

**ORDINANCE NO. 40**  
**AN ORDINANCE REGULATING CONDUCT IN PUBLIC PARKS, TRAIL SYSTEMS,  
AND/OR RECREATION AREAS, PROHIBITING CERTAIN ACTIVITIES AND  
PRESCRIBING PENALTIES FOR THE VIOLATION OF ITS PROVISIONS.**

**THE TOWN OF THOMSON DOES ORDAIN:**

**Section 1. Short Title.**

This ordinance shall be known and may be cited as the Park and Recreation Ordinance.

**Section 2. Purpose.**

The purpose of this ordinance, which is enacted pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, is to secure the quiet, orderly, and suitable use of public parks, town recreation areas, township-wide trail systems, public access to lakes, rivers and streams, and recreation areas established by the Town of Thomson, and to further the safety, health, comfort, and welfare of all persons in the use thereof.

**Section 3. Jurisdiction.**

This Ordinance shall apply to all parks and trails in the Town of Thomson.

**Section 4. Definitions.**

- (1) "Park" means any land or water area and all facilities thereon, established by the Town of Thomson for public use pursuant to Minnesota Statutes.
- (2) "Trail" means any pathways and all facilities thereon, established by the Town of Thomson for public use pursuant to Minnesota Statutes.
- (3) "Visitor" means any person, firm, partnership, association, corporation, governmental unit, company, or organization of any kind within the park.
- (4) "Vehicle" means any motorized, propelled, animal drawn, or human powered conveyance.
- (5) "Weapon" means any device from which shots or projectile of any type can be discharged by means of an explosive, gas, compressed air, or otherwise propelled, including but not limited to firearms, bows and arrows, slings, and spring guns.

**Section 5. Non-Discrimination.**

No visitor involved in any event or in any use of the park shall deny another visitor access to, admission to, utilization of, or benefit from any event or use because of race, age, sex, color, creed, religion, or national origin.

**Section 6. Park Hours.**

1. Open hours of all parks shall be between 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 p.m. No visitor or vehicle shall remain within any park between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m.
2. Any park or portion thereof may be declared closed to the public by the Town of Thomson Board of Supervisors, the Park Advisory Board, or the Carlton County Sheriff, at any time, and for any interval of time, for the protection of park property, for the protection of public health, safety, or welfare, or as the Town of Thomson Board of Supervisors, the Park Advisory Board, or the Carlton County Sheriff shall find reasonably necessary.

### **Section 7. Rules of Conduct.**

No visitor in any park or trail:

- (1) Scatter or litter the grounds, water pond, or watercourse within or draining into a park with any form of trash but shall place such material in the proper receptacles where these are provided; where receptacles are not provided, all such trash shall be carried away from the area by the person responsible for its presence.
- (2) Start a fire, except a small fire for cooking purposes in a designated area, and then only in a fire ring, grill, or portable stove, or fail to fully extinguish such fire.
- (3) Paste, affix, or inscribe any handbill, poster, or sign, or distribute handbills, circulars, or announcements of any kind for a commercial purpose.
- (4) Disobey any reasonable order or direction of any law enforcement officer, or other person designated by the Town Board to give such orders or directions.
- (5) Kill, trap, hunt, pursue, or in any manner disturb or cause to be disturbed any wildlife, except that fishing is permitted.
- (6) Permit any creature to disturb, harass, or interfere with or endanger any visitor or visitor's property, or tether any creature to a tree, plant, building, or park equipment.
- (7) Permit any creature to run at large, but all creatures shall be leashed.
- (8) Allow creature excrement to remain, but shall clean up after one's creatures.
- (9) Ride, lead, or permit a horse except in designated riding areas.
- (10) Permit a creature to enter unauthorized areas. Unauthorized areas are active play areas, picnic areas, and park buildings.
- (11) Release any insect, fish, animal, or other wildlife, or introduce any plant, chemical, or other agent potentially harmful to the vegetation, water supply, or wildlife of the area.
- (12) Possess, carry, fire, or discharge any weapon within or into any park or trail from beyond its boundaries.
- (13) Drive or park any vehicle except an authorized or emergency vehicle on any turf or other area not designated for parking or travel; wash, grease, dismantle, repair, change, or deposit the oil of a vehicle anywhere in a park or recreation area.
- (14) Operate a motorized vehicle on a walking trail.

### **Section 8. Rules and Regulations.**

The Town Board and/or Advisory Park Board shall have the right to issue administrative rules and regulations relative to but not conflicting with this ordinance. No person shall violate such rules or regulations and any violation may be subject to penalties of this ordinance. Nothing in this ordinance shall prevent township employees and law enforcement officers from performing their assigned duties.

### **Section 9. Enforcement.**

This Ordinance may be enforced by the Carlton County Sheriff's Office and other licensed peace officer.

### **Section 10. Penalty.**

Any visitor who shall violate a provision of this ordinance shall be deemed guilty of a petty misdemeanor and upon conviction thereof shall be punished by a fine not to exceed TWO HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$200.00) together with taxable costs.

**Section 11. Park Advisory Board.**

The Town Board may, at its discretion, create a Park Advisory Board consisting of not more than seven (7) residents of the Town of Thomson to serve in an advisory capacity to the Town Board on all matters relating to the development, maintenance, and enforcement of all parks located in said township. Members shall serve without compensation; the Park Advisory Board shall prepare its own By-laws for its operation, including length of term on said Advisory Board, the By-laws shall be subject to the approval of the Town Board. Approval of all members shall be directed to the Town Board of Supervisors.

**Section 12. Adoption or Amendments of Ordinance.**

Prior to adoption of this ordinance, at least one public meeting will be held, with proper notice, to discuss and review provisions contained herein. Amendments to the ordinance upon final approval may be made by publishing any changes at least one week prior to a regularly scheduled Town Board meeting.

**Section 13. Severability.**

The invalidity of any part of this ordinance as declared by a court of competent jurisdiction shall not affect the validity of the remainder thereof.

**Section 14. Repeal of Prior Ordinances.**

Upon enactment of this Ordinance, pre-existing Parks Ordinances are hereby repealed.

**Section 15. Effective Date.**

This ordinance shall take effect upon its adoption and publication according to law.

*Rhonda Peleski*

7-28-16