

2026 RULES & REGULATIONS SAC COUNTY CONSERVATION BOARD

350.5 Rules and Regulations –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 ten 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 of principal 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 as police officers, peace officers, or sheriffs in enforcement of the laws of this state and the apprehension of violators upon all property under its control within and without the county 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, shall apply to all lands and waters under the control of any county conservation board, in the same manner as if lands and waters were state parks, lands, or waters. As used in sections 461A.35 through 461A.57 “natural resource 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 However, sections 461A.35 through 461A.57 may be modified or superseded by rules adopted as provided in section 350.5.

CHAPTER 461A PUBLIC LANDS AND WATERS

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 water 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.35(350.5) Special Regulation:

All motor vehicles shall be confined to maintained roads and parking areas. No ATVs (All Terrain Vehicles); Off-road UTVs (Utility Vehicles), golf carts and unlicensed 2-wheel motorcycles are allowed in any Sac County Conservation Board owned or managed areas at any time unless a special use permit has been issued.

461A.36 Speed limit.

The maximum speed limit of all vehicles on state park and preserve drives, roads and highways shall be Thirty-five (35) miles per hour. All driving shall be confined to designated roadways. Whenever the commission shall determine that the speed limit herein before 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 there at which shall be effective when appropriated signs giving notice thereof are erected at such places of congestion or other parts of the park roads, drives or highways.

461A.36(350.5) Special Regulation:

The maximum speed limit in all Sac County Conservation Board areas shall be (15) fifteen miles per hour.

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 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 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 or natural attraction, except that upon written permission of the commission certain specimens may be removed for scientific purposes. This section shall not apply to activities of the commission or its officers, or employees when caring for and managing state-wide land and waters under the jurisdiction of the commission.

461A.41(350.5) Special Regulations:

It shall be lawful to collect the fruit of all nut and berry producing plants or mushrooms for non-commercial use, provided the collector does not otherwise damage the parent plant.

461A.42 Use of Firearms prohibited – exceptions.

The use by the public of firearms, fireworks, explosives, and weapons of all kinds are 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 ninety-pound minimum line attached to the arrow to take rough fish under rules and regulations prescribed by the commission.

461A.42(350.5) Special Regulations:

- Paragraph A: Archery, crossbow & firearm hunting areas include Lubeck Woods, McDonald Greenbelt, Almer Noyd Wildlife Area, Sauk Rail Trail (where designated), Whitetail Woods Wildlife Area, Vogel Access, Eden Prairie Recreation Area, Maples Area, and North Raccoon River Heritage Wildlife Corridor during regular hunting seasons as set by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.
- Paragraph B: Firearm hunting will be permitted in Grant and Reiff Parks only from opening day of youth pheasant season to May 1 during regular hunting seasons as set by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources. Archery and crossbow hunting will be permitted during regular hunting seasons as set by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.
- Paragraph C: Only archery and crossbow hunting will be allowed in Hagge Park during regular hunting seasons as set by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.
- Paragraph D: All tree stands, and blinds used for hunting, photographing, and viewing wildlife shall be temporary. Permanent trees stands and blinds cannot be built on county public hunting areas. No person shall drive or otherwise place any nail, spike, pin or any other object, metal or otherwise, into any tree on county public hunting area to construct a blind or tree stand. All tree stands and blinds shall not be placed any sooner than two (2) weeks prior to and/or removed no later than two (2) weeks after the respective season. All tree stands and blinds not meeting these qualifications will be removed by and become the property of the Sac County Conservation Board.
- Paragraph E: Trapping will be allowed at Grant Park, Lubeck Woods, Maples Area, McDonald Greenbelt, Reiff Park, Almer Noyd Wildlife Area, Eden Prairie Recreation Area, Whitetail Woods Wildlife Area, Vogel Access, and North Raccoon River Heritage Wildlife Corridor during regular trapping seasons as set by the Iowa Department of Natural Resources.
- Paragraph F: It shall be unlawful to target shoot on any property owned or managed by the Sac County Conservation Board.

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.43(350.5) Special Regulations:

All Sac County Conservation Board areas have a "Carry-In Carry Out" trash policy. All park users are required to take all their trash with them when they leave as trash containers are no longer available.

461A.44 Prohibited areas.

No person shall enter 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.

461A.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 six feet in length or keeps it confined in or attached to a vehicle.

461A.45(350.5 Special Regulations:

Hunting dogs, while engaged in lawful hunting practices, are not required to be confined to a leash.

461A.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 ten-thirty p.m. (10:30) 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 the purpose.

461A.46 Special Regulations:

All areas shall be closed to the public between the hours of 10:30 pm and 6:00 am. Persons lawfully fishing or camping will be allowed in the parks after closing time. Definition lawful camping: Persons are considered lawfully camping only if they have sufficient equipment to shelter themselves and those in their party with due regard to inclement weather without resorting to shelterhouses, restrooms, or other facilities located within the county parks.

461A.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.

461A.47(350.5 Special Regulations:

Paragraph A: Current Camping Rates are: \$25 per night for modern camping & \$15 per night for primitive camping. Modern camping is defined as having one or more hookups (electricity, water, sewer) engaged in or on the camping unit and primitive camping is defined as having no hookups engaged in or on the camping unit. Organized youth groups will be charged a fee of \$25 for groups of 10 people or more.

Paragraph B: Current Shelterhouse Rates: Two enclosed shelterhouses are available to rent for \$75 per reservation. There is no charge for organized youth groups and conservation groups wishing to reserve the shelterhouse. The shelterhouses are located in Hagge Park and Reiff Park.

Paragraph C: Gazebo Fee: \$15 reservation fee. There is no charge for the gazebo if used in conjunction with the shelterhouse.

Paragraph D: Sauk Rail Trail User Fee: All persons 18 years of age or older are required to have in their possession a Sauk Rail Trail User Pass when utilizing the Sauk Rail Trail. Annual passes are \$20 per calendar year, daily passes are \$2 per day and \$250 Lifetime pass: \$350 for 2 adults Lifetime pass. All persons under 18 years of age are allowed to utilize the Sauk Rail Trail at no cost. The Sauk Rail Trail User Pass is required on the entire Sauk Rail Trail.

The Sauk Rail Trail Group Pass: For large, organized fundraising events utilizing the Sauk Rail Trail the fee of \$10 will apply to groups under 25 people in number and \$50 with groups of over 25 people in number. People under 18 years of age are free.

Paragraph E: Current Camping Cabin Rates: They are \$65 per night on weekends (Friday & Saturday) and holidays, \$55 per night on weeknights (Sunday-Thursday).

Paragraph F: Current Conservation Center Rates: The Classroom rate & Kitchen is \$75 per reservation and the Library is \$25 per reservation. No charge for organized youth and conservation groups.

461A48 Camping areas.

No person shall camp in any portion of a state park or preserve except in portions prescribed or designated by the commission.

461A.48(350.5) Special Regulations.

Designated campgrounds will be posted and shall include: Hagge, Grant & Reiff Parks.

461A.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 two weeks.

461A.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.

461A.51 Camping refused.

Custodians are given authority to refuse camping privileges and to rescind any and all camping permits for cause.

461A.52 Agreement with commission.

No person shall remove any ice, sand, gravel, stone, wood, or other natural material from any lands or waters under the jurisdiction of the commission without first entering into an agreement with the commission.

461A.53 Permits.

The commission may enter into agreements for the removal of ice, sand, gravel, stone, wood, or other natural material from lands or waters under the jurisdiction of the commission if, after investigation, it is determined that such removal will not be detrimental to the state's interest. The commission may specify the terms and consideration under which such removal is permitted, and issue written permits for such removal.

461A.54 Barriers on ice field.

Any person removing ice under a permit shall erect barriers on any part of an ice field where ice is cut, where said field crosses or traverses any part of a stream or lake that is used as a way of passage.

461A.55 Dredging.

In removing sand, gravel, or other material from state-owned waters by dredging, the operator shall so arrange the operator's equipment that other users of the lake or stream shall not be endangered by cables, anchors, or any concealed equipment. No waste material shall be left in the water in such a manner as to endanger other crafts or to change the course of any stream.

461A.56 Disturbing natural bank.

Where operations are entirely on private property adjacent to a public lake or stream the natural bank between the state- and privately-owned areas shall not be removed except by permission of the commission.

461A.57 Penalties.

Any person violating any of the provisions of sections 461A.35 to 461A.56 is guilty of a simple misdemeanor.

CHAPTER 321G SNOWMOBILES

321.13 Snowmobiles Unlawful Operation (Paragraph 7).

In or on any park or fish and game areas except on designated snowmobile trails. (Paragraph 10)
On public land without a measurable snow cover.

321.13(350.5) Special Regulations: Measurable snow cover shall be 4" (four inches) on all Sac County Conservation Board areas.

EQUESTRIAN RIDING POLICY

1. Horseback riding will be allowed on gravel roads only in all Sac County Conservation Board areas except the Sauk Rail Trail where horseback riding is strictly prohibited.
2. Special events and activities may be allowed only with prior approval from the Sac County Conservation Board.

These rules and regulations were approved and adopted at the Sac County Conservation Board's January 15, 2026, regular meeting.

If anyone has any questions or needs information regarding board activities, please contact:

Sac County Conservation Board

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