

PORTAGE COUNTY CODE OF ORDINANCES

Chapter 6 PORTAGE COUNTY PARK ORDINANCES

6.3 PORTAGE COUNTY GREEN CIRCLE ORDINANCE

6.3.1 DEFINITIONS

- (A) “*Person*” as used throughout this ordinance shall be deemed to include any individual, partnership, firm, or corporation.
- (B) “*Green Circle Trail*” is described as:
A linear corridor 18’ more or less in width and about 30 miles in length running through the City of Stevens Point, the Village of Whiting, the Town of Hull, the Town of Plover, Village of Plover, and Village of Park Ridge, posted with trail head signs named River Pines trail; Riverfront trail, Stage Coach trail; the Holiday trail; University trail; Moses Creek trail; Plover River trail; Iverson Park trail; McDill trail; Hoover Road trail; Whiting Park trail; and Paper Mill trail, Mainland Meadows, and the Westside Loop. And includes public property and private property where Portage County and/or the City of Stevens Point has been granted the right of public use for the “Green Circle Trail.”

6.3.2 USE

The use of the Green Circle trail and its corridor by the public is limited to pedestrian activities such as walking, hiking, running, jogging, cross country skiing and bicycling. Bicycling is not allowed where alternate bicycle routes are posted.

6.3.3 PERSONAL CONDUCT AND NUISANCES

- (A) No person shall be threatening, abusive, insulting, profane or be unreasonably loud to another person while on the Green Circle Trail, or commit other disorderly conduct that tends to cause or provoke a disturbance.
- (B) No person shall operate any loudspeaker, radio or other device that produces noises in an unreasonably loud manner.

6.3.4 DESTRUCTION, DEFAACEMENT OR REMOVAL

No person shall disturb, molest, deface, remove or destroy any trees, shrubs, plants or other natural growth, rocks, flora and fauna, archaeological or geological features, signs, walls or structures; injure or deface in any manner any structures including buildings, signs, fences, tables or property within the Green Circle trail or any support facility associated with the Green Circle trail.

6.3.5 LITTERING AND REFUSE

- (A) Littering
State and County ordinances against littering are incorporated within this ordinance and shall be strictly enforced on the entire Green Circle trail whether on private or public property.

(B) Refuse

No personal refuse or garbage shall be carried onto the Green Circle trail and be deposited and/or dumped next to or into refuse containers or left anywhere along the trail corridor or its support facilities.

6.3.6 PEDDLING AND SOLICITING

No person shall sell, peddle or solicit business of any nature or distribute handbills or other advertising matter, post unauthorized signs or decorative matter on any structures, trees or any other property within the Green Circle trail corridor; nor use this corridor as a base of commercial operations for soliciting or conducting business, peddling or providing services.

6.3.7 PUBLIC MEETINGS

No person may conduct or participate in an assembly or public demonstration, except with written permission of the Portage County Parks Director or his/her designee. This includes such organized events as walks and runs for various non-commercial and civic purposes. Approval is based upon a finding that such activity would not substantially interfere with the use of the Green Circle trail corridor by the general public and is not for commercial purposes and participants are not charged user fees.

6.3.8 MOTOR VEHICLES

Motorized vehicles, excluding wheel chairs, of any kind are prohibited within the Green Circle trail corridor unless they are used for maintenance, operations, emergency, enforcement of the Green Circle Trail ordinance or other purpose authorized in writing by the parks director.

6.3.9 ANIMALS

(A) Pets

Pets are prohibited on those sections of the trail corridor that are so posted. Pets shall be effectively restrained at all times to within the Green Circle Trail Corridor boundaries and shall be restrained by a leash or tie not more than eight feet long.

(B) Horses

Horses are not permitted within the Green Circle Trail Corridor.

(C) Animal Excreta

Any owner or person having the immediate care, custody or control of any animal shall promptly remove and dispose of, in a sanitary manner, any excreta left or deposited by the animal within the Green Circle trail corridor. Any person bringing a dog or dogs on the Green Circle trail must have at least one dog feces waste bag per dog in his or her possession.

(D) Hunting and Trapping

No person shall take, catch, kill, hunt, trap, pursue or otherwise disturb any wild animals or birds within the Green Circle Trail Corridor.

6.3.10 ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, NARCOTICS, AND ILLEGAL DRUGS AND BARBITURATES

(A) No person may sell or consume alcoholic beverages within the Green Circle trail corridor.

- (B) No person shall possess or use any illegal narcotic drug within the Green Circle Trail Corridor.

6.3.11 FIRES, FIREWORKS

(A) Fires

No person shall start, tend or maintain any fire, or burn any refuse within the Green Circle trail corridor except in designated park grills.

(B) Fireworks

No person shall possess, fire, discharge, explode or set off any explosive or pyrotechnic device containing powder, or other combustible or explosive material within the Green Circle trail corridor.

6.3.12 REGULATION OF BICYCLE RIDERS

(A) Ride only on trails designated for bicyclists' use.

(B) Yield to all other trail users. Slow down and pass with care.

(C) When encountering walkers on narrow trails, stop and wait for them to pass or signal you through.

(D) Use your bell or horn to announce your presence to walkers well in advance, particularly when approaching from behind.

(E) Never exceed the 15 m.p.h. speed limit. Slowly approach blind turns in anticipation of other trail users and obstacles that are beyond your view.

(F) Yield to other bicyclists traveling uphill.

(G) Racing or reckless riding is prohibited.

(H) Walk bicycles on boardwalks, steep hills, and narrow bridges.

6.3.13 ATHLETICS

No person shall play ball or any other game or sport upon or within the Green Circle trail corridor.

6.3.14 CLOSING OF THE GREEN CIRCLE CORRIDOR AND SUPPORT FACILITIES

In an emergency, or when in the judgment of the Park Commissioner or its Director, any portion of the Green Circle Corridor and its support facilities may be closed to the public for reasons that may include severe high fire danger, flooding, severe weather, deer gun season, or any other reason that the public interest demands closing of the corridor. Use of the portion of the corridor after it is posted "closed" under this section shall be trespass.

6.3.15 ADDITIONAL RULES AND EXCEPTIONS

(A) Rules and regulations may be made from time to time by the Commission, governing the further use and enjoyment of the Green Circle Corridor and the facilities thereof. These rules shall be posted on the Trail Corridor. Any person who shall violate such

rules shall be posted on the Trail Corridor. Any person who shall violate such rules or regulations may be required to leave the trail corridor or support facility and may be subject to penalties as set forth in Section 6.3.17(B) of this ordinance. Persons required to leave the Trail Corridor or its support facilities shall not return for a 24 hour period from the date and time of order to leave.

(B) Exception

Nothing in this ordinance shall prohibit or hinder the Portage County Park Commission, its Director, or other duly authorized agents, or any peace officers from performing their official duties.

6.3.16 LEGAL ACTION

(A) Civil Action

Whenever any violation shall occur, the Corporation Counsel shall prosecute as provided by law.

(B) Secondary Fees

In lieu of arrest or commencing a civil action for any violation set forth herein, the Portage County Parks Director may, at his discretion, impose a notice fee for such violation in the amount of \$20.00. If this notice fee is not paid within 5 days of issuance, the matter shall be referred to the corporation counsel for prosecution in accordance with (C) below. The Parks Director shall prepare an envelope in which the notice fee shall be submitted. The notice fee shall be submitted in the manner stated on the envelope which may be amended from time to time as the Parks Director deems necessary.

(C) Penalties

Any person who violates this ordinance, which is not resolved in accordance with (B) above, shall be required to forfeit as set forth in Chapter 5, together with all legally applicable costs, fees, and assessments, and in default thereof, shall be subject to imprisonment in the Portage County Jail for a period not to exceed thirty (30) days.

(D) Citations for violations of this chapter may be issued by any peace officer of the County, City, Town or Village within its jurisdiction or by those persons designated under this ordinance.

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All County Ordinances can be viewed at: <http://www.co.portage.wi.us/ordinances/>