



**Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Commission Rules**  
**Amended September 14, 2017**  
**Amended June 13, 2019**  
**Amended July 9, 2020**  
**Amended May 13, 2021**

The following rules are promulgated by the Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Commission by authority conferred on the Commission by Act 261 of the Public Acts of the State of Michigan of 1965, MCL § 46.364, as amended, for the protection, regulation and control of its facilities and areas, and with the approval of the Grand Traverse County Board of Commissioners.

Section 1. Definitions.

- a. "Commission" shall mean the Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Commission.
- b. "County Park Property" shall mean all lands, waters and property administered by or under the jurisdiction of the Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Commission.
- c. "Director" shall mean the Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Director.
- d. "Person" or "persons" shall mean individuals, firms, corporations, or any group or gathering of individuals.
- e. "Camping" means the overnight lodging or sleeping of a person or persons in a tent, trailer-coach, vehicle camper, motor vehicle, or in any other conveyance erected, parked or placed on the premises.

Section 2. Unlawful acts generally. On lands owned or under the control of the department, it is unlawful for a person or persons to do any of the following:

1. To enter, use, or occupy County Park Property for any purpose when they are posted against entry, use, or occupancy, as ordered by the commission.
2. To dispose of refuse, rubbish, trash, or garbage not resulting from the use of county-owned lands in receptacles provided on Commission property.
3. To ignite any fire except within fireplaces, receptacles or open spaces designated and approved for such purposes by the Director.
4. To place or burn garbage within a designated fireplace, receptacle or open space designated and approved for the building of fires by the Director, or bury refuse, rubbish, trash, or garbage, regardless of its origin.

5. To use tobacco or smoke at the Grand Traverse County Civic Center, Maple Bay Park and Natural Area, Medalie Park, Meyer Property, Keystone Soccer Complex, Natural Education Reserve, Power Island, and the VASA Trailhead. This rule applies to prohibit the use and smoking of tobacco both within structures as well as outside of structures on the listed properties. As used in this rule, the word “smoke” means any of the following:

- a. using a cigarette, e-cigarette, cigar, pipe or vapors-tanks-mods or related product that contains tobacco, nicotine or any other related product that is lighted, burning or heated;
- b. lighting a cigarette, e-cigarette, cigar, pipe or vapors-tanks-mods or related product that contains tobacco, nicotine or any other related product;
- c. exhaling smoke or vapor from burning or heating tobacco, nicotine, or any other related product that is contained in a cigarette, e-cigarette, cigar, pipe or vapors-tanks-mods or related product.

6. To intentionally smoke, ingest, consume, or otherwise use marihuana, or cannabis, or liquids or solids containing any type of tetrahydrocannabinol on County Park Property. “Smoke” means to inhale the vapor of a solid or liquid substance that has been heated. “Ingest” means to swallow a solid or liquid substance. “Consume” means to take a substance into the body which was previously outside the body.

7. To cause a noise disturbance, which is defined as sound created by human activity with or without the use of any device, which by reason of its volume, intensity, location, or time of day impairs the health, welfare, or peace of another person of normal human sensibilities. The following acts and activities are declared to be noise disturbances and are prohibited. This enumeration shall not be deemed exclusive.

- a. The playing of any radio, television, phonograph, other sound reproduction device, or musical instrument in such a manner or at such a volume as to be sufficiently audible to annoy or disturb the quiet, comfort, or repose of persons in the vicinity.
- b. The keeping of any animal or bird which, by causing frequent or long continued noise, shall disturb the comfort and repose of any person in the vicinity.
- c. The use of any motor vehicle, in such a manner as to create a disturbing noise, including, but not limited to, the screeching of tires and the discharge into the open air of exhaust from the engine without a sufficient muffler.
- d. Shouting or other raucous or boisterous behavior for an unreasonable length of time.
- e. The use of a loudspeaker, public address system without a permit issued by the Director.
- f. On the Meadows Trail at the VASA Trailhead Property, on lands owned and under the control of the department it is unlawful for a person or persons to do any of the following:

1. To operate an off-the-road motor-driven vehicle such as a minibike, motorcycle, dunemobile, snowmobile, converted snowmobile, amphibious vehicle, or any other motorized device, except on designated roads, trails, or areas posted for such use without proper written permission.
8. To place or erect a fence or barrier, to construct or occupy improvements, or to enclose the lands or obstruct the passage of another person or persons in any way from entering, exiting or using County Park Property without permission of the Director.
9. To peddle or systematically solicit business of any nature; distribute or post any handbills or other advertising matter or post signs without permission from the Director.
10. To paint, mark, or otherwise apply any chemical or **harmful** substance on any tree, rock, or any other land, water, structure or property without the permission from the Director.
11. To park vehicles of any type in areas posted as no parking; or, where designated parking areas exist, to park vehicles of any type in an area other than the designated parking area. If a motor vehicle is found parked on County Park Property, then the license plate displayed on the motor vehicle shall constitute prima facie evidence that the person who parked it there is the owner of the vehicle.
12. To camp on County Park Property unless approved and designated for such purposes by the Director and with an approved permit issued by the Director.
13. To store or leave property on county lands for more than 24 hours without written permission of the Director. This subdivision does not apply to lawfully occupied, designated camping sites when camping with a permit authorized by the Director.
14. To ride or lead a horse, pack animal, or other riding animal, or any animal driven vehicle on any area, except on roads that are open to the use of motor vehicles, trails, bridle paths, and campgrounds designated for such use by the Director.
15. To possess a dog without a leash or on a leash greater than six-foot in length except upon County Park Property open to hunting.
16. To enter or remain on County Park Property between the hours of 11 p.m. and 6 a.m. unless the property is open for events between these hours.
17. To possess a bow and arrow, crossbow, trap or other instrument used for hunting or trapping of animals; or to hunt or trap on any County Park Property unless that property is open to hunting and/or trapping by Rule of the Commission.
18. To offer for sale alcoholic beverages except for events as authorized by the Director, and in locations approved for such by the Parks and Recreation Commission.
19. To possess any beverage container made in whole or in part of glass, or to bring, carry, or transport any beverage container made in whole or in part of glass onto County Park property.

20. To refuse to comply with the above rules upon the demand of an authorized local enforcement officer; or to interfere with the officer's enforcement of the ordinance; or to retaliate against another who has made complaint of a violation of a park rule; or to interfere with an employee or agent of the Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Department while performing his or her official duties.

Section 3. Enforcement Officers. The Grand Traverse County Sheriff and deputies are authorized as local enforcement officers of these park rules, unless at Civic Center Park, where Traverse City police have jurisdiction.

Section 4. Fines and Imprisonment. Any person violating any provision of the foregoing rules shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be fined not more than \$100 and costs of prosecution or imprisoned in the Grand Traverse County Jail for a period not exceeding 90 days or both, for each offense.

Section 5. Compliance with Other Laws. Nothing in this ordinance impairs or precludes a separate cause of action provided by statute or common law for conduct prohibited herein.

Section 6. Severability. The provisions of this ordinance are severable and if any part is declared void or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining parts shall remain in force.

**GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY  
ORDINANCE NO. 31  
AMENDED  
Twin Lakes Park Ordinance**

**June 6, 2016 Adoption of Ordinance**

adopted by resolution of the Board of County Commissioners in accordance with provisions of  
Section 11 of PA 1856, No. 156, MCL 46.11 Ordinance No 31,  
Twin Lakes Park Ordinance, is adopted, as follows:

SECTION 1. Twin Lakes Park Ordinance.

1.1. Definitions.

- A. "Authorized local official" shall mean a Sheriff's Deputy, or a Grand Traverse County Park Ranger, also known as a "Park Attendant."
- B. "Camping" shall mean the overnight lodging or sleeping of a person or persons in a tent, trailer-coach, vehicle camper, motor vehicle, or in any other conveyance erected, parked, or placed on the premises.
- C. "Director" shall mean the Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Director.
- D. "Noise Disturbance" shall mean sound created by human activity with or without the use of any device, which by reason of its volume, intensity, location, or time of day, impairs the health, welfare, or peace of another person of normal human sensibilities.
- E. "Park Property" shall mean Twin Lakes Park.
- F. "Person" or "persons" shall mean individual(s), firm(s), corporation(s), or any group or gathering of individuals.
- G. Wetsuit shall mean the following. 1. A wetsuit covering the torso from neck to the tops of the thighs, and constructed of 1.5 millimeters or thicker neoprene.

1.2. Unlawful acts. It is unlawful for a person or persons to do any of the following at Park Property:

- A. To knowingly dump, deposit, place, throw, leave or cause or permit the dumping, depositing, placing, throwing, or leaving of litter outside of trash receptacles located on Park Property.
- B. To ignite any fire, except within any fireplace, receptacle, or space designated on Park Property and as approved and permitted for such purposes by the Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Department.

- C. To place or burn garbage anywhere on Park Property, including within any fireplace, receptacle, or open space designated for the building of fires, or to bury refuse, rubbish, trash, or garbage anywhere on Park Property.
- D. To violate the following Park Property Beach Rules.
  - 1. Bring or keep glass bottles and other glass containers on the beach.
  - 2. Ignite any fire on the beach.
  - 3. Swim in any area other than a designated swim area, which is designated by buoys, unless that swimmer is wearing a wetsuit, as defined in 1.1 Definitions, G.1., and each time prior to swimming, has signed and dated the waiver form, which shall be located and accessed by swimmer at the beach entrance.
  - 4. Remove or throw life rings or ropes other than in case of emergency.
- E. To cause a noise disturbance. The following acts and activities are declared to be noise disturbances and are prohibited. This enumeration shall not be deemed exclusive.
  - 1. The playing of any radio, television, phonograph, other sound reproduction device, or musical instrument in such a manner or at such a volume as to be sufficiently audible to annoy or disturb the quiet, comfort, or repose of persons in the vicinity.
  - 2. The keeping of any animal or bird which, by causing frequent or long continued noise, shall disturb the comfort and repose of any person in the vicinity.
  - 3. The use of any motor vehicle in such a manner as to create a disturbing noise including, but not limited to, the screeching of tires and the discharge into the open air of exhaust from the engine without a sufficient muffler.
  - 4. Shouting or other raucous or boisterous behavior for an unreasonable length of time.
  - 5. The use of a loudspeaker or public address system without a permit issued by Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Department.
  - 6. Operating an off-the-road motor-driven vehicle such as a minibike, motorcycle, dunemobile, snowmobile, converted snowmobile, amphibious vehicle, or any other motorized device.
- F. To place or erect a fence or barrier, to construct or occupy improvements, to construct or erect a deer blind, or to enclose the lands or obstruct the passage of another person or persons in any way from entering, exiting, or using Park Property without permission of the Director.

- G. To peddle or systematically solicit business of any nature, to distribute or post any handbills or other advertising matter, or to post signs without permission from the Director.
- H. To paint, mark, or otherwise apply any chemical or harmful substance on any tree, rock, or any other land, water, structure, or property without the permission from the Director.
- I. To park vehicles of any type in areas posted as “No Parking” or, where designated parking areas exist, to park vehicles of any type in an area other than the designated parking areas. If a motor vehicle is found parked on Park Property, then the license plate displayed on the motor vehicle shall constitute *prima facie* evidence that the person who parked it there is the owner of the vehicle.
- J. To camp on Park Property, unless approved and designated for such purpose by the Director, and with an approved permit issued by the Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Department.
- K. To store or leave personal property on Park Property for more than 24 hours without written permission of the Director. This subdivision does not apply to lawfully occupied, designated camping sites when camping with a permit, as authorized by the Director.
- L. To ride or lead a horse, pack animal, or other riding animal, or any animal-driven vehicle, on any area, except on roads that are open to use by motor vehicles, trails, bridle paths, and campgrounds designated for such use by the Director.
- M. To possess a dog without a leash or on a leash greater than six feet in length.
- N. To enter or remain on Park Property between dusk and 6 a.m., unless Park Property is open for an event between these hours, as approved by the Director.
- O. To possess a firearm, bow and arrow, crossbow, trap, or other instrument used for hunting or trapping of animals, or to hunt or trap on Park Property.
- P. To possess, consume, or offer alcoholic beverages, except on dates, times, and at locations on Park Property, as permitted and authorized by the Director.
- Q. To refuse to comply with the above rules upon the demand of an authorized local official; to interfere with the official’s enforcement of this ordinance; to retaliate against another who has made complaint of a violation of a park rule; or, to interfere with an employee or agent of the Grand Traverse County Parks and Recreation Department while performing his or her official duties.

1.3. Enforcement Officers. An authorized local official is authorized to enforce this ordinance and issue a municipal civil infraction citation pursuant to Section 8703 of PA 1961, No. 236, MCL 600.8703, *et. Seq.*, and Section 1.4 of this ordinance.

1.4. Fines and Imprisonment. Any person violating any provision of Section 1.2 of this ordinance shall be responsible for a municipal civil infraction and subject to a maximum fine of \$100 for each offense.

Section 2. Severability. The provisions of this Ordinance are severable and, if any part is declared void or unenforceable by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remaining parts shall remain in force.

Section 3. Effective Date/Publication. This Ordinance shall take effect on June 6, 2016, and after publication according to statute.