



PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS - STATE LAND RULES

REGULATIONS OF LANDS ADMINISTERED BY THE MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES



(This excerpt contains rules relevant to State Parks and Recreation Areas, Effective Jan. 29, 2014)

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.

GENERAL RULES (History: 2001 AACs; 2014 MR2, Eff. Jan. 29, 2014)

R 299.922 - Unlawful acts generally. Rule 22 - On land owned or under the control of the department, it is unlawful to do any of the following:

- (a) Enter, use, or occupy state-owned land for any purpose where posted against entry, use, or occupancy, as ordered by the department.
- (b) Dispose of refuse, rubbish, trash, or garbage not resulting from the use of state-owned land in a receptacle provided on state-owned land.
- (c) Set a fire to the contents of a trash container.
- (d) Bury or burn refuse, rubbish, trash, or garbage.
- (e) Engage in any violent, abusive, loud, boisterous, vulgar, lewd, or otherwise disorderly conduct, or to lounge, sit, or lie upon a walk, road, or path obstructing the free passage of another individual.
- (f) Place or erect a fence or barrier, to install, construct or occupy a structure or modification to state-owned land, except an otherwise lawful ground blind or tree stand, or to enclose the land.
- (g) Move, remove, destroy, mutilate, or deface a poster, notice, sign, marker, or any property of the department or any other agency of government.
- (h) Destroy, damage, or remove a tree, including a dead and downed tree and woody debris, shrub, wildflower, grass, or other vegetation. Except in a wildlife food plot, this subdivision does not apply to picking and removing mushrooms, berries, and edible fruits or nuts for personal use.
- (i) Solicit business of any nature; distribute or post any handbill or other advertising material; post a sign; paint or otherwise mark any tree or rock on any state-owned land, water, structure, or property, except with written permission from the department.
- (j) Possess a glass container within any state-owned land or water area that is designated as a bathing beach or a state-owned land or water area that is regularly used for sunbathing, swimming, or wading.
- (k) Obstruct any road or trail in a manner that hinders public access to state-owned land.
- (l) Park a vehicle of any type in an area posted as no parking; or, where a designated parking area exists, to park a vehicle of any type in an area other than the designated parking area. If a motor vehicle is found parked on state-owned land and is found to be in violation of this rule, the registered owner is prima facie responsible for the violation as defined in MCL 257.675c(1).
- (m) Park any vehicle in or otherwise occupy a designated campsite, except by a registered camper or authorized visitor to a registered camper.
- (n) Hold an event including, but not limited to, a race, endurance contest, tournament, or trail ride, unless the event is conducted pursuant to a permit issued by the department. The permit may include a charge to the permittee for the use of state-owned land. The permit may require a performance bond and may require public liability insurance. The department may waive the requirement for a permit for an event if the department determines that the event will not require department oversight, and the event is anticipated to have a minimal impact on the resource or facilities and on the use of state-owned land by others.
- (o) Use a loudspeaker, public address system, or sound-amplifying equipment of any kind without written permission, 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.
- (p) Use or operate any wheeled, motorized vehicle, except a PAMD, on state-owned land 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.
- (q) Use or operate any wheeled, motorized vehicle, except a PAMD, on state-owned land 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 to 257.923, may be operated on a forest road not otherwise posted as closed to the use of motorized vehicles.
- (r) Camp in a state park, recreation area, public access site, or designated campground on other than a designated site.
- (s) Camp in a designated campground or location in a state forest or state game area for more than 15 consecutive nights, except as provided in R 299.922(t), or to use as a permanent or semi-permanent residence. To be considered a new camp, the location shall be not less than 1 mile from the previous camp.
- (t) Disperse camp for more than 21 days between October 1 and May 1. To be considered a new camp, the location shall be not less than 1 mile from the previous camp.
- (u) Camp within the native vegetation buffer of any designated natural river, as specified in the department's designated natural river management plan.
- (v) Leave a campsite unoccupied for more than a 24-hour period after the camp is established.
- (w) Store or leave a watercraft, fish shanty, or other property on state-owned land for more than 24 hours. This subdivision does not apply to a lawfully occupied designated camping site or to a ground blind and tree stand that meets lawful requirements.
- (x) Camp on 1 designated campsite by more than 6 individuals.
- (y) For all individuals in a camp to be under 18 years of age.
- (z) For an individual under 18 years of age to register for a campsite.
- (aa) Camp with more than 1 enclosed self-contained camping unit on 1 designated campsite.
- (bb) Ride or lead a horse or pack and saddle 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-owned forest land not posted closed to such use or entry, or prohibited by an order issued by the department.
- (cc) Operate the motor of a vessel at more than idle speed at any boat launch ramp administered by the department, unless the propeller is disengaged.
- (dd) Use state-owned land for a commercial operation unless the commercial operation is conducted pursuant to a permit issued by the department. The department may waive the requirement for a permit for a commercial operation if the department determines that the commercial operation will not require department oversight and the commercial operation is anticipated to have a minimal impact on the resource or facilities and the use of state-owned land by others.
- (ee) Use or ignite fireworks.
- (ff) Camp in a designated parking area, except if posted to allow camping.
- (gg) Drag a state forest road with any device that disturbs the surface of the roadbed at a depth greater than two inches.

(hh) Remove from state-owned land more than the aggregate total weight of 25 pounds, per individual per year of any rock, mineral specimen (exclusive of any gold bearing material), or invertebrate fossil for individual or non-commercial hobby use.

(ii) Target shoot at any object other than paper, cardboard, clay, or a commercially or privately produced target designed and manufactured for the specific purpose of target shooting.

(jj) Target shoot at explosive or incendiary target.

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, recreation areas, forest campgrounds, and pathway trailheads, it is unlawful to do any of the following:

- (a) Enter or remain in a campground, outdoor center, cabin area, or day campsite between the hours of 10 p.m. and 8 a.m., unless the individual is a lawfully registered occupant. An individual shall not enter or remain in a day-use area between the hours of 10 p.m. and 8 a.m., except as posted otherwise.
- (b) Discharge an air gun, gas gun, spring-loaded gun, or slingshot; or to discharge a bow and arrow or crossbow, except if licensed to take game during established hunting seasons on state-owned land designated open to hunting under the authority of the department. This subdivision does not apply to a shooting range designated by the department or to a starting gun for a field trial. An individual shall not engage in target shooting, except on a designated shooting range.
- (c) Obtain a camping permit for use by a camping party of which the individual is not a member.
- (d) 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, the party is not eligible to return until 5 nights have elapsed.
- (e) Use a campground for a permanent or semi-permanent residence.
- (f) Ride a bicycle of any kind, except on a pathway, road, parking lot, or a designated, signed bicycle trail.
- (g) Park more than 2 motor vehicles on 1 campsite or in a campground, except 2 motorcycles may be substituted for each motor vehicle if each is operated by a registered camper.
- (h) Build a fire, except in a designated place.
- (i) Enter a campground, if not a registered camper, unless with permission from a park manager or designee. This subdivision does not apply to an individual visiting a registered camper.
- (j) Allow a dog or other animal within a state-owned water or land area as designated by park manager or designee as a bathing beach or to bring a dog or other animal, except a service animal for the blind, visually, or physically impaired, into an enclosed park building or to leave a dog or other animal unattended; or to permit a dog or other animal to run loose or create a disturbance unless the dog is being used in hunting, or in a field trial, or while being trained on state-owned land open to such use; or to fail to properly control a dog or other animal. Any dog or other animal found not in the possession of or under the immediate control of its owner or owner's agent, or any dog or other animal creating a nuisance or disturbance, may be removed from the park, recreation area, or state forest campground by the department.
- (k) Possess a dog or other animal unless it is under immediate control on a leash not more than 6 feet in length. This subdivision does not apply to a dog being used for hunting, or in field trials, or while being trained, when upon state-owned land open to such use, or within a designated leash-free area.
- (l) Ride or allow a horse or other pack and saddle animal in any area, except for a designated equestrian trail or equestrian campground, or when in compliance with a permit issued for a field dog trial.
- (m) Camp without a camping permit issued by the department.
- (n) Conduct scientific research without written authorization from the department.
- (o) Camp or place a camp of any type in a designated forest campground without first completing the camp registration tag, depositing the payment of the posted camping fee in the receptacle provided, and posting the camp registration tag at the campsite. The camp registration tag shall be furnished by the department and be available at the campground.
- (p) Operate an ORV in a designated campground, except for entrance to and departure from a designated ORV campground or by order of the department.
- (q) Use, operate, or possess a wheeled, motorized vehicle, except for a PAMD, on a designated state forest pathway.
- (r) Knowingly cause any noise that may disturb another during quiet hours.

VIOLATION OF RULES; eviction (History: Eff. Jan. 29, 2014)

Rule 29. In addition to any other penalty prescribed by law, violation of any of these rules may result in eviction from the state park, recreation area, access site, game or wildlife area, designated campground, or state-owned land for not less than 48 hours, or as defined by court order.

R 299.930 Individuals exempt from rules.

Rule 30. Department employees acting in the line of duty are exempt from these rules.

PENALTY, MCL 324.504 (Excerpt) (History: 1994, Act 451, 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.

The Michigan Department of Natural Resources (DNR) provides equal opportunities for employment and access to Michigan's natural resources. Both state and federal laws prohibit discrimination on the basis of race, color, national origin, religion, disability, age, sex, height, weight or marital status under the U.S. Civil Rights Acts of 1964 as amended, 1976 MI PA 453, 1976 MI PA 220, Title V of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 as amended, and the 1990 Americans with Disabilities Act, as amended. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity, or facility, or if you desire additional information, please write: Human Resources, Michigan Department of Natural Resources, PO Box 30028, Lansing MI 48909-7528, or Michigan Department of Civil Rights, Cadillac Place, 3054 W. Grand Blvd., Ste 3-600, Detroit, MI 48202, or Division of Federal Assistance, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 4401 North Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop MBSP-4020, Arlington, VA 22203. For information or assistance on this publication, contact Parks and Recreation, Michigan DNR, PO Box 30257, Lansing MI 48909-7757. Telephone 517-284-7275. This publication is available in alternative formats upon request.