



**Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Commission Rules**  
**Amended May 21, 2025**

The following rules are promulgated by the Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Commission by authority conferred on the Commission by Act 261 of the Public Acts of the State of Michigan of 1965, MCL § 46.364, as amended, for the protection, regulation and control of its facilities and areas, and with the approval of the Grand Traverse County Board of Commissioners.

**Section 1. Definitions.**

- a. "Commission" shall mean the Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Commission.
- b. "County Park Property" shall mean all lands, waters and property administered by or under the jurisdiction of the Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Commission.
- c. "Director" shall mean the Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Director.
- d. "Person" or "persons" shall mean individuals, firms, corporations, or any group or gathering of individuals.
- e. "Camping" means the overnight lodging or sleeping of a person or persons in a tent, trailer-coach, vehicle camper, motor vehicle, or in any other conveyance erected, parked or placed on the premises.

**Section 2. Unlawful acts generally.** On lands owned or under the control of the department, it is unlawful for a person or persons to do any of the following:

1. To enter, use, or occupy County Park Property for any purpose when they are posted against entry, use, or occupancy, as ordered by the commission.
2. To dispose of refuse, rubbish, trash, or garbage not resulting from the use of county-owned lands in receptacles provided on Commission property.
3. To ignite any fire except within fireplaces, receptacles or open spaces designated and approved for such purposes by the Director.
4. To place or burn garbage within a designated fireplace, receptacle or open space designated and approved for the building of fires by the Director, or bury refuse, rubbish, trash, or garbage, regardless of its origin.
5. To use tobacco or smoke on any County Park Property. This rule applies to prohibit the use and smoking of tobacco both within structures as well as outside of structures on the listed properties. As used in this rule, the word "smoke" means any of the following:

- a. using a cigarette, e-cigarette, cigar, pipe or vapors-tanks-mods or related product that contains tobacco, nicotine or any other related product that is lighted, burning or heated;
- b. lighting a cigarette, e-cigarette, cigar, pipe or vapors-tanks-mods or related product that contains tobacco, nicotine or any other related product;
- c. exhaling smoke or vapor from burning or heating tobacco, nicotine, or any other related product that is contained in a cigarette, e-cigarette, cigar, pipe or vapors-tanks-mods or related product.

6. To intentionally smoke, ingest, consume, or otherwise use marihuana, or cannabis, or liquids or solids containing any type of tetrahydrocannabinol on County Park Property. "Smoke" means to inhale the vapor of a solid or liquid substance that has been heated. "Ingest" means to swallow a solid or liquid substance. "Consume" means to take a substance into the body which was previously outside the body.

7. To cause a noise disturbance, which is defined as sound created by human activity with or without the use of any device, which by reason of its volume, intensity, location, or time of day impairs the health, welfare, or peace of another person of normal human sensibilities. The following acts and activities are declared to be noise disturbances and are prohibited. This enumeration shall not be deemed exclusive.

- a. The playing of any sound reproduction device, or musical instrument in such a manner or at such a volume as to be sufficiently audible to annoy or disturb the quiet, comfort, or repose of persons in the vicinity.
- b. The keeping of any animal which, by causing frequent or long continued noise, shall disturb the comfort and repose of any person in the vicinity.
- c. The use of any motor vehicle, in such a manner as to create a disturbing noise, including, but not limited to, the screeching of tires and the discharge into the open air of exhaust from the engine without a sufficient muffler.
- d. Shouting or other raucous or boisterous behavior for an unreasonable length of time.
- e. The use of a loudspeaker, public address system without a permit issued by the Director.

8. To operate a motor-driven vehicle such as a class 2 or 3 electric bike, minibike, motorcycle, dunemobile, snowmobile, converted snowmobile, amphibious vehicle, or any other motorized device, except on designated roads, trails, or areas posted for such use without proper written permission or authorized for maintenance or patrol use. Persons with a qualified disability, as defined in the Persons with Disabilities Civil Rights Act (PWD CRA), MCL § 37.1101, et seq., and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), 42 USC 12101, et seq., are exempt from this rule when using an electric wheelchair, electric powered scooter or similar device necessary to provide mobility.

9. To operate a bicycle upon any path or trail other than those designated for bicycles in the Natural Education Reserve property. Class 2 and 3 electric bicycles are prohibited from all areas of the Natural Education Reserve.
10. To launch a private watercraft from County Park Property into Rennie, Bass, or Spider Lakes.
11. To place or erect a fence or barrier, to construct or occupy improvements, or to enclose the lands or obstruct the passage of another person or persons in any way from entering, exiting or using County Park Property without permission of the Director.
12. To peddle or systematically solicit business of any nature; distribute or post any handbills or other advertising matter or post signs without permission from the Director.
13. To paint, mark, or otherwise apply any chemical or harmful substance on any tree, rock, or any other land, water, structure or property without the permission from the Director.
14. To park vehicles of any type in areas posted as no parking; or, where designated parking areas exist, to park vehicles of any type in an area other than the designated parking area. If a motor vehicle is found parked on County Park Property, then the license plate displayed on the motor vehicle shall constitute *prima facie* evidence that the person who parked it there is the owner of the vehicle.
15. To camp on County Park Property unless approved and designated for such purposes by the Director and with an approved permit issued by the Director.
16. To store or leave property on county lands for more than 24 hours without written permission of the Director. This subdivision does not apply to lawfully occupied, designated camping sites when camping with a permit authorized by the Director.
17. To ride or lead a horse, pack animal, or other riding animal, or any animal driven vehicle on any area, except on roads that are open to the use of motor vehicles, trails, bridle paths, and campgrounds designated for such use by the Director.
18. To possess a dog without a leash except upon County Park Property open to hunting.
19. To enter or remain on County Park Property between the hours of 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. unless the property is open for events between these hours.
- 20 To possess or use a bow and arrow, crossbow, trap or other instrument used for hunting or trapping of animals unless approved and designated for such purposes by the Director and with an approved permit issued by the Director.
21. To hunt or trap on any County Park Property unless that property is open to hunting and/or trapping by Rule of the Commission.
22. To discharge projectiles either by air, explosive substance or any other force by any firearm, revolver, pistol, shotgun, rifle, air rifle, air gun, paint ball gun, bow or other weapon that discharges a projectile. This section shall not apply to any peace officer, or duly appointed law

enforcement officer while carrying out their duties. This section shall also not apply to any person lawfully hunting game on property that is open to hunting by Rule of the Commission, or in connection with a firearm safety class within a designated area as authorized by the Director.

23. To intentionally destroy, damage, injure, deface or remove any tree, shrub, wildflower or other vegetation, or intentionally destroy, damage, injure, deface or remove any publicly owned property in any public park or recreation area unless approval is granted by the Director.

24. To in any way harass and intentionally disturb any and all wildlife other than while hunting or fishing as allowed by Rule of the Commission.

25. To offer for sale alcoholic beverages except for events as authorized by the Director, and in locations approved for such by the Parks and Recreation Commission.

26. To possess any beverage container made in whole or in part of glass, or to bring, carry, or transport any beverage container made in whole or in part of glass onto County Park property.

27. Playing or practicing of golf or disc golf, except in designated and signed areas.

28. The operating of motor-driven model aircraft, drones, or launching any type of powered device capable of flight.

29. Possession or discharge of fireworks.

30. To utilize County Park Property for commercial purposes in such a manner that impedes non-commercial purposes of the county park property without permission of the Director

31. To utilize County Park Property in a manner or to a degree that creates a public safety hazard or results in excessive and inappropriate wear on park property, without permission from the Director.

32. To refuse to comply with the above rules upon the demand of an authorized local enforcement officer; or to interfere with the officer's enforcement of the ordinance; or to retaliate against another who has made complaint of a violation of a park rule; or to interfere with an employee or agent of the Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Department while performing his or her official duties.

Section 3. Enforcement Officers. The Grand Traverse County Sheriff and deputies are authorized as local enforcement officers of these park rules at all parks, except at Civic Center Park, where Traverse City police have jurisdiction. At Natural Education Reserve, Grand Traverse Conservation District personnel are also authorized to enforce these park rules.

Section 4. Fines and Imprisonment. Any person violating any provision of the foregoing rules shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be fined not more than \$100 and costs of prosecution or imprisoned in the Grand Traverse County Jail for a period not exceeding 90 days or both, for each offense.

Section 5. Compliance with Other Laws. Nothing in this ordinance impairs or precludes a separate cause of action provided by statute or common law for conduct prohibited herein.

Section 6. Severability. The provisions of this ordinance are severable and if any part is declared void or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining parts shall remain in force.