

Grayling Township

Recreational Park Rules and Regulations

Ordinance 2001-01

An ordinance to provide rules and regulations for the Grayling Township Recreational Park (Fish Hatchery Nature Park) and provide penalties for the violation thereof.

Definitions.

- A. "Fish Hatchery Nature Park" or "the park." Refers to that parcel of land in Township 26 North, Range 3 West, Section 5, currently under lease to Grayling Township from the County of Crawford. The parcel is bordered on the south by North Down River Road, on the West by Roberts Road, on the North by Private properties, and on the east by private properties. The park area includes approximately 45-acres of land and is split from north to south by the Ausable River East Branch.
- B. "Township Board" or "the board." Refers to the members of the Grayling Township Board of Trustees. The seat of Grayling Charter Township government is located at 2090 Viking Way, Grayling, MI 49738. (989) 348-4361.
- C. "Agent or Representative" of the Grayling Township Board of Trustees includes the park manager, township supervisor, or any other person so designated by the township board.
- D. "Person" or "persons." Refers to any individuals, male or female, singular or plural, firms, corporations, organizations, or any group or gathering of individuals.
- E. "Vehicle" Refers to all motorized and non-motorized, mechanical means of transportation which have wheels or tracks and hand-controlled steering devices, including, but not limited to cars, trucks, vans, motorcycles, bicycles, scooters, snowmobiles, etc.

Section 1. Park Activities.

- A. Both active and passive recreational activities are permitted in the park within specifically designated areas at specifically designated times. This shall include playground activities in the fenced-in playground area; fishing in the main stream of the East branch of the Ausable River as provided by Michigan State law; wading and swimming in the East Branch of the Ausable River; hiking, bicycling, cross-county skiing, and other nature-oriented, non-motorized sports on the trail system; and picnicking in the picnic and pavilion areas.
- B. The Grayling Township Board of Trustees may periodically approve or permit other special events on a temporary basis, and certain areas of the park may be closed to the general public during such events.

Section 2. Preservation of property and natural features.

- A. No person shall injure, deface, disturb, or befoul any part of the park nor any building, sign, equipment or other property found therein; nor shall any tree, shrub, rock or other mineral be removed, injured or destroyed.
- B. The picking, cutting or removing of any natural or planted vegetation is strictly prohibited, including mushrooms, flowers and berries.
- C. No person shall deposit, permit or suffer to be deposited, in any part of the park, any garbage, ashes, sewage, refuse, waste or other noxious material, otherwise than in receptacles provided for

such purposes; nor dump any earth within the park without specific written permit from the township board.

Section 3. Hunting, fishing, and molesting wildlife.

- A. No person within the confines of the park, unless authorized by written permit of the township board, shall hunt, pursue with dogs, trap or in any other way molest any wild bird or animal found within the confines of the park, or therein rob or molest any bird nest or take the eggs of any bird.
- B. Fishing is allowed in the park only on the main body of the East Branch of the Ausable River, where fishermen must abide by the laws of the State of Michigan and the Michigan Department of Natural Resources. No person shall fish in any tributary water of the Ausable East Branch, either natural or man made.

Section 4. General Conduct

- A. No person shall, either by word or act, indulge in the noisy, boisterous, disorderly, profane or indecent conduct, or in any manner disturb the peace or good order of the community within the park; nor shall any person play at games of chance, or do any indecent, lascivious, lewd or improper act therein.
- B. No person shall remain within the park who does not abide by conditions adopted and posted by the Grayling Township Board of Trustees for the preservation of good order and the protection of property within the park; and no person shall remain within the park who does not abide by the instructions and directions of duly authorized police officers or agents of the township in the lawful performance of their duties. Any person directed by a police officer or agent of township to leave the park shall do so promptly and peacefully. No person shall resist or obstruct, or be abusive of, or address in a profane or obscene manner, any police officer or agent of the township.
- C. The use of loudspeakers, public address systems, or sound amplifying equipment is prohibited without permit. Excessively loud radios, televisions, or similar devices are also prohibited.
- D. No Person shall enter a restroom set apart for the opposite sex except as an agent of the township, with proper and timely warning, during the execution of normal maintenance duties. During such times, restrooms will be clearly marked to the general public.

Section 5. Animal Control

- A. All dogs, cats, ferrets and other domestic pets shall be controlled and on a leash of no more than six (6) feet long. No controlled animal shall be destructive to other birds or animals.
- B. The riding of horses or other animals is prohibited.

Section 6. Traffic Control

- A. No person shall drive, propel or cause to be driven, along or over any road or pathway within the park, any vehicle at a rate of speed greater than ten miles per hour (10mph); nor shall any vehicle be driven in a reckless manner or in a manner to endanger the life, limb or property of pedestrians, or the drivers or occupants of other vehicles, or any other person.
- B. Motorized recreational vehicles, such as three-and four-wheeled all-terrain vehicles, motorcycles and snowmobiles are not allowed to operate in the park, except that any vehicle registered to operate on public roads may operate in the parking area.

- C. No person shall park or store any car, motorcycle, bicycle, wagon or other vehicle within the park, except in places designated for such purposes.
 - 1. Designated parking areas include the, a) East Parking Lot, east of the Ausable River and adjacent to the children's playground, and, b) the West Parking Lot, west of the Ausable River and adjacent to the corner of North Down River Road and Roberts Road.
- D. No person shall ride a bicycle; nor any other non-motorized vehicle, within the park, except on designated trails and pathways.
- E. All vehicles within the park shall conform to the laws of the State of Michigan regarding licensing, lights, safety requirements, etc.
- F. Motorized boats are not allowed to operate on any waters within the park, nor are boat owners and operators allowed to launch or retrieve boats from the water at any place within the park.

Section 7. General Regulations.

- A. **Camping.** No person shall establish or maintain any camp or other temporary lodging place in the park, without specific written permit from the Grayling Township Board of Trustees.
- B. **Fires.** No person shall start a fire in the park, except those contained within specific devices designated for cooking, i.e. portable or permanent grills. During times of high wildfire danger, the township board or its agent may prohibit all fires, including the smoking of cigarettes, cigars and pipes. During such times this temporary regulation will be appropriately and conspicuously posted.
- C. **Alcohol and Drugs.** The sale, consumption and/or possession of alcoholic beverages and illegal drugs are strictly prohibited within the park.
- D. **Commercial Activities.** No person shall sell or offer for sale any article, thing, privilege or service within any park without a permit from the township board, and no person shall do any begging, peddling or soliciting therein. Further, no person shall expose, distribute or place any sign, advertisement, circular, notice or statement, or display a banner, emblem or design, within the park, without specific permit from the township.
- E. **Swimming and wading.** Swimming and wading are allowed only in the main body of the Ausable River East Branch, either natural or man made. Bathing in any part of the river or its tributaries is strictly prohibited.
- F. **Firearms.** No person shall at any time, bring into or upon the park property, nor have in his or her possession, nor discharge, or set off anywhere upon said property, fireworks, a revolver, pistol, shotgun, rifle, air gun, water gun or any gun rifle, firearm or bow or other weapon that discharges projectiles either by air, explosive substance or any other force, provided, however, that this rule shall not apply to any authorized police officer or authorized agent of the township while carrying out the responsibilities and duties of his or her position.

Section 8. Park Closings

- A. Hours of operation will be set by the Grayling Township Board of Trustees, as needed, depending on the season and other pertinent factors, including the length of daylight. Normal spring/summer/fall park hours will be 9:00a.m. Until sunset.

- B. The East Parking Lot will be closed and locked at no later than 10 p.m., to reopen again the next morning. All vehicles in the East Parking Lot must leave at closing time unless a written permit for later hours has been issued by the township. The West Parking Lot will be open to the general public during normal park hours and will remain open for the use of fishermen during all other hours.
- C. The entire park, or any portion thereof, may be closed to certain uses during any specified period of time by the township board or agent of the township where it is determined that the physical condition of the park or portion thereof is such that intended use of the park or portion thereof would cause damage and deterioration to the park or portion thereof in a degree greater than ordinary park wear and tear, or that the intended use of the park or portion thereof would create a health hazard or safety hazard to the proposed user or other citizens. During such period of time as the park or portions thereof are closed, these closings shall be prominently posted and it shall be unlawful for anyone to enter upon or occupy such park or portions thereof contrary to the posted regulations.

Section 9. Violation of this ordinance and penalties.

- A. Any person who shall violate any provision of this ordinance shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine of not to exceed \$500.00 and costs and/or imprisonment in the Crawford County Jail for a period not to exceed 90 days.

Section 10. Effective Date

- A. This ordinance shall take effect immediately upon the publication hereof.