

NOTICE RULES & REGULATIONS

General. By the authority granted unto the Cerro Gordo County, Iowa, Conservation Board by the laws of the State of Iowa, the following Rules and Regulations are deemed by said Board to be necessary for the protection, regulation, and control of all areas under the jurisdiction of said Board are hereby adopted:

Definitions:

"Board" when used hereunder shall mean the Cerro Gordo County, Iowa, Conservation Board.

"Area" when used herein shall mean all parks, preserves, parkways, playgrounds, recreation centers, county forests, wildlife and other conservation areas, tennis courts, rooms for arts and crafts, camps and meeting places, and other recreation lands, waters, buildings, and facilities owned, leased or otherwise controlled or governed by the Cerro Gordo County, Iowa, Conservation Board.

"Blind" means a constructed place of ambush or concealment for the purpose of hunting, observing, or photographing any species of wildlife.

"Decoy" means a bird, or animal, or a likeness of one, used to lure game within shooting range.

"Camping unit" means either a single tent not larger than 140 square feet in size at its base, pickup camper, motor home or converted bus, recreational trailer, or a motor vehicle used for a camp by a camping party, except those shelters used exclusively for dining purposes, plus at the option of the said camping party, a second tent or an additional tent no larger than 140 square feet in size at its base, if the same as used and occupied by members of that said camping party.

STATE CODE

Scope. The following portions of the State Code of Public Lands and Waters apply to county areas.

350.5 Regulations-penalty-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 regulations 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 the director and those employees as 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. The board may grant the director and those employees of the board designated as police officers the authority to enforce the provisions of chapters 321G, 461A, 462A, 481A, and 483A on land not under the control of the board within 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 or its 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.

461A.35 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 state park, preserve, or stream or any other lands or waters under the jurisdiction of the commission for any purpose whatsoever, except upon the terms, conditions, limitations and restrictions as set forth by the commission.

461A.36 Speed Limit. The maximum speed limit of all vehicles on state park and preserve drives, roads and highways shall be thirty-five miles per hour. All driving shall be confined to designated roadways. Whenever the commission shall determine that the speed limit hereinbefore set forth is greater than is reasonable or safe under the conditions found to exist at any place of congestion or upon any part of the park roads, drives or highways, said commission shall determine and declare a reasonable and safe speed limit thereat which shall be effective when appropriate signs giving notice thereof are erected at such place of congestion or other parts of the park roads, drives or highways.

461A.37 Excessive Loads. Excessively loaded vehicles shall not operate over state 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.

461A.38 Parking. All vehicles shall be parked in designated parking areas, and no vehicle shall be left unattended on any state park or preserve drive, road or highway, except in the case of an emergency.

461A.39 Hitching to Trees. 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 state property.

461A.40 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.

461A.41 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 commission certain specimens may be removed for scientific purposes. This section shall not apply to activities of the commission or its officers, or employees when caring for and managing state-owned land and waters under the jurisdiction of the commission. This section shall not apply to the gathering or removal of any tree shrub, plant, flower, fruits, structures or natural attractions under terms, conditions, limitations and restrictions adopted by the commission.

461A.42 Use of Firearms, Explosives, Weapons, and Fireworks Prohibited - Exceptions. 1. The use of firearms, explosives, and weapons of all kinds by a person is prohibited in all state parks and preserves except under the following conditions.

- A firearm or other weapon authorized for hunting may be used in preserves or parts of preserves designated by the state advisory board on preserves at the request of the commission.
 - A person may use a bow and arrow with an attached bow fishing reel and ninety-pound minimum line attached to the arrow to take rough fish as provided by the rule of the commission.
 - The commission may establish, by rule, the state parks or parts of state parks where firearms may be discharged during special events, festivals and education programs, or a special hunt to control animal populations. The rules governing special hunts to control animal populations shall be applied separately to each designated park.
2. 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, a 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. This section amended by section 10, SF 189,1999 General Assembly.

461A.43 Littering Grounds. No person shall place any waste, refuse, litter or foreign substance in any area or receptacle except those provided for that purpose.

461A.44 Prohibited Areas. No person shall enter upon portions of any state park or preserve in disregard of official signs forbidding same, except by permission of the director or the director's representative.

461A.45 Animals on Leash. No privately owned animal shall be allowed to run at large in any state park or preserve or upon lands or in waters owned by or under the jurisdiction of the commission except by permission of the commission. 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 feet in length, or keeps it confined in or attached to a vehicle.

123.46(2) Consumption in Public Places. A person shall not use or consume alcoholic liquor, wine or beer upon the public streets or highways. A person shall not use or consume alcoholic liquor in any public place except premises covered by a liquor control license.

COUNTY CODE

CGC-1 Conduct. Unruly demonstrations, disturbing of the peace, unseemly conduct are violations of the law and prohibited.

CGC-2 Peddling and Advertising. Peddling, hawking, soliciting, begging, advertising or carrying on of business or other commercial enterprise within any Area without written permission of the Board is prohibited.

CGC-3 Signs. No person shall post, paste, fasten, paint or affix any placard bill, notice or sign upon any structure, tree, stone, fence or enclosure along or within any Area unless written permission is obtained from the Board.

CGC-4 Activities.

CGC-4.1 Recreational Activities. The Board assumes no responsibility for death or injury of any person or persons engaged in any recreational activity within any Area.

CGC-4.2 Swimming Restricted. It shall be unlawful to swim or engage in swimming related activities, other than boating, in or on any pond or waters in or on any area, except those ponds or waters specifically designated from time to time by the board.

CGC-4.3 Collection of Fruits and Nuts. It shall be lawful to collect the fruit of all nut and berry producing plants or mushrooms for non-commercial home use, provided that the collector does not otherwise damage the parent plant.

CGC-4.4 War-Like Games. War-like games that utilize projectiles and/or light sources (paintballs, airsoft BBs, lasers, etc) shall not be allowed on any Board Areas.

CGC-4.5 Rock Climbing and rappelling. Rock climbing and rappelling are prohibited on all Areas.

CGC-4.6 Boating. Where ramps are provided for the launching of boats, the ramp is to be promptly cleared upon launching or recovering a boat to permit others to use the facility. Motors or engines shall be permitted as a means of conveyance only at no-wake speeds (5 mph or less) on all waters under the jurisdiction of the Board.

CGC-4.7 Organized Events. Organized fundraising events on all Areas must be approved in advance at a regular Conservation Board meeting.

CGC-4.8 Geocaching. Geocaching and the placement of physical items and material for geocaching is prohibited on all Board areas, except for virtual (landmarks, features, etc) geocaching organized and/or approved by the Board.

CGC-5 Motor Vehicles

CGC-5.1 Motor Vehicle Restrictions. It shall be unlawful to operate any motor vehicle on frozen bodies of water and other areas not designated or developed as public roadways. ATV's & snowmobiles are prohibited on all county areas, with the exception of licensed snowmobiles on the state sponsored trail.

CGC-5.2 Motor Vehicles in Campgrounds. Motorized vehicles in campgrounds restricted to licensed units, except golf carts being used for travel to and from golf courses at Linn Grove and Ingebretson campgrounds only.

CGC-5.3 LCCA Equestrian Parking. It shall be unlawful for equestrian (i.e. horse) trailers to park in the Lime Creek Conservation Area-Nature Center Parking Lot (east parking area). All equestrian trailers must use the LCCA-Equestrian Parking Lot (west parking area) designated for trailers only.

CGC-6 Hunting/Trapping/Etc

CGC-6.1 Hunting/Trapping Restricted Areas. It shall be unlawful to hunt, pursue or in any manner molest any birds or wild animals or to use or carry firearms, fireworks, explosives and weapons of all kinds, except as otherwise provided by law, in or on any area not designated as a hunting area by the Board.

CGC-6.2 Hunting and Trapping Restrictions. The hunting and trapping of all animals is prohibited in the Shell Rock Preserve, Spring Creek Preserve, Ingebretson Park, Linn Grove Park, Strand Park, Wilkinson Park, Limestone Prairie Preserve, and other areas within corporate city limits.

CGC-6.3 Trapping on game management areas. No one shall place on any game management area any trap, stake, flag, marker, or any other item or device to be used for trapping furbearers, or to mark or otherwise claim any site for trapping furbearers, except during the open season for taking furbearers other than coyote.

CGC-6.4 Dogs prohibited-exception. Dogs shall be prohibited on all areas, as established under the authority of Iowa Code section 481A.6, between the dates of March 15 and July 15 each year; except that, training of dogs shall be permitted on designated training areas at the Mike Zack Wildlife Area, the South Shell Rock Greenbelt, and at the Quarry Lake within the Lime Creek Conservation Area. A permit as provided in Iowa Code section 481A.22 must be secured for field and retriever meets.

CGC-6.5 Use of blinds and decoys on game management areas.

CGC-6.51 Stationary blinds. The construction and use of stationary blinds on all game management areas are restricted as follows:

- Construction.* Any person may construct a stationary blind using only the natural vegetation found on the area. No trees or parts of trees other than willows may be cut for use in constructing a blind. No other man-made materials of any type may be used for building or providing access to a stationary blind.
- Use of blinds.* The use of any stationary blind which is constructed in violation of CGC-6.51" a" is prohibited.
- Ownership of blinds.* Any person who constructs or uses a stationary blind shall not have any proprietary right-of-ownership to the blind.

CGC-6.52 Portable blinds. The construction and use of portable blinds on game management areas shall be restricted as follows:

- Construction.* A portable blind may be constructed of any natural or man-made material, as long as it is a self-contained unit capable of being readily moved from one site to another.
- Prohibited use.* Portable blinds shall be prohibited from one-half hour after sunset until midnight each day. Portable blinds which are built on, or are part of, a boat shall be considered as removed from an area when the boat and blind are tied up or moored at an approved access site. No boat shall be anchored away from shore and left unattended unless it is attached to a legal buoy.
- Exception-tree blinds.* Portable blinds placed in trees and used for purposes other than hunting waterfowl may be left on an area for a continuous period of time beginning seven days prior to the open season for hunting deer or turkey and ending seven days after the final day of that open season. Portable blinds left on game management areas do not guarantee the owner exclusive use of the blind when unattended, or exclusive use of the site.
- Protection of trees.* The use of any spike, nail, pin, or other object which is driven or screwed into a tree is prohibited.

CGC-6.53 Use of waterfowl decoys. The use of waterfowl decoys on any game management area is restricted as follows: Decoys are prohibited from one-half hour after sunset until midnight each day, and decoys cannot be left unattended for over 30 minutes between midnight and one-half hour after sunset. Decoys shall be considered as removed from an area when they are picked up and placed in a boat, vehicle or other container at an approved access site.

CGC-6.6 Use of nontoxic shot on wildlife areas. It shall be unlawful to hunt any migratory game bird or resident game or furbearers, except deer and turkeys, or target shoot with a shotgun while having in one's possession any shot other than nontoxic shot approved by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on all Areas.

CGC-6.7 Target Shooting. Target shooting is prohibited on all Board areas, except for the use of bows and arrows at the Field Archery Range at the Spring Creek Preserve.

CGC-6.8 Prohibited firearms. The use of rifles and handguns is prohibited at the Lime Creek Conservation Area public hunting zone surrounding Quarry Lake.

CGC-7 Trails

CGC-7.1 Trails. All Board recreational/multiple use trails are evaluated and classified according to Dept. of Justice Public Use Trail Standards. CGCCB Trail Assessment Standards on file.

CGC-7.2 Recreational Use. All recreational use other than foot traffic is restricted to designated trails on all county conservation board managed areas.

CGC-7.3 Easy Access Trail. Horses, bicycles, and skateboards are prohibited on Easy Access Trail (concrete trail) at the Lime Creek Conservation Area.

CGC-7.4 Trolley Trail.

CGC-7.41 Use of recreational equipment (ski poles etc.) which has the potential of penetrating or otherwise damaging the asphalt trail surface is prohibited on the trail.

CGC-7.42 All motorized vehicles and horses are prohibited on the trail.

CGC-7.43 Sponsoring groups of organized events must sign/post the trail (as specified by staff) 48 hrs in advance of the event to notify other users of the activity.

CGC-7.5 Lime Creek Conservation Area Trails. Horses and bicycles are prohibited on Lime Creek Conservation Area trails after the first significant snowfall through the active cross country ski season. Trails may be closed during spring snowmelt or when other wet/muddy conditions persist.

CGC-8 Facilities. The Board reserves the right to require permits and establish fees and admission for the use of facilities, privileges, and conveniences or service without notice.

CGC-9 Possession and Consumption of Beer and Wine.

CGC-9.1 No person or group shall bring, use, or have in their possession beer or wine in a keg or other container larger than one quart on county areas.

CGC-9.2 Possession and Consumption of Beer and Wine Prohibited. It shall be unlawful for any person to possess or consume beer or wine, as defined in Section 123.3(7) of the Code of Iowa between the hours of 10:30 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. In or on any area, except that beer or wine may be possessed within a camping unit or out of sight between said hours by a legal aged member of any camping party. Any beer or wine possessed in violation of this rule shall be confiscated by the Director or his authorized representative and destroyed.

CGC-10 Closing Time. Except by arrangement or permission granted by the director or the director's authorized representative, all persons shall vacate county parks and preserves before ten-thirty o'clock p.m. Areas may be closed at an earlier or later hour, of which notice shall be given by proper signs or instructions. The provisions of this section shall not apply to authorized camping in areas provided for that purpose.

CGC-11 Camping

CGC-11.1 It shall be unlawful for more than one camping party or camping unit to occupy a campsite, except that up to eight members of a youth group may occupy a campsite in a family campground on properties which do not have a designated group camp area or when group camps are not available. When youth groups are allowed to use campsites in family campgrounds reasonable provisions shall be made to allow them to exceed the equipment limit as defined.

CGC-11.2 Campsites cannot be reserved. In order to rent a campsite, a camping unit must be in the campsite and the fee paid for within 30 minutes.

CGC-11.3 Campground visitors are permitted between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 10:30 p.m.

CGC-11.4 The board is hereby authorized to fix fees for camping and other special privileges which shall be in such amounts as may be determined by the board upon a basis of the cost of providing reasonable value of such privileges.

CGC-11.5 Camping Areas. No person shall camp in any portion of a county park or preserve except in portions prescribed or designated by the board.

CGC-11.51 Primitive camping is allowed, during the waterfowl hunting season only in the designated parking areas at: Mallard Marsh, Zirbel Slough, Bluewing Marsh, Walch Wildlife Area, Prairie Pothole Wildlife Area, and the Winnebago Oxbow Wildlife Area, with a two night maximum length of stay.

CGC-11.6 Time Limit. No camping unit shall be permitted to camp for a period longer than that designated by the board for the specific county park or preserve, and in no event longer than for a period of two weeks.

CGC-11.7 Registering. Campers in county parks shall self-register and display the official registration form, providing all information requested.

CGC-11.8 Camping Refused. Board staff are given authority to refuse camping privileges and to rescind any and all camping permits for cause.

CGC-11.9 Vacating. Check out time is 12 p.m. noon, no refunds given.

CGC-12 Penalties. Any person violating any of the provisions of the foregoing sections shall upon conviction be fined or be imprisoned according to law.

The Cerro Gordo County Conservation Board in the provisions of services and facilities to the public does not discriminate against anyone on the basis of race, color, sex, creed, national origin, age or handicap. If anyone believes he or she has been subjected to such discrimination, he or she may file a complaint alleging discrimination with either the Cerro Gordo County Conservation Board or the Office of Equal Opportunity, U.S. Dept. of Interior, Washington, D.C. 20240.