

Conservation and Environmental Lands Management Department Camping Rules and Regulations

The following rules are designed to help visitors have a safe, enjoyable stay in our Hillsborough County campgrounds. By registering at one of our campgrounds, you and your registered guests are hereby agreeing to abide by all rules and regulations.

In addition to the rules listed below, many parks contain rules and policies specific to the individual park and its resources. For more information or assistance, please contact the park staff or the campground hosts located in the campground.

Check in:

- Valid identification is required at check-in.
- The person registering for the campsite must be 18 years of age or older.
- The person registering for the campsite is responsible for the site and must be staying on the site for the duration of the booking.
 - All persons and pets staying on the campsite, and any guests or visitors, are the responsibility of the person the campsite is registered to.
- Campers are only allowed to rent one (1) site unless approved by park staff.
- All self-contained recreational vehicles (RV) must have up-to-date registration.
- Upon check-in, campers must show valid up-to-date registration on all camping unit(s), vehicle(s), and boat(s) to be brought to the campsite.
- All camping equipment must be set up prior to 8:00 p.m.
- Children under the age of 18 cannot be left unattended at any campsite.
- Tent campers are limited to stay 14 days per park within a 30-day period.
- Self-contained RV campers are qualified to stay no more than 30 consecutive days at any camping park.
 - After 30-days, self-contained RV campers will be required to vacate their site and may not return to camp in that park for at least another 30 days.
- No campers are allowed to stay in the Hillsborough County Conservation Parks System more than 150 days within a 365-day time period.
- Allowing other campers registered in the camping system to stay on your site is prohibited.
 - If staff observe other registered campers staying on your site, staff will apply a restriction and link the accounts.
 - Linking accounts will combine all parties' days rented, which will count towards their 150 days maximum stay within a 365 -day time-period.

Check out:

- Campers must re-register their campsite by 10:00 a.m.
- Check-out time for campsites is 11:00 a.m. on the date the camping permit expires.

Sites:

- Camping is allowed in the designated campsite only.
- Each amenity campsite can accommodate one tent and one mobile camping unit or two tents; limited by the size of the site.
- The maximum number of tents allowed at a primitive campsite is determined by the size of the site. Contact park staff for details.
- The maximum persons allowed at an amenity campsite is up to eight people per site, and at primitive campsite is up to six people per site.
- The maximum use of canopies is two (12'x12') per site, or as limited by the size of the site.
- Exceeding campsite capacity limits may result in the registered camper having to acquire another site, pay additional camping fees, or eviction from the campground.
- Campers may not trespass on, cut through, or otherwise use other campsites.
- All campers must have proper camping equipment.
 - Campers may not sleep in any vehicle that was not manufactured or registered as a recreational camping unit.
 - If campers do not have a manufactured or registered camping unit, they will need to stay in a tent on the campsite.
 - Tarp(s) utilized as a shelter or sleeping area is prohibited.
- No personal property may be left unattended at an unpaid campsite longer than 24 hours.
 - After that time period, law enforcement will be notified, and anything left on site may be removed and stored at a designated location.
 - After two (2) weeks, items may be disposed of.

After hours:

- Quiet hours are from 10 p.m. to 8 a.m.
- All non-camping visitors must leave by 10 p.m.
- Generators are prohibited during quiet hours unless there is a disruption of power or extreme weather conditions.
- Excessive volumes from amplified devices and instruments are prohibited. Shutdown of these items may be necessary as a common courtesy to other park guests.
- After the park closes, campers may be restricted from other areas of the park. Please ask park staff for the details that will apply to each location.

Sanitation:

- Campers should pack wisely and bring reusable containers to lessen the amount of trash they generate.

- Some parks and all primitive sites abide by a "carry-in, carry-out" trash policy, while others provide trash receptacles and recycle bins.
 - Campers shall familiarize themselves with locations of trash receptacles in the campground, and ask staff for further instruction if needed.
- Campers shall take every opportunity to recycle and to keep trash away from wildlife.
- Discharging sewage or gray water on the ground is prohibited. RV sewage should be drained only at a dump station.
 - Hillsborough County Department of Health performs random inspection of our facilities and campsites. If a violation is reported due to a camper, they may receive a restriction based on the offense.
 - Discharging of sewage and/or gray water on campsites is strictly prohibited and enforced.
 - Campers deliberately discharging of sewage and/or black water improperly will receive a minimum 6-month restriction.
- Overhauling or major repairs of motorhomes or vehicles without prior permission of park management is prohibited.
- All sites must be kept clean and uncluttered. Only outdoor recreational gear will be permitted outside of a camping unit.
- Refrigerators, microwaves, and air conditioners that are not specially designed for camping are prohibited.
 - For items in question, please see park management.
- Campers may not prepare food, or wash dishes, clothing, or pets in the restrooms and bathhouses.
- Campers shall remove all personal items from the restrooms and bathhouses.

Safety:

- Campfires are the responsibility of the camper and are restricted to fire rings or grills provided.
- Fire must never be left unattended and must be completely extinguished before leaving the site.
- Adult supervision of a campfire is always required.
- Burning trash in fire rings or grills is strictly prohibited.
- Fire rings are not to be moved from current location.
- The use of fogging machines is prohibited.
- Due to underground utilities and preservation of the park, there is no digging allowed.
- Fireworks are strictly prohibited, and possession of fireworks is grounds for immediate eviction of the park.
- All children 16 years and younger must wear a helmet when bicycling through campground and park, by Florida law.
- Intoxicants are strictly prohibited.
 - Possession of intoxicants is grounds for immediate revocation of camping permit.

- The discharging of firearms, BB's, paintballs, air soft guns, bow and arrows, sling shots or any devices that use burning powder, explosives, compressed gases, etc. is prohibited.
- All devices with lasers are prohibited.
- If a camping unit must be relocated due to extreme weather conditions or campsite maintenance concerns, the registered camper will receive 24 hours prior notice from park management.
 - All camping equipment, personal items, recreational vehicles, pull behind, and pop-up campers must be in good working condition and able to be removed from the site at any time.

Vehicles:

- Campground speed limit is 5 mph.
- Only vehicles belonging to registered campers or their visitors may be parked in the campground.
- Campers may park their vehicles on their own registered site, not in an empty site.
- Each campsite can accommodate up to three (3) vehicles (to include RV's boat's and/or trailers), and this may be limited by the size of site and the campground.
- All vehicles must fit inside the designated camping area.
- Additional vehicles may be parked in the visitor overflow parking lot.
- All recreational vehicles, pull behind, and pop-up campers must be in good working condition and able to be removed from the site at any time.
- Washing of RVs, campers, or vehicles is prohibited.

Pets:

- Pets are limited to cats and dogs only, and no more than two (2) are allowed per site.
- A copy of current rabies certificate should be kept by campers and provided to staff upon request.
- Campers must clean up pet feces from all campgrounds and park areas. Waste bags are available in most locations and should be used for clean-up.
- Unattended pets are not permitted.
- If any pet demonstrates aggressive behavior toward another pet, camper, staff member, volunteer, or wild animal, the pet and campers will be asked to leave the campground.
- Pets may be restricted from areas of the park (with the exception of service animals), please see park staff for further details.
- Pets are prohibited from sanitary facilities (with the exception of service animals).

Conservation:

- Gathering firewood on county park property is strictly prohibited.

- No outside vendor can deliver wood without the permission of the Department Director.
- No person shall place or attach any rope, leashes, wire, string lights, straps or other contrivance to any trees.
- Metal detectors are not allowed in any area of the county parks or nature preserves.
- Swimming pools and other water activities such as slip-n-slides and water balloons are prohibited in the park, including the campground.
- It is illegal for campers or guests to destroy, injure, deface, dig, collect or otherwise disturb any park resources, including plants and animals (dead or alive), fossils, rocks, or artifacts.
 - Please report any illegal activities to a park ranger. ***Help Protect YOUR county conservation parks.***

Additional Rules and Regulations

- To ensure all campers and patrons have an enjoyable experience at Hillsborough County Conservation Parks, lewd or inappropriate behavior, use of intoxicants or alcoholic beverages, and destruction of property are strictly prohibited per Hillsborough County Ordinance 08-17, as amended.
 - Any person(s) found violating this County ordinance will be trespassed by the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office and will forfeit their eligibility to extended stay at any of our camping parks.
- Campers may not leave the campground to get a shelter before park is open or stay at a shelter after the park is closed.
 - To obtain a shelter campers must first get in the park entry line or reserve one ahead of time. Please see park staff for additional information.
- No tobacco products are permitted in the bathhouse or any other county building.
- No campers or guests may claim residency of any Hillsborough County property.
- No mail should be received at any park location without prior approval of park management.
- Solicitation or selling any services or items (including resale of a campsite) is strictly prohibited.
- Staff will periodically inspect the exterior of campsites to ensure compliance with camping rules and ordinances.

Service Interruptions:

- Registered Campers who do not abide by our Hillsborough County Camping rules and ordinances will be asked to leave.
- If a registered camper has an infraction, they will receive a formal warning letter. Once the registered camper reaches their formal warning letter limit of two (2), he/ she will receive a Service Interruption (Camping Restriction) from all Hillsborough County Conservation Parks.

- The Service Interruption is based on the number of infractions and/or severity of the infraction.
- Once a registered camper receives any level Service Interruption, they will be on a “Zero Tolerance” for further camping visits.
- In addition, registered campers who receive a Level III service interruption, will forfeit the privilege of using our extended camping option.
 - If the registered camper’s extended camping privilege is terminated, they will only be allowed to camp for 14 days per park within 30-day period.

Below are the levels of service interruption:

- **Level I (30 Day Service Interruption)** - Multiple minor infractions (i.e. upkeep of site, tying items to trees, etc.) which registered camper fail to address in a timely manner.
- **Level II (6 Months Service Interruption)** Camper(s) who previously received a Level I service interruption and/ or commits a severe infraction.
- **Level III (1 Year Service Interruption)** - Camper(s) who previously received a Level II service interruption and/ or commits a severe infraction (i.e. Illegal activities).
- *Hillsborough County is not responsible for any damage to a camping unit or any theft of personal property on site. This would include any damage from trees, electrical sources, or weather-related incidents.*
- If any rules are violated, campers and guests may be asked to leave.