

Introduction and General Information

Welcome to Polk County Conservation Board parks. We invite you to explore and enjoy these beautiful areas. In order for our parks to remain a safe and enjoyable place, we ask that you follow these rules and regulations.

Rules and Regulations Summary*

- Traffic:** Motorized vehicles must stay on roadways or in designated parking areas. Park roads are public roads and operators of motor vehicles must have a valid driver's license.
- Speed Limit:** As posted.
- Camping:** Designated areas only. Fees required. Sites can not be reserved unless otherwise posted.
- Picnics:** Allowed in designated areas except in campgrounds.
- Fires:** Authorized only in the provided metal rings or grills.
- Litter:** "Pack it home if you pack it in" is the best rule, or use containers provided.
- Pets:** Keep on leash at all times. Leash not to exceed six feet. Pets shall not be left unattended outside the camping unit.
- Firearms:** Permitted only in areas open for public hunting.
- Keg Beer:** Restricted to reserved shelters. Keg permit required.
*Violation is a simple misdemeanor

Conservation and Public Parks

The following codes and sections are only portions of the State Code. They are identified here for public awareness and safety. It is the intent of the Polk County Conservation Board to provide quality outdoor recreation/education while protecting natural resources.

350.10 Status applicable

Sections 461A.35 through 461A.57 apply to all lands and waters under control of a county conservation board. However, these sections may be modified or superseded by rules adopted as provided in Section 350.5.

Section 1. Prohibited destructive acts

It shall be unlawful for any person to destroy, injure, deface, or remove any plant life, trees, buildings, or other natural material property.

Adopted from Iowa Code 461A.35.

Section 2. Speed limit

Speed limit as posted. All driving shall be confined to designated roadways.

Adopted from Iowa Code 461A.36.

Section 3. Excessive loads

Excessively loaded vehicles shall not operate over park roads or highways.

Adopted from Iowa Code 461A.37.

Section 4. Parking

All vehicles shall be parked in designated areas.

Adopted from Iowa Code 461A.38.

Section 5. Hitching to trees

No animal, camping equipment or other items shall be tied to trees or shrubs.

Adopted from Iowa Code 461A.39.

Section 6. Fires

Fires are restricted to grills or metal rings provided and must be put out before leaving the site.

Adopted from Iowa Code 461A.40.

Section 7. Removing plants, flowers, or fruit

Unless otherwise posted, it is lawful to collect fruit, nuts, berries and mushrooms for noncommercial home use, provided the collector does not otherwise damage the parent plant.

Adopted from Iowa Code 461A.41.

Section 8. Use of firearms, explosives, weapons, and fireworks prohibited--exceptions

The use by the public of firearms, fireworks, explosives and weapons of all kinds is prohibited. Nothing in this provision prohibits use of firearms or bow and arrows in the legal pursuit of game on designated hunting areas.

Adopted from Iowa Code 461A.42.

Section 9. Littering grounds

It is unlawful to bring any garbage, refuse or litter into any area for the purpose of disposal.

Adopted from Iowa Code 461A.43.

Section 10. Prohibited areas

It is unlawful for any person to enter, use or occupy any area or facility within said area in disregard of any official sign, gate or barricade.

Adopted from Iowa Code 461A.44.

Section 11. Animals on leash

Keep animals on leash at all times. Leash not to exceed six feet. Pets shall not be left unattended outside the camping unit.

Adopted from Iowa Code 461A.45.

Section 12. Closing time

All visitors are required to leave the park prior to closing time:
10:30 p.m. during summer hours and by sunset hours during winter hours.

Adopted from Iowa Code 461A.46.

Section 13. Definitions

A. "Board": the Polk County Conservation Board.

B. "Director": the Director of the Conservation Board.

C. "Authorized representative": includes Park Rangers and other persons designated by the director.

D. "Area": all or any part of the land and/or water owned, leased, managed or by other means under the control of the Board.

E. "Camping unit or camp": a tent, trailer or motor vehicle specifically designed for such use (single tent not larger than 140 square feet at its base.) An additional tent no larger than 50 square feet in size at its base may be used for temporary residence at a camp area.

F. "Camping party": any individual group of not more than six persons or any immediate family occupying one camp site and must include at least an adult eighteen years in age or older.

G. "Camp area": any area designated by the Board for camping.

H. "Campsite": a segment of camp area designated by the Board for camping by a camping unit or camping party.

I. "Youth group": an established organization under the leadership of at least one adult for every eight minors.

Adopted from Iowa Code 350.5

Section 14. Camping

A. Violation of any state law or county regulation by any member of a camping party is cause for revocation of the camping privilege and the entire camping party may be required to leave the area.

B. Registration is required within one hour of setting up camp.

C. Campsites can not be reserved except where posted.

D. No camping party or camping unit of any kind shall occupy any camp area for more than 14 days out of any 17-day period.

E. No camping unit shall be left unoccupied for more than 24 hours. Unattended camping equipment 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. It is unlawful for more than one camping party or camping unit to occupy a campsite.

G. It is unlawful to park any motor vehicle other than in a designated parking area. No more than two licensed vehicles are permitted at any campsite.

H. All park visitors/campers must avoid excessive noise and maintain the quiet hours of 10:00 p.m. - 9:00 a.m. in the park.

I. No refunds will be issued.

J. "Excessive Noise" means any loud, confused or senseless shouting or outcry; a sound lacking in agreeable musical quality or which is noticeably unpleasant.

K. There will be no taking down or putting up of camping units after 10:00 p.m. Check-out time is 6:00 p.m.

Adopted from Iowa Code 461A.47-461A.51.

Section 15. Hunting restrictions

A. It is unlawful to hunt, trap, pursue, or in any manner molest any wildlife, or to use or carry firearms, explosives, and weapons of any kind in or on any area not designated as a public hunting area.

B. Controlled site hunting area. A portions of the Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt, where posted, is designated as a controlled hunting area. No person shall enter upon this area between September 1 and the last day of the duck hunting season without a special-use permit.

C. Blinds. A blind for the purpose of hunting or wildlife observation may be constructed, but its construction will not give that person any proprietary right to its

use. Only portable, self-contained blinds may be installed on any recreation or hunting area. No nails or other metal may be driven into any tree.

D. Trapping. It is unlawful to trap or use snares without a special-use permit.

E. Decoys. Decoys are prohibited on all areas between one hour after legal shooting time and midnight of each day.

F. It is unlawful to possess any shot other than non-toxic (non-lead) shot while using a shotgun on Conservation Board areas except for deer and turkey hunting or trapshooting at the designated trap range at the Chichaqua Bottoms Greenbelt.

Adopted from Iowa Code 350.10.

Section 16. Training and exercising dogs

It is lawful to permit dogs to run at large for the purpose of training or exercising them in or on any area designated as a hunting area by the Board except between March 15 and July 15. Organized field and retriever meets shall be conducted at designated sites on approved dates.

Adopted from Iowa Code 350.10.

Section 17. Public address systems and amplified music

It is unlawful to operate or use any radio, television, stereo, musical instrument, electric generating plant, power saws, chain saws, power tools of any kind or public address system whether fixed, portable, or vehicular-mounted, in or on any area except by special-use permit.

Adopted from Iowa Code 350.10.

Section 18. Recreation uses only

It is unlawful for any person to occupy any portion of any area for washing or repairing vehicles, advertising/peddling or any other non-recreational activity, except concessionaires acting under the authority of a lease or contract with the Board.

Adopted from Iowa Code 350.10

Section 19. Use of horses

Horses are restricted to designated areas.

Adopted from Iowa Code 350.10

Section 20. ATV

The use of ATV's or similar vehicles is prohibited in county parks.

Adopted from Iowa Code 350.10

Section 21. Snowmobiles

Snowmobiles are permitted in designated areas when snow cover has reached a four-inch minimum depth. Such snowmobiles must be operated and equipped in accordance with Chapter 321G of the Code of Iowa. Access to any area may be denied for just cause.

Adopted from Iowa Code 350.10.

Section 22. Sledding equipment

It is unlawful to use any part of a car body, plywood or metal sheet, or any similar unsafe device in any winter sport activity in or on any area.

Adopted from Iowa Code 350.10.

Section 23. Swimming

It is unlawful to swim, wade or engage in related water activities except at designated ponds or waters. Wading for the purpose of hunting, trapping, bird watching, fishing, etc. is allowed.

Adopted from Iowa Code 350.10.

Section 24. Reservations

A minor may not reserve any facility.

Adopted from Iowa Code 350.10.

Section 25. Unattended boats

It is unlawful to leave any unattended boat or other water conveyance on or attached to any area except those so designated.

Adopted from Iowa Code 350.10.

Section 26. Beer

No person or group shall bring, use, or have in possession beer in a keg or any other container larger than one quart without having reserved a facility offered for reservation and having paid a deposit. Liquor is not allowed.

Adopted from Iowa Code 350.10.

Section 27. Intoxicating liquors

A person shall not use or consume alcoholic liquor in any public place. A public place is anywhere outside the camping unit within the park.

Adopted from Iowa Code 123.46 and 350.10.

Section 28. 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.

Adopted from Iowa Code 350.10.

Section 29. Consumption of Alcoholic Beverages at Easter Lake Park

It is unlawful for any person to use, possess or consume beer, wine, or alcoholic liquors in Easter Lake Park, including all park roads and parking areas, except by approval of the Polk County Conservation Board director by special permit for special events such as charitable fund-raising events or if a shelter is rented. Use of beer or wine as a part of shelter rental shall take place in the shelter or the immediate vicinity of the rented shelter. This regulation shall take effect January 1, 2000.

Park Hours

Summer Hours - 6:30 a.m. - 10:30 p.m.
(from daylight savings time in the spring to standard time in the fall)

Winter Hours - Sunrise to Sunset
(from standard time in the fall to daylight savings time in the spring)

***Front gates are closed at the posted times unless otherwise indicated.**