



# PUBLIC ACCESS SITES AND HARBORS - 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.

### R299.923 Public access site 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 to do any of the following:

- (a) Moor or raft off a state-owned dock without having paid the docking fees authorized by the department.
- (b) Enter, use, or occupy during the hours of 11:00 p.m. to 4:00 a.m. daily where such closing hours are posted on the premises; or to swim, wade, or bathe where specifically prohibited by notices posted on the premises.
- (c) Block use of a public access site with a vessel, trailer, or vehicle, except while launching or retrieving a vessel.
- (d) Camp in a public access site, except on a designated campsite.
- (e) Build a fire except in a stove or grill provided by the department.

### 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.

**MCL 324.41325** Boat, boating equipment, or boat trailer with aquatic plant attached; placement in state waters prohibited; order to remove aquatic plants; notice; posting; violation as civil infraction; penalty; definitions.

- (1) A person shall not place a boat, boating equipment, or boat trailer in the waters of this state if the boat, boating equipment, or boat trailer has an aquatic plant attached.
- (2) A law enforcement officer may order the owner or operator of a boat, boating equipment, or boat trailer to remove aquatic plants from the boat, boating equipment, or boat trailer. The owner or operator shall obey such an order.
- (3) The department shall prepare a notice that contains a summary of subsections (1), (2), (4), (5), and (6) and shall make copies of the notice available to owners of public boating access sites. The department shall include the notice in relevant department publications and post the notice on its website.
- (4) The owner of a public boating access site shall post and maintain the notice described in subsection (3).
- (5) A person who violates subsection (1), (2), or (4) is responsible for a state civil infraction and may be ordered to pay a civil fine of not more than \$100.00.
- (6) As used in this section:
  - (a) "Aquatic plant" means a submergent, emergent, or floating-leaf plant or a fragment or seed thereof. Aquatic plant does not include wild rice (*Zizania aquatica*).
  - (b) "Boat" means a vessel as defined in section 80104, and "boating" has a corresponding meaning.

### 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.

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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 517-284-7275. This publication is available in alternative formats upon request.