



# PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS - STATE LAND RULES

Excerpt from **REGULATIONS OF LANDS ADMINISTERED BY THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

(This excerpt contains rules relevant to State Parks and Recreation Areas Effective October 18, 2001.)

Issued by authority conferred on the Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) by Section 504 of 1994 PA 451 MCL 324.504.

**NOTE:** It is your responsibility as a user of public lands, to ensure you are informed of all current rules and regulations relevant to your activities. The information presented here represents some details relevant to land use, but is not a complete list of all rules and regulations, and may not be as immediately updated as current legislation and rules. This product is not a legal notice, nor a complete collection of hunting regulations and laws. It is a condensed tool issued for convenience on this specific subject. Contact your local DNR office if you have questions, or to verify regulations relating to possible activities before engaging in those activities. The DNR is on the internet at "[www.michigan.gov/dnr](http://www.michigan.gov/dnr)"

## GENERAL RULES (History: Eff. Oct. 18, 2001)

**R 299.922 - Unlawful acts generally.** Rule 22 - On lands owned or under the control of the department, it is unlawful for a person or persons to do any of the following:

- (a) To enter, use, or occupy state-owned lands for any purpose when they are posted against entry, use, or occupancy, as ordered by the department.
- (b) To dispose of refuse, rubbish, trash, or garbage not resulting from the use of state-owned lands in receptacles provided on state-owned lands.
- (c) To set fire to the contents of a trash container.
- (d) To place or burn garbage in a fire ring or stove, or bury refuse, rubbish, trash, or garbage, regardless of its origin.
- (e) To engage in any violent, abusive, loud, boisterous, vulgar, lewd, or otherwise disorderly conduct, or to lounge, sit, or lie upon walks, roads, or paths obstructing the free passage of another person.
- (f) To place or erect a fence or barrier, to construct or occupy improvements, or to enclose the lands.
- (g) To move, remove, destroy, mutilate, or deface posters, notices, signs, or markers of the department of natural resources or any other agency of government.
- (h) To destroy, damage, or remove trees, shrubs, wildflowers, grasses, or other vegetation. Except in wildlife food plots, this subdivision does not apply to picking and removing mushrooms, berries and edible fruits or nuts for personal use.
- (i) To peddle or systematically solicit business of any nature; distribute or post any handbills or other advertising matter; post signs; paint or otherwise mark any tree or rock on any lands, waters, structure, or property.
- (j) To possess a glass container within any land or water area that is designated as a bathing beach or a land or water area that is regularly used for sunbathing, swimming, or wading.
- (k) To obstruct any road or trail in a manner that hinders public access to the lands.
- (l) 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 state lands, then the license plate displayed on the motor vehicle shall constitute prima facie evidence that the owner of the vehicle is the person who parked it there.
- (m) To hold events including, but not limited to, races, endurance contests, tournaments, or trail rides, unless the events are conducted pursuant to a permit. The permit may include a charge to the sponsor or permittee for the use of the land. An event may require a performance bond to insure permit compliance and may require public liability insurance. The department may waive the requirement for a permit for events where the number of participants is 20 or more individuals if the department determines that the event will not require department oversight and the event will have a minimal impact on the use of the lands by others.
- (n) To use a loudspeaker, public address system, or sound-amplifying equipment of any kind, except for an electronic game-calling device that is lawfully used while hunting, or to operate a motor, motorboat, motor vehicle, radio, television, generator, or any other device in a manner that produces excessive noise.
- (o) To use or operate any wheeled, motorized vehicle in the Upper Peninsula of this state, except on a designated route, a designated trail, a designated area, or a forest road not otherwise posted as closed to the use of motorized vehicles or entry.
- (p) To use or operate any wheeled, motorized vehicle in the Lower Peninsula of this state, except on a designated route, a designated trail, or a designated area. A wheeled, motorized vehicle that is properly registered under 1949 PA 300, MCL 257.1 et seq. may be operated on a forest road not otherwise posted as closed to the use of motorized vehicles or entry.
- (q) To camp in a state park, recreation area, public access site, or designated campground on other than a designated site.
- (r) To camp in any designated campground, access site, or location in a state forest or state game area for more than 15 consecutive nights in a calendar year. To be considered a new camp, the location shall be not less than 1/2 mile from the previous camp.
- (s) To leave a campsite unoccupied for more than a 24-hour period after the camp is established. A campsite is considered to be occupied if at least 1 member of the camping party is in attendance during the nighttime hours.
- (t) To store or leave a watercraft, fish shanty, or other property on state lands for more than 24 hours. This provision does not apply to lawfully occupied designated camping sites or to ground blinds and tree stands that meet legal requirements.
- (u) For more than 1 single family or more than 4 unrelated persons to camp on 1 designated campsite. For the purposes of this subdivision, a single family includes parents or guardians and their children. A single family may include other relatives if not more than 1 recreational vehicle, camping trailer, or pickup camper is used and if there are fewer than 9 individuals.
- (v) 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 department and on state forest lands not posted closed to such use or entry.
- (w) To operate the motor or motors of a vessel at more than idle speed at any boat launch ramp administered by the department, unless the propeller is disengaged.

(x) To use such areas for commercial operations unless the commercial operations are conducted pursuant to a permit. The department may waive the requirement for a permit for commercial operations where the department determines that the commercial operation will not require department oversight and the commercial operation will have a minimal impact on the resource and the use of lands by others.

## **R 299.923 Public access sites and harbors; unlawful acts.**

Rule 23. In addition to the unlawful acts specified in R 299.922, at state-owned public access sites and harbors, it is unlawful for a person or persons to do any of the following:

- (a) To moor or raft off a state dock without having paid the docking fees authorized by the department for use of the facility.
- (b) To enter, use, or occupy the premises during the hours of 11 pm to 4 am daily where such closing hours are posted on the premises; or to swim, wade, or bathe when specifically prohibited by notices posted on the premises.

## **R 299.927 State parks and recreation areas; unlawful acts.**

Rule 27. In addition to the unlawful acts specified in R 299.922, in state parks and state recreation areas, it is unlawful for a person or persons to do any of the following:

- (a) To enter or remain in a campground, outdoor center, cabin area, or day campsite between the hours of 10 pm and 8 am, unless the person is a lawfully registered occupant. A person shall not enter or remain in a day-use area between the hours of 10 pm to 8 am.
- (b) To carry or have in his or her possession a firearm, unless unloaded in both barrel and magazine; to shoot an air gun, gas gun, spring-loaded gun, or slingshot; or to shoot with a bow and arrow or crossbow, except during established hunting seasons on lands designated open to hunting under the authority of an order issued under sections 40107 and 40113a of 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.40107 and 324.40113a. This subdivision does not apply to a target range or archery range officially established by the department or to an officially sanctioned field trial. A person shall not engage in target shooting, except on designated shooting ranges.
- (c) To obtain a camping permit for use by a camping party of which the person is not a member.
- (d) To camp for more than 15 consecutive nights in any separately administered campground in a park or recreation area between May 15 and September 15. If a camping party is required to leave a campground upon reaching the 15-night limit, then the party is not eligible to return until 5 nights have elapsed.
- (e) To use a campground for a permanent or semi permanent residence.
- (f) To ride a bicycle of any kind, except on paved and non-paved roads, parking lots, and designated, signed bicycle trails.
- (g) To allow, place, or drive more than 2 motor vehicles onto 1 campsite or into a campground, except 4 motorcycles are permitted if each is operated by a registered camper.
- (h) To build fires, except in designated places or except in stoves or grills that are approved by an authorized representative of the department.
- (i) To walk into, or drive a vehicle into or through, a controlled camping area. This provision does not apply to registered campers and their vehicles or to persons legitimately visiting a specific, registered camper.
- (j) To allow a dog or other animal within a water or land area designated as a bathing beach or in any other water area used for swimming or wading; to bring a dog, except leader dogs for the blind, or other animal into an enclosed park building or leave a dog or other animal unattended at any time; to permit a dog or other animal to run loose or create a disturbance unless the dog is being used in hunting, or in field trials, or while being trained, when upon lands open to such uses; or to fail to properly control a dog or other animal. Any dog found not in the possession of, or under the immediate control of, its owner or the owner's agent, or any dog creating a nuisance or disturbance, may be removed from the park.
- (k) To possess a dog or other animal unless it is under immediate control on a leash that is not more than 6 feet in length. This provision does not apply to a dog being used for hunting, or in field trials, or while being trained, when upon lands open to such uses.
- (l) To ride, permit, or allow a horse or other riding animal in any area, except for a designated bridle trail or horseperson's campground, or when in compliance with a permit issued for a field dog trial.
- (m) To camp without a camping permit issued by an authorized representative of the department of natural resources.

## **VIOLATION OF RULES (History: Eff. Oct. 18, 2001)**

**R 299.929 - Violation of rules; revocation of permit or eviction.** Rule 29 - In addition to any other penalty prescribed by law, violation of any of these rules may result in the revocation of a camping permit or eviction from the state park, recreation area, access site, game area, or designated campground, or both.

**R 299.930 - Persons exempt from the rules.** Rule 30 - Department employees acting in the line of duty, and persons performing specific acts or conducting activity authorized by written permission are exempt from these rules.

## **PENALTY**

**MCL 324.504 (Excerpt)** (History: 1994, Act 541, Eff. March 30, 1995; - Am 1996, Act 171, Imd. Eff. April 18, 1996.) A person who violates a rule or an order is responsible for a state civil infraction and may be ordered to pay a civil fine of not more than \$500.00.

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For information or assistance on this publication, contact Parks and Recreation, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, PO Box 30257, Lansing MI 48909-7757. Telephone 517-373-9900

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