) Cancellation Fee. Campers wishing to cancel reserved camping dates may do so for a fee as outlined in the current year's fee schedule.

(F) HOURS

- (1) Camper Day. A camper day begins at 3:00pm of the first day of a reservation and ends at 1:00pm on the last day of a camper's reservation.

30.20 EXTENDED CAMPING.

(A) GENERAL RULES

- (1) Extended camping is only by the approval of the Parks Manager or the Parks Administrator. All campers wishing to extend camping must submit a written request at least two days prior to the 21st day of camping.

- (2) Extended camping will only be approved if space allows. If a campsite is reserved by another party during the extended period, the application will be denied.
- (3) Administrator reserves the right to evict any resident not complying with park and extended camping rules.
- (4) Extended Rates. Campsite rates will be established by the fee schedule.
- (5) Under Wisconsin law, no operator may allow a campsite to be occupied by the same individual for more than 8 continuous months in any 12-month period.
- (6) Extended camping season is from May 1st to December 31st.
- (7) All park and camping rules and ordinances apply to extended camping unless otherwise addressed in section 30.21.
- (8) Parking shall only be on designated camping pads or parking areas.
- (9) Each extended camper is responsible for keeping a neat, organized, and clutter free campsite. Items not properly stowed in or under the vehicle during camper absence or during a designated maintenance day will be removed by staff. Owners will be charged a \$5/day storage fee and repeat offenses may be grounds for eviction.
- (10) Truck campers and tents are not permitted for extended stay.

30.21 HUNTING.

(A) GENERAL RULES

- (1) No person may take, catch, kill, hunt, trap, or pursue any wild animal or bird in any county park, forest, or recreation area or other area not open to hunting or trapping.
- (2) Nothing in this section shall prohibit hunting and trapping as authorized by the Parks Department pursuant to the rules and season structure in Wisconsin Statute Chapter 29 and Administrative Code NR Ch. 10 to include the following:
 - (a) Glen Hills Park on Glen Lake: Designated hunting and trapping areas are open beginning on November 1st and ending on April 30th in accordance with DNR regulations.
 - (b) Homestead Parklands on Perch Lake: Designated hunting and trapping areas are only open for archery hunting beginning on November 1st and ending on April 30th in accordance with DNR regulations. Firearm and archery hunting and trapping is authorized in the designated NW 40-acre parcel in accordance with DNR regulations.
 - (c) Eckert Blufflands on the St. Croix: Hunting and trapping are permitted in designated areas in accordance with DNR regulations. All hunters/trappers must pre-register with the Parks Department prior to hunting.
 - (d) Orf Family Overlook on Bass Lake: Hunting and trapping are permitted in accordance with DNR regulations.
 - (e) Apple River Recreation Area, Stanton and Kinnickinnic County Forests: Hunting and trapping are permitted in accordance with DNR regulations.
 - (f) Additional hunting and trapping as authorized by Administrator: Administrator may authorize hunting or trapping if it is deemed necessary to control overpopulation, disease, nuisance, or pest problems or to prevent damage to structures or facilities.
 - (g) Possession of uncased or loaded firearms, bows, crossbows or air guns while on foot and in route to a park area where hunting is allowed. This paragraph does not

allow the discharge of a firearm, bow, crossbow, air gun, sling-shot, or spring loaded device from or across park areas where hunting is not allowed. Shooting of a firearm within 100 yards of a park building, residence, or other human occupied structure while inside a park boundary or adjacent to a park boundary is prohibited.

- (h) Additional closures of designated use areas may also be established by posted notice. Hunting and trapping closures may be limited to certain species and seasons as determined by the DNR regulations.
- (3) Except for blinds used exclusively for waterfowl hunting as provided in Wis. Stat. § 29.327(2) and § NR 10.12 (12), and except for blinds constructed entirely of dead vegetation found on the property, no person may do any of the following:
 - (a) Construct, occupy, place, or use any elevated or ground blind or other elevated device except on any land open to hunting, portable tree stands and blinds may remain placed only during the daily timeframe beginning one hour prior to, and ending one hour after, the shooting hours established in § NR 10.06.
 - (b) Cause damage to trees by the placement or erection of portable tree stands or by any other manner while climbing or hunting from a tree. Careful pruning, flush with the trunk of the tree, of limbs less than 1 inch in diameter on a tree in which a tree stand is used shall not be considered causing damage to the tree.
 - (c) Hunt from any ground blind during any open season or special hunt for hunting deer with firearms unless the outside of the blind displays a minimum of 144 square inches of material that is a solid highly visible color commonly referred to as blaze orange, florescent orange, or florescent blaze orange, or commonly referred to as bright pink or fluorescent pink and is visible 360 degrees around the blind. Blinds that are left unoccupied shall have the owner's DNR customer identification number or name and address written in the English language attached to the outside of the blind in a highly visible location near the entrance to the blind and be kept legible at all times.
 - (d) No hunter shall intentionally place a tree-stand or blind so as to shoot into adjoining private property.
 - (e) Place, use, or own an unoccupied tree stand unless the owner's DNR customer identification number, or the owner's name and address, is written in the English language, attached to the tree stand in a manner so it is clearly visible to a person standing on the ground, and kept legible at all times.
 - (f) Place more than two portable tree stands or blinds on Parks Department lands.
- (4) Daily or annual admission passes are required for hunters in a fee-based property.
- (5) Unless authorized by the Parks Department, no person may pursue, drive or chase animals on lands subject to this chapter that are designated as closed to hunting.
- (6) Baiting and feeding wildlife, including deer, waterfowl, turkeys and small game is authorized by the DNR regulations.
- (7) Placing any foothold or body-gripping trap within 100 feet of any designated trail is prohibited.
- (8) Cameras.
 - (a) The placement or use of trail or game cameras are allowed only in areas open for hunting unless authorized in writing by the property manager.
 - (b) Cameras shall bear the owner's name and DNR customer identification number

written in the English language attached to the outside of the camera in a clearly visible location and be kept legible at all times.

- (c) The camera shall not cause damage to natural vegetation or other county owned property.
- (d) Placement of cameras on County owned or managed lands is done at the hunters own risk. St. Croix County is not responsible for theft or damage of trail cameras.
- (9) No person may discharge any firearm, bow, crossbow, air gun, sling-shot, or spring-loaded device while within the exterior boundary of county-owned or operated lands including all county parks, forests, campgrounds, beaches, picnic areas, trails, or other special-use areas designated by the Parks Department, except as follows:
 - (a) While engaged in hunting or dispatching a lawfully trapped animal in compliance with § 30.14(2) (above) and Wis. Admin. Code § NR 10.01.
 - (b) When authorized by the Park Administrator upon issuance of a special use permit for activities such as youth or handicapped hunts or commercial filming.
 - (c) If a wounded animal enters an area closed to hunting, hunters must contact the Park office, Park Administrator, or the SCC Sheriff's Office for assistance.
- (10) Target shooting is prohibited in all county parks, forests, and recreation areas.
- (11) Entering or remaining in any building that is owned, occupied or controlled by St. Croix County while in possession of a firearm is prohibited.
- (12) Hunting violations, trespassing and/or damage to private property (buildings, land, facilities, etc.) could be grounds for cancellation of all future hunting privileges at St. Croix Count Parks.

30.22 PENALTY. Any person who violates this Chapter shall, upon conviction, be subject to a forfeiture of not more than \$500 together with court costs, and in default of payment of such forfeiture and costs, may be subject to imprisonment in the county jail until such forfeiture and costs be paid.

30.23 AMENDMENTS TO CHAPTER. Any future amendments, revisions, or modifications of Wis. Statutes incorporated herein are intended to be made part of this Chapter as such amendments, revisions, or modifications are made to said Statutes.

30.24 EFFECTIVE DATE. This Chapter shall take effect and be in force from and after its proper passage and publication pursuant to Wisconsin Law.

Resolution No. 26(72)

Ordinance No. 76(83)

Ordinance No. 273(1991)

Ordinance No. 822(2013)

Ordinance No. 877 (2019)

Ordinance No. 901(2022)

Repealed and Recreated: Ordinance No. 943(2025) Jan. 2025