Mecosta County PARKS

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

While there are still many memories to be made before the close of the 2026 camping season, we are already looking forward to another great year of camping with Mecosta County Parks in 2027!

For the 2027 season the Gorrel and Primitive sections of the park will allow up to 100% of the total available campsites to be rented on a seasonal basis. Within the Merrill section of the park the following campsite numbers will be eligible to be seasonal campsites: 1, 4, 6-8, 10-11, 16-17, 20-22, 24-26, 30-31, 34-35, 38-39, 41-46, 49, 52, & 56. Current seasonal campers will have the first right to renew their existing campsite. As in previous years, requests to change campsites and applications for new seasonal campsites will be administered through a two-lottery process. Information outlining the lottery procedures is included on the back of this letter.

The park will open for the 2027 season at **8:00 a.m. on Friday, May 7, 2027** (weather permitting) and will close at **6:00 p.m. on Sunday, October 10, 2027.**

The seasonal camping rate will be **$2000** for water and electric sites and **$1200** for primitive sites.
A **$500.00 deposit** is required to reserve your campsite, this is an increase from previous seasons. **The park office will begin accepting 2027 Seasonal Deposits and Winter Storage Payments on August 18th. To retain your current campsite or be entered into the seasonal lottery, your deposit must be received by 5:00 p.m. on September 10th, 2026.** Annual vehicle permits and annual boat permits will continue to be $35 each. The daily vehicle permit fee will be increased to $10 per day. **Only the $500 Deposit will be accepted until all seasonal lotteries have been completed. Additional payments toward your seasonal balance will be accepted starting Sept. 21st if desired.**

The remaining balance of your seasonal camping fees is due upon arrival at the park or by the close of business on May 16, 2027, whichever occurs first. Seasonal campsites with unpaid balances after this deadline will be released and made available to other campers. If you wish to make payments during the off-season, they may be submitted to the Mecosta County Park Commission Administrative Office. Please include "Merrill-Gorrel" and your campsite number with all payments to ensure proper credit. If you need to cancel your seasonal reservation, 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 15th, 2027. Cancellation request received January 15th-April 15th will receive a 25% refund of deposit. **After April 15th, 2027, seasonal deposits are forfeited.** Please mail all payments, cancellation requests, or other inquiries to: **Mecosta County Park Commission, 22250 Northland Drive, Paris, MI 49338**

When you depart for the season, all personal items must be removed from your campsite. Campers are permitted to leave their camping unit within the park during the 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. Finally, it is important that we have your current off-season mailing address, phone number, and especially your email address on file. Please verify that your contact information is up to date before leaving the park. We appreciate your continued support of Mecosta County Parks and look forward to welcoming you back for another enjoyable camping season in 2027.

Sincerely, Jeff Abel - Jeff Abel - Superintendent

SEASONAL CAMPING

CHANGE OF CAMPSITE/NEW SEASONAL CAMPER PROCESS

The following process is used at School Section, Merrill-Gorrel, and Paris County Parks for current seasonal campers requesting a change of campsite and for individuals applying for a new seasonal campsite.

- *Change of campsite/new seasonal camper forms* are not accepted until seasonal camper informational packets are published with deposits being accepted. Informational packets are released in August of each season. Packets may be obtained on our website, by contacting an individual park office or through the Parks Administration office.
- A $500 deposit must accompany each completed request form.
- Each *Change of Campsite/New Seasonal Camper form* allows the applicant to request up to 10 preferred campsite choices. Once completed with deposit received, all forms are sent to the Parks Administration Office for processing.
- The deadline to submit a request form is the same as the deadline for returning seasonal camper deposits. **For the 2027 camping season, all forms and deposits must be received by 5:00 p.m. on September 10, 2026.** No forms will be processed until the deposit deadline has expired.
- Once all returning seasonal campers have confirmed their reservations by submitting the required deposit, a lottery drawing will be conducted to establish the processing order for all current seasonal camper site change requests.
- A second lottery drawing will then be conducted to establish the processing order for all new seasonal camper requests.
- 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 site assignments will not be completed during the drawing. It may take 1-2 weeks to process all requests throughout the parks system.

The Lottery Drawing for Merrill-Gorrel will be Wednesday, September 16th, 2026, at 9:30 AM.

- All campsite change requests submitted by current seasonal campers will be processed before any new seasonal camper requests.
- Requests will be processed according to the campsite preferences listed on each request form. Processing will be based solely on the submitted form and deposit. Applicants will not be contacted to verify or modify their selections prior to processing.
- Guests will receive a receipt showing that the request has been processed. This will come in the form of 2 e-mails. One showing your deposit as cancelled (applied to new site) with the second showing your new campsite # with the deposit applied to the site.
- 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 remaining available seasonal sites.
- Once all requests have been processed, any remaining seasonal campsites will be assigned on a first-come, first-served basis until the maximum number of seasonal campsites for the campground has been reached.
- If all available seasonal campsites have been assigned, any remaining applicants will be placed on a waiting list in the order established by the lottery drawing with the full deposit refunded until a site becomes available and is offered.

Merrill-Gorrel 2027 Seasonal Camper Deposit Form

Last, First Name: _____

Thank you for placing a Deposit for 2027 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