



RICK SNYDER  
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN  
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES  
LANSING



Keith Creagh  
DIRECTOR

SUBMITTED:  
RESUBMITTED:

November 14, 2016  
December 12, 2016

MEMORANDUM TO THE DIRECTOR

Information: Natural Resources Commission

Subject: Order to Seasonally Restrict Access to Portions of Watkins Lake State Park and County Preserve, Jackson County Michigan  
Land Use Order of the Director Amendment No. 2 of 2017

Authority:

The Natural Resources and Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, authorizes the Director to issue orders to implement land use rules.

Discussion and Background:

The Watkins Lake State Park and County Preserve (Watkins Lake) was recently acquired and designated as the 103<sup>rd</sup> State Park. Watkins Lake consists of 1,122 acres in Southern Michigan and has unique features making it well suited for multiple outdoor recreational opportunities, including a waterfowl refuge and migration viewing area.

Watkins Lake historically has been and continues to be a significant stop-over site for waterfowl and other water birds, and draws a large number of watchable wildlife enthusiasts each year. Given the recent dedication, Watkins Lake is now open to the public; however, human disturbance within the lake during these key migration periods may have the unintended consequence of reducing the waterfowl use of the site and diminish the land's value for resting and foraging by waterfowl.

The property is being managed and maintained as the Watkins Lake State Park and County Preserve, and is administered out of the W.J. Hayes State Park in collaboration with Washtenaw County Parks and Recreation Commission. The main focus of this order is to restrict access to portions of Watkins Lake in order to reduce disturbance to resting and feeding birds during migration.

**The intent of this order is to:**

Seasonally restrict access to portions of Watkins Lake for the purpose of reducing disturbance to resting and feeding waterfowl during spring and fall migration seasons, while providing a unique wildlife viewing opportunity for the public. While hunting is currently not allowed within this area, individuals accessing the lake and wetland habitat during key migratory stopover periods are having a negative impact on the unique features for which the property was acquired. Without reducing human disturbance within the lake area during these key times, waterfowl use of the site and its value for resting and foraging may decline.

Therefore, it is proposed that from September 1 through January 1 and from February 15 through May 15, a person may not enter or take any animals, including fish, from Watkins Lake and the state-owned lands surrounding it, unless authorized in writing by the Department, in the SE 1/4, the SE 1/4 of the NE 1/4, and the S 1/2 of the SW 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of section 13, T04S R02E, within Watkins Lake State Park and

County Preserve; except Arnold Road and the associated upland roadside edge shall remain open for viewing during this time period.

By implementing these brief access restrictions over the area it will avoid any unintended consequences of disturbing migratory use patterns of the visiting waterfowl, which visitors have long enjoyed.

Recommendation:

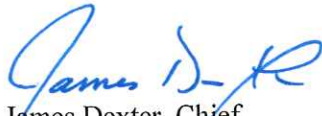
This Order was submitted for information on December 8, 2016 at the Natural Resources Commission meeting. This item appeared on the Department's November 2016 calendar and may be eligible for approval on January 12, 2017.



Ronald A. Olson, Chief  
Parks and Recreation Division



Bill O'Neill, Chief  
Forest Resources Division



James Dexter, Chief  
Fisheries Division



Gary Hagler, Chief  
Law Enforcement Division



Russ Mason, Ph. D., Chief  
Wildlife Division



Bill Moritz  
Natural Resources Deputy



# LAND USE ORDERS OF THE DIRECTOR

## Amendment No. 2 of 2017

By authority conferred on the Director of the Department of Natural Resources by Section 504 of the Natural Resources Environmental Protection Act, 1994 PA 451, MCL 324.504, and in accordance with R 299.921 to R 299.933, the Director of the Department of Natural Resources orders the following:

### **5.12 Certain state parks and recreation areas, requirements for use, certain conduct prohibited.**

Order 5.12. The following conduct shall apply to use of Michigan state parks and recreation areas:

Fayette state park, certain conduct prohibited.

(1) A person shall not do the following at Fayette SP located in Delta county:

- (a) Dive, swim, water ski, skin or scuba dive, or attempt to dive, swim, water ski, skin or scuba dive from any vessel operating within or moored to the docks or piling or anchored to the bottomlands of snail shell harbor, Fayette SP, Delta county, without written permission of an authorized representative of the department.
- (b) Enter or occupy the face of the limestone cliffs in section 33, T39N R19W, and section 4, T38N R19W.

Palms book state park, prohibited conduct.

(2) A person shall not do any of the following at palms book SP:

- (a) Swim, bathe, skin or scuba dive, fish, or boat in the big spring, Kitchitiki, palms book SP.
- (b) Use the department owned raft on the big spring for anything other than viewing.

Island lake recreation area, conduct prohibited.

(3) A person shall not do the following at the island lake RA:

- (a) Operate a vessel powered by a motor on the waters of spring mill pond.

Sterling state park, conduct prohibited.

(4) A person shall not do the following at Sterling SP:

- (a) Launch or attempt to launch a vessel equipped with an inboard or outboard motor, except an electric motor, into the waters of the south lagoon from any state-owned lands lying south of the centerline of the park entrance road.

Pontiac lake recreation area, prohibited conduct.

(5) A person shall not do any of the following at the Pontiac lake RA:

- (a) Possess or fly a hang glider on any state-owned lands within the Pontiac lake RA.
- (b) Enter into a pen area or buffer zone around a pen area established by the department from June 10 to July 15 for the temporary holding of geese. This prohibition shall not apply to a person issued a written permit by the district wildlife supervisor allowing entry into the area.

Ludington state park, prohibited conduct.

(6) A person shall not do the following at Ludington SP:

- (a) Park a vehicle of any type between the hours of 12:00 midnight and 6:00 a.m. in the parking areas adjacent to highway M-116 from the south limit of the park to the bridge over big Sable river.

South Higgins lake state park, prohibited conduct.

(7) A person shall not do the following at south Higgins lake SP:

- (a) Park or leave a motor vehicle in the day use area of south Higgins lake SP between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m. without written permission from a representative of the department.
- (b) Leave a trailer unattached to a vehicle in the boat launch parking lot.
- (c) Park a vehicle without boat trailer attached, or a vehicle not being used to transport a boat, in the boat launch parking lot.
- (d) A person shall not leave a vessel unattended, moored to access piers, in boat basin, beached along shoreline, or anchored to riparian bottomlands between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 8:00 a.m., without prior written approval from an authorized representative of the department.

Pinckney recreation area, prohibited conduct.

(8) A person shall not do the following at the Pinckney RA:

- (a) Use any state-owned lands in the S ½ of the S ½ of section 23, T1S R3E, for the purpose of launching or attempting to launch onto the waters of Island lake, any watercraft equipped with an inboard or outboard motor.
- (b) Consume or possess any alcoholic beverage within ¼ mile surrounding and including the parking lot at Pickerel lake, section 8, T1S R4E, as posted.
- (c) Launch or attempt to launch a vessel equipped with an inboard or outboard motor, except an electric motor, onto the waters of Pickerel lake, section 8, T1S R4E.

Silver lake state park, prohibited conduct.

(9) A person shall not do any of the following within Silver lake SP without first obtaining proper written permission from the department:

- (a) Store, leave, park or otherwise place any boat, fish shanty, vehicle, bicycle, equipment, tool, device or other property which is at any time during its presence in the park made available for rent, lease, or sale.
- (b) Use or occupy any land or water within the park to solicit, conduct, operate, engage in, or maintain a business of any nature or use such areas as a base of commercial operations. For purposes of this order, "base of operations" means a use of lands or waters which is a principal or significant aspect of any commercial activity.

Porcupine mountains wilderness state park, prohibited conduct.

(10) A person shall not do any of the following in the Porcupine mountains wilderness SP without first obtaining proper written permission from the department:

- (a) Feed a bear or lure any bear with food. This provision does not apply to the lawful baiting of bear as described in orders issued pursuant to part 401, wildlife conservation, of Act 451 of 1994.
- (b) Operate a snowmobile off the designated snowmobile route.

Waterloo recreation area, prohibited conduct.

(11) A person shall not do the following at the Waterloo RA:

- (a) Enter into a pen area or buffer zone around a pen area established by the department from June 10 to July 15 for the temporary holding of geese. This prohibition shall not apply to a person issued a written permit by the district wildlife supervisor allowing entry into the area.

Fort Custer recreation area, prohibited conduct.

(12) A person shall not do the following at the fort Custer RA:

- (a) Excavate, dig or probe the grounds, or remove ordnance without written permission.
- (b) Operate a snowmobile off the designated snowmobile route.

Grand Haven state park campground, prohibited conduct.

(13) A person shall not do the following at Grand Haven SP:

- (a) Place or allow a recreational camping unit under their control to be placed front-first upon a campsite in the Grand Haven SP campground. The tongue of a trailer or front of a self-propelled camping unit shall face the roadway.
- (b) A person, including a person's camping unit, shall not remain for more than 15 nights in any 20 night period from May 15 through September 15 without the written permission of the district supervisor.

Holland state park, prohibited conduct.

(14) A person shall not possess or use furniture designed or intended for indoor use within Holland SP from May 15 to July 15 unless the furniture is enclosed within a camping shelter. Furniture that is designed or intended for indoor use and is placed outside of a camping shelter may be removed at the discretion of the park manager.

Sanilac petroglyphs historic state park, prohibited conduct.

(15) A person shall not do any of the following at the Sanilac petroglyphs historic SP:

- (a) Enter into the fenced area containing the petroglyph rock when the entry gate is closed.
- (b) Walk upon or otherwise come into contact with the petroglyph rock within the fenced area.

Ionia recreation area, prohibited conduct.

(16) A person that has been issued a campsite permit shall not possess or allow to be possessed upon the campsite more than 4 animals other than horses by all members of the camping party combined.

Seven lakes state park, prohibited conduct.

(17) A person shall not operate a snowmobile, or other motorized snow contrivance without written permission from an authorized representative of the department.

Port Crescent state park, prohibited conduct.

(18) With the exception of accessing Saginaw bay via the campground, a person shall not operate a snowmobile, or other motorized snow contrivance without written permission from an authorized representative of the department.

Holly recreation area, prohibited conduct.

(19) A person shall not operate a snowmobile or other motorized snow contrivance outside an area bordered by McGinnis road to the north, Wildwood road to the east and Dixie highway to the south, without written permission from an authorized representative of the department.

Algonac state park campground, prohibited conduct.

(20) A person shall not place or allow a recreational camping unit under their control to be positioned horizontal to the park's roadways in the riverfront campground. The tongue of a trailer or front or rear of a self-propelled camping unit shall face the park's roadway, and all camping units must be parked on pads where they exist.

Bay City state recreation area, prohibited conduct.

(21) Operate a snowmobile off the designated snowmobile route.

Rockport state recreation area, prohibited conduct.

(22) Operate a snowmobile in sections 13, 24, 25, 26, and the north 750 feet of sections 35 and 36, T33N, R08E, except along the 100-foot wide utility line corridor that parallels the Lake Huron shoreline; section 36, T33N, R08E and section 31, T33N, R09E east of the old railroad corridor that parallels the Lake Huron shoreline; the east half of the northeast quarter of section 12, the south half of section 12, and section 13, T32N, R08E; the south 600 feet of the southwest quarter of section 6, the southwest quarter of the northwest quarter of section 8, the northwest quarter and the south half of section 7, T32N, R09E, except a designated corridor extending from Rockport Road south through section 7; and all state land on Middle Island, sections 3, 4, 9, and 10, T32N, R09E.

Lime island state recreation area, prohibited conduct.

(23) Enter, use, occupy, moor, or dock onto, the southern half of the Lime Island coal dock, as posted, lying within T43N, R03E, Section 26 and T42N, R03E, section 35 between May 1 and September 1, except that boats may be moored on the eastern side of the entire coal dock for safety during high seas and storm events.

Belle Isle park, prohibited conduct.

(24) A person shall not do any of the following at Belle Isle Park.

(a) Enter and remain or park a vehicle of any type on the premises of the Belle Isle Park, between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 5:00 a.m., without permission of the department.

(b) Erect a canopy larger than 9 feet by 9 feet, and have more than 2 canopies per group unless with written permission of the department.

(c) Erect a canopy that is not open on two sides of the structure.

(d) Erect a canopy unless someone of 21 years of age or older is supervising.

(e) Skate, bicycle or use any similar contrivances on buildings or structures not otherwise developed for this purpose.

(f) Feed geese, gulls, and other bird species.

(g) Possess a grill of any type in and around playscapes, giant slides or next to buildings

(h) Operate a snowmobile, or other motorized snow contrivance without written permission from an authorized representative of the department.

Watkins Lake state park and County Preserve, prohibited conduct.

(25) Annually from September 1 through January 1 and from February 15 through May 15, a person shall not enter or take any animals from Watkins Lake and the state-owned lands surrounding, unless authorized in writing by the Department, specifically being the SE 1/4, the SE 1/4 of the NE 1/4, and the S 1/2 of the SW 1/4 of the NE 1/4 of section 13, T04S R02E, within Watkins Lake state park and County preserve; except Arnold road and the associated upland roadside edge shall remain open to entry.

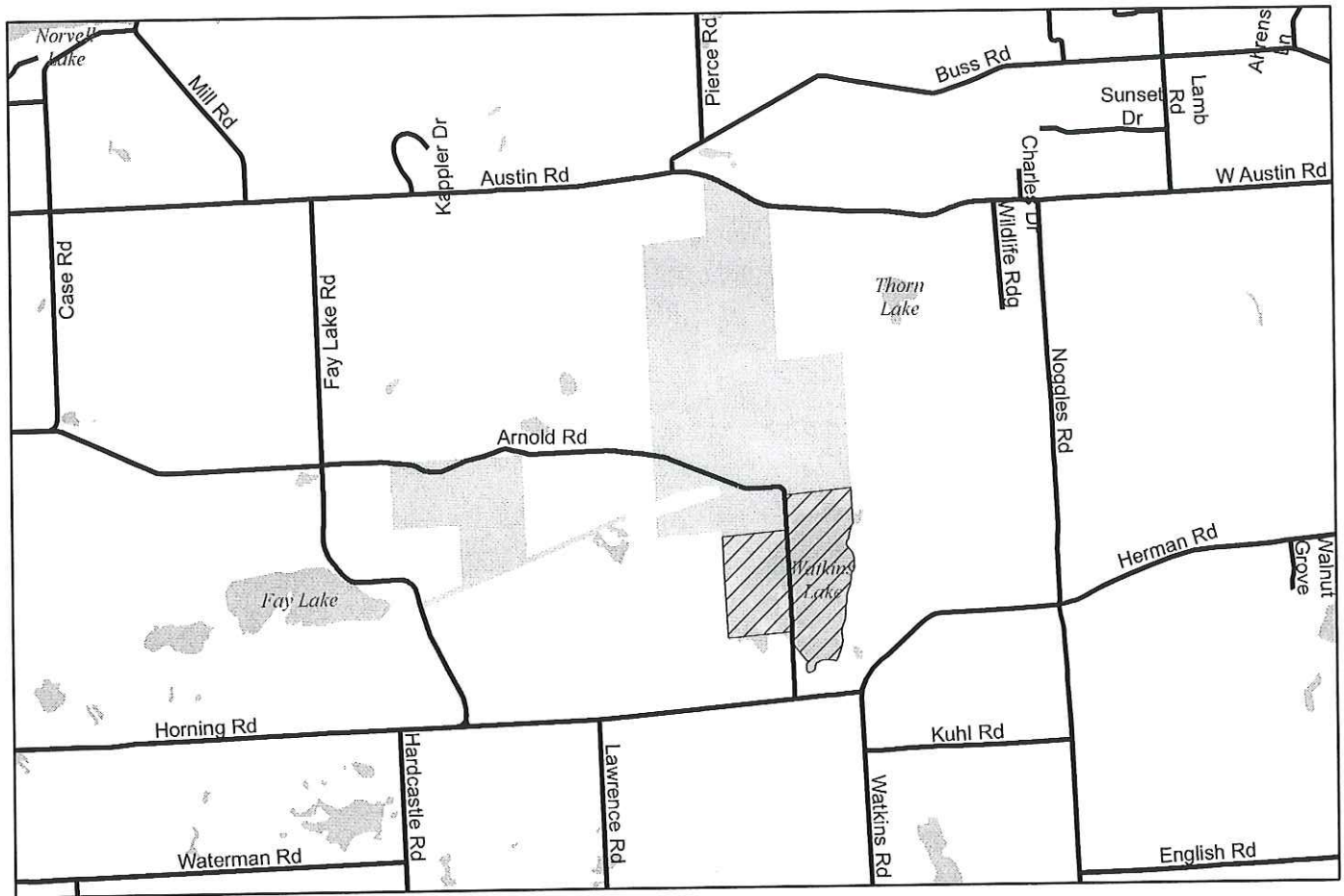
This amended order shall be posted on or after the 13<sup>th</sup> day of January 2017.

Issued on this 12<sup>th</sup> day of January 2017.

Keith Creagh  
Director



# Watkins Lake State Park Restricted Area



Restricted Area



Watkins Lake State Park

