

Mecosta County



22250 Northland Drive, Paris, MI 49338

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August 16th, 2023

Dear Merrill-Gorrel Park Seasonal Camper/Prospective Seasonal Camper:

Though there are still many memories to be made through the end of the 2023 season, we are beginning to look forward toward another great season of camping with the Mecosta County Parks in 2024!

Merrill-Gorrel County Park will not be accepting any new seasonal campers into the Merrill side of the park in 2024 as was the case the past 3 seasons. The Gorrel side of the park will allow up to 100% of the total available campsites to be rented on a seasonal basis. Current seasonal campers will have first right to return to their current campsite. Individuals who seasonal camped on the Merrill side in 2023 will be permitted to return as a seasonal camper to the Merrill side. We also offer a seasonal camping rate for the primitive campsites within the park, which can be reserved seasonally to 100% occupied. We will be following the same procedure as we have the past few seasons for change of campsite and new seasonal campsite requests. These requests will be administered in a two-lottery format. Information is available on the back of this letter outlining the process.

Merrill-Gorrel County Park will open for the 2024 season at 8:00 am on Friday, May 3rd (weather permitting) and will close on Sunday, October 6th, 2024 at 6:00 pm.

The seasonal camping rate will be **\$1,600** for water and electric sites and **\$1,200** for primitive sites. A **\$300.00 deposit** is required to hold your campsite. **Deposits will start being accepted on August 23rd. Deposit must be received by 5:00 pm on September 11th, 2023.** Vehicle permits will be charged separately for all vehicles. The annual vehicle and annual boat fee will remain at \$35 each for the 2023 season. Daily vehicle fees will remain at \$7/day.

The balance of seasonal camping cost must be **paid in full by office closing time on May 12th, 2024, or upon arrival to the park, whichever occurs first.** If you have not paid the remainder of your balance by this deadline, your seasonal campsite will be released and made available to other park guests.

If you wish to make payments on your seasonal campsite during the off season, payments can be mailed to the Mecosta Park's Administrative Office address. Please indicate "Merrill-Gorrel" and your site number to ensure proper credit. If you need to cancel your seasonal site for any reason, your request for cancellation must be made through the Administrative Office. A refund of your deposit will be returned, (less a \$50.00 administrative fee) upon written request, until January 19th, 2024. **After January 19th, 2024, seasonal deposits will not be refunded.** Please mail your payment, cancellation request, or other inquiries to:

Mecosta County Park Commission, 22250 Northland Drive, Paris, MI 49338

Please remember, when you depart for the season, all personal items must be removed from your campsite. Campers will be allowed to leave their camping unit within the park this off season for a storage fee of \$150. Decks and sheds may be left for an additional \$50 fee. Please inquire with the park office if you are interested in utilizing winter storage services. It is important that the park office has your correct off season contact information on file (especially e-mail addresses.) Please ensure that your information is up to date before leaving the park.

We look forward to welcoming you back for another great camping season in 2024!

Sincerely,

Jeff Abel - Superintendent

Brower Park
23056 Polk Rd.
Stanwood, MI 49346
(231) 823-2561

School Section Lake Veterans Park
9003 90th Ave.
Mecosta, MI 49332
(231) 972-7450

Merrill-Gorrel Campground
3275 Evergreen
Sears, MI 49679
(989) 382-7158

Paris Park
22090 Northland Dr.
Paris, MI 49338
(231) 796-3420

SEASONAL CAMPING

CHANGE OF CAMPSITE/NEW SEASONAL CAMPER PROCESS

The following process is used at School Section, Merrill-Gorrel, and Paris Parks for the purpose of current seasonal campers requesting a change of campsite and for new seasonal camper requests.

- *Change of campsite/new seasonal camper forms* are not accepted until seasonal camper informational packets are made available with deposits being accepted. Informational packets are distributed to the parks in August of each season and posted on the Park Commission website. Packets may be obtained online, by contacting the individual park office or through the parks' administration office.
- A \$300 deposit is required with the acceptance of each form. For current seasonal campers the deposit will be placed on your current campsite pending the availability of a new site.
- The *Change of campsite/new seasonal camper forms* will allow each camper to request up to 10 campsites as their primary choices. These forms will be sent to the Parks Administration Office once completed and deposit received.
- No *Change of campsite/new seasonal camper forms* will be processed until the deposit deadline has expired. The deadline to submit a request form is the same as the deadline for returning seasonal camper deposits. The registration deadline is September 11th, 2023 at 5:00 pm.
- After returning seasonal campsites have been confirmed by deposit, a lottery drawing will occur to determine the processing order for all change of campsite requests of current seasonal campers.
- A second lottery drawing will then be held for all new seasonal camper requests to determine the processing order.
- The lottery drawings will take place at the Parks Administrative Office in Paris, Michigan. These drawings will simply determine the order in which forms are processed. The public is welcome to attend as the processing order is determined, however actual processing will not be completed on the lottery drawing date. It may take 1-2 weeks to process all requests throughout the park system.

The Lottery Drawing for Merrill-Gorrel Park will be Wednesday, September 13th, 2023 at 11:00 am.

- All change of site requests from current seasonal campers will be processed before the processing of new seasonal camper requests begins.
- Processing of sites will be done in accordance with the campsite preferences listed on the request form. Processing will be done utilizing the form and the deposit on hand. Guests will **not** be contacted prior to processing to re-confirm any of the information they have submitted.
- Guests will receive a receipt showing that the request has been processed.
- If there are no campsites available from the 10 choices selected, the request will be moved to the end of the processing order. The guest will be contacted after all *Change of campsite/new seasonal camper forms* have been processed and notified of any available sites remaining.
- After all request forms have been processed, any remaining sites will be made available on a first come first serve basis, until the maximum number of seasonal campsites for the campground has been met.

Merrill-Gorrel '24 Seasonal Deposit Policy

Last, First Name: _____

Thank you for placing a Deposit for 2024 Seasonal Camping at Merrill-Gorrel County Park!

If you are interested in changing your site for next year, or would like to become a new seasonal camper, please fill out the **Change of Campsite/New Seasonal Camper** section between the green lines below.

If you are a current seasonal camper who plans to stay on the same site next year, simply skip to the **Seasonal Deposit Policy Acknowledgement** section below.

Change of Campsite/New Seasonal Camper

(Only fill this section out if you are requesting a different site next year or to become a new seasonal camper.)

Please check one: _____ Current Seasonal Camper _____ New Seasonal Camper

Choice	Site #
1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	
7	
8	
9	
10	

Seasonal Deposit Policy Acknowledgement

By paying your registration deposit, you are acknowledging that you have received and accept policy information regarding:

- Seasonal Camping Rates
- Seasonal Camping Arrival & Departure Dates
- Seasonal Camping Options Available
- Lottery Drawing Date and Time
- Lottery Process for Campsite Selection
- Lottery Registration Process
- Timeline of Balance Due for Seasonal Camping
- Seasonal Campsite Cancellation Policy

Printed Name: _____

Current Campsite Number (if applicable): _____

Signature: _____

Staff Use Only:

Invoice #: _____

Registration: SAME

MOVE

NEW