



RULES AND REGULATIONS

Decorah Parks and Recreation

400 Claiborne Drive

Decorah, IA 52101

563-382-4158

<https://parks.decorahia.org/>

Last Update July 18, 2024

Decorah Parks and Recreation Department - Rules and Regulations

V.6 – February 19, 2024

(modeled after Des Moines Park & Recreation Rules & Regs, 2023 PDF): ([Link Here](https://cms2.revize.com/revize/desmoines/document_center/Parks%20and%20Recreation/About%20Us/Park%20Rules%20-%202022%20Adopted.pdf?pdf=(PDF%20version)&t=1680486111444&pdf=(PDF%20version)&t=1680486111444))
[https://cms2.revize.com/revize/desmoines/document_center/Parks%20and%20Recreation/About%20Us/Park%20Rules%20-%202022%20Adopted.pdf?pdf=\(PDF%20version\)&t=1680486111444&pdf=\(PDF%20version\)&t=1680486111444](https://cms2.revize.com/revize/desmoines/document_center/Parks%20and%20Recreation/About%20Us/Park%20Rules%20-%202022%20Adopted.pdf?pdf=(PDF%20version)&t=1680486111444&pdf=(PDF%20version)&t=1680486111444)

(additional guidance via Winneshiek County Conservation Rules / Regs, 2023 PDF): ([Link Here](https://www.winneshiekwild.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Rules-and-Regulations-for-Areas-under-the-Control-of-the-Winneshiek-County-Conservation-Board.pdf))
<https://www.winneshiekwild.com/wp-content/uploads/2019/11/Rules-and-Regulations-for-Areas-under-the-Control-of-the-Winneshiek-County-Conservation-Board.pdf>

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I. Purpose and Background

The Decorah Parks and Recreation System is governed by the City of Decorah Municipal Code. In addition to the Rules noted below and all federal, State, and local laws and regulations, and the City of Decorah Municipal Code, as applicable, govern all activity within the city of Decorah Park and Recreation Facilities.

In addition, there are both Rules that apply to all Parks and Recreation facilities and also Rules that apply only to specific Parks and Recreation facilities.

All Rules must be approved by the Parks and Recreation Board and the Decorah City Council before they become effective. To better understand the process for establishing and implementing Parks and Recreation Department Rules, the explanation below is provided.

1. An Ordinance is a law enacted by the City Council, which becomes part of the Municipal Code of the City of Decorah, that is enforceable and punishable as a Municipal Code violation.
2. A Rule becomes effective and therefore enforceable by Parks and Recreation Department staff after approval by the Parks and Recreation Board and then the City Council.
3. Parks and Recreation Department staff and residents may request Code enforcement by contacting the Decorah Police Department at 563-382-3667 or 911
4. Persons aggrieved by disciplinary actions by the Parks and Recreation Department regarding park Rules may voice their disagreements to the Parks and Recreation Director, Board, and Decorah City Council.

<https://parks.decorahia.org/>

II. Parks and Recreation Facility User Conduct Guidelines

Activity Conduct Policy: Participants are required to follow all set rules and guidelines for programs or activities. The use of foul language, fighting or disruption of activities is prohibited. If acts of disruption occur, participants (and parents or guardians if a minor) will be notified and further disciplinary actions will be discussed. Consequences of poor behavior may include time outs, temporary suspension or revocation of participation privileges.

Persons visiting City of Decorah Parks and Recreation facilities are requested to observe a level of personal conduct that will help the City Parks and Recreation staff maintain its Parks and Recreation facilities in a safe, clean and beautiful condition so all may enjoy them.

The following statements are representative of those kinds of behavior that are encouraged while visiting the City's Parks and Recreation facilities.

1. **Conduct Guidelines:** Persons using the City's Parks and Recreation facilities shall conduct themselves in an orderly and respectful manner observing and being considerate of the rights of others with whom they may be sharing the facilities.
 - a. The Decorah Parks and Recreation Department does not discriminate with regard to race, color, sex, national origin, creed, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, disability, ancestry, or familial status.
 - b. Visitors to the City's Parks and Recreation facilities should make every effort to abide by the posted Rules and signs provided throughout. Verbal warnings or disciplinary actions from Parks and Recreation staff should be respected; and, where disagreement with the violation or disciplinary action may exist, review of the matter should proceed through the Appeal Process described on the following page.
2. **Disciplinary Action for Rules or Code Violations:**
 - a. Parks and Recreation Department staff are encouraged to handle first offenders of park ordinances and Rules by giving warnings and helpful reminders of expected and desired future behavior or conduct. Repeat offenders of Rules and Regulations or Decorah Municipal Code infractions will be handled by the Decorah Police Department. Unless specified otherwise in these Rules, repeat offenders of Rules may receive a written warning. Further offenses by the offender may result in banishment from the park system for a period of time commensurate with the offense or other appropriate action. The latter action may be handled by a program or facility supervisor and is appealable to the Parks and Recreation Director.
3. **Appeal of Parks and Recreation Department Disciplinary Action:** Any person aggrieved by a disciplinary action of the Parks and Recreation Department against them may appeal such decision to the Parks and Recreation Director:

a. By filing a written appeal, stating the basis for the appeal and the facts of the circumstance (date, facility, Rule violation, disciplinary action, etc.), and the appellant's physical address, email and phone contact information.

b. The appeal must be received in the office of the Parks and Recreation Director by email or U. S. Mail by no later than 10 days after the date of such disciplinary action.

c. The Director will provide written or phone notice of the time of a phone or in-person informal hearing.

d. The appellant will be notified, in writing, of the result of the appeal within 10 days of the hearing.

e. All decisions of the Director are final.

III. Parks and Recreation Rules and Municipal Code Sections of General Applicability

In addition to the Rules noted below and all federal, State and local laws and regulations, and the City of Decorah Municipal Code, as applicable, govern all activity within the city of Decorah Park and Recreation Facilities.

1. Rules: Rules that apply to all parks and recreation facilities managed and operated by the City of Decorah Parks and Recreation Department are as follows:

- a. Parks of the city will open at 7:00 am and close at 11:00 pm Exceptions for after hours' use will be granted via Parks and Recreation Department Director or his/her authorized representative.
- b. Smoking, vaping, tobacco and illegal drug use are not allowed.
- c. No privately owned animal shall be allowed to run at large in any public area, unless specifically allowed otherwise (such as the Decorah Dog Park).
- d. Horses are prohibited within the boundaries of all City Parks unless specifically designated for such use.
- e. Fires shall only be built in a place provided therefore, and such fire shall be extinguished when the site is vacated.
- f. Use of Firearms, Explosives, Weapons, and Fireworks Prohibited in Decorah Parks except for bow and arrow as designated by the Director, Park Board, or his/her authorized representative.
- g. Per Decorah Municipal Code, it is unlawful for any person to use or consume alcoholic liquors, wine or beer or possess open alcoholic beverage containers in public places, unless licensed by the City of Decorah.
- h. No person shall place any waste, refuse, litter or foreign substance in any area or receptacle except those provided for that purpose. Dumping household, commercial, or industrial refuse brought as such from private property is prohibited.
- i. It shall be lawful unless signed otherwise to collect the fruit of all nut and berry producing plants or mushrooms for non-commercial home use, provided that the collector does not otherwise damage the parent plant or surrounding area. (See Section VIII)
- j. Decorah Parks and Recreation reserves the right to require permits and establish fees and admission for the use of facilities, privileges, and conveniences or service without notice.
- k. Staff will not be responsible for holding any patron's personal items, except an ID or license for equipment checkout/rental.
- l. Operating any motor vehicle on trails and other areas not designated or developed as a public roadway is prohibited. Vehicles are not allowed on city property other than parking lots and park roads, unless approved by the Parks and Recreation Director or his/her authorized representative.

2. Municipal Code: Much of the conduct expected of parks and recreation facility users is covered in the Decorah Municipal Code and generally applies to most parks and recreation facilities; links to specific sections of said Chapter have been placed in this document for ease of location.

The following chapters of the Decorah Municipal Code are directly applicable:

Chapter 2.22 - Parks and Recreation ([Link Here](#))

Chapter 6 - Animals ([Link Here](#))

Chapter 5.08 – Liquor and Intoxication / Alcoholic Beverages ([Link Here](#))

Chapter 8.12, 9.58 - Firearms, Weapons, Fireworks, Explosives ([Link Here](#) and [Here](#))

Chapter 8.24 – Littering ([Link Here](#))

Chapter 8.32 – Open Burning ([Link Here](#))

Chapter 9.38 – Defacing Public Property ([Link Here](#))

Chapter 10.80 – Snowmobiles and All Terrain Vehicles ([Link Here](#))

IV. Equity and Inclusion

DPR Mission Statement:

To preserve, develop and maintain a parks and recreation system that enriches the quality of life for all residents, visitors and future generations.

Vision Statement:

To enrich lives through quality parks and recreational opportunities.

Department Description:

The Decorah Parks and Recreation Department is responsible for overseeing nearly 600 acres of land which encompasses 21 parks and recreational areas, a municipal pool and campground, 20 miles of off-road trails, and segments of the 11 mile paved Trout Run Trail. Parks and Recreation staff and volunteers host dozens of community events each year and provide safe recreational opportunities for children year-round. In partnership with the community, Decorah Parks and Recreation takes great pride in enriching the lives of others through quality parks and programs that people of all ages, abilities and income levels have the chance to participate in.

Decorah Parks & Recreation recognize, understand, and encourage celebration of the differences that surround us. Diversity and equity are vital to Decorah Parks & Recreation's ideals and values. It is the policy of Decorah Parks & Recreation that no person shall be excluded from participation in, denied the benefits of, or be subjected to discrimination in any program, service, or activity on the grounds of race, color, national origin, disability, or other class status.

Judy Severson Everyone Plays Fund

Judy Severson served the Decorah Parks & Recreation department for over 44 years of her professional career. Upon her retirement, donations were received to create the "Judy Severson Everyone Plays" Fund, in which those that may not be able to cover registration fees can receive financial assistance to cover such costs of program registration. Details can be provided by the Decorah Park & Rec office or Director in person or by calling (563) 382-4158.

NE Iowa Community Action provides funds to qualifying LMI families for Decorah Municipal Swimming Pool passes on an annual basis. Please contact NEICAC for further information 563-382-8436 or info@neicac.org

V. Recreation Program Registration

To register for Parks and Recreation Programs online, go to:

<https://decorahparkrec.activityreg.com>

Credit and debit card payments are only accepted online.

Only check or cash payments are accepted when registering in person at the Decorah Parks and Recreation Office. Mail-in registrations must be paid by check only - no cash payments, please.

For future reference, the tentative online release dates for our quarterly brochures are as follows:

August 15 Sept, Oct & Nov

November 15 Dec, Jan & Feb

February 15 Mar, Apr & May

May 1 June, July & Aug

CHECKS PAYABLE TO "Decorah Parks & Recreation":

\$35 service charge on all returned checks.

Send form and payment to Decorah Park-Rec., PO Box 513, Decorah, IA 52101.

No receipts will be sent out.

LATE REGISTRATIONS: For programs that include a team shirt, a shirt will not be guaranteed when registration is received beyond the program deadline. Late registrations for all programs will only be accepted in the Park-Rec. Office if space is available.

REFUNDS: Given only if program is canceled due to low enrollment, program is filled, or registrant cannot participate due to medical reasons.

TEAM ASSIGNMENTS: Children will be placed on teams in a random manner with the exception of children living in the same household who will be assigned to the same team if in the same age/grade division. Requests to "team up" children for carpooling purposes will not be granted. If you feel you have extenuating circumstances, please contact the Decorah Parks & Recreation Office at 563-382-4158.

Participant Conduct Policy: Participants are required to follow all set rules and guidelines for programs or activities. The use of foul language, fighting or disruption of activities is prohibited. If acts of disruption occur, parents will be notified and further disciplinary actions will be discussed. Consequences of poor behavior may include time outs, temporary suspension or revocation of participation privileges.

VI. Prioritization and use of Facilities

Decorah Parks and Recreation manages over 26 municipal facilities and public park areas encompassing 600+ acres. It is the policy of the department to prioritize publicly accessible department programming first for the use of City owned and managed facilities.

It is also recognized that Decorah Parks and Recreation has several unique responsibilities and privileges with shared facilities and use agreements, including the Decorah Community School District, and Winneshiek County Conservation. Within these shared use agreements, Decorah Parks & Recreation cannot guarantee that events or activities will have priority over other user groups.

Park Rec Facilities and Fields:

Decorah Parks and Recreation shall make every effort to accommodate scheduling requests for fields and facilities. It is the policy of Decorah Parks and Recreation to prioritize department programming first, and then all other requests. Per Section III, Decorah Parks and Recreation reserves the right to require permits and establish fees and admission for the use of facilities, privileges, and conveniences or service without notice.

City Property:

Decorah Parks and Recreation also oversees many areas of the City that are public but may not be formal park areas. These areas may be used at the discretion of the Decorah Parks and Recreation Director and Board, as allowed via Decorah Municipal Code and Special Event Permits via the City of Decorah and Decorah City Council.

VII. Donations, Memorials, and Gifts

The Decorah Parks and Recreation Department and Board recognize that Decorah's unique Parks system has been built greatly on the generosity of donors. Every effort is made to memorialize those generous gifts that have made these resources possible. Donations made to Decorah Parks and Recreation become the property of the City of Decorah, with any decisions regarding alteration, removal, or replacement at the sole discretion of the City.

DPR holds both an Endowment Fund and Quasi-Endowment Fund with the Winneshiek County Community Foundation, as part of the Community Foundation of Northeast Iowa. Donations can be made by contacting DPR Staff or online at: <https://www.cfneia.org/giving/find-a-fund/712-ai>

DPR also recognizes those that would like to support the efforts and enhance Decorah's Park System through donations, memorials, and gifts. DPR Welcomes those opportunities on a case-by-case basis to be discussed with the DPR Director and / or Board. Donors should understand that any design or implementation elements may be ruled by Decorah City Code, DPR Guidelines, or extenuating natural circumstances. Decorah Parks and Recreation and the City of Decorah hold the right of refusal for any gift, donation, or memorial.

VIII. Natural Resources Management

Decorah Parks and Recreation recognize that they are the stewards of Decorah's 600+ acres of public parks and facilities. Every effort is made to care responsibly for those public properties. DPR also recognizes that many facilities require mutual maintenance between NGOs, City Departments and State Organizations with focus but not limited to: streets / rights-of-way, forestry / prairie ecology, stormwater management, fisheries, invasive species management, access roads, riverine / waterways, and more. It is recognized here that such facilities as Ice Cave State Preserve and Twin Springs Park have additional potential oversight from state level entities such as the Department of Natural Resources. Every effort is made to foster stewardship principles to ensure longevity of these assets.

Invasive Species

Decorah Parks and Recreation acknowledge the work of multiple volunteer groups to control invasive species such as, but not limited to, garlic mustard and buckthorn to help protect native / preferred species habitats. DPR welcomes the opportunity to partner with volunteer groups to control these invasives within the system. A written request must be approved by the Director and/or Board for any invasive species control to prevent further spread or damage to the Park System. Additionally, a removal plan may be required to be developed with the Parks Superintendent or other staff.

Foraging

As per Section 3.1(i) of this document, It shall be lawful unless signed otherwise throughout Decorah's Park System to collect the fruit of all nut and berry producing plants or mushrooms for non-commercial home use, provided that the collector does not otherwise damage the parent plant or surrounding area. Ginseng may not be harvested in City of Decorah parks or wildlife areas. Commercial harvest or foraging for resale of natural resources within the park system is not allowed.

Natural and Cultural Features

Decorah Parks & Recreation suggests the motto of "leave only footprints, take only memories." Removal or defacement of any natural features such as bird nests, rock formations, or live trees is prohibited, as is removal or defacement of cultural features such as Native American artifacts and mounds.

VIX. Shelter Reservation Policies

Whalen Cabin and picnic shelter reservation requests may be made beginning on the first business week day of the new year in January, beginning at 8:00 am. Reservation requests must be made by calling 563-382-4158 and leaving a message with your name, phone number, and the date, time and name of facility you are requesting to reserve. Phone calls and messages will be returned in the order they are received. Messages received before 8:00 am on the first business week day of January will not be considered.

Whalen Cabin and picnic shelters in the Decorah Park System can be rented during the following time slots; 9am-2pm, 3pm-10pm or all day. The cost to rent Whalen Cabin for one time slot is \$60 and the cost to rent Whalen Cabin all day is \$84. The cost to rent a picnic shelter is \$12 per time slot and the cost to rent a picnic shelter all day is \$18.

Rental fees must be paid at least one week in advance of the reservation date. Fees are non-refundable unless cancelled two weeks in advance. The key for Whalen Cabin must be picked up and rental agreement signed by 4pm Thursday if a weekend rental and 24 hours in advance if renting Monday thru Friday. Scout troops may use Whalen Cabin at no cost, however reservations must be made in advance. Picnic shelters not posted with a reserved sign may be used on a first come, first served basis.

X. Open Air Shelter Rules

1. General Rules:

- a. No driving and/or parking on the grass. Motorized vehicles or equipment are not allowed on city property other than parking lots and park roads, unless using a mobility assisted device or other as approved by staff.
- b. No fires shall be built, except in a place provided therefore, and such fire shall be extinguished when the site is vacated.
- c. Smoking, vaping, tobacco and illegal drug use are not allowed.
- d. Per Decorah Municipal Code, It is unlawful for any person to use or consume alcoholic liquors, wine or beer or possess open alcoholic beverage containers in public places, unless licensed by the City of Decorah.
- e. Restrooms may not be available, depending upon weather conditions.
- f. Picnic shelters not posted with a reserved sign may be used on a first come, first served basis.

XI. Enclosed Shelter House Rules

1. General Rules:

- a. No driving and/or parking on the grass. Motorized vehicles or equipment are not allowed on city property other than parking lots and park roads, unless using a mobility assisted device or other as approved by staff.
- b. No fires shall be built indoors. Outdoor fires shall only be in a place provided therefore, and such fire shall be extinguished when the site is vacated.
- c. Smoking, vaping, tobacco and illegal drug use are not allowed.
- d. Per Decorah Municipal Code, It is unlawful for any person to use or consume alcoholic liquors, wine or beer or possess open alcoholic beverage containers in public places, unless licensed by the City of Decorah.
- e. Restrooms may not be available, depending upon weather conditions
- f. All facilities must be left in same or better shape and cleanliness as found. Any maintenance issues should be reported as soon as possible to Decorah Parks & Recreation office staff at 563-382-4158 or parkrec@decorah.iowa.org
- g. Picnic shelters not posted with a reserved sign may be used on a first come, first served basis.

XII. Weddings in Parks

Weddings are welcome in any Decorah park. Decorah Parks & Recreation does not reserve Parks for exclusive use. This means that other patrons may be in the park at the time of a wedding.

Whalen Cabin (located a block away from Phelps Park) is an enclosed facility with a restroom, stove, refrigerator, microwave, tables and chairs. It also has a picnic shelter attached to it with picnic tables and a picnic grill. This facility has been used for weddings and receptions in the past and may be rented from 11 am to 2 pm, 3 to 10 pm, or all day. The cabin and shelter could comfortably hold around 80 people.

Additionally, several picnic shelters and a bandshell in Phelps Park may be rented. The bandshell has been used for weddings in the past, often combined with shelters for serving a meal afterwards. All shelters have picnic tables, an electrical outlet and a picnic grill. Phelps Park does have restroom facilities through the non-freezing months of the year.

Twin Springs and Dunning's Spring parks are also popular for weddings. Be aware there are no restrooms or picnic shelters and parking is limited. Most people use these areas for the actual wedding ceremony and make arrangements elsewhere for the reception.

1. General Rules for Weddings in City Parks:

- a. Although Decorah Parks and Recreation does not take reservations for weddings, it is requested that wedding parties call the Decorah Parks and Recreation office and provide a contact name, phone number, date and time of wedding and park area. Decorah Parks and Recreation will track requests throughout the year to help avoid usage conflicts.
- b. Each calendar year on the first business weekday in January, Decorah Parks and Recreation begins taking reservations for shelters and Whalen Cabin. Wedding requests will also be taken then.
- c. It is permissible to set up chairs or a tent/canopy for the ceremony.
- d. Please do not drive or park on grass areas. Motorized vehicles or equipment are not allowed on city property other than parking lots and park roads, unless using a mobility assisted device or other as approved by staff.
- e. Per Decorah City Code, Open Alcoholic containers are not allowed in public.
- f. Curfew in all City of Decorah parks is 11:00 pm.
- g. Smoking, vaping, tobacco and illegal drug use are not allowed.
- f. Restrooms may not be available, depending upon weather conditions.

XIII. Decorah Public Swimming Pool Rules and Policies

As of 2022, Decorah Parks & Recreation has instated a key card & scanner system at the pool for season pass holders. Please note that when purchasing a pool pass, a photo must be uploaded for each individual. Each person will be issued their own unique QR code (sent to their email inbox) to present for pool admission. Each person may also chose to stop by the Park-Rec Office after purchasing their pool pass online to be issued their own uniquely numbered card to present for admission. A lost card can be replaced for \$5.00 and must be picked up and paid for at the Park-Rec Office.

1. General Pool Rules:

- a. Non-swimmers and children, 8 years and under, must be accompanied by an adult or another responsible guardian at least 15 years of age. (State Regulations are 12 years old)
- b. Everyone must shower before entering the pool area.
- c. No street shoes will be allowed on the deck area.
- d. No gum, food or beverages will be allowed on the deck or pool area, and must be kept in the pool's concession area only.
- e. No running on the pool deck area, walk only.
- f. No diving in from sides of pool. Diving will be permitted only off of the diving boards and during swimming lessons, then only in the twelve (12) foot area.
- g. No rough play, including dunking, pushing, shoving, splashing and horseback or shoulder rides.
- h. Water wings and/or other flotation devices are not to be permitted in the pool area.
- i. Balls, rafts, inner tubes or throwable objects are not allowed in the main pool during regular pool hours
- j. No one will be permitted to hang on ropes, ladders, boards or diving boards unless it is an emergency situation, i.e., distressed or tired swimmer.
- k. There will be no swearing or excessive name calling allowed between patrons.
- l. No one will be allowed to smoke, while on or around the pool area. Smoking is allowed off the pool grounds only. This includes vaping.
- m. No one will be allowed to talk to lifeguards while they are on duty unless it concerns pool rules.
- n. Everyone must obey the established pool rules and any Lifeguard's interpretation of these rules. Disobeying these rules may lead to temporary and/or permanent suspension from the Decorah Pool facility. This rule is also for lifeguards at all times.
- o. In order to go off the diving boards, the patron must be able to swim the length of the pool (25 yds) using the front crawl under the supervision of a Lifeguard or Manager.

XIV. Pulpit Rock Campground Rules & Policies

Pulpit Rock Campground is fully maintained and managed by the Decorah Parks and Recreation staff. The Campground features 56 back-in sites, 19 pull-through sites, and 34 tent sites, separated by the scenic Twin Springs trout spring, and bordered by the Upper Iowa River. Pulpit Rock Campground allows 37 trailer sites and 34 tent sites to be reserved in advance via the online reservation system at <https://pulpitrock.campgroundonline.org/> beginning the first week of March (Please check with DPR for exact dates).

Facilities and Amenities:

- A map of Pulpit Rock Campground is available [online](#) or in the registration booth at the campground.
- Pulpit Rock Campground has two sides. The Pulpit Rock side includes sites 1-170 and the Twin Springs Side includes sites 200-242. The two sides are connected by a walking bridge.
- 34 tent sites (tent sites #22 through #34 are electric)
- 56 back-in sites (electric only) 19 pull-through sites (electric only)
- Electrical hook-ups (30 and 50 amp)
- Water hydrants located throughout the campground to fill campers.
- Dump stations available on site.
- Restrooms, shower facilities, and picnic shelter.
- Ice and wood sales.
- Playground equipment, basketball hoop, volleyball net.
- Wi-Fi
- Canoe landing, Twin Springs Trout Stream, easy access to [Trout Run Trail](#).

1. Pulpit Rock Campground Staffing Hours

FOR EMERGENCIES DIAL 911

Local Non-Emergency Campground Phone Number: (563) 382-9551

Pulpit Rock Campground Staff can be found at or near the main entrance booth:

April 1 thru May 15:

Monday-Sunday: 8:00 am to 5:00 pm

May 15 thru Labor Day:

Monday-Sunday: 8:00 am to 8:00 pm

September (and October as weather allows) Office Hours

Sunday-Tuesday: 8:00 am - 6:00 pm

Wednesday & Thursday: 8:00 am - 7:00 pm

Friday: 8:00 am - 8:00 pm

Saturday: 8:00 am - 7:00 pm

Pulpit Rock Campground Rates (as of 2/2024):

Back-in Sites Trailers/Motorhomes

30 amp sites \$29/night, 50 amp sites \$31/night

Tents (limit 2) may be added to trailer sites for a cost of \$18 per night.

**An additional fee of \$5 per night is added for all back-in site advance reservations.

Pull-thru Sites Trailers/Motorhomes (reservable for one trailer, a 2nd trailer may be added upon arrival for an additional cost)

30 amp sites \$36/night

50 amp sites \$38/night

A 2nd trailer may be added to pull-thru site for \$29 per night. Tents (limit 2) may be added to trailer sites for a cost of \$18 per night.

**An additional fee of \$5 per night is added for all pull-thru site advance reservations.

Tents w/o electric

\$21 tent/night.

\$18 additional tent/night on same site

Limit 2 tents per site

**An additional fee of \$5 per night is added for all tent site advance reservations

Tents w/electric

\$24 first tent/night

\$18 additional tent/night on same site

Tent limit varies per site

**An additional fee of \$5 per night is added for all tent site advance reservations

Holiday Rule: 3 Night Minimum Stay

Pulpit Rock Campground Cancellation Policy:

Reservations cancelled 7 or more days prior to the first night stay will be refunded 50% of total reservation cost. Cancellations made less than 7 days prior to the first night stay will not be refunded. Pulpit Rock Campground maintains a no refund policy for day of arrival reservations. Please note, camping is an outdoor experience, refunds are not given due to bad weather.

Pulpit Rock Campground Reservation Policies (as of 2/2024)

2. Day of arrival reservations:

Sites may be reserved by calling (563) 382-9551 or stopping by on the day of the first night's stay.

- a. Day of arrival reservations may be made in person or over the phone beginning at 8:00 am. Camping unit is required to be on the site the day the reservation was made.
- b. Reservations may be made for more than one site as long as all sites are paid for.
- c. Phone reservations require payment at time of reservation.
- d. Pulpit Rock Campground has a no refund policy, however in emergency situations campground credit may be given.
- e. If you are connected to voicemail when calling for day of reservations please leave a message with your name, phone number, and whether you are seeking a trailer/RV site or tent site. Campground staff will return messages in the order they are received.
- f. Camping is an outdoor experience - no refunds for bad weather.

3. Online Reservations:

Pulpit Rock Campground will begin accepting advance reservations for the camping season annually during the first week of March via the online reservation system. (Please check with DPR for exact dates).

- a. Payment is due at the time of reservation.
- b. No discount is applied for online reservations.
- c. Reservations cancelled 7 days or more prior to the first night's stay will be refunded 50%.
- d. Cancellations made less than 7 days prior to the first night's stay will not be refunded.
- e. 2 night minimum required for weekends Memorial Day to Labor Day
- f. 3 night minimum required for Holidays (Memorial Day, 4th of July, Nordic Fest & Labor Day)
- g. Camping is an outdoor experience - no refunds for bad weather.

In addition to the Rules noted below and all federal, State and local laws and regulations, and the City of Decorah Municipal Code, as applicable, govern all activity within the city of Decorah and Pulpit Rock Campground.

4. General Camping Rules:

- a. Pets are welcome.
- b. Pets must be leashed at all times and may not be left unattended.
- c. Please pick-up after your pets.
- d. All campers must register prior to occupying a site. (18 yrs & older)
- e. Self registration envelopes are available outside the office for after-hours registration.
- f. Campers will receive a card to place on the post at their site. All sleeping units must be registered.
- g. Check- in and Check-out time is 1:00 PM.
- h. Please help keep our campground green. No rugs or carpet on the grass.
- i. Please consider proper campfire etiquette to minimize smoke.
- j. Operation of golf carts or UTV's is not allowed at the campground.
- k. As per section 3.1(d) of this document, Horses are prohibited within the boundaries of all City Parks unless specifically designated for such use.

5. Maintaining Your Site:

- a. All sites include a grill and picnic table.
- b. No charcoal grills on the tables please.
- c. Please consider proper campfire etiquette to minimize smoke
- d. Please respect your neighbors.
- e. Quiet hours start at 10:00 pm.
- f. After hours disturbances call the Decorah Police Department (563-382-3667)
- g. Please recycle.
- h. Place trash in the dumpsters.
- i. Mondays and Tuesdays are mowing days. Be aware of your belongings in the grass. Help us keep the campground clean and well groomed.

6. Rules for RV Camping:

- a. There is a two (2) week maximum stay.
- b. A maximum of (2) tents may be added to certain RV occupied sites. Added tents will be charged a daily tent fee and a sticker added to the card.
- c. A rain fly or dining canopy may be added to sites without charge.
- d. Park accordingly if you wish to use rugs. Give yourself room to keep rugs off the grass.
- e. Keep your wheels on the gravel pad.

7. Rules for Tent Camping:

- a. There is a two (2) week maximum stay. For stays longer than 4 days you need to move your tent every 4 days to avoid damage to the grass.
- b. Tents may be added to an occupied site for a daily fee.
- c. Tent stickers will be added to the site card to identify additional tents.
- d. A rain fly or dining canopy may be added to sites without charge.
- e. There is a maximum combination of three (3) tents and canopies in total at any single site. (Note: If you sleep in it, it's a tent and you will be charged.)
- f. Electrical sites will have a corresponding numbered outlet at the electric box. Use your site numbered outlet only.
- g. Park in designated areas.

XV. Will Baker Athletic Field Rules

1. General Rules:

- a. No pets are allowed during group recreation activities
- b. No driving and/or parking on the grass unless using a mobility assisted device or as approved by staff. Parking is allowed by permission for paid camping.
- c. Overflow camping is allowed at Will Baker Athletic Fields – all PRC Rules apply.
- c. Smoking, vaping, tobacco and illegal drug use are not allowed.
- d. Per Decorah Municipal Code, It is unlawful for any person to use or consume alcoholic liquors, wine or beer or possess open alcoholic beverage containers in public places, unless licensed by the City of Decorah.
- e. Restrooms may not be available, depending upon weather conditions.

XVI. Municipal Tennis and Pickleball Court Rules

1. General Rules:

- a. Courts are a shared resource and must be treated as such.
- b. No bicycle, skateboards, etc. on courts.
- c. Per Decorah Municipal Code, It is unlawful for any person to use or consume alcoholic liquors, wine or beer or possess open alcoholic beverage containers in public places, unless licensed by the City of Decorah.
- d. Smoking, vaping, tobacco and illegal drug use are not allowed.
- e. No glass containers on courts.
- f. No pets allowed on courts.
- g. Remove all trash and litter from courts.

XVII. Municipal Ball Diamonds

1. General Rules:

- a. No pets are allowed.
- b. No driving and/or parking on the grass. Motorized vehicles or equipment are not allowed on city property other than parking lots and park roads, unless using a mobility assisted device or other as approved by staff.
- c. Smoking, vaping, tobacco and illegal drug use are not allowed.
- d. Per Decorah Municipal Code, It is unlawful for any person to use or consume alcoholic liquors, wine or beer or possess open alcoholic beverage containers in public places, unless licensed by the City of Decorah.
- e. Restrooms may not be available, depending upon weather conditions

XVIII. Wold Park - Skatepark Rules

In addition to the Rules noted below and all federal, State and local laws and regulations, and the City of Decorah Municipal Code, as applicable, govern all activity within the city of Decorah Park and Recreation Facilities.

1. General Rules:

- a. Usage is intended for skateboards.
- b. Safety First – helmets and other protective gear are highly recommended.
- c. For emergencies call 911
- e. No driving and/or parking on the grass.
- f. Smoking, vaping, tobacco, alcohol and illegal drug use are not allowed.
- g. Restrooms may not be available, depending upon weather conditions.
- h. Please do not bring glass containers into skatepark.
- i. Please keep pets outside skatepark and off features.
- j. Remove all trash and litter from skatepark or place in provided receptacles.
- k. Any maintenance issues should be reported as soon as possible to Decorah Parks & Recreation office staff at 563-382-4158 or parkrec@decorah.iowa.org

XIX. Multi-User Hard Recreation Trails

In addition to the Rules noted below and all federal, State and local laws and regulations, and the City of Decorah Municipal Code, as applicable, govern all activity within the city of Decorah Park and Recreation Facilities.

Permitted uses.

Except as otherwise provided, the following uses are permitted on multi-use recreational trails:

- (1) Persons walking, jogging or running;
- (2) Persons utilizing or operating a non-motorized device, such as a bicycle, including electronic assisted bicycles, skateboard, inline skates, scooters, or mobility devices.
- (3) Persons with mobility disabilities using manually operated or power-driven wheelchairs and manually powered mobility aids for the purpose of locomotion;
- (4) Official emergency vehicles and authorized maintenance vehicles as necessary to perform the duties of the operator.

Uses not permitted. Except as otherwise provided, the following uses are not permitted on multi-use recreational trails:

- (1) Motorized vehicles, except where the trail utilizes an existing road, street or highway and except by authorized personnel for the purpose of maintenance;
- (2) Equestrian uses unless marked otherwise.

Official signs. Every user of a recreational trail shall observe and obey any and all official signs posted along a recreational trail, including, but not limited to, speed limits, hours of use, stop signs, yield signs and trail closures.

Reasonable speed. Each person using the trail shall travel at a speed that is reasonable and prudent under the conditions then existing and shall not travel in such a manner as to constitute a willful or wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property.

Trout Run Trail

Decorah Parks & Recreation acknowledges that the the Trout Run Trail is a shared resource of Winneshiek County and the City of Decorah via a 28E agreement. Both entities govern specific sections of the trail as such, but acknowledge a mutual right to enforce basic rules of the trail as agreed upon.

A map of the Trout Run Trail may be found at [this link](https://parks.decorahia.org/trail-maps).
<https://parks.decorahia.org/trail-maps>

General Rules of the Trail:

(Via Decorah Parks & Recreation Board and Winneshiek Co. Conservation Board)

- a. Be Courteous to all users.
- b. Wear a helmet.
- c. Keep pets leashed.
- d. Give slower traffic the right-of-way.
- e. Announce your presence.
- f. Keep right except to pass.
- g. Always use safe speeds.
- h. Yield / Stop when crossing driveways and roads.
- i. When in a group, take no more than half the trail.
- j. Respect private property.
- k. Authorized vehicles only.
- l. Enjoy nature – Leave no trace.

XX. Soft Recreation Trails (Single Track)

A Map of Decorah's Single-Track hiking and biking trails may be [found here](https://parks.decorahia.org/trail-maps).
<https://parks.decorahia.org/trail-maps>

Permitted uses.

Except as otherwise provided, the following uses are permitted on soft recreational trails:

- (1) Persons walking, jogging or running;
- (2) Persons utilizing or operating a non-motorized device, such as a bicycle, including electronic assisted bicycles or mobility devices.
- (3) Persons with mobility disabilities using manually operated or power-driven wheelchairs and manually powered mobility aids for the purpose of locomotion.
- (4) Official emergency vehicles and authorized maintenance vehicles as necessary to perform the duties of the operator.

Uses not permitted. Except as otherwise provided, the following uses are not permitted on multi-use recreational trails:

- (1) Motorized vehicles, except where the trail utilizes an existing road, street or highway and except by authorized personnel for the purpose of maintenance.
- (2) Equestrian uses, unless marked otherwise.

Official signs. Every user of a recreational trail shall observe and obey any and all official signs posted along a recreational trail, including, but not limited to, speed limits, hours of use, stop signs, yield signs and trail closures.

Reasonable speed. Each person using the trail shall travel at a speed that is reasonable and prudent under the conditions then existing and shall not travel in such a manner as to constitute a willful or wanton disregard for the safety of persons or property.

Decorah Parks and Recreation commits significant financial resources to grooming winter snow trails for ski and snow sport activities. All signs and best practices should be adhered to allow snow grooming and multi-user areas.

Groomed Snow Trail Etiquette:

- Think Before you Sink. Do not walk on groomed surfaces.
- Stay off trails when temperatures are above freezing to prevent damage.
- If your ski, tire, or foot is sinking more than 1 inch deep consider, lowering tire pressure or using snowshoes.
- Respect those behind you.
- Share the trails.
- Stay in your lane on groomed trails – please follow signs for classic skiing / Skate skiing / and snowshoe / walking lanes.

Single Track / Soft Trail Code of Conduct

(Adapted from IMBA International Mountain Bike Association Trail Rules)

Ride On Open Trails Only. Respect trail and road closures — consult Decorah Parks & Recreation for clarification if you are uncertain about the status of a trail. Do not trespass on private land.

Leave No Trace. Be sensitive to the dirt beneath you. Wet and muddy trails are more vulnerable to damage than dry ones. When the trail is soft, consider other riding options. This also means staying on existing trails and not creating new ones. Don't cut switchbacks. Be sure to pack out at least as much as you pack in.

Control Your Bicycle. Inattention for even a moment could put yourself and others at risk - ride within your limits.

Yield to Others. Do your utmost to let your fellow trail users know you're coming -- a friendly greeting or bell ring are good methods. Try to anticipate other trail users as you ride around corners. Bicyclists should yield to all other trail users, unless the trail is clearly signed for bike-only travel.

Bicyclists traveling downhill should yield to ones headed uphill, unless the trail is clearly signed for one-way or downhill-only traffic. Strive to make each pass a safe and courteous one.

Never Scare Animals. Animals are easily startled by an unannounced approach, a sudden movement or a loud noise. Give animals enough room and time to adjust to you.

Plan Ahead. Know your equipment, your ability and the area in which you are riding -- and prepare accordingly. Strive to be self-sufficient: keep your equipment in good repair and carry necessary supplies for changes in weather or other conditions.

Always wear a helmet and appropriate safety gear.

XXI. Carl Selland Wayside Park – Ice Rink & Basketball Courts

Carl Selland Wayside Park offers multiple activities throughout the seasons, including concrete basketball courts throughout Spring, Summer, and Fall, and an Ice-skating rink in Winter months. The use of the rink and the warming house is free and open to the public. The ice rink is flooded and maintained by Decorah Parks and Recreation staff as natural weather conditions allow. Warming house hours are posted, and users should pick up their own trash, show respect and leave other people's things alone. Users should reference the sign at rink entrance for when ice is open or closed for skating. Warming house hours fluctuate with ice conditions – please check ahead for weekly conditions and hours with the Decorah Parks & Recreation office or online outlets. <https://parks.decorahia.org/>

1. General Rules:

- a. The Ice rink is a shared resource and must be treated as such.
- b. Smoking, vaping, tobacco and illegal drug use are not allowed.
- c. No glass containers on courts or ice.
- d. No pets allowed on courts or ice.
- e. Please place all trash and litter in provided receptacles.
- f. Restrooms may not be available, depending upon weather conditions.
- g. Hockey is played on the west end of the rink and will be allowed as long as the rules are followed, including:
 - Anyone is allowed to play
 - No checking or tackling
 - Sticks and puck stays on the ice
 - No fighting or swearing
- h. No snowballs
- i. No snow on the ice
- j. Bullying will not be tolerated

Disobedience of rink rules will result in expulsion at the discretion of the rink supervisor.

XXII. Dog Park Rules

The 2-acre Decorah Dog Park offers two fenced in areas, one marked for small dogs and one for larger dogs, as well as a picnic shelter and table. There is currently no parking allowed next to the Dog Park. Parking is allowed at the neighboring Wal-Mart parking lot for anyone using the facility. It should also be noted that water is not currently available at the Dog Park.

1. General Rules:

- a. Decorah Dog Park is open sun up to sun down year round.
- b. Dogs must display rabies tags, be current on all vaccinations, and be healthy. (Distemper, hepatitis, parvo, and parainfluenza DHPP, leptospirosis, bordetella, and rabies.)
- c. Owners must clean up after their dogs.
- e. Dogs must be leashed before entering and prior to leaving the park; owners must carry the leash at all times and remain inside the park with their dog.
- f. Dogs must wear a collar and ID tags at all times.
- g. Dogs must be at least 4 months old to use the park.
- h. Dogs known to be aggressive toward other dogs or people may not enter the park.
- i. If aggression is shown dogs must be removed from the park immediately.
- j. Report any dog bites to humans to Decorah Park-Rec or Decorah Police
- k. Department. Limit of 2 dogs per owner/handler in the park.
- l. No food or beverages, including dog treats, inside the fenced area of the dog park.
- m. Shoes are required.
- n. Dogs in heat are not allowed in park.
- o. Do not allow your dog to dig.
- p. Children under 12 must be accompanied by an adult.
- q. Violators will be subject to removal from park and suspension of park privileges.

XXIII. List of Decorah Parks and Recreation Facilities (Found on following page)



DECORAH PARKS & RECREATION

PARKS AND RECREATION AREAS

	Number of Acres	AMENITIES																					POINTS OF INTEREST															
		Bandshell	Basketball Courts (Outdoor)	Benches	Camping Sites	Canoe Landing	Cross-Country Ski Trails	Drinking Fountain	Fishing Stream	Ground Grills	Hiking Trails	Ice Skating Rink (Outdoor)	Mountain Biking Trails	Picnic Shelter(s)	Picnic Table(s)	Picnic Grill(s)	Playground Equipment	Playground Diamond	Restrooms (permanent)	Sand Volleyball Court	Skateboard Park	Sledding Hill	Swimming Pool/Waterside	Trout Run Trail Access	Whalen Cabin	Brick Kiln	Butterfly Garden	Decorative Fountain	Historical Information	Ice Cave	Pulpit Rock	Scenic Overlook	Waterfall/Stone Arch Bridge					
Barbara Barnhart Van Peenen Memorial Park	120					X				X		X																										
Carl Seland Wayside Park	2.5	X	X				X				X								X																			
Carlson Park	110									X		X																										
City Ball Diamond #1																			X																			
City Ball Diamond #2																			X																			
Community Prairie and Butterfly Garden	34		X							X		X																										
Decorah Dog Park	2		X																																			
Dry Run Plaza				X								X																										
Dunning's Spring Park and Ice Cave Hill	115			X							X																						X	X	X	X		
Freepoint Trail to WWTP				X																																		
Mary Christopher Park	0.5		X								X							X																				
Miller Park	6		X								X							X																				
Nordheim Park	1.5		X								X							X																				
Palisades Park	105			X							X							X																				
Phelps Park	56	X	X								X							X														X	X	X	X	X		
Pulpit Rock Campground	23	X	X	X							X							X																				
Swimming Pool Park	6		X															X																				
Tennis Courts (6)				X																																		
Trout Run Trail				X																																		
Twin Springs Park	48		X								X							X																				
Vennehjem Park	2										X							X																				
Vennehjem Trail				X																																		
Water Street Park			X	X							X							X																				
Will Baker Park and Canoe Landing	11		X	X							X							X																				
Will Baker Athletic Fields	20																																					
World Park	3			X																																		



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FOR MORE INFORMATION
 (563) 382-4158
parkrec@decorahia.org
<https://parks.decorahia.org>



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 @DecorahParkRec