

# MECOSTA COUNTY PARK COMMISSION

## RULES AND REGULATIONS

ADOPTED BY:  
THE MECOSTA COUNTY PARK COMMISSION  
AND AMENDED ON FEBRUARY 18<sup>th</sup>, 2025

ADOPTED BY:  
THE MECOSTA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS  
AND AMENDED ON MARCH 20<sup>th</sup>, 2025

PREAMBLE

An ordinance to regulate and control all lands, waters, and property administered by or under the jurisdiction of the Mecosta County Park Commission.

WHEREAS, MCLA 46.11; MSA 5.331, authorizes the Mecosta County Board of Commissioners to enact Ordinances relating to county affairs; and

WHEREAS, MCLA 46.351; MSA 45.570(101) authorizes the Mecosta County Board of Commissioners to make rules and regulations with respect to the County Parks and Recreation Commission as the Board of Commissioners considers advisable; and

WHEREFORE, the County Board of Commissioners of Mecosta County believes that the safety and general welfare of the People of the County would be enhanced by the enactment of a County Ordinance regulating and controlling all lands, waters, and property administered by or under the jurisdiction of the Mecosta County Park Commission;

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the County of Mecosta, Michigan as follows:

*PARK RULES:*

Under the Authority of Public Act 261 of the State of Michigan (1965), as amended, the Mecosta County Park Commission herewith promulgates and published the following rules for the use, protection and control of all park acreage and facilities under its management control.

*A WORD ABOUT OUR PARKS:*

The Mecosta County Parks are not supported by a yearly tax appropriation and instead depend on user fees to operate, maintain, and keep parks available for public use.

*A.D.A GUIDELINES:*

Any questions or concerns about equal access for all visitors to our parks should be directed to the Park Commission Administrative Office at (231) 832-3246.

# MECOSTA COUNTY PARKS RULES AND REGULATIONS

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*Section 1: DEFINITIONS*

1. "**Commission**" shall mean the Mecosta County Park Commission.
2. "**Commission Property**" shall mean all lands, waters, and property administered by or under the jurisdiction of the Mecosta County Park Commission.
3. "**Person**" or "**Person(s)**" shall mean individuals, male or female, singular or plural; firms, corporations or any group of individuals.
4. "**Camping**" means the overnight lodging or sleeping of person or persons in a cabin, tent, trailer-tent, motor home, trailer-coach, vehicle camper, motor vehicle, or in any other conveyance erected, parked, or placed on the premises within any park or recreation area administered by the Mecosta County Park Commission.
5. A "**Campsite**" shall not consist of more than one (1) picnic table, one (1) fire pit, one (1) electric outlet (where available), one (1) water spigot (where available) and one (1) seepage pit (where available). Its boundaries shall be the distance between campsite marking posts on both sides, and a line formed by the electric box in the rear (if available). The size will be determined by the park manager.
6. "**Quiet Hours**" means the designated period of time between 10:00 pm and 8:00 am during which all noise, conversation or activity shall be confined to the boundaries of the campsite.
7. "**Day use**" shall mean the use of the Commission property between 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. by person or persons not registered to camp or visiting campers.
8. "**Motor driven vehicle**" means a vehicle, motor vehicle, or vehicle, operated, or designed for operation upon a public highway by power other than muscular power, including motorcycles and golf carts.
9. "**Motorcycle**" means a vehicle having a saddle or seat for the use of the rider, designed to travel on not more than 3 wheels in contact with the ground, which is equipped with a motor that exceeds 50 cubic centimeters piston displacement.
10. "**Fireworks**" means a device made from explosive or flammable composition used primarily for the purpose of producing a visible display or audible effect, or both, by combustion, deflagration, or detonation. Fireworks includes, but is not limited to, firecrackers, roman candles, bottle rockets, flat paper caps, cone fountains, toy snakes, blank cartridge pistols, toy guns in which explosives are used, or other fireworks of like construction.
11. "**Smoking**" means the practice in which a plant or substance is burned, and the resulting smoke or vapor is breathed in and exhaled. Smoking includes, but is not limited to, the use of cigarettes, cigars, marijuana, pipes, e-cigarettes, vaping or other similar devices.

**Section 2: APPLICATION OF ORDINANCE**

Sec.2.a The provisions of this ordinance shall apply to and regulate and control all lands, waters and property administered by or under the jurisdiction of the Mecosta County Park Commission.

**Section 3: HOURS**

Sec.3.a No person shall remain upon Commission property between 10:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m., except registered campers within designated camping areas or at park areas designated to provide fishing access. Said hours may be extended upon approval of the Commission.

Sec.3.b Park areas designated to provide fishing access may be utilized between 10:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. only while actively engaged in fishing activities and when not otherwise posted as closed to public use or entry.

Sec.3.c No person shall enter park lands or waters which have been designated as closed to public use or entry.

**Section 4: FEES AND CHARGES**

Sec.4.a No person shall use any facility, land or area for which a fee and charge have been established by the Commission without payment of such fee or charge.

Sec.4.b No person shall occupy a campsite for which a fee is charged until the entire fee has been paid.

Sec.4.c A non-refundable reservation fee as established by the Commission shall be billed for all non-seasonal advanced reservations related to campsite and facility use.

Sec.4.d Refunding of any unused portion of a camping permit or reservation may be granted in accordance with the Park Commission refund policy. Refund requests must be received from the registered camping guest to be evaluated. Cancellations and refunds can be processed online for all reservations placed online. All other refund requests must be submitted in writing to the Park Commission Administration Office. An administrative fee, as established by the Commission, shall be charged on each approved refund.

**Section 5: PERMITS AND REGISTRATIONS**

Sec.5.a A valid daily or annual vehicle permit shall be displayed in a clearly visible location on the passenger side of the windshield of any vehicle entering upon Commission property requiring such a permit. Annual vehicle permits must be permanently affixed to be valid.

- Sec.5.b Camping and facility use permits shall be completed by confirmation of an online or in-person advanced reservation or by registering in person upon arrival to the park or campground location. All campground and facility rental permits shall be confirmed by issue of a rental receipt. Check-in upon arrival is required at Brower, School Section, Merrill-Gorrel, and Paris Parks.
- Sec.5.c Camping permit check-in begins at 3:00 p.m. on the date of arrival. Camping permit expires at 1:00 p.m. on the date of departure.
- Sec.5.d The person registering for a campsite must be at least 18 years or older and any minor persons using the permit must have a responsible adult immediately accessible within the park.
- Sec.5.e An organized youth group camping with their leaders shall be registered on one permit.
- Sec.5.f Any person registering for a permit shall provide the names of additional persons present within the park, upon request.
- Sec.5.g A permit holder shall only occupy a campsite assigned by park staff.
- Sec.5.h A motor home traveling to the campground without an additional vehicle will be charged the normal fee for a vehicle permit as it is assumed the motor home is the primary form of transportation.
- A motor home traveling to the campground with an additional vehicle (tow or accompanying) will be charged the normal vehicle pass for the accompanying vehicle and will not be charged a fee for the motor home, provided the motor home does not leave the campground for the duration of their stay.
- Sec.5.i At Brower Park, a camping permit may be used for a period not exceeding 21 nights, with the exception of seasonal sites.
- Sec.5.j In the event an identified camper notifies park office staff of their lot abandonment, the lot shall be made available to other renters.
- In the event there is no notification of abandonment, and a campsite remains unoccupied, the lot shall be held for a 24-hour period, which shall then constitute abandonment, and the lot will be made available to other renters.
- Sec.5.k Nothing contained herein shall exempt the users of the reserved facilities from full compliance with all laws, ordinances, and rules of the Commission relating to use and conduct on Commission property.

**Section 6: RESERVATIONS**

Sec.6.a Campsite, cabin, and facility reservations will be accepted at Brower, Merrill-Gorrel, School Section, and Paris Parks and for the group camp within the White Pine Valley Recreation Area.

**Section 7: CAMPING**

No Person Shall:

Sec.7.a Camp except in areas provided and designated for such use.

Sec.7.b Camp without a permit. In the event that a camping unit occupies a site for more than 24 hours after the camping permit expires, the camping unit will be considered abandoned. Once a camping unit has been abandoned, the Mecosta County Park Commission reserves the right to remove or tow the camping unit at the expense of the permit holder and accepts no liability for the contents or safety of the camping unit. In addition, if the campsite occupied by the abandoned camping unit displaces the next reservation on the campsite, the permit holder of the site occupied by the abandoned camping unit will be charged double for each night the campsite is occupied past the check out date on the camping permit.

Sec.7.c Allow a campsite to be occupied overnight by more than 8 individuals.

Sec.7.d Allow minors to occupy a campsite without adult supervision.

Sec.7.e Allow persons, other than those registered, to use a campsite or transfer a campsite permit to another guest. Reservations must be cancelled if they cannot be used by the original reservation holder, they cannot be sold or transferred to another party.

Sec.7.f Allow more than two motor driven vehicles, one primary camping unit, one additional soft-sided camping tent, one soft-sided temporary structure (non-camping shade awning, rain cover, or mosquito netting), and one trailer (boat or utility) to occupy a single campsite between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m.

Sec.7.g Create a disturbance to disrupt the peace, quiet and tranquility of the camping area during quiet hours of 10:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m.

Sec.7.h As a non-camper visit campers, or as a camper allow non-camper visitors, between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m.

Sec.7.i Use a generator during the quiet hours of 10:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. unless you are on a campsite with electrical service connections that have been disrupted by an outage.

Sec.7.j Pass through or allow minor children to pass through a registered campsite when an established camp and personal belongings are present on the site.

- Sec.7.k Continuously walk or cruise in any motor-driven vehicle in, through and around campsite areas for the purpose of attracting attention or distracting persons using campsites except registered campers/persons to a specific registered campsite.
- Sec.7.l Wash dishes at water outlets; dump dishwater on campsites; or discharge wastes of any type on campsites or park premises, except in designated containers, drains or dumping stations.
- Sec.7.m Occupy a campsite after checkout time of 1:00 p.m. on the last day covered by the permit. Violators will be fined a \$50 fee.
- Sec.7.n Allow their campsite to become cluttered or unkempt in a manner that will reflect negatively on the Park Commission. Campsite grounds shall be kept free of personal property which may impede the staff's ability to trim and maintain the grounds. Individual campsite cleanliness standards shall be at the discretion of the campground management and staff.
- Sec.7.o Have a satellite dish unattached from their camping unit unless the satellite dish is under one yard in diameter and is moved when campsite maintenance or mowing is scheduled.
- Sec.7.p Utilize outside refrigeration equipment larger than 5.5 cubic feet and in excess of 36" in height. No more than one outside refrigeration device per lot will be allowed. All outside refrigeration equipment must be in proper working condition. Outside refrigeration equipment includes, but is not limited to refrigerators, freezers, ice makers and electric coolers.
- Sec.7.q Store an excessive number of items under the camper or in front of the tongue.
- Sec.7.r Water grass on campsites unless utilizing an in-hand spray nozzle. Watering of roadways is strictly prohibited.
- Sec.7.s Wash their camping unit, vehicles, or personal equipment on Park Commission property.
- Sec.7.t Use the park grounds to provide services, vending, or business operations which result in a direct financial benefit, unless prior written consent from the Park Superintendent or designee has been granted.
- Sec.7.u Store more than one face cord (8 ft. x 4 ft. stack) of firewood on a campsite.

**Section 8: FIRES**

No Person Shall:

- Sec.8.a Willfully set fire to or cause to be set fire to any tree, woodland, brushland, grassland, or meadow.



- Sec.8.b Build any fire except within receptacles provided and designated for such purposes. Fire receptacles shall not be relocated from existing placement or altered.
- Sec.8.c Drop, throw or scatter lighted matches, burning cigars, cigarettes, tobacco paper or other flammable material within or upon Commission property.
- Sec.8.d Burn trash, plastic, pallets, treated wood or other harmful material, or any other noncombustible materials (glass bottles, metal cans, aluminum foil, nails, etc.)
- Sec.8.e Dispose of coals or ash except in designated areas provided for such purposes.
- Sec.8.f Use a portable firepit or build a campfire in any device not provided by the Park Commission for such purpose.
- Sec.8.g Leave a fire unattended.
- Sec.8.h Leave infants or children unattended near fires, grills, or hot receptacles.
- Sec.8.i Build a fire of a size larger than the interior firepit ring or extending greater than 18 inches above the provided receptacle, which may be limited, or prohibited entirely, in the interest of fire safety based on existing conditions or circumstances.

**Section 9: *MOTOR DRIVEN VEHICLES (Motor driven vehicle regulations include all permitted vehicles powered by a fueled or electric motor. See additional rules for motorcycles and golf carts.)***

- Sec.9.a Operators must be licensed and provide proof of a valid driver’s license upon request.

**No Person Shall:**

- Sec.9.b Operate a motor driven vehicle of any kind while intoxicated or impaired, or with an open alcohol container.
- Sec 9.c Operate a motor driven vehicle of any kind or nature except on designated roads and parking areas.
- Sec.9.d Operate a motor driven vehicle on any park road at a speed exceeding 10 miles per hour or at any speed greater than that posted.
- Sec.9.e Violate provisions of the Motor Vehicle Code Act #300 of the Public Acts of 1949, as amended.
- Sec.9.f Operate any motor vehicle in any manner that results in excessive noise or disturbs the peace, quiet, or tranquility of the area.

- Sec.9.g Be allowed to ride in or on the bed, tailgate, or outside portions of a motor vehicle. Further, no person is permitted to ride in or on towed equipment such as a utility or boat trailer, loaded or unloaded or any similar item with the exception of park sponsored activities.
- Sec.9.h Operate a vehicle that is not licensed for roadway use.
- Sec.9.i Operate an ORV (off road vehicle) on park commission property.

**Park maintenance vehicles, emergency vehicles, and motorized enabling vehicles are exempt from the above rules.**

***Section 10: MOTORCYCLES AND GOLF CARTS***

Motorcycles are allowed in all Mecosta County Parks.  
 Golf Carts are allowed in School Section, Merrill-Gorrel and Paris Parks.

- Sec.10.a Appropriate vehicle permits must be purchased and affixed to any motorcycle as directed by park staff. To be admitted to any park, a motorcycle must be licensed and insured for on road travel.
- Sec.10.b All golf carts must be registered at the park office with an annual vehicle permit affixed before they are permitted for use within a park.
- Sec.10.c Drivers must be at least 16 years of age with a valid driver’s license.
- Sec.10.d No standing is allowed on a moving golf cart with only one person per designated seat permitted. Keys must be removed when not in use.
- Sec.10.e All golf carts must be parked during the hours of 10:00 p.m. (or dusk, whichever comes sooner) – 8:00 a.m.
- Sec.10.f Golf carts are limited to one (1) per campsite.
- Sec.10.g All golf cart owners are responsible for their guests and must make sure guests know and follow all rules.
- Sec.10.h Motorcycle and golf cart users shall comply with all other rules and regulations governing motor driven vehicles, not inconsistent with this paragraph.

***Section 11: PARKING IN PROHIBITED AREAS***

No person shall:

- Sec.11.a Stop, stand, or park a motor driven vehicle, or any trailer, boat, or other towed item, upon any roadway or in any parking area in such manner as to form an obstruction to traffic thereon.

- Sec.11.b Stop, stand, park, moor or anchor watercraft in any area not designated for such purpose.
- Sec.11.c Fail to move a motor driven vehicle or any part thereof, or any trailer, boat, or other vehicle of any kind when directed to do so by a park employee.

**Section 12: BOATING**

- Sec.12.a No person shall bring into, launch, moor, use or navigate any boat, canoe, kayak, raft, or other watercraft upon any watercourse, river, lagoon, lake, pond or sloughs located within or upon Commission property, except at such time and place as provided or designated for such purpose. All such watercraft shall comply with all Federal and State laws and all rules, regulations and responsibilities governing the use and operation of watercraft.
- Sec.12.b Day use watercraft trailers may be parked in designated parking areas only and must remain attached to their tow vehicle.
- Sec.12.c A person must be a current registered camping guest at the park to keep or moor a boat within the park overnight. Campers must keep their watercraft trailers on their campsite or in designated trailer storage areas during overnight hours.
- Sec.12.d Watercraft are required to display an annual Mecosta County Parks mooring permit when mooring within any park. Watercraft may only be moored or anchored in designated areas.
- Sec.12.e Annual mooring permits must be permanently affixed to the starboard (right) side of the watercraft in line with and 3 inches from the registration numbers/decals. Mooring permits must be affixed in a location visible when watercraft is moored and covered.
- Sec.12.f Mooring areas are available on a first come first serve basis. Reserving of a specific mooring post or area is prohibited.
- Sec.12.g Boat docks, including mooring or other tie down devices or structures may not be constructed or installed. Any of the above not constructed by the Park Commission will be removed.
- Sec.12.h Watercraft are not permitted to operate above “slow, no wake speed” within 100 feet of designated swimming areas.
- Sec.12.i Motor driven vehicles, watercraft, trailers, and other personal property left on Park Commission property in violation of these rules are subject to removal and impoundment. The owner may reclaim possession of such property upon payment of the charges incurred on such property for its removal and storage.

**Section 13: OPERATION OF BICYCLES**

Bicycles shall be operated as closely to the right-hand side of the path, trail or roadway as conditions permit and shall be ridden single file.

Sec.13.a E-Bikes - Class 1 and 2 E-Bikes are permitted when being utilized in pedal assist mode. Class 3 E-Bikes are prohibited as well as E-Bikes being used in throttle only mode. E-Bikes must follow posted speed limits and all other bicycle regulations as noted in this section. E-Bikes are not permitted on Michigan's Dragon Trail at Hardy Dam.

No Person Shall:

- Sec.13.b Use a bicycle, tricycle or other similar conveyance except upon roadways, parking areas, and designated trails or paths.
- Sec. 13.c Operate a bicycle in a manner which endangers pedestrians, oneself, and other bicyclists.
- Sec.13.d Operate a bicycle on a sidewalk, swimming beach, within a building or structure, or within any area posted as prohibited to such use.
- Sec.13.e Operate any bicycle with a second person that was not designed as intended to have a passenger.
- Sec.13.f Operate any bicycle between sunset and sunrise.

***Section 14: PEDDLING AND SOLICITING***

No person shall:

- Sec.14.a Peddle or solicit business of any nature whatsoever, or distribute handbills, or other advertising matter, or post unauthorized signs on any lands, waters, structures, or property of the Commission, unless first authorized in writing by the Commission or its authorized agent.

***Section 15: LOUDSPEAKERS***

No person shall:

- Sec.15.a Use a loudspeaker, public address system or amplified equipment within or upon Commission property without a written authorization issued by the Commission or its authorized agent.
- Sec.15.b Make use of any sound amplification device, audio device, or car stereo which produces sound at a level which can be heard clearly 25 feet from the source, bothers or annoys other park users, park neighbors, or in any other way disturbs the peace and order of a park area unless prior written authorization is obtained from the Commission or its agent as a part of or separately from a facility reservation.

***Section 16: LITTERING***

Sec.16.a All belongings, materials, or decorations placed on park grounds or associated with the rental of a campsite, cabin, facility, or an event shall be removed prior to departure. Use of confetti or similar items, which cannot be cleaned up and removed in their entirety are prohibited.

No Person Shall:

Sec.16.b Discard, or deposit refuse of any kind or nature except by placing said refuse in containers provided for such purpose.

Sec.16.c Throw, lay, drop, or discharge into or leave on lands or in waters any substance, matter or thing, liquid or solid, which may or shall result in the pollution of said lands and waters.

Sec.16.d Dispose of any smoking waste or tobacco product waste onto any beach, playground, grass, or other area except by placing said waste into containers provided for such purpose.

Sec.16.e Bring into any Commission property domestic or commercial refuse for the purpose of discarding or dumping onto the property or within its provided refuse containers.

**Section 17: PERSONAL CONDUCT**

No Person Shall:

Sec.17.a Be under the influence of intoxicants, narcotics, or other mind affecting drugs, unless prescribed by a physician or done in accordance with Federal, State and local law.

Sec.17.b Bring alcoholic beverages onto Commission property except for personal consumption in moderate amounts in conjunction with day use activities, camping, and reserved group functions. The sale, furnishing, and/or distribution of alcoholic beverages in any manner whatsoever is prohibited. Additionally, no kegs or alcoholic beverages in bulk containers are permitted. Bulk is defined by the Commission as anything larger than a 12-ounce container for beer or a wine cooler and anything larger than a 750-ml container for any other alcoholic beverage.

Sec.17.c Store or place alcoholic beverages in a visible and easily accessible location when not directly monitored or allow for underage consumption of alcoholic beverages upon Commission property.

Sec.17.d Smoke within 50 feet of any building, pavilion, bathhouse, cabin, playground, beach or designated swimming area.

Sec.17.e Engage in any violent, abusive, loud, boisterous, vulgar, lewd, wanton, obscene, indecent, or otherwise disorderly conduct tending to create a breach of the peace, or disturb or annoy others, while in or on any Commission property.

- Sec.17.f Appear on property administered by the Commission in a state of nudity, or commit, perform, engage in any lewd, lascivious, obscene, or indecent act or behavior, or make any indecent exposure.
- Sec.17.g Allow any person under ten years of age to use, enter, or be in a bathhouse, playground, or beach area without the supervision of an adult. Children under ten must be accompanied by an adult after 10 pm when not on a campsite.
- Sec.17.h Conduct or participate in any form of gambling, lottery or game of chance upon Commission property except as permitted by state law and approved by the Commission.
- Sec.17.i Organize or arrange any event, gathering, tournament, game or other activity open to public participation in which a fee is charged, or donation collected within property administered by the Commission without prior written approval from the Superintendent or designee.
- Sec.17.j Establish or allow to be established entertainment or amusement equipment such as a bounce house, dunk tank, playground apparatus, or other like item within or on Commission property without prior written approval from the Superintendent or designee.
- Sec.17.k Impersonate any employee or contracted employee of the Commission.
- Sec.17.l Interfere with any park employee in the course of his or her duties or refuse to obey any lawful command of any park employee.
- Sec.17.m Resist, obstruct, be abusive, or address in a profane or obscene manner any Commission agent or employee.

***Section 18: SWIMMING, BATHING, AND WADING***

No Person Shall:

- Sec.18.a Swim, bathe, wade, snorkel or scuba dive in any of the watercourses, lakes, ponds or sloughs located within or upon Commission property except at such times and places as may be designated for such purposes.
- Sec.18.b Have glass containers within 50 feet of any beach area or in the water adjacent thereto.
- Sec.18.c Tamper with, remove, destroy or in any manner whatsoever, render useless swim area markings or equipment designated and situated for water rescue and safety purposes.
- Sec.18.d Use safety and rescue equipment for any purpose other than water rescue or safety purposes.
- Sec.18.e Bring a hot tub, portable hot tub or a portable pool into any park at any time.

**Section 19: DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY**

No Person Shall:

- Sec.19.a Willfully destroy, deface, alter, change or remove any monument, stone marker, benchmark, stake, post or blaze marking, or designating boundary line, survey line, or reference point.
- Sec.19.b Cut, break, mark upon or otherwise injure any building, equipment, bridge, drain, wall, fountain, lamppost, fence, gate, hedge, or other structure.
- Sec.19.c Deface, destroy, or remove any placard, notice or sign, whether permanent or temporary, posted or exhibited within or upon Commission property.
- Sec.19.d Appropriate, excavate, injure, or destroy, any historic site or prehistoric site or any artifact, without permission of the Commission.

**Section 20: DESTRUCTION OF PLANT LIFE AND NATURAL SURROUNDINGS**

No Person Shall:

- Sec.20.a Cut, remove, chip, blaze, box, girdle, trim, pick, gather, uproot, remove, deface, or destroy any flower, plant, tree, sapling, seedling, bush or shrub. Guests are permitted to cut the grass on their individual campsites utilizing a power mower/trimmer daily – between the hours of 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.
- Sec.20.b Remove or cause to be removed any sod, earth, humus, peat, boulders, gravel or sand, without written permission of the Commission.
- Sec.20.c Tie, fasten, or hang objects from any tree, including ropes, rope lighting, hanging lights, straps, signs, windchimes, flags, or any other objects. Clotheslines may be used on a registered campsite during daylight hours, when double wrapped on trees over 6 inches in diameter, and when removed once not in use or during overnight hours.
- Sec.20.d Hang or use a hammock in any manner that could cause damage to a tree, off-trail area, or manmade structure. Hammocks may be hung using double wrapped wide straps on trees over 6 inches in diameter upon a registered campsite or within 10 feet of an established trail.

**Park maintenance operations are exempt from the above rules.**

**Section 21: HUNTING, FISHING, TRAPPING**

- Sec.21.a Fishing within any property managed by the Commission shall be permitted in accordance with Commission guidelines and the laws of the Department of Natural Resources of the State of Michigan.

Sec.21.b Hunting is permitted within the White Pine Valley Recreation Area in accordance with Commission guidelines and the laws of the Department of Natural Resources of the State of Michigan.

No Person Shall:

Sec.21.c Hunt, trap, catch, wound, kill, or treat cruelly any bird or animal. Molest or rob, any nest, lair, den or burrow of any bird or animal in or upon any land or waters administered by the Commission with exceptions as listed in Sec.21.b.

Sec.21.d Feed or bait wildlife on property administered by the Commission, including feeders intended for birds, hummingbirds, squirrels, deer, or other common park animals.

Sec.21.e Fish within a designated swimming area.

Sec.21.f Fish in an area where fishing is prohibited by posted notice.

**Section 22: FIREARMS**

Sec.22.a All persons shall comply with all State and Federal laws pertaining to weapons and/or firearms.

No Person Shall:

Sec.22.b Discharge or set off a pistol, rifle, shotgun, slingshot, or any other instrument which discharges a projectile by air, explosion, or any other force except for any deputy sheriff, police officer, or other duly appointed law enforcement officer carrying out the duties and responsibilities of their position or by a person carrying a weapon in accordance with Michigan law and in the legal defense of human life unless prior written permission is obtained from the Commission or its agent.

Sec.22.c Store firearms and ammunition unless kept in locked cases and/or trigger guards attached when not in use.

**Section 23: PETS**

If you have a pet, you must abide by the following rules. Failure to comply shall subject you to any remedy provided for violation of these rules, including immediate eviction of the pet and owner.

Sec.23.a Pets are permitted within all properties owned or administered by the Commission. Pets that are permitted are domesticated dogs, cats and small birds in cages.

Sec.23.b A maximum of two pets per campsite are permitted in Brower, School Section Lake, Merrill-Gorrel and Paris Parks and at Haymarsh and Tubbs Lake State Game Area campgrounds.



- Sec.23.c Park staff may allow a pet not specifically defined above if similar in characteristics to a domestic dog or cat and approved in writing by the Park Superintendent or designee.
- Sec.23.d Park staff may refuse to admit or require removal of any domestic pet which exhibits dangerous or vicious behavior which could be a hazard to other persons, pets, or wildlife in the park.
- Sec.23.e Service animals are permitted in any Mecosta County Park in accordance with the guidelines of the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- Sec.23.f All pets shall be kept in the direct possession or under the immediate control of its owner or owner's agent. Pet owner or owner's agent shall not allow any pet in their possession to create a nuisance or other disturbance. Pets shall never be left unattended on a campsite or within a camping area.
- Sec.23.g When your pet is on your campsite, your pet may be placed on a tie-out provided the length of rope does not exceed the campsite boundaries and that a responsible adult is present and in direct control of the animal. Portable crates created for the purpose of transporting your pet are also acceptable for restraining your pet on a campsite. Temporary fencing, invisible fencing, or shock collars are not acceptable as pet containment methods.
- Sec.23.h When removed from the confines of the individual campsite, pets must be on a leash, not to exceed 6 feet in length.
- Sec.23.i Pets are not permitted in beach areas, playgrounds, pavilions, park buildings or within the boundaries of a rental cabin site.
- Sec.23.j No person shall walk any pet without having in possession a device to pick up pet waste. Pet waste shall be cleaned up immediately and disposed of utilizing a proper waste disposal method.
- Sec.23.k Your pet must have a current rabies shot, and/or usual and customary shots required for the type of pet. Proof may be required before entrance into the park.

**Section 24: REMOTE CONTROLLED DEVICES AND RIDE ON TOYS.**

No Person Shall:

- Sec.24.a Operate remote controlled toys such as cars or trucks unless in an area designated for their use.
- Sec.24.b Use battery operated scooters or ride on toys in any campground at any time.

**Section 25: AERIAL DEVICES AND FIREWORKS.**

- Sec.25.a Drone usage is governed by state and federal laws and regulations. State and federal laws pertaining to drone usage will be enforced on Commission properties.
- Sec.25.b No person shall launch, land or operate any unmanned, remote-controlled aircraft, rocket, or device (other than a drone) unless authorized in writing by the Park Superintendent or designee.
- Sec.25.c No person shall launch, land or operate any aerial device such as ultra-light aircraft, hot air balloons, parasails, parachutes, or sky lanterns unless authorized in writing by the Park Superintendent or designee.
- Sec.25.d Any person operating any manned or unmanned aerial device who has obtained authorization, shall do so in accordance with all federal, state, and local laws, regulations, ordinance, and guidelines.
- Sec.25.e No person shall offer for sale, sell as retail, expose for sale, possess, give, furnish, transport, use, explode, or cause to explode fireworks on Park Commission property.
- Sec.25.f Sparklers are permitted if a disposal method such as a bucket or container filled with water is readily available.

**Section 26: PATIO AND STORAGE SHED CONSTRUCTION**

The installation of a Patio or Storage Shed is subject to the following requirements:

- Sec.26.a Only one patio and one storage method per campsite is permitted. Campsite storage is limited to one soft sided structure, storage trailer, or storage shed. Storage methods may not be used in combination.
- Sec.26.b No footings or permanent foundation are to be used. Construction shall be at ground level only and shall follow the contour of the ground. No digging or trenching is permitted.
- Sec.26.c Patio size shall not exceed 160 square feet (example 8' x 20') ramp and/or steps included. Storage Shed size shall not exceed a footprint of 48 square feet (example 6' x 8')
- Sec.26.d Patios or sheds shall be constructed in sections that are easily removable. Patio pavers, wooden patio sections or like materials count toward the total allowable footprint.
- Sec.26.e No benches, posts, fencing, facings, raised decks etc. are to be installed. Stairs shall be no wider than 60 inches and may only contain a single hand railing. Stairs must lead directly to an entry point on the camping unit. Top entry platform may be no larger than 60 inches by 60 inches.

- Sec.26.f Walkways between patios or sheds are not allowed. Patio pavers are not permitted on a campsite in separation from the main footprint of the patio.
- Sec.26.g If a special type of patio is required to be used as an enabling device by the physically challenged, a request should be made to the Superintendent or designee for a special consideration permit.
- Sec.26.h Patio and Storage Shed placement, building materials and the type of construction is subject to approval by the Superintendent or designee. If a Patio or Storage Shed is found not to be in compliance, it shall be immediately removed or altered in order to meet proper requirements.

***Section 27: EMERGENCY POWERS***

Nothing in these rules shall:

- Sec.27.a Prohibit or hinder any Commission employee or agent, or any peace officer from performing their official duties.
- Sec.27.b Prohibit the Commission from establishing emergency rules required to protect the health, welfare, and safety of park visitors; to protect park property; to maintain order.

***Section 28: VIOLATION OF RULES***

- Sec.28.a Upon a violation of any provision of the foregoing rules, the Superintendent or designee, a park manager, assistant manager, a member of the Mecosta County Park Board or law enforcement officer may revoke user privileges and order the offending person(s) to leave park property. Any person who has been evicted from park property pursuant to a violation of park rule(s) shall be deemed ineligible to use and/or be present on any Mecosta County Park property for the time limit given in writing up to and including a permanent eviction based on the severity of the offense. Upon eviction notice, any continued use or re-entry to Park Commission property will lead the Park Commission to pursue a trespass violation of the law.
- Sec.28.b In addition to any administrative penalty provided for herein, any person violating any provision of the foregoing rules shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be fined not more than \$100.00 and costs of prosecution, or imprisoned in the county jail for a period not exceeding 90 days, or both, for each offense, at the discretion of the court.

***Section 29: REINSTATEMENT OF USER PRIVILEGE***

Sec.29.a Any person who has been evicted from park property pursuant to a violation of park rule(s) shall be deemed ineligible to use and/or be present on any Mecosta County Park Commission property for the term specified. To appeal the terms of an eviction, a written request is required to the Administrative Office so that the requesting party can be given a time and date to come before the Commission for re-determination. Commission members may evaluate any eviction notice and term for re-determination. Reinstatement of user privileges requires a majority vote of the Commission members present.

***Section 30: SEPARABILITY***

Sec.30.a The provisions of this ordinance are separable, and the invalidity of any phrase, clause or part of this ordinance shall not affect the validity or effectiveness of the remainder of the ordinance.

***Section 31: EFFECTIVE DATE***

Sec.31.a This Ordinance shall become effective on the date that Notice of Adoption is published in a newspaper of general circulation in the County. At the time this Ordinance takes effect, the existing Park rules promulgated under the authority of Public Act 261 of the State of Michigan (1965), as amended, are hereby repealed.

**AUTHENTICATED BY:**

**CHRIS ZIMMERMAN**  
Chairperson  
Mecosta County Board of Commissioners

**ATTESTED BY:**

**MARCEE PURCELL**  
County Clerk