JEFFERSON COUNTY PARKS ORDINANCE
(Ordinance No. 1998-27)

The County Board of Supervisors of Jefferson County, Wisconsin, do ordain as follows:

SECTION 8.01. TITLE. This ordinance shall be known as, referred to or cited as the Jefferson County Parks Ordinance.

SECTION 8.02. PURPOSE. The County of Jefferson owns and maintains land in the county designated as county parks and recreation trails for the use and enjoyment of residents and visitors. This ordinance provides rules to protect such parks and county recreation trails and to enable people to use such parks and recreation trails for recreational purposes without unwarranted interference or obstruction occasioned by inconsistent uses.

SECTION 8.03. COUNTY PARKS COMMITTEE. The County Parks Committee shall be as established by County Board Rules. Said Committee shall have charge and supervision of all county parks and recreation trails and all lands heretofore or hereafter designated by the Jefferson County Board for park and recreational purposes. The County Parks Committee shall establish rules for an Adopt-A-Trail Program for county recreation trails which program shall be administered by the Department Director. (Ord. No. 2012-12, 08-13-2012)

SECTION 8.04. GROUP MEETINGS. Public meetings, assemblies, music festivals, rock festivals, political events involving an anticipated attendance of more than 20 persons are prohibited within the limits of any park unless a written permit of the Parks Committee has been first granted and then only in areas designated by the Parks Committee. Prior to issuance of a permit, the applicant shall disclose the anticipated number of persons expected to attend, arrangements for sanitation and garbage disposal, whether an electrically amplified sound system will be used, and, if so, its output. The Parks Committee will review the application to determine whether such use can be accommodated after consideration of existing facilities, traffic access, parking availability, adequate sanitation and waste disposal, adjacent uses, and the effects of the proposed use on other lawful users of the park. The Parks Committee may establish conditions for issuance of the permit, including reasonable security for costs which may result due to such use.

SECTION 8.05. SALES AND SOLICITATION. (1) No person shall sell, or offer for sale, any article, merchandise or thing or solicit for any trade, occupation, business or profession within any park without a written permit of the Parks Committee.

(2) No person shall distribute, post, or display any handbill, sign, placard, or advertisement of any kind within any park or on a recreation trail without a written permit of the Parks Committee. The word "distribute" shall include the scattering of printed matter from aircraft.

SECTION 8.06. HUNTING, TRAPPING, FIREARMS, FIREWORKS, FIRES AND RUBBISH. (1) No person may take, catch, kill, hunt, trap, disturb or pursue any wild animal or bird, discharge any firearm, or have in his or her possession or under his or her control any firearm or air gun as defined in s. 932.22, Wis. Stats., unless it is unloaded and enclosed in a carrying case, or any bow, slingshot or spring-loaded device designed for shooting a projectile unless the same is

unstrung or enclosed in a carrying case while in any park except in connection with a hunting activity or event where specifically allowed by written permit issued by the parks director or designee, and then only in strict conformity with the conditions stated in the written permit. The prohibition of possession of a firearm shall not apply to a licensee as defined by s. 175.60(1)(d), or (g), Wis. Stats. No person shall discharge any fireworks of any description in a park without a written permit authorized by the Parks Committee and any other authority required by law. The Parks Committee may establish conditions for issuance of the permit, including reasonable security for costs which may result due to such use. [am. 03/08/11, Ord. 2010-30; Ord. No. 2012-27, 02-12-2013]

(2) No person shall make or maintain a fire for any purpose except in places provided or in portable metal grills. Notwithstanding the foregoing, no person shall make or maintain any fire of any kind, including fireworks, smoking, grilling, disposing of matches, ashes, charcoal or otherwise when the Parks Director has given notice of a burning ban within the parks. (Ord. No. 2012-12, 08-13-2012)

(3) No person shall deposit cans, bottles, food, garbage or other discarded material except in waste containers provided.

(4) No person shall deposit in park waste containers trash not related to park use.

(5) The Parks Committee is authorized to adopt rules regulating hunting and trapping on park property. Such rules shall require the issuance of written permits for persons authorized and may assess an appropriate fee for the permit. Violation of any rule or permit condition shall constitute a violation of this ordinance and be subject to the penalties set forth herein. [am. 06/08/04, Ord. 2004-11; 03/08/11, Ord. 2010-30]

SECTION 8.07. ANIMALS IN PARKS OR ON RECREATION TRAILS. (1) No person having the control or care of a dog shall permit such dog to enter or remain in a park or on a recreation trail unless it is on a leash not longer than 6 feet. Dogs found running at large within a park or on a recreation trail may be impounded by a humane officer or a deputy sheriff. No person having the control or care of a dog in a park shall fail to remove and properly dispose of excrement deposited by said dog in a park.

(2) No person having the control or care of a horse shall permit such horse to enter or remain in a park or on a recreation trail.

(3) Notwithstanding Subsection (1), pets of any kind shall be prohibited in Lower Rock Lake Park, being that portion of the park between C.T.H. "B" and Park Lane Road.

(4) (a) Not withstanding (1), dogs may be off leash in areas so designated in Bicentennial Park, which shall also be known as the Jefferson County Dog Park.

(b) The Parks Committee may adopt rules for the use of the dog park. Such rules shall be posted on signs at the park. Violation of any rule so posted shall constitute a violation of this ordinance and subject the violator to the penalties set forth herein.

1. The Parks Director may bar individuals or their dog(s) from the dog park when such individual or dog has been involved in repeated rule violations or incidents harming people or their pets.
2. Violation of an order by the Parks Director barring use of the dog park shall constitute a violation of this ordinance.
3. An order by the Parks Director barring use of the dog park shall be appealable to the Parks Committee, which shall hear such appeal in accordance with Ch. 68.11, Wis. Stats.
   [am. 05-11-10, Ord. 2010-07]

(c) No dog shall be allowed into the dog park without a municipal license and Jefferson County dog park permit. Dog park permit fees shall be as set forth in the Jefferson County Budget adopted each November [Section 8.07(4) adopted on 10/14/03, Ord. 2003-18; am. 09/11/07, Ord. 2007-20; Res. No. 2011-64, 11-15-2011; Ord. No. 2014-28, 11-12-2014]

SECTION 8.075 GEOCACHING. (1) No person shall place a geocache on Jefferson County parks property without a written permit therefore in compliance with all rules established by the Parks Committee. [cr. 03/08/11, Ord. 2010-30]

(2) The Parks Committee is authorized to establish rules and may charge a $25 permit fee for geocaching on parks property. Violation of any rule or permit condition shall constitute a violation of this ordinance and be subject to penalties set forth herein. [cr. 03/08/11, Ord. 2010-30]

SECTION 8.08. MOTOR VEHICLES. (1) No person shall operate or drive any motor vehicle on a recreation trail or within a park except on roads and in parking areas designated for vehicular travel. For purposes of this ordinance, "motor vehicle" is defined, without limitation by enumeration, as an automobile, truck, van, bus, motorcycle, minibike, go-cart, golf cart or all-terrain vehicle.

(2) No person shall operate or drive an all-terrain vehicle or motorized three-wheel vehicle not licensed for use on a public highway on roads, in parking areas or in any other part of a park or recreation trail.

(3) No person shall park any bus, large truck, boat trailer or other vehicle in a manner substantially obstructing the use and enjoyment of a park or recreation trail for recreational purposes. No person shall leave an unoccupied motor vehicle in a park when said park is closed to the public.

(4) No person shall operate a snowmobile in a park or on a recreation trail other than on a trail marked for snowmobiling.

(5) No person shall operate a motor vehicle in excess of the posted speed limit or 15 miles per hour, whichever is less, on a park road or in a parking area. The Parks Committee may, by posting proper signs, designate areas with reduced speed limits.

SECTION 8.09. NON-MOTORIZED VEHICLES. (1) No person shall operate or drive any non-motorized vehicle on a recreation trail or within a park except on designated trails, paved roads and in parking areas. For purposes of this ordinance, "non-motorized vehicle" is defined, without limitation by enumeration, as any human powered vehicle such as a unicycle, bicycle or tricycle. This section does not apply to pedestrians and persons using any manually or low-powered mechanically-propelled vehicle designed specifically for use by persons with physical disabilities.

(2) Dog sledding is prohibited in all county parks.
[Ord. No. 2016-22, 02-14-2017]

SECTION 8.10. DESTRUCTION OR REMOVAL OF PROPERTY. (1) No person shall intentionally cut down, break, injure or destroy any tree, shrub, flowers, turf, building, signs, tables or other property within any park or on a recreation trail.

(2) No person shall intentionally take or remove any property from any park.
[Ord. No. 2016-22, 02-14-17]

SECTION 8.11. FORAGING IN JEFFERSON COUNTY PARKS. (1) In order to preserve the natural beauty for future visitors to enjoy, no person shall destroy, molest, deface or remove any natural growth or natural or archaeological feature from any County Park except the harvesting of edible plants for personal consumption such as edible fruits, edible nuts, wild mushrooms, wild asparagus and watercress. Harvesting of edible plants is limited to a single one-gallon pail, per person, per day. Foraging in areas designated as a State Natural Area is prohibited.

(2) Collecting seeds from herbaceous plants such as grasses and wildflowers is prohibited without written authorization from the Jefferson County Parks Director or designee.
[Ord. No. 2016-22, 02-14-2017]

SECTION 8.12. CAMPING OR LODGING FORBIDDEN. No person shall use a park for prolonged sleeping, camping, lodging, overnight living or use within park overnight equipment customarily housed in campsites, tourist or recreational vehicle parks without a permit. The Parks Committee may establish conditions for issuance of the permit, including reasonable security for costs which may result due to such use. [Ord. No. 2016-22, 02-14-17]

SECTION 8.13. PARK AND TRAIL HOURS. All parks, park roads and parking areas shall be closed to the public and vehicular traffic, except police and emergency vehicles, from one-half hour after sunset to one-half hour before sunrise and no person shall remain in parks during said hours, unless authorized by the issuance of a permit therefore by the Parks Director. Recreational trails may be used at any time except as limited by order of the Parks Director. No person may hike or walk dogs on designated cross-country ski trails when the trails are snow covered in any park. The Parks Director may grant permits to groups for park usage outside of normal park hours for events consistent with the mission of the Parks Department, and shall report issuance of any such permit promptly to the Parks Committee. [am. 06/13/06, Ord. 2006-09; 09-13-11, Ord. 2011-13; 02/14/12, Ord. 2011-26; Ord. No. 2016-22, 02-14-17]

SECTION 8.14. PERMITS. Applications for permits shall be in writing and shall be addressed to the County Parks Committee and delivered to the office of the Parks Director. Permits shall be issued by a duly authorized representative of the Parks Committee. The County Parks Committee may establish a schedule of fees for the issuance of such permits. [Ord. No. 2016-22, 02-14-17]

SECTION 8.15. PENALTIES. (1) Any person violating any provision of this ordinance shall, upon conviction, be subject to a forfeiture of not less than $25 nor more than $200, penalty assessment and costs of prosecution, and in default of payment of such forfeiture, penalty assessment and costs, shall be imprisoned in the County Jail until such forfeiture and costs are paid, such imprisonment not to exceed 90 days. [renumbered 09/11/07, Ord. 2007-21]

(2) In addition to issuing citations or other methods of forfeiture enforcement, the Parks Director or designee or a county law enforcement officer may also issue a violation notice to a person violating any provision of this ordinance. The notice fee shall be $25. If the notice fee is not paid within five (5) days of issuance of the notice, a citation or other method of forfeiture collection shall be used. [cr. 09/11/07, Ord. 2007-21; Ord. No. 2016-22, 02-14-17]

SECTION 8.16. SEVERABILITY. The provisions of this ordinance are severable and provisions or sections which may hereinafter be declared to be illegal or unconstitutional shall be declared repealed and the remainder shall not be affected thereby. [Ord. No. 2016-22, 02-14-2017]

SECTION 8.17. REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES. Any ordinances or parts of any ordinances heretofore enacted in conflict with this ordinance are hereby repealed. In the event of any conflict between this ordinance and the County's Weapon Policy the provisions of this ordinance shall control. [02/12/2013, Ord. 2012-27; Ord. No. 2016-22, 02-14-2017]

SECTION 8.18. EFFECTIVE DATE. This ordinance shall be effective upon passage and publication. [Ord. No. 2016-22, 02-14-2017]

Adopted 05/12/98; publication 05/14/98
Amendments: 02/12/2013; 11/12/2014; 02/14/2017