

**STATE OF MICHIGAN  
COUNTY OF MECOSTA  
UNDEVELOPED RECREATION AREA ORDINANCE**

**ORDINANCE No. 2012-01**

An ordinance adopted for the purpose of authorizing and regulating the public use of undeveloped recreation areas, and for the purpose of providing penalties for the violation thereof.

THE COUNTY OF MECOSTA, STATE OF MICHIGAN, ORDAINS:

**SECTION 1 – PURPOSE AND AUTHORITY**

The Mecosta County Board of Commissioners determines that it is necessary to promulgate rules which regulate acts at the County's undeveloped recreation areas currently consisting of parcels located in Section 10 and 11 of Green Township, Section 25 of Colfax Township, and Section 3 of Big Rapids Township of Mecosta County and to provide penalties for violation of the rules. MCL 46.11 authorizes the County Board of Commissioners to pass ordinances relating to county affairs. This Ordinance is intended to regulate the public use of Mecosta County owned undeveloped recreation areas and therefore comes under the authority granted in that statute.

**SECTION 2 – PROHIBITIONS**

The following activities are prohibited at all undeveloped County recreation areas:

- A. Possession or consumption of alcohol.
- B. Littering or dumping.
- C. Camping without a special permit.
- D. Ground fires, except when camping with a special permit.
- E. Defacing, destroying, transplanting, cutting or collecting of trees, plants, flowers or roots, with the exception of the legal harvesting of edible plants (i.e. mushrooms, fiddle head ferns, etc).
- F. Defacing or destroying of property, facilities, furnishings or equipment.
- G. Excavation of terrain or soil.
- H. Unauthorized use of insecticides, foggers, herbicides or other chemicals.
- I. Releasing of wild or domestic animals.
- J. Unauthorized posting of signs.
- K. Use of motor vehicles off roadways or parking areas.
- L. Use or possession of fireworks or explosives.
- M. Any sound or noise generated by a group, person, or device which is excessive or profane. Excessive or profane noise shall be determined at the sole discretion of authorized county or law enforcement personnel.
- N. Interfering with, obstructing or disobeying authorized county or law enforcement personnel when discharging their lawful duties.
- O. Discharge of a firearm except when hunting and while in possession of a valid hunting license.

**SECTION 3 – PENALTIES**

Any person who violates this ordinance is guilty of a civil infraction, punishable by a civil fine of \$100.00 for the first offense and \$250.00 for second or subsequent offenses, plus court costs.

#### **SECTION 4 – ENFORCEMENT**

All law enforcement officers in Mecosta County shall have the authority to issue civil infraction citations for any violation of this Ordinance. The Mecosta County Prosecuting Attorney shall act as the prosecutorial arm for the enforcement of this Ordinance.

#### **SECTION 5 – SEVERABILITY**

If any section, subsection, sentence, clause, phrase or portion of this Ordinance is for any reason held invalid or unconstitutional by any court of competent jurisdiction, such portion shall be declared a separate, distinct and independent provision, and such holdings shall not affect the validity of the remaining portion or provisions of this Ordinance.