

St. Joseph County Parks Rules & Shelter Policies



1. Renter must be present at rental.
2. **Absolutely no glass**, balloons, egg tosses, confetti, dunk tanks, piñatas or candles are allowed in the park.
3. Alcoholic beverages are limited to picnic areas; beer and wine in non-glass containers only. The sale of alcohol is prohibited.
4. Causing damage to signs, shelters and other structures is prohibited.
5. It is unlawful to litter or dump trash in the park.
6. Tents, canopies, pop-ups, inflatable games/moonwalks, etc. are not allowed in shelter/picnic areas except in designated areas and require the express permission of the Parks Director.
7. Amplified sound shall not exceed 75 decibels within a 150 foot area, and will be monitored by Park Rangers. The volume of music should not disturb other park patrons or renters.
8. The number of persons attending a shelter rental shall not exceed the fire code capacity of the facility.
9. No live animal exhibits—no petting zoos or pony rides.
10. A tally service is available if renter wishes to pay for guests to enter the park. Request for a tally must be made at time of shelter reservation.
11. Possession of weapons is prohibited as defined by County Ordinance #123.23.
12. Smoking is not allowed in any park building or on park property (County Ordinance #04-06).
13. Defacement, destruction, removal or disturbance of property, equipment or natural features is prohibited.
14. All facility renters must be out of the park by the posted park closing time. Additional fees apply for early entry (before park gate opens) and late departure (after park gate closes); arrangements for early entry/late departure must be made at time of reservation. Manion Cabin renters must abide contractual arrival/departure times, as agreed upon at time of reservation.
15. Pets must be restrained on a six (6) foot leash. No pets are allowed in buildings (other than service dogs). Owners must clean up after their pets.
16. As per County Park Ordinance, all facility renters must be out of the park by 11:00 p.m.
17. Sledding/tobogganing is prohibited, except at Bendix Woods County Park in designated location. Innertubing is allowed only during staff supervised times and in designated locations.
18. Renters are required to leave rental sites clean upon departure, per the rental contract.
19. Solicitations, commercial photography, and sales are prohibited without express written permission of Parks Director.
20. Maximum speed is 20 mph or as posted. Vehicles may be operated only on roadways and must park in designated parking areas. Service roads are available for drop off of special needs individuals. Vehicles must return to designated parking areas after drop off.
21. Fires are restricted to proper containers, in limited areas. Ground fires are only permitted with pre-approval of Parks Director.
22. A damage and extraordinary clean-up security deposit will be required for all shelter rentals. The security deposit will be returned if the facility is left clean, undamaged and in “as found” condition.

Facility Rental Checklist

The following checklist determines if you are leaving your facility in an acceptable, “as found” condition. If the following items are not considered acceptable by the Park Ranger, your security deposit will be forfeited:

Restroom Condition:

- *All messes cleaned up
- *No damage to fixtures or building

Picnic Site or Building:

- *Trash picked up and thrown away
- *Decorations, tape, signs removed
- *All tables & chairs cleaned and put away

Surrounding Grounds:

- *All litter picked up at site & on grounds surrounding rental area
- *Trash placed in appropriate, parks-provided receptacles