

CHAPTER 47

PARK REGULATIONS

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47.01 PURPOSE. The purpose of this chapter is to facilitate the enjoyment of park facilities by the general public by establishing rules and regulations governing the use of park facilities.

(Code of Iowa, Sec. 364.12)

47.02 TRAFFIC AND MOTOR VEHICLE REGULATIONS.

1. Riding on Established Roads. No person shall ride or drive in any public park or preserve, except upon the established roads and ways.
2. Parking Only in Designated Areas. All vehicles shall be parked in designated parking areas.
3. Parking Vehicles to Repair or Clean Prohibited. Parking of cars in any public parks for the purpose of repair or cleaning is prohibited.
4. Operator's License Required. All vehicle operators on park roads and grounds must hold a valid vehicle operator's license.

47.03 RIDING HORSES. No person shall lead or ride a horse in any public parks or preserves except on public drives or designated bridle paths.

47.04 FARM ANIMALS PROHIBITED. No domestic farm animals except horses are allowed on City grounds.

47.05 ANIMALS AT LARGE PROHIBITED. No privately owned animals are allowed to run at large in any City park or preserve or in waters owned by or under the jurisdiction of the Park Board. Any such animal will be kept on a leash no more than six (6) feet in length. Owners are required to keep their pets quiet and to clean up animal waste deposits.

47.06 DISTURBANCE OF BIRDS AND ANIMALS. No person shall disturb or interfere with birds or animals kept or found in or around any of the City parks or preserves.

47.07 DISORDERLY CONDUCT. No person shall use any loud, violent, obscene, or profane language while in any public park, nor shall any person conduct himself or herself in a disorderly or obscene manner or commit any nuisance therein.

47.08 LITTERING. No person shall deposit upon or litter the ground with any form of waste, refuse, or garbage. All refuse shall be placed in designated containers.

47.09 DEFACING OR INJURING TREES AND PLANTS. No person shall in any manner deface, injure, or remove any tree, shrub, or plant standing or growing in any public park or pick or destroy any flowers or seeds growing therein or injure any structure or natural attraction.

47.10 REMOVAL OF WOOD, SOIL, GRASS. No person shall cut or remove any wood, turf, grass, soil, rock, sand, or gravel from any public park or preserve without written permission of the Park Board or its authorized officials.

47.11 MOVING TABLES, BENCHES AND SEATS. No person shall move benches, seats, and tables from their places in any park except on picnic grounds, and then only in designated areas, without prior permission of the Park Board.

47.12 POSTING SIGNS PROHIBITED. No person shall post, paste, paint, or affix any placard, bill, notice, or sign upon any structure, tree, stone, fence, or enclosure along or within any park or preserve, unless in locations designated for such postings.

47.13 DISTURBING BUILDINGS OR IMPROVEMENTS. No person shall disturb or interfere with any building or improvement of any kind made or being made in or about any public park or preserve.

47.14 FIREWORKS AND WEAPONS PROHIBITED. The use or possession by the public of firearms, explosives, archery equipment, and weapons of all kinds is prohibited in all City parks and preserves. The use or possession of fireworks is prohibited in all City parks and preserves unless a permit to use and possess fireworks has been issued by the Park Board.

47.15 FIRES. No fire shall be built except in a place provided therefor, and such fire shall be extinguished when the site is vacated unless it is immediately used by another party.

47.16 RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES. No person shall engage in a sport, game, or recreational activity in the public parks or preserves except in areas designated and maintained for that particular purpose.

47.17 SKATING OR WALKING ON THE ICE. Skating or walking on ice covering any lake or body of water within parks or other City owned property is done at the individual's own risk.

47.18 POLLUTION OF WATER. No person shall throw or place any foreign or waste substance in any body of water in or adjacent to any public park.

47.19 SWIMMING. Swimming is authorized in designated areas only.

47.20 WATERCRAFT. No gasoline motors shall be allowed on boats or other watercrafts, except for authorized municipal or emergency equipment using Meyers Lake and Deerwood Lake.

47.21 ALL-TERRAIN VEHICLES AND SNOWMOBILES. ATVs and snowmobiles shall not be operated in any park, including Deerwood Park and Elk Run Heights Park, any playground or upon any other City-owned property.

47.22 CLOSING HOURS. Except by arrangement or permission granted by park authorities, persons shall vacate City parks and preserves before 11:00 p.m. The public parks shall be closed to the public from 11:00 p.m. to 5:00 a.m.

47.23 CAMPING REGULATIONS.

1. Camping is authorized in designated areas only except by written permission from the Park Board.
2. Permits must be posted at campsites where they can be readily inspected by the park authorities.
3. No person shall be permitted to camp for a period longer than fourteen (14) days in a designated campground, and each campsite must be moved after a period of seven (7) days. Campers may stay longer with consent of the Park Board.
4. Quiet must be observed for the benefit of those who retire early. Quiet hours begin at 10:30 p.m. and end at 6:00 a.m.
5. Only two vehicles may be parked at each campsite. Any other vehicles must be parked in the visitor parking areas and must be registered on permits.
6. Each camp unit will be permitted not more than one picnic table.
7. No major appliances or objects creating an eyesore will be allowed outside of the camping units. Campsites must be kept clean and in orderly condition. No woodpiles shall be larger than 4' x 4' x 4', nor shall construction materials be allowed for burning at campsites.
8. Hot water may not be taken for use at campsites.
9. No dishwashing, cleaning of fish or other game, fowl or food is allowed at the water faucets or in shower houses or restrooms.

47.24 PARENTAL RESPONSIBILITY. No parent, guardian, or custodian of a minor shall knowingly permit such minor to do any act prohibited above.

47.25 AUTHORITY TO REFUSE USE OF PARKS OR TO RESCIND CAMPING PERMITS. Park authorities and the police department may refuse use of City parks for just cause. Park authorities and the police department are further given the authority to refuse camping privileges and to rescind any and all camping permits for just cause without refund of fees.

1. Appeal of actions taken under this section shall be made in writing to the Park Board.
2. The Park Board shall consider the appeal no later than its next regularly scheduled meeting. Rescinding of the action refusing use of the City parks shall be by a majority vote of the membership of the Park Board.

47.26 FEEDING WATERFOWL PROHIBITED. Feeding of waterfowl (ducks, geese, other waterfowl, or shore birds) is prohibited.

47.27 PENALTIES. Violation of any park regulation set forth in this chapter shall constitute a municipal infraction and may be addressed under Chapter 4 of this Code of Ordinances.