

GENERAL RULES & REGULATIONS
LEE COUNTY CONSERVATION
BOARD AREAS



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TO THE PUBLIC: The Lee County Conservation Board has adopted the following rules and regulations for the protection, regulation and control of all museums, parks, preserves, parkways, playgrounds, recreation centers and other property under its control and hereafter coming under its control, to wit:

CONSERVATION & PUBLIC PARKS

The following portions of the State Code entitled "Public Lands & Waters" apply to County Parks.

SECTION I. GENERAL

Section 1.1 Every person, or group of persons, using or enjoying the privileges of any county park, recreation area or any related or other facilities under the jurisdiction of the Lee County Conservation Board shall comply with the rules and regulations as adopted by the Board.

Section 1.2 No person shall enter upon portions of any county park, preserve or recreational area in disregard of

official signs forbidding the same, except by written permission of the Board or its Executive Director.

461A.35 PROHIBITED DESTRUCTIVE ACTS: It shall be unlawful for any person to use, enjoy the privileges of, destroy, injure or deface plant life, trees, buildings, or other natural or material property, or to construct or operate for private or commercial purposes any structure, or to remove any plant life trees, buildings, sand, gravel, ice, earth, stone, wood or other natural material, or to operate vehicles, within the boundaries of any state park, preserve, or stream or any other lands or waters under the jurisdiction of the Commission for any purpose whatsoever, except upon the terms, conditions, limitations and restrictions as set forth by the Commission.

461A.36 SPEED LIMIT: The maximum speed limit of all vehicles on state park or preserve drives, roads and highways shall be 25 miles per hour unless otherwise posted. All driving shall be confined to designated roadways. Whenever the Commission shall determine that the speed limit hereinbefore set forth is greater than is reasonable or safe under the conditions found to exist at any place of congestion or upon any part of the park roads, drives or highways, said Commission shall determine and declare a reasonable and safe speed limit thereat which shall be effective when appropriate signs giving notice thereof are erected at such places of congestion or other parts of the park roads, drives, or highways.

Comments on Speed Limit: In addition to the speed limit provision provided for in this section of the Code, the Conservation Board may, at its discretion, establish other speed limits under the authority of 321.236 of the Code of Iowa. Using the authority provided for in the State Traffic Code, the Conservation Board has established a universal 25 mile per hour speed limit on all county park roads in Lee County.

461A.37 EXCESSIVE LOADS: Excessively loaded vehicles shall not operate over state park or preserve drives, roads or highways. The determination as to whether the load is excessive will be made by the Director or the Director's representative and will depend upon the load and the road conditions.

461A.38 PARKING: All vehicles shall be parked in designated parking areas, and no vehicle shall be left unattended on any state park or preserve drive, road or highway, except in the case of an emergency.

461A.39 HITCHING TO TREES: No horse or other animal shall be hitched or tied to any tree or shrub, or in such a manner as to result in injury to state property.

461A.40 FIRES: No fires shall be built, except in a place provided therefore, and such fire shall be extinguished when site is vacated unless it is immediately used by some other party.

461A.41 REMOVING PLANTS, FLOWERS OR FRUIT: No person shall, in any manner, remove, destroy, injure or deface any tree, shrub, plant or flower, or the fruit thereof, or disturb or injure any structure of natural attraction, except that upon written permission of the commission certain specimens may be removed for scientific purposes. **FOR EXCEPTIONS TO 461A.41 SEE SECTION 4 OF THE COUNTY PARK RULES & REGULATIONS.**

461A.42 USE OF FIREARMS, EXPLOSIVES, WEAPONS & FIREWORKS PROHIBITED - EXCEPTIONS.

1. The use by the public of firearms, explosives, and weapons of all kinds is prohibited in all state parks and preserves, except preserves or portions of preserves designated as hunting areas by the state advisory board on preserves upon the request of the Commission. However, any person may use a bow and arrow with attached bow fishing reel and 90-pound minimum line attached to the arrow to take rough fish under rules and regulations prescribed by the State DNR Commission.

a. No person shall have or carry any weapon or gun on his person, or in or on any vehicle parked or driven on any property under the jurisdiction of the Lee County Conservation Board, unless such weapon or gun be taken down or contained in a case and the barrel and magazine thereof be unloaded, except that a weapon or gun may be carried or transported by a peace officer or a person legally granted a permit to carry such weapon or gun under the provisions of the Statutes of the State of Iowa.

b. The provisions of Section 6.1 shall not apply to any weapon or gun possessed and carried by any person engaged in lawful hunting, trapping or target practice in any area designated by the Board as open to such activities.

2. The use of fireworks, as defined in Section 727.2, in state parks and preserves is prohibited except as authorized by a permit issued by the department. The Commission shall establish, by rule adopted pursuant to Chapter 17A, a fireworks permit system which authorizes the issuance of a limited number of permits to qualified persons to use or display fireworks in selected state parks and preserves. A person violating this subsection is guilty of a serious misdemeanor. The court may order restitution for damages caused by the violation which may include, but is not limited to, community service. The court may also require that the violator provide proof of restitution. **FOR EXCEPTIONS TO 461A.42 SEE SECTION 5 OF THE COUNTY PARK RULES & REGULATIONS.**

461A.43 LITTERING GROUNDS: No person shall place any waste, refuse, litter or foreign substance in any area or receptacle except those provided for that purpose.

461A.44 PROHIBITED AREAS: No person shall enter upon portions of any state park or preserve in disregard of official signs forbidding same, except by permission of the Director or the Director's representative.

46IA.45 ANIMALS ON LEASH: No privately owned animal shall be allowed to run at large in any state park or preserve or upon lands or in waters owned by or under the jurisdiction of the Commission except by permission of the Commission. Every such animal shall be deemed as running at large unless the owner carries such animal or leads it by a leash or chain not exceeding 6 feet in length, or keeps it confined in or attached to a vehicle. **FOR EXCEPTIONS TO 46IA.45 SEE SECTION 6 OF THE COUNTY PARK RULES & REGULATIONS.**

46IA.46 CLOSING TIME: Except by arrangement or permission granted by the Director or the Director's authorized representative, all persons shall vacate state parks and preserves before 10:30 p.m. Areas may be closed at an earlier or later hour, of which notice shall be given by proper signs or instructions. The provisions of this section shall not apply to authorized camping in areas provided for that purpose. **FOR EXCEPTIONS TO 46IA.46 SEE SECTION 25 OF THE COUNTY PARK RULES & REGULATIONS.**

46IA.47 CAMPING: The Commission is hereby authorized to fix fees for camping and other special privileges which shall be in such amounts as may be determined by the Commission upon a basis of the cost of providing and reasonable value of such privileges.

46IA.48 CAMPING AREAS: No person shall camp in any portion of a state park or preserve except in portions prescribed or designated by the Commission.

46IA.49 TIME LIMIT: No camping unit shall be permitted to camp for a period longer than that designated by the Commission for the specific state park or preserve, and in no event longer than for a period of 2 weeks.

46IA.50 REGISTERING - VACATING: Any person who camps in any state park or preserve shall register the person's name and address with the park custodian and advise the custodian when the camp is vacated.

46IA.51 CAMPING REFUSED: Custodians are given authority to refuse camping privileges and to rescind any and all camping permits for cause.

46IA.57 PENALTIES: Any person violating any of the provisions of Sections 46IA.35 to 46IA.56 and Section 111.85 is guilty of a simple misdemeanor.

350.5 REGULATIONS - PENALTY - OFFICERS: The County Conservation Board may make, alter, amend or repeal regulations for the protection, regulation, and control of all museums, parks, preserves, parkways, playgrounds, recreation centers, and other property under its control. The regulations shall not be contrary to, or inconsistent with, the laws of this state. The regulations shall not take effect until 10 days after their adoption by the Board and after their publication as provided in Section 331.305 and after a copy of the regulations has been posted near each gate or principal

- A. The term "BOARD" shall mean the Lee County, Iowa, Conservation Board.
- B. The term "DEPARTMENT" shall mean the Department of Conservation.
- C. The term "DIRECTOR" shall mean the Director of the Department of Conservation.
- D. The term "AREA" shall mean all or any part of the land and/or water owned, leased, managed, or by other means under the control of the Board.
- E. The term "AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE" shall include Park Rangers and other persons designated from time to time by the Director.
- F. The term "SPECIAL USE PERMIT" shall mean any use permit, issued by the Department, pursuant to authority delegated by the Board, and signed by the Director or his authorized representative.
- G. The term "CAMP" or "CAMPING" shall mean the use of a shelter such as a tent, trailer, motor vehicle, tarpaulin, or sleeping bag for temporary residence at a campground.
- H. The term "CAMPGROUND" shall mean any area designated by the Board for camping.
- I. The term "FAMILY CAMPGROUND" shall mean any campground designated by the Board for camping by families or groups consisting of 6 persons or less.
- J. The term "GROUP CAMPGROUND" shall mean any campground designated by the Board for camping by groups consisting of 6 persons or more.
- K. The term "CAMPSITE" shall mean a segment of a campground designated by the Board for camping by a camping unit or camping party.
- L. The term "CAMPING UNIT" shall mean either a single tent not larger than 140 square feet in size at its base, pickup camper, motor home or converted bus, recreation trailer, or a motor vehicle used for a camp by a camping party, except those shelters used exclusively for dining purposes, plus, at the option of said camping party, a second tent or an additional tent no larger than 140 square feet in size at its base, if same is used and occupied by members of that camping party.
- M. The term "CAMPING PARTY" shall mean any individual, family, or informal unorganized group of not more than 5 persons occupying 1 campsite.
- N. The term "FAMILY" shall mean a parent or parents with their unmarried children and not more than 2 other lineal relatives or not more than 2 minor guests.
- O. The term "YOUTH GROUP" shall mean a group consisting of minor members of an established organization and under the leadership of at least 1 competent, mature adult for each 8 minors in the group and using any number of camping units or occupying a group campground.
- P. The term "ADULT GROUP" shall mean any group of adults, whether or not organized into a formal organization.
- Q. The term "CAPACITY" shall mean the maximum number of camping parties or camping units that the Board shall, from time to time, determine may occupy an area, campground or campsite.

ducted under the control of the owner and shall not create a disturbance to, or interference with, other park users.

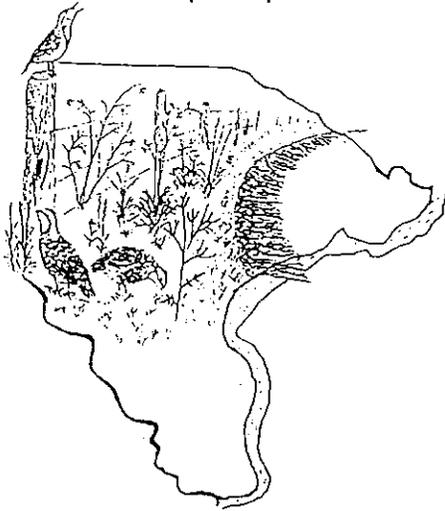
SECTION 7. HUNTING RESTRICTED: It shall be unlawful to hunt, pursue, or in any manner molest any birds or wild animals or to use or carry firearms, fireworks, explosives and weapons of all kinds, except as otherwise provided by law, in or on any area not designated as a hunting area by the Board.

SECTION 8. CAMPING:

- A. Violation of any state law or any county park rule and regulation by any member of a camping party is cause for revocation of the camping permit and the entire camping party shall be required to leave the area.
- B. Youth groups and adult groups who reserve any group camp shall have the exclusive use of the camp only if they utilize 50% or more of the capacity of the campground.
- C. When any campground is open and in a usable condition, all charges and fees shall be in effect and shall be enforced as set forth in the official fee schedule approved by the Board.
- D. No camping party or camping unit of any kind shall occupy any campground more than 14 days out of any 21-day period. On all parks or areas with more than one campground, this shall apply to the entire area and all campgrounds in the area.
- E. A member of the registered camping party shall occupy each campsite or camping unit on the first night of the camping period and no campsite or camping unit shall be left unoccupied by the camping party for more than 24 hours, except that the Director or his authorized representative may, by issuing a Special Use Permit, allow a camping party to be absent from their campsite or camping unit for a period not to exceed 48 hours. No camping party shall receive more than one Special Use Permit for this purpose during any 14-day camping period.
- F. It shall be unlawful for more than 1 camping party or camping unit to occupy a campsite, except that up to 8 members of a youth group may occupy a campsite in a family campground on properties which do not have a designated group camp area or when group camps are not available. When youth groups are allowed to use campsites in family campgrounds reasonable provisions shall be made to allow them to exceed the equipment limit imposed in 1.(L).
- G. It shall be unlawful to park any motor vehicle outside the parking area designated at each campsite, and not more than 2 licensed vehicles are permitted to any campsite.
- H. All campers shall maintain quiet and avoid excessive noise in the campgrounds between the hours of 10:30 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.
 - I. No camping party shall set up or take down their camping equipment between the hours of 11:00 p.m. and 6:00 a.m.
 - J. It shall be unlawful for any person to obtain a camping permit for use by a camping party of which he is not a member, except that parents and group leaders shall obtain camping permits for use by youth groups.
 - K. No camping unit or party shall move from its assigned campsite to another campsite without prior approval from

entrance to the public ground to which they apply. After the publication and posting, a person violating a provision of the regulations which are then in effect is guilty of a simple misdemeanor. The Board may designate the Director and those employees as the Director may designate as peace officers who shall have all the power conferred by law on police officers, peace officers, or sheriffs in the enforcement of the laws of this state and the apprehension of violators upon all property under its control within and without the county. The Board may grant the Director and those employees of the Board designated as police officers the authority to enforce the provisions of Chapters 321G, 461A, 462A, 481A, and 483A on land not under the control of the Board within the county.

350.10 STATUTES APPLICABLE: Sections 461A.35 through 461A.57 apply to all lands and waters under the control of a County Conservation Board, in the same manner as if the lands and waters were state parks, lands or waters. As used in Sections 361A.35 through 461A.57, "natural resources commission" includes a County Conservation Board, and "Director" includes a County Conservation Board or its Director, with respect to lands or waters under the control of a County Conservation Board. However, Sections 461A.35 through 461A.57 may be modified or superseded by rules adopted as provided in Section 350.5.



Resolution No. 83-1

**RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR
LEE COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD AREAS**

Adopted 5-3-1983 ~ Revised 12-14-1999

SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS: Pursuant to the authority of Chapter 350.5 of the Code of Iowa, the Lee County, Iowa, Conservation Board hereby promulgates and places into effect the following regulations. The following terms, as used in these regulations, shall for the purposes of these regulations have the meanings assigned hereto, unless a different meaning is clearly indicated.

- R. The term "OFFICIAL SIGNS" shall mean signs provided for in the Iowa State Highway Commission Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Iowa Streets and Highways and other signs designated from time to time by the Board.
- S. The term "NOISE" shall mean any loud, confused, or senseless shouting or outcry, a sound lacking in agreeable musical quality; or which is noticeably unpleasant.
- T. The term "BLINDS" shall mean a constructed place of ambush or concealment for the purpose of hunting, observing, or photographing wildlife.
- U. The term "DECOY" shall mean a bird or animal, or likeness of one, used to lure game into shooting range.
- V. The term "HANDICAPPED PERSON" shall mean a person with a physical affliction which is impossible to ambulate successfully without the aid of a motor vehicle. This affliction must be documented by a medical doctor.
- W. The term "DISTURBANCE" shall mean any act, verbal or physical, that interferes with the quality of another camper's stay or destroys the tranquillity of the park setting.

SECTION 2. SCOPE: The provisions of these regulations shall apply to all areas.

SECTION 3. FEES & CHARGES:

- A. Fees or charges made for services or for the use of land, facilities, equipment, materials or supplies in any area to be collected by the Department or authorized concessionaires shall be prescribed and approved by the Board.
- B. It shall be unlawful for any person or persons to enter or use any facilities for which entrance fees or user fees are prescribed without payment of same, except those persons on official business or authorized by special use permits.

SECTION 4. COLLECTION OF FRUITS & NUTS:

Section 461A.41 of the 1993 Code of Iowa entitled "Removing plants, flowers, or fruit" is hereby modified under the authority of Section 350.10 of the 1993 Code of Iowa as follows: It shall be **LAWFUL** to collect the fruit of all nut and berry producing plants or mushrooms for noncommercial home use, provided that the collector does not otherwise damage the parent plant.

SECTION 5. USE OF FIREARMS:

Section 461A.42 of the 1993 Code of Iowa entitled "Use of firearms prohibited - exceptions" is hereby modified under authority of Section 350.10 of the 1993 Code of Iowa as follows: It shall be **LAWFUL** to hunt or pursue game birds or wild animals in or on all areas designated from time to time as hunting areas by the Board. The Department shall post all such areas with official signs to constructively notify the public that this activity is lawful. Target shooting is prohibited.

SECTION 6. TRAINING & EXERCISING DOGS:

Section 461A.5 of the 1993 Code of Iowa entitled "Animals on leash" is hereby modified under the authority of section 350.10 of the 1993 Code of Iowa as follows: It shall be **LAWFUL** to exercise or train dogs in or on all designated as hunting areas or pet exercising areas. Exercising or training shall be con-

the Director or his authorized representative.

- L. Campers shall restore their campsite to the same approximate condition or better than when they found it.
- M. No camping shall be allowed under any circumstances within 50 feet of any well or public restroom facility.
- N. Tent and trailer camping shall be allowed in such areas under the control of the Board which are designated for such use by the posting of appropriate signs.
- O. Any person camping in any area under the jurisdiction of the Board shall, on the request of any member of the Board, its employees, or any peace officer reveal the names and home addresses of each member of the camping party, the time when said party arrived in the area, and the length of time the party intends to remain in the area.
- P. No one under the age of 18 is allowed without a parent, legal guardian or youth group leader present.

SECTION 9. NOISE PRODUCING DEVICES:

It shall be unlawful to operate or use any radio, television, stereo, musical instrument, electric generating plants, power saws, or any similar equipment in or on any area in such a manner as to create excessive noise and/or disturb other persons. Said equipment shall under no circumstances be used between the hours of 9:00 p.m. and 9:00 a.m.

SECTION 10. USE OF WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS:

- I. **USE OF BLINDS AND DECOYS.** The use of blinds on all wildlife areas is restricted.
 - A. **OWNERSHIP** - Any person may construct a blind on a wildlife management area using only the natural materials found on the area, except that no trees, or parts of trees other than willows, may be cut for that purpose. The construction of such a blind does not give that person any proprietary right to use the blind.
 - B. **CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS** - No person shall bring onto a game management area, to use in the construction of a blind thereon, any sawed lumber; wire, nails, bolts, posts or pipe, metal cable, or hardware of any type, except when these materials are parts of portable blinds which are self-contained units readily movable from one site to another.
 - C. **PROTECTION OF TREES** - No person shall drive or otherwise place any nail, pin, spike, or other object, metal or otherwise, into any tree on a wildlife management area for the purpose of constructing a blind or to gain access to a blind constructed above ground.
 - D. **REMOVING BLINDS** - Blinds used for the hunting of waterfowl shall be removed from the wildlife management area between the hours of one hour after shooting hours until midnight each day. Blinds constructed on boats shall be considered to be removed when moored at an approved launching site.
 - E. **DECOYS** - The use of decoys on all wildlife areas is restricted as follows:
 - 1) Decoys are prohibited on all wildlife management areas from one hour after shooting time until midnight each day.

2) Decoys shall be considered removed from an area if they are picked up and placed within a boat or other container at an approved access site.

F. TENDING EQUIPMENT – Persons placing blinds and decoys on wildlife management units will be in attendance of their equipment at all times while deployed on the wildlife management area.

2. REFUGE AREAS - Heron Bend, Denning Conservation Area and Werner Memorial Woods, under the jurisdiction of the Board, are designated as wildlife refuges where posted. It shall be unlawful to hunt, pursue, kill, trap, fish or take any wild animal, on these areas at any time, and no one shall carry firearms thereon. It shall also be unlawful to trespass in any manner on the these areas, where posted, between the dates of September 19 and November 30 of each year, both dates inclusive, except that department personnel and law enforcement officials may enter the area at any time in performance of their duties.

3. TARGET SHOOTING or promiscuous firing of firearms and or other weapons is not allowed on wildlife management areas.

SECTION 11. PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEMS RESTRICTED: It shall be unlawful to operate or use any public address system whether fixed, portable, or vehicular mounted, in or on any area except when such use or operation has been approved in writing by the Director or his authorized representative.

SECTION 12. RADIO, TELEVISION, OR TELEPHONE EQUIPMENT RESTRICTED: It shall be unlawful to install aerial or other special radio, telephone, or television equipment in or on any area without the approval in writing of the Director or his authorized representative.

SECTION 13. RECREATION USES ONLY ALLOWED: It shall be unlawful for any person to occupy any portion of any area for washing or repairing vehicles; advertising or political campaigning; hawking, peddling, or any other commercial activity, except concessionaires acting under the authority of a lease or contract with the Board.

SECTION 14. USE OF HORSES RESTRICTED: It shall be unlawful to ride, lead or otherwise allow the entry or use of horses or horse-drawn wagons on trails, picnic areas, or any off road area. Horses ARE ALLOWED on hard surface public roads only. Hitching of horses is NOT allowed in any area. The Board shall, from time to time, designate areas for the use of horses and the Director or his authorized representative may, by issuing a Special Use Permit, allow such activity on any area. Horses ARE ALLOWED all year at Croton Civil War Memorial Park, Amborn-Pagin Wildlife Area, and Werner Memorial Woods. DURING RODEO WEEK horses ARE ALLOWED at all Lee County Conservation Board areas if issued a Special Use Permit.

SECTION 15. ATV'S & SNOWMOBILES RESTRICTED:

- A. It shall be unlawful to operate any snowmobile, tote bike, air sled, swamp buggy, all terrain vehicle, or any other land conveyance propelled by a gasoline or electrical engine and run on wheels, tracks, or runners in or on any area, except for those trails and roads which the Board shall from time to time designate and those other areas for which a Special Use Permit has been issued.
- B. USE OF MOTOR VEHICLES FOR TRANSPORTATION OF HANDICAPPED PERSONS. Under special permission of the Director, or his designee, handicapped persons shall be permitted to operate three or four wheel vehicles for hunting use. Persons interested in obtaining this special permit must present written documentation from a medical doctor documenting their physical limitations.

SECTION 16. TRAPPING RESTRICTED:

- A. It shall be unlawful to trap or attempt to trap any birds or wild animals without a Special Use Permit.
- B. MARKING TRAP SITES ON WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREAS -No person shall mark or otherwise claim any site for trapping fur-bearers before the official opening of the trapping season as designated by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.

SECTION 17. SLEDDING EQUIPMENT RESTRICTED: It shall be unlawful to use any part of a car body, plywood, or metal sheet, or any similar unsafe device for use in any downhill winter sports activities in or on any area.

SECTION 18. SWIMMING RESTRICTED: It shall be unlawful to swim, wade or engage in related water activities in or on any ponds or waters in or on any area except for those ponds or waters specifically designated from time to time by the Board.

SECTION 19. RESERVING PARK FACILITIES: It shall be unlawful for a minor to reserve a park facility. If a group consists of mixed adults and minors, a ratio of at least 1 adult to each 8 minors must be maintained unless the group is a "registered youth group". A registered youth group may maintain different ratios if the group is sponsored for the activity by the Director or his authorized representative.

SECTION 20. DOMESTIC REFUSE NOT PERMITTED: It shall be unlawful to deposit garbage, refuse or litter from any household, business or any other place to any area for the purpose of disposing of the same in any refuse or litter container there provided.

SECTION 21. BOATS UNATTENDED NOT PERMITTED: It shall be unlawful to leave unattended any boat or other form of water conveyance on or attached to any area, except those areas designated from time to time by the Board, for more than 12 consecutive hours. Any water con-

veyance left in violation hereof shall be removed and stored at the expense of its owner, which expenses shall not be less than \$25.00. If not reclaimed within 6 months of its removal hereunder, such water conveyance shall be considered abandoned and shall thereafter be disposed of.

SECTION 22. MOTOR VEHICLES UNATTENDED NOT PERMITTED: It shall be unlawful to leave any motor vehicle unattended on any area for more than 24 hours without the permission of the Director or his authorized representative. Any motor vehicle left in violation hereof shall be removed and stored at the expense of the owner, which expense shall not be less than \$25.00. If not reclaimed within 6 months of its removal hereunder, all such motor vehicles shall be considered abandoned and shall thereafter be disposed of.

SECTION 23. OFFICIAL SIGNS: It shall be unlawful for any person to enter, use or occupy, any area or facilities within said area in disregard of any official signs.

SECTION 24. POSSESSION & CONSUMPTION OF BEER PROHIBITED: It shall be unlawful for any person to possess or consume beer, as defined in Section 123.1(9) of the 1975 Code of Iowa between the hours of 10:30 p.m. and 6:00 a.m. in or on any area, except that beer may be possessed within a camping unit or out of sight between said hours by an adult member of any camping party or an adult camping at a family or group campground. Any beer possessed in violation of this rule shall be confiscated by the Director or his authorized representative and destroyed.

SECTION 24.1 CONTAINER SIZE REGULATED: No person or group shall bring, use, or have in his, her, or their possession on any area, beer in a keg or any other container larger than one quart without first obtaining a Special Use Permit from the Director or his authorized representative. The request for the Special Use Permit shall be made in writing at least 2 weeks prior to the date of the activity.

SECTION 25. CLOSING TIME: All areas shall be closed to public use between the hours of 10:30 p.m. and 4:00 a.m. unless otherwise specified by the Board, in which case official signs will be erected giving the public constructive notice of such change. The Director or his authorized representative may issue Special Use Permits in conformity with Board Policy which, when issued, shall allow groups or persons to observe other hours. The provisions of this Section shall not apply to authorized camping by registered camping groups in designated camping areas.

SECTION 26. EXCEPTIONS: Nothing in these rules and regulations shall prohibit or hinder the Department, its Supervisors, Park Rangers, or duly authorized agents, or any peace officers from performing their official duties.