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Memorandum

To: Story County Conservation Board

From: Michael D. Cox, Director

Date: March 9, 2026

Re: Consideration of the Second Reading of the Story County Conservation Rules and Regulations.

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The attached Rules and Regulations include updates to:

Towing language to address 1) parking in unauthorized areas and 2) towing for multiple unpaid tickets.

No Changes have been made since the first reading.

Staff urges your approval.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Approval

\_\_\_\_\_  
Disapproval

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

# **Story County Conservation Rules and Regulations**

Adopted January 1994

Updated February 1996; March 1997; February 1998; February 1999;  
December 1999; December 2000; May 2001; April 2002; February 2003; March 2004;  
March 2005; February 2006; February 2007; March 2008; April 2009; March 2010; March 2011;  
March 2012; May 2012; April 2013; April 2014, May 2015, March 2016, March 2017; March  
2018; March 2019; March 2020; March 2021; March 2022; October 2022; February 2023;  
March 2024; August 2024; April 2025; October 2025; March 2026

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## CHAPTER I: GENERAL

**SCOPE.** By the authority granted to the Story County Conservation (SCC) Board by the laws of the State of Iowa Chapter 350.5 of the Code of Iowa, the following rules and regulations approved by the Board for the protection, regulation, and control of all areas under Board jurisdiction.

The rules and regulations governing the use of park areas are intended to protect park visitors and the parks from abuse and misuse. In addition to the rules and regulations adopted by the SCC Board, all state laws apply to conduct in county parks. Chapters 461A.35 through 461A.57 of the Code of Iowa, Public Lands and Waters, apply to county parks unless they have been modified by the conservation board. The traffic laws of the State of Iowa apply to county park roads in the same manner as they do on state highways. Other chapters of the law concerning alcoholic beverages and destruction of public buildings apply in all county parks.

## CHAPTER II: DEFINITIONS

According to the authority of Chapter 350.5 of the Code of Iowa, the SCC Board places into effect the following regulations. Terms used in these rules and regulations are defined as follows:

1. “Board” means the Story County Conservation Board.
2. “Director” means the Director of Story County Conservation.
3. “Area” means all or any part of the land and/or water owned, leased, managed, or by other means under the control of the Board.
4. “Authorized Representative” includes park rangers, superintendent, and other persons designated from time to time by the Director.
5. “Special use permit” means any use permit, issued by the Director, according to authority delegated by the Board, and signed by the Director or an authorized representative.
6. “Official signs” means signs in the Iowa State Department of Transportation Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices for Iowa Streets and Highways and other signs posting approved policies, rules, and regulations.
7. “Noise” means any loud, confused, or senseless shouting or outcry; a sound lacking in agreeable musical quality or which is noticeably unpleasant or loud, and raucous noise which causes distress to others.
8. “Snowmobile” means a motorized vehicle weighing less than one thousand pounds using sled-type runners or skis, endless belt-type tread, or any combination of runners, skis, or tread designed for travel on snow or ice.
9. “All-terrain vehicles” means a motorized flotation-tire vehicle with not less than three low-pressure tires, but not more than six low-pressure tires, limited in engine displacement to less than eight hundred cubic centimeters and total dry weight less than seven hundred fifty pounds with a seat or saddle designed to be straddled by the operator and handlebars for steering control.
10. “Hunting” means the act of pursuing or attempting to take a legal game animal or bird.

11. “Camp” or “camping” means the use of a shelter such as an erected tent, trailer, or motor vehicle, for temporary residence at a campground.
12. “Campground” means any area designated by the Board for camping.
13. “Supervised youth campground” means any area designated by the Board and used by groups consisting of minor members of an established organization and under the leadership of at least one competent, mature adult for each eight minors in the group and using any number of camping units or occupying a group campground.
14. “Campsite” means a segment of a campground designated by the Board for camping by a camping unit or camping party.
15. “Camping unit” means a shelter such as an erected tent, trailer, or motor vehicle for temporary residence at a campground. An additional tent may be placed on this site if it is used and occupied by minor members of the registered camping party.
16. “Wheelchair” means a device designed solely for use by an individual with mobility impairment for the primary purpose of locomotion in typical indoor and outdoor pedestrian areas that is manually operated or power-driven.
17. “Other power-driven mobility device” (OPDMD) means any devices powered by batteries, fuel, or other engines--whether or not designed solely for use by individuals with mobility impairments—used by individuals with mobility impairment for the purpose of locomotion, including golf carts, bicycles, electronic person assistance mobility devices (EPAMDs), or any mobility aid designed to operate in areas without defined pedestrian routes.
18. “Off-road utility vehicle” means a motorized flotation-tire vehicle with not less than four and not more than eight low-pressure tires that is limited in engine displacement to less than one thousand five hundred cubic centimeters and in total dry weight to not more than one thousand eight hundred pounds and that has a seat that is of bucket or bench design, not intended to be straddled by the operator, and a steering wheel or control levers for control.
19. “Archery” means longbows, recurve bows, and compound bows shooting broadhead arrows are permitted. No explosive or chemical devices may be attached to the arrow or broadhead. There are no minimum draw weights for bows or minimum diameter for broadheads. Arrows must be at least 18 inches long. Draw locks on compound bows are legal. Crossbows are not legal except that a physically disabled person may obtain a permit from the SCC to use a crossbow.
20. “Crossbow” means legal weapon for residents during the Late Muzzleloader season. A crossbow consists of a bow mounted transversely on a stock or frame and designed to fire a bolt, arrow or quarrel by the release of the bow string, which is controlled by a mechanical trigger and working safety. Crossbows equipped with pistol grips and designed to be fired with one hand are illegal for taking or attempting to take deer or turkey. All projectiles used in conjunction with a crossbow for deer hunting must be equipped with a broadhead.
21. “Physically disabled person” when used in reference to crossbow permits for deer and turkey hunting, means a person having a physical impairment of the upper extremities that makes a person physically incapable of shooting a bow and arrow. This includes difficulty in lifting and reaching with arms as well as difficulty in handling and fingering a bow.

## CHAPTER III: STATE STATUTES

**SCOPE.** The following portions of the State Code of Public Lands and Waters apply to County Parks.

**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 purpose any structure, or to remove any plant life, trees, building, 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 and preserve drives, roads and highways shall be thirty-five miles per hour. All driving shall be confined to designated roadways. Whenever the commission determines that a thirty-five mile per hour speed limit 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, which shall be effective when appropriate signs giving notice of the changed speed limit are erected at the places of congestion or other parts of the park roads, drives or highways.

**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. (For exceptions, see CHAPTER 4.24 ADA ACCESS AND UNLOADING.)

**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-owned land and waters under the jurisdiction of the commission. This section shall not apply to the gathering or removal of any tree, shrub, plant, flower, fruits, structures, or natural attractions under terms, conditions, limitations, and restrictions adopted by the commission as rules under chapter 17A. (For exceptions, see CHAPTER 4.3 REMOVING PLANTS, FLOWERS OR FRUIT.)

**461A.42 Use of firearms, explosives, weapons, and fireworks prohibited - exceptions.** The use of firearms, fireworks, explosives, and weapons of all kinds by a person is prohibited in all state parks and preserves except under the following conditions: A firearm or other weapon authorized for hunting may be used in preserves or parts of preserves designated by the state advisory board on preserves at the request of the commission. A person may use a bow and arrow with an attached bow fishing reel and ninety-pound minimum line attached to the arrow to take rough fish as provided by rule

of the commission. (For exceptions, see CHAPTER 4.4 USE OF FIREARMS and CHAPTER 4.30 FIREWORKS PROHIBITED)

**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.

**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. (For exceptions, see CHAPTER 4.6 TRAINING AND EXERCISING DOGS.)

**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 10:30 PM. 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.

**461A.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.

**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.57 Penalties.** Unless other punishment is provided, any person violating any of the provisions of sections 461A.36 through 461A.41, 461A.43, and 461A.45 through 461A.56 is guilty of a simple misdemeanor.

**123.46 Consumption in public places.** A person shall not use or consume alcoholic liquor, wine, or beer upon the public streets or highways. A person shall not use or consume alcoholic liquor in any public place except premises covered by a liquor control license.

**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 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 or 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 the director and those employees as the director may designate as police officers who shall have all the powers 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, 321I, 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 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 regulations adopted as provided in section 350.5.

## CHAPTER IV: STORY COUNTY CONSERVATION RULES - GENERAL

**4.1 SCOPE.** The provisions of these regulations apply to all SCC areas.

**4.2 FEES AND CHARGES.** It is unlawful for anyone to enter or use any facilities for which entrance fees or user fees are required without payment, except those persons on official business or authorized by special use permits.

**4.3 REMOVING PLANTS, FLOWERS OR FRUIT.** Chapter 461A.41 of the Code of Iowa, entitled "Removing plants, flowers or fruit" is hereby modified under the authority of Chapter 350.10 of the Code of Iowa, as follows: SCC may issue wood removal permits to comply with good forest management practices and; It shall be lawful to collect the fruit of all nut and berry producing plants or mushrooms for non-commercial home use, provided that the collector does not damage the parent plant with the following exceptions:

- A. Prairie seed may not be collected from any SCC area without prior written permission from the Director or authorized representative.
- B. The collection of fruit and berries from state prohibited plants is strictly forbidden per Chapter 317.25 of the Code of Iowa (Invasive Plants Prohibited).

**4.4 USE OF FIREARMS.** Chapter 461A.42 of the Code of Iowa, entitled "Use of firearms prohibited exceptions" is hereby modified under authority of Chapter 350.10 of the 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 these areas with official signs to notify the public of this lawful activity.

- A. No shooting of firearms of any kind is allowed unless related to the act of hunting. However, a person may legally possess and carry a firearm in accordance with state law. The use of that firearm is prohibited. "Use" is defined as brandishing, bartering, striking with, firing, or attempting to fire the weapon.
- B. It is unlawful to hunt migratory game birds or resident game or furbearers with a firearm while

possessing ammunition other than nontoxic ammunition in all SCC owned and managed areas. Skunk River Flats, Doolittle Prairie, and Colo Bog are not subject to this regulation but are subject to all State wildlife regulations.

C. Public hunting is allowed but limited to archery hunting only at the following property: Wicks Wildlife Area.

**4.5 BLINDS AND TREE STANDS RESTRICTED.** The use or construction of blinds or tree stands is prohibited except as follows. No person shall cut, sever, or alter or damage plant material or natural features to construct a blind or tree stand. No person will drive or place nails, spikes, pins, or other metal objects into trees to construct a blind or tree stand or to facilitate access to a blind or tree stand. Portable blinds or tree stands capable of being moved by one person from one location to another and capable of being removed daily may be used if these devices do not damage natural features.

**4.6 TRAINING AND EXERCISING DOGS.** Chapter 461A.45 of the Code of Iowa, entitled "Animals on Leash." is hereby modified under the authority of Chapter 350.10 of the Code of Iowa, as follows: It shall be unlawful to permit dogs to run at large for training or exercise, from March 15-July 15, in areas designated as hunting areas by the Board or zones within areas not open to hunting. The Board may close any area or portion of any area to all dogs and the training or exercising of dogs.

**4.7 HUNTING RESTRICTED.** It is unlawful to hunt, pursue, or molest birds or wild animals or to use firearms, fireworks, explosives, and weapons of all kinds, except as otherwise provided by law, in areas not designated as a hunting area by the Board.

**4.8 NOISE PRODUCING DEVICES.** It is unlawful to operate or use any radio, television, stereo, musical instrument, electric generating plants, power saws, or any similar equipment in any area that creates excessive noise and/or disturbs other people. This equipment under no circumstances can be used between 10:30 PM and 5:00 AM.

**4.9 RECREATION USES.** It is unlawful for any person to occupy any area for washing or repairing vehicles, advertising, political campaigning, hawking, peddling, or any other commercial activity or any other purpose not primarily recreational, except concessionaires acting under a contract or authorization issued by the SCC Board, its Director, or an authorized representative.

**4.10 SPECIAL EVENTS.**

- A. A permit is required to hold an event meeting the following criteria on SCC owned or managed land:
  - 1. Any event or gathering not sponsored by SCC and including 250 people or more.
  - 2. Any event or gathering charging admission or charging for services regardless of the number of people.
  - 3. Any event utilizing a party tent, amplified music, bounce houses, slip and slides, or in-ground stakes/signs.
- B. The following conditions and provisions apply to those seeking a special event permit:
  - 1. The permit application must be filed with SCC at least 30 days before the event or gathering.
  - 2. A certificate of liability insurance is required for all special events. The applicant must provide proof of liability coverage (minimum of \$1 million) and must list Story County Conservation and Story County, Iowa as additional insured for the event before the permit will be approved.
  - 3. A non-refundable filing fee of \$75.00 must be submitted with the application.
  - 4. Sanitary facilities are provided (in addition to any already present at the proposed site) for special events at a minimum rate of one unit per 50 people. The applicant is responsible for payment of these facilities.

5. Security is required for events or gatherings of 250 people or more at a minimum rate of one uniformed officer per 250 people. The applicant must arrange and pay for all security costs. Contracts with third parties are included with the application and subject to approval of the Director or authorized representative.
6. First aid personnel may be required at the discretion of the Director or authorized representative at special events. The applicant must arrange and pay for all first aid personnel. Contracts with third parties are included with the application and subject to approval of the Director or authorized representative.
7. Any event requiring a permit must not exceed the natural or physical limits of the proposed site or facility.
8. The Director or an authorized representative reserves the right to review all applications and deny a permit based on failure to meet any or all requirements.
9. The recipient of a permit agrees to indemnify, defend, and hold SCC and its employees harmless from any action or liability arising from the proposed event or gathering.
10. Waivers or additional requirements must be agreed upon by both SCC and the recipient of the permit, signed and dated, and included with the special events permit application.
11. All local and state laws apply.

**4.11 USE OF HORSES RESTRICTED.** It is unlawful to ride, lead, or allow the entry or use of horses or horse-drawn wagons on any areas, except public roads and parking areas. The Board shall designate trails and roads for the use of horses. The Director or an authorized representative may, by issuing a permit, allow horse use on any area. (For exceptions, see CHAPTER 5.3 EAST AND WEST PETERSON, 5.4 HEART OF IOWA NATURE TRAIL, 5.7 PRAERI RAIL TRAIL, and 5.8, portions of the SKUNK RIVER GREENBELT.)

**4.12 ATVs AND SNOWMOBILES RESTRICTED.** It is unlawful to operate any snowmobile, tote bike, air sled, swamp buggy, all-terrain vehicle, or other land conveyance propelled by a gasoline or electrical engine and running on wheels, tracks, or runners in any area, except for those trails, roads, and lake ice which the Board designates and those areas for which a permit has been issued. (For exceptions, see CHAPTER 5.2 DAKINS LAKE, 5.3 EAST AND WEST PETERSON PARK, 5.4 HEART OF IOWA NATURE TRAIL, 5.5 HICKORY GROVE PARK, and 5.7 PRAERI RAIL TRAIL.) Golf carts and off-road utility vehicles are allowed to operate on Story County Conservation managed roads during the hours of sunrise to sunset. All vehicles must be equipped, operated, insured, and identified in compliance with Iowa Code 321. Operators must have a valid driver's license and follow all park rules. Vehicles cannot be operated in a careless, reckless, or negligent manner. Operation is limited to roadways lying outside the city limits of any incorporated city which does not have an ordinance or other regulation in effect allowing such operations.

**4.13 TRAPPING.** It is unlawful to trap or attempt to trap any wild animal in any area not designated as a hunting area by the Board. Protection of areas and facilities is accomplished as needed by the Director or an authorized representative.

**4.14 SWIMMING RESTRICTED.** It is unlawful to swim, wade, or engage in related water activities in or on any pond or waters in any area, except for designated ponds or water clearly marked by official signs. Wading for the purpose of hunting or fishing is allowed. No swimming is allowed in swimming areas between sunset and sunrise. (For exceptions, see CHAPTER 5.3 EAST AND WEST PETERSON.)

**4.15 DOMESTIC REFUSE NOT PERMITTED.** It is unlawful to dispose of garbage, refuse, or litter from any household, business, or other place in SCC litter containers or on the ground in any area.

**4.16 BOATS UNATTENDED NOT PERMITTED.** It is unlawful to leave unattended any vessel for more than twelve consecutive hours, or between 10:30 PM - 5:00 AM. (For exceptions, see CHAPTER 5.2 DAKINS LAKE and 5.5 HICKORY GROVE PARK.)

**4.17 MOTOR VEHICLES UNATTENDED NOT PERMITTED.** It is unlawful to leave unattended any motor vehicle on any area after park hours without the permission of the Director or an authorized representative. Vehicles left in parks after park hours or in unauthorized areas may be towed at the discretion of the Director or authorized representative.

**4.18 OFFICIAL SIGNS.** It is unlawful for any person to enter, use, or occupy any area or facilities within the area in disregard of official signs. All signs are official signs.

**4.19 POSSESSION AND CONSUMPTION OF BEER OR ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE PROHIBITED.** Beer (with an alcohol content 5% or less by weight) and wine (with an alcohol content 17% or less by weight) can be consumed in county parks. Drinking of these beverages is not permitted on roads or in parking areas. Hard liquor (such as whiskey, vodka, etc.), wine with an alcohol content of more than 17% by weight or other alcoholic liquors are not to be consumed in parks and recreation areas. No person or group can bring, use, or have in their possession on any area, beer or alcoholic beverage in a keg or any other container larger than one gallon. (For exceptions, see CHAPTER 5.2 DAKINS LAKE, 5.3 EAST AND WEST PETERSON, 5.5 HICKORY GROVE PARK, and 5.6 MCFARLAND PARK.)

**4.20 METAL DETECTORS.** Metal detectors may be used in all SCC owned or managed land except in designated campgrounds and historic or archeological sites. All items found by metal detector are subject to the provisions of Iowa Code Chapter 556F.

**4.21 PARK HOURS.** All SCC owned or managed lands are open at 5:00 AM and close at 10:30 PM, in compliance with Chapter 461A.46 of the Code of Iowa (1993). (For exceptions, see CHAPTER 5.3 EAST AND WEST PETERSON, 5.5 HICKORY GROVE PARK, 5.6 MCFARLAND PARK, and 5.8 SKUNK RIVER GREENBELT.) During hunting and trapping seasons set by the state, SCC owned or managed lands designated as public hunting areas are exempt from designated park hours for hunting related activities only. State hunting and trapping rules and regulations apply in all Story County public hunting and trapping areas.

**4.22 WAR-LIKE AND OTHER DANGEROUS GAMES.** War-like games using weapon-type projectiles e.g. paintballs, and the use of any metal point darts, axe throwing, etc. are not allowed on SCC owned or managed land or water unless approved by the Director or an authorized representative or during a SCC program.

**4.23 SCUBA DIVING, SNORKELING, AND OPEN WATER SWIMMING.** Scuba diving and snorkeling are defined as swimming and are restricted to designated areas and hours specified by the Board. Certified divers or athletes training for distance swimming may be allowed outside of designated areas at West Peterson Park by permit issued from the Director or an authorized representative.

**4.24 ADA ACCESS AND UNLOADING.** Driveways to shelters and lodges may be used for vehicle access for loading or unloading, but vehicles may not be left unattended unless they display a persons with disabilities parking permit. Wheelchairs, scooters, and manually powered mobility aides are permitted for individuals with mobility impairment in all areas open to pedestrians in accordance with ADA Title II, Part 35.104 and ADA Title III, Part 36). Other power-driven mobility devices are allowed only on areas defined in an assessment and by SCC permit only. Approved permits are valid for a period of time not to exceed one year and can be renewed annually.

**4.25 CAMPING.** Camping is allowed at the following designated areas from April 1 to October 31: Dakins Lake (main campground [29 sites], east campground [8 sites], and east primitive [2 sites]), Hickory Grove Park (Breezy Bay campground [42 sites] and primitive area [11 sites]). All campsites are closed from November 1 to March 31. The Director may allow self-contained RV camping beyond this period for a reduced rate. Remote camping (1 site) is allowed year-round at Robison Wildlife Acres.

A. Reservable Campsites

1. Designated campsites are reservable.
2. Reservations for the next calendar year will be available after November 1 at [www.mycountyparks.com](http://www.mycountyparks.com).
3. Check-in/check-out time is 3 PM.
4. If not reserved, sites are available on a first-come, first-served basis by scanning a QR Code or visiting [www.mycountyparks.com](http://www.mycountyparks.com), for availability and to pay for the site.
5. No portable generators are allowed at the Hickory Grove Primitive Campground or at Dakins Lake East Campground Primitive sites.

B. Non-Reservable Campsites

1. Non-reservable camping sites are available on a first-come, first-served basis.
2. All campers must pay for the site upon arrival via the “instant pay” QR Code. The site is only available if vacant. If the site is occupied, that occupant has until 3:00 PM to either extend their reservation or vacate the site. Do not pay for a site that is currently occupied. We will not offer any refunds.
3. A camping unit, as defined in Chapter II.15, must be present and set up on the site before the site can be paid for/occupied.

C. Camping Rules are as follows (for exceptions, see CHAPTER 5.9 ROBISON WILDLIFE ACRES):

1. Campsite registration must be in the name of a person 18 years of age or older who will occupy the camping unit on that site for the full term of the registration.
2. One camping unit per campsite is allowed with an additional tent allowed for minor children. Tent-only camping (no trailers, RVs, or pull campers) is allowed at Hickory Grove Primitive Campground or at Dakins Lake East Campground primitive sites.
3. Trailers and campers must be parked on the camping pad.
4. Vehicles must be parked in designated campsites, off of the grass and the campground road. Additional vehicles and visitors must park in designated parking areas. A maximum of two vehicles per site is allowed.
5. Quiet hours are 10:30 PM to 7:00 AM; visitors must leave by 10:30 PM.
6. Loud and offensive noises of any kind, such as loud music, voices, or televisions that can be heard beyond the designated campsite are prohibited.
7. The occupancy limit is 14 consecutive days; campers are then required to leave the park for a minimum of 48 hours. Between April 1-30 and October 1-31, campers may be allowed to stay beyond the 14-day limit with written permission from a park ranger. Campers will be required to move to a different site after 14 days.
8. All pets must be leashed. Tying pets to trees or vegetation is prohibited. Animals shall not be allowed to become a public nuisance.
9. Trees or shrubs may not be cut or damaged in any way.
10. Daily check-in/check-out time is 3 PM.
11. No refunds are available for cancellations.
12. Campers may leave their vessels on the lake between 10:30 PM - 5:00 AM at the dock along the shoreline at Hickory Grove Breezy Bay Campground.
13. Campsites must be kept clean and orderly at all times.

14. Fires are allowed in designated receptacles only. No trash is allowed in fire rings.
15. No washing of vehicles or campers with park water is allowed.
16. No trash can be left at the camping site or in fire rings. All trash must be placed in dumpsters or trash cans.
17. All driving is confined to designated roadways and restricted to properly registered motor vehicles. Electric personal assistive mobility devices may be operated in accordance with the requirements of Section 321.235A (Electric personal assistive mobility devices) of the Iowa Code.
18. Dishwashing in lakes, ponds, rivers, and streams is prohibited.
19. Shower use at campgrounds is limited to registered campers only. Washing pets, clothes, or dishes in shower facilities is prohibited.
20. Unattended camping equipment may be removed or impounded as provided by law.
21. Speed limit is 5 MPH throughout the campground at all times. Radar is in use and citations may be issued.
22. The use of bounce houses and slip and slides are not allowed. (For exceptions, see CHAPTER 4.10 SPECIAL EVENTS.)
23. Firewood is available for purchase from the campground host.
24. The designated accessible campsite #29 at Dakins Lake, is only available for use by those individuals qualified as a person with a disability under Iowa Code 3211.1.

#### **4.26 SUPERVISED YOUTH CAMPING.**

Supervised youth camping is allowed only by advanced reservation at McFarland Park (1 site), Hickory Grove Park (1 site), Dakins Lake (1 site), and Robison Wildlife Acres (1 site) for recognized youth groups.

- A. Eligible groups shall consist of minor members of an established organization under the leadership of at least one adult (18 years of age or older) for every eight minors in the group.
- B. The following regulations will be enforced:
  1. Tent camping only is permitted.
  2. Adults must be in attendance during the entire encampment period.
  3. Camping is allowed in designated areas only, with vehicles and trailers restricted to parking areas.
  4. All activity after 10:30 PM shall be restricted to the camp area. Anyone found outside of the area is subject to a violation of park regulations. Quiet hours must be observed between 10:30 PM and 7:00 AM.
  5. Dishwashing in the lakes, ponds, rivers, and streams is prohibited.
  6. Fires are allowed in designated receptacles only.
  7. Other park regulations as posted shall apply.
- C. Payment of the reservation fee and damage deposit is due within 14 days of the verbal reservation. If the request is made within two weeks of the reservation date, payment is due according to the date listed on the reservation form. If payment is not received by the date specified, the reservation request is voided and the date made available to others.

**4.27 BALLOON RELEASES.** No person or entity shall intentionally release, organize the release of, or otherwise cause the release of balloons or any type of sky lantern into the atmosphere on SCC owned or managed land.

**4.28 RESEARCH PERMITS.** A research permit is required for all research conducted on SCC owned or managed land.

**4.29 BICYCLES.** Bicycles, as defined in Iowa Code **321.1(40)(c)**, may be used on all SCC owned or managed trails except in designated areas. (For exceptions, see CHAPTER 5.6 MCFARLAND PARK and 5.8 SKUNK RIVER GREENBELT.)

**4.30 FIREWORKS PROHIBITED.** The use of consumer fireworks or display fireworks, as defined in state code section 727.2, is prohibited on all SCC owned or managed land unless approved for an event by the Director or authorized representative.

**4.31 BOAT MOTORS.** It shall be lawful to use electric motors for boating purposes on all SCC lakes and ponds. Use of all non-electric outboard or inboard motor is prohibited unless granted permission by the Director or authorized representative.

**4.32 PARKING ORDINANCE.** On properties managed by Story County Conservation, any parking violation under State law or local regulation or ordinance may be charged against either the operator of the vehicle or the registered owner of the vehicle. All parking violations may be charged by affixing a notice of violation and fine on the vehicle so parked. Additional violations may be charged for every 24-hour period the violative condition persists. Vehicles with multiple unpaid tickets may be towed and impounded at the owner's expense.

The fine shall be paid to Story County, Iowa within 30 days of the date the notice of violation and fine was issued. If payment is not received within thirty days of the date the notice of violation and fine was issued, the fine amount will increase by \$5.00, and the violation may be charged and prosecuted before the Court in the same manner as other traffic violations.

#### **4.33 SNOWMOBILES ON TRAILS**

A. When there is 4 inches or more of snow, snowmobiles are allowed on designated trails (See 5.4 Heart of Iowa Nature Trail and 5.7 Prairie Rail Trail for allowances).

Those who operate snowmobiles on properties managed and approved for snowmobile use by County Conservation assume all liability for any harm or damage caused or incurred by snowmobile activities. On trails managed by County Conservation, snowmobiles must be operated in conformance with all State Statutes and the following regulations:

1. All snowmobiles are required to have fully functioning headlamps and tail lamps.
2. Snowmobiles must not be equipped with studded tracks.
3. Snowmobiles must yield to all pedestrians, bicycles, equine, and other traffic.
4. Snowmobiles must travel as near to the right side of the trail as safely possible.
5. Snowmobiles must travel at a rate of speed not to exceed 35 miles per hour and must reduce to a reasonably safe speed when approaching oncoming traffic and when passing slower moving traffic.
6. Snowmobiles must reduce to a reasonably safe speed when approaching turns, blind hills, and bridges.
7. Snowmobiles must not travel side by side, engage in drag racing, or engage in towing unless all of the following conditions are met 1) the tow sled is specifically manufactured for towing behind a snowmobile and equipped with a metal tow hitch tongue, 2) the tow sled is attached to the snowmobile with a metal bumper hitch specifically manufactured for that use.
8. Snowmobiles must not be operated on trails managed by County Conservation between 10:30 PM and 5:00 AM.

## CHAPTER V: STORY COUNTY CONSERVATION RULES - SPECIFIC AREAS

**5.1 SCOPE.** These rules and regulations apply to the specific areas listed.

### **5.2 DAKINS LAKE.**

- A. (See CHAPTER 4.25 CAMPING) The designated accessible campsite is only available for use by those individuals qualified under Iowa Code 321L.1.
- B. Swimming is prohibited.
- C. The park is closed to hunting and trapping.
- D. The shelter may be reserved from April 1 – October 31. Reservations must be made in advance through the SCC administrative office or online. Payment of the reservation fee and damage deposit is due within 14 days of a verbal reservation. There are no refunds for cancellations; however, an alternate date may be selected within the same calendar year. Events for the next calendar year may be scheduled after November 1 of the current year. If not reserved, the shelter is available on a first-come, first-served basis at no cost. The kitchenette is available for use only with a reservation.

Consumption of beer and wine (bottles, cans, or kegs) is allowed at the shelter during the reservation period. The renter must declare prior to the reservation if alcohol will be present. Failure to notify SCC of the presence of alcohol prior to the rental will result in the forfeiture of the damage deposit. Additionally, any persons in possession of or consuming beer/wine without paying the deposit will be subject to a fine, forfeiture of the rental, and/or confiscation of the beer/wine at the ranger's discretion.

The responsible person on the contract shall ensure that all persons consuming beer/wine at the event are of a legal age.

- E. Golf carts and off-road utility vehicles are allowed to operate on the roads at Dakins Lake during the hours of sunrise to sunset. In compliance with Iowa Code 321I, all vehicles must be equipped with adequate brakes, a slow-moving vehicle sign, a bicycle safety flag, and carry no more than the number of passengers designated by the manufacturer. Operators must have a valid driver's license and follow all park rules. Vehicles cannot be operated in a careless, reckless, or negligent manner.

Golf carts, ATVs, and off-road utility vehicles are allowed to operate on the lake ice at Dakins Lake during posted park hours.

- F. Snowmobiling is allowed during posted park hours on lake ice only. Operation must be in compliance with Iowa Code 321G.
- G. Shore fishing is allowed after park hours. Fishing boats are allowed on the lake surface between 10:30 PM and 5:00 AM.

### **5.3 EAST AND WEST PETERSON.**

- A. The park is open to public hunting and subject to all rules applying to game management except that hunting is limited to the use of shotgun, bow and arrow, and black powder rifle only. No rimfire or centerfire rifles or handguns are allowed.

**B. Swimming Beach Rules and Regulations.**

1. Users of the beach facility at West Peterson Park are subject to the following rules and regulations:
  - a) The beach area is closed and swimming is prohibited from sunset to sunrise.
  - b) Swimming is allowed inside the roped area only when the beach is open. Swimming from a boat or other type of watercraft is prohibited.
  - c) Certified divers or athletes training for long distance swimming may be allowed outside of the roped area by permit from the Director or an authorized representative.
2. The following are prohibited at the beach area:
  - a) Hanging from or attaching people or items to buoys.
  - b) Using abusive language.
  - c) Using glass containers.
  - d) Amplification greater than 75 decibels.
  - e) Using external speakers from the parking lot.
  - f) Dunking people.
  - g) Unruly behavior.
  - h) Standing on inflatable beach items in the water.
  - i) Fishing and boating from the beach or in the beach area.
  - j) Using paddles or oars from inflatable beach items.
  - k) Pets.

C. Horses are permitted on designated trails.

D. Shore fishing is allowed after park hours. Fishing boats are allowed on the lake surface between 10:30 PM and 5:00 AM.

E. No alcohol of any kind or size can be possessed or consumed at West Peterson Park.

F. Snowmobiles, ATVs, and off-road utility vehicles are allowed to operate on the lake ice only during posted park hours. Operation must be in compliance with Iowa Code 321G.

**5.4 HEART OF IOWA NATURE TRAIL.**

A. Hunting and trapping is not allowed on the trail.

B. Horses are allowed on the mowed grass portions of the trail.

C. Snowmobiles may be operated on the trail per CHAPTER 4.33 SNOWMOBILES ON TRAILS.

**5.5 HICKORY GROVE PARK.**

A. Camping - (See CHAPTER 4.25 CAMPING)

**B. Swimming Beach Rules and Regulations.**

1. Users of the beach facility are subject to the following rules and regulations:
  - a) The beach area is closed and swimming is prohibited from sunset to sunrise.
  - b) Swimming is allowed inside the roped area only when the beach is open. Swimming from a boat or other type of watercraft is prohibited.
2. The following are prohibited at the beach area:
  - a) Hanging from or attaching people or items to buoys.
  - b) Using abusive language.
  - c) Use of alcoholic beverages, liquors, and glass containers.
  - d) Amplification greater than 75 decibels or using external speakers from the parking lot.

- e) Sitting or standing on another's shoulders or back, throwing people, jumping on top of people.
  - f) Dunking people.
  - g) Unruly behavior.
  - h) Standing on inflatable beach items in the water.
  - i) Fishing and boating from the beach or in the beach area.
  - j) Using paddles or oars from inflatable beach items.
  - k) Pets.
- C. Snowmobiles, ATVs, and off-road utility vehicles are allowed to operate on the lake ice only during posted park hours. Snowmobiles, ATVs, and off-road utility vehicles are not allowed in game management areas. Operation of such vehicles must be in compliance with Iowa Code 321G and 321I.
- D. Shore fishing is allowed on the south side of the lake (between the shop and the tubes on 680<sup>th</sup>) after park hours. Fishing boats are allowed on the lake surface between the hours of 10:30 PM and 5:00 AM.
- E. Open picnic shelters are available on a first-come, first-served basis at no cost. Oriole Ridge Lodge and Snow Bunting Lodge may be reserved from April 1 – October 31. Reservations must be made in advance through the SCC administrative office or online. Payment of the reservation fee and damage deposit is due within 14 days of a verbal reservation. There are no refunds for cancellations; however, an alternate date may be selected within the same calendar year. Events for the next calendar year may be scheduled after November 1 of the current year.

Consumption of beer and wine (bottles, cans, or kegs) is allowed at the lodges during the reservation period. The renter must declare prior to the reservation if alcohol will be present. Failure to notify SCC of the presence of alcohol prior to the rental will result in the forfeiture of the damage deposit. Additionally, any persons in possession of or consuming beer/wine without paying the deposit will be subject to a fine, forfeiture of the rental, and/or confiscation of the beer/wine at the ranger's discretion.

The responsible person on the contract shall ensure that all persons consuming beer/wine at the event are of a legal age.

- F. No alcohol of any kind or size can be possessed or consumed at the beach area. The no alcohol area extends from the north boat ramp (not including the ramp area) to and including the Supervised Youth Camping Area.
- G. Users of the archery range are subject to the following rules and regulations. Individuals participating in unsafe practices may be asked to leave the park.
1. Only archery equipment is allowed on the range.
  2. No firearms shall be used on the archery range.
  3. The downrange area must be unoccupied prior to and during shooting.
  4. Shooting is allowed only from the firing line.
  5. No camping is allowed in the archery range area.
  6. Range hours are from sunrise to a half hour after sunset.
  7. No tree stands are permitted.
  8. No broadheads shall be used on Story County-provided targets.

## **5.6 MCFARLAND PARK.**

### **A. Conservation Center Library.**

1. The public may view library materials during business hours.
2. Circulation of materials up to 30 days is granted with staff approval.
3. Donations to the library will be reviewed by a group of conservation staff. SCC reserves the right to refuse donations.

### **B. Conservation Center Multipurpose Room.**

1. When not utilized by SCC, the multipurpose room is available for rent between 7:00 AM and 10:00 PM.
2. Reservations must be made in advance through the SCC office. Payment of the reservation fee and damage deposit is due within 14 days of a verbal reservation. There are no refunds for cancellations; however, an alternate date may be selected within the same calendar year. Events for the next calendar year may be scheduled after November 1 of the current year as follows:
  - a) As of November 1, reservations for the remainder of the current year, January through May and December of the following year are accepted. Reservations for June to November are not allowed at this time.
  - b) As of January 2, reservations for June, July, and August will be accepted. Reservations for partner organization reservations for September, October, and November may be taken as long as they know children may be in the building. September, October, and November reservations remain closed to the general public.
  - c) As of September, reservations for September, October, and November will be accepted.
3. An "Application for Fee Waiver" form is available upon request. The Director or an authorized representative will make fee waiver decisions.
4. Consumption of beer and wine (bottles, cans, or kegs) is allowed at the rental facility for the reservation period. The renter must declare prior to the rental if alcohol will be present. Failure to notify SCC of the presence of alcohol prior to the rental will result in the forfeiture of the damage deposit. Additionally, any persons in possession of or consuming beer/wine without paying the deposit will be subject to a fine, forfeiture of the rental, and/or confiscation of the beer/wine at the ranger's discretion.

The responsible person on the contract shall ensure that all persons consuming beer/wine at the event are of a legal age.

5. No smoking is allowed in the facility. Designated smoking areas are limited to the sidewalks adjacent to streets.

### **C. The observatory is owned and operated by the Ames Area Amateur Astronomers and is open during public star parties and by special request. Astronomers events are allowed in the park between the hours of 10:30 PM and 5:00 AM.**

### **D. Bicycles shall not be ridden on trail segments as designated by official signs.**

## **5.7 PRAERI RAIL TRAIL.**

### **A. Snowmobiles may be operated on the trail per CHAPTER 4.33 SNOWMOBILES ON TRAILS.**

### **B. Horses are allowed on the mowed grass portions of the trail only and should stay off concrete.**

## **5.8 SKUNK RIVER GREENBELT.**

### **A. The portion of the greenbelt from E18 to Anderson Canoe Access is open to horses.**

- B. Fishing is allowed between the hours of 10:30 PM and 5:00 AM along county-managed greenbelt sections.
- C. Bicycles shall not be ridden on trail segments as designated by official signs.

### **5.9 ROBISON WILDLIFE ACRES.**

- A. Remote camping (one site) is allowed. Reservations can be made at [www.mycountyparks.com](http://www.mycountyparks.com). If not reserved, the site is available on a first-come, first-served basis by scanning the QR Code or visiting [www.mycountyparks.com](http://www.mycountyparks.com), for availability and to pay for the site. The following regulations are enforced:
  - 1. Tent camping only in the designated camping site.
  - 2. Vehicles and trailers are restricted to the parking area.
  - 3. Camp site occupancy is limited to three days and six people.
  - 4. Dishwashing or swimming in the lake, pond, river, or streams is prohibited.
  - 5. Fires are allowed in the designated fire ring only.
  - 6. Campers must carry out all trash.
  - 7. Activity after 10:30 PM is restricted to the camp site. Quiet must be observed from 10:30 PM to 7:00 AM.
  - 8. Check out time is 3:00 PM daily.
  - 9. Other park regulations as posted apply.

## **CHAPTER VI: FEES**

**6.1 SCOPE.** Fees or charges for services, facilities, equipment, materials, or supplies are collected by the SCC or authorized concessionaires and approved by the Board according to Chapter 350.4(7) of the Code of Iowa (1993).

**6.2 RETURNED CHECK FEES.** Returned checks, which include insufficient funds, unsigned checks, etc., will be charged a \$30.00 per check fee.

**6.3 EQUIPMENT RENTAL FEES.** The following are equipment rental and service fees:

- A. 10' Native grass/forb drill @ \$15.00/acre (minimum charge of \$25.00)
- B. 8' Native grass/forb seed drill @ \$15.00/acre (minimum charge of \$25.00)
- C. 6' Native grass/forb seed drill with no-till @ \$15.00/acre (minimum charge of \$25.00)
- D. 3-point broadcast seeders @ \$5.00/acre (minimum charge of \$25.00)
- E. Cultipacker @ \$8.00/acre (minimum charge of \$25.00)
- F. 15' disc @ \$5.00/acre (minimum charge of \$25.00)
- G. Mounted tree planter @ \$25.00/day
- H. Tree planter bars @ \$.50/bar/day
- I. Live animal traps @ \$5.00/week
- J. Custom planting fees - \$50.00 per acre (minimum charge \$150.00)

K. Custom mowing fees (native vegetation) - \$12.00/acre (minimum charge \$150.00)

L. A \$20.00 cleaning charge may be assessed.

**6.4 CAMPING FEES.** Camping is available April 1 - October 31. All campsites are closed from November 1 - March 31 except for remote camping at Robison Wildlife Acres and exceptions approved by the Director or an authorized representative.

A. Hickory Grove Park.

1. Breezy Bay:

a) 42 sites with electricity – \$23.00/night

b) If camping is allowed during the off season - \$15.00/night.

2. Primitive Campground:

a) 11 sites – \$15.00/night

B. Dakins Lake.

1. Main Campground:

a) 18 sites with electricity and water – \$23.00/night

b) 11 sites with electricity, water, and sewer – \$27.00/night

c) If camping is allowed during the off season - \$15.00/night.

2. East Campground:

a) 8 sites with electricity and water – \$23.00/night

b) 2 primitive sites – \$15.00/night

C. Robison Wildlife Acres.

Remote Camping Area: \$10.00/night

D. Supervised Youth Camping.

\$25.00/night

E. Late Fees.

If a campground attendant or ranger needs to locate campers to collect fees, a \$5.00 fee may be assessed.

**6.5 FIREWOOD.** Firewood will be sold by private vendor under contract with SCC.

**6.6 LODGES, BUILDINGS, AND FACILITIES RENTAL FEES.**

A. Dakins Lake Shelter.

7:00 AM – 10:00 PM - \$50.00

B. Hickory Grove Park.

1. Oriole Ridge Lodge. Capacity: 100 people

7:00 AM – 10:00 PM - \$75.00

2. Snow Bunting Lodge. Capacity: 75 people

7:00 AM – 10:00 PM - \$50.00

C. McFarland Park.

1. Conservation Center - four-hour minimum.

Monday-Friday, 7:00 AM-5:00 PM - \$30.00 per hour

5:00 PM-10:00 PM - \$50.00 per hour

Saturday-Sunday, 7:00 AM-10:00 PM - \$75.00 per hour

2. Youth groups will be charged \$15.00 per hour with a two-hour minimum.

**6.7 DEPOSITS.** All or a portion of any deposit may be withheld if additional clean-up or repairs beyond normal maintenance are required. Staff time for clean-up will be charged in one-hour increments at \$30/hour (one-hour minimum). These deposits are not a limit of liability for damage to county property. Facility renters are responsible for any damage done to SCC facilities and grounds. The Board may utilize all legal remedies to recover damages.

- A. A damage deposit of \$100.00 is required for rental of any SCC facility. If alcohol (beer/wine) is being consumed--cans, bottles, or one keg--the damage deposit is \$200.00. For two kegs (more than two kegs is prohibited) – the damage deposit is \$275.00.
- B. A damage deposit of \$50.00 is required for all supervised youth camping reservations.

**6.8 ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION FEES.**

- A. \$1.25 per student enrolled in the school attendance center for multiple programs; OR \$1.25 per student per program (minimum charge of \$20.00) with either option decided in advance by each school attendance center.
- B. There are no fees for civic groups for environmental education programs. A \$25.00 donation per every 20 people is suggested to cover preparation and travel costs.
- C. For-profit, non-educational businesses are charged \$35.00 per hour for environmental education programs.

**6.9 PERMIT FEES.** Fees are charged for the following SCC permits:

- A. Scuba diving/snorkeling - \$5.00/year
- B. Open swimming - \$5.00/year
- C. Special events - \$75.00/permit application
- D. Temporary vendor contract - \$25.00/day
- E. No Spray Request - \$5.00/year

**6.10 OFFICE FEES.** The following fees are charged for SCC office services.

- A. Copy fee - \$.10/sheet
- B. Fax copies - \$1.00/page

**6.11 SNOWSHOE RENTAL FEES.**

- A. Monday – Friday - \$5.00/pair/1/2 day
- B. Weekend rental - Friday - Monday - \$20.00/pair/weekend
- C. Late fee - \$10.00/day/pair if not returned by noon on check-in date