



Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources - State Parks

NON-MOTORIZED CAMPER ACCOMMODATIONS

State park, recreation area, and southern forest lands with developed campsites welcome persons traveling through an area via non-motorized methods, i.e., canoes, kayaks, bicycles, thru-hiking. It is recognized that such travelers are susceptible to conditions that impact travel time, making it difficult to schedule daily stopping locations. As a result booking reservations in advance for campsites may not be possible.

It is the intent of the state park, recreation area, and southern forest program to be “thru traveler” friendly, encouraging non-motorized travel, and accommodating non-motorized travelers overnight whenever possible.

State park, recreation area, and southern forest properties that offer camping shall provide space designated for individuals or small groups traveling exclusively by bicycle, foot or non-motorized watercraft. If a fee is normally charged, it shall be no more than the current resident family campsite rate, for one night, in accordance with the following guidelines:

Non-motorized travelers (bikers, hikers, boaters, etc.) are encouraged to utilize the established campsite reservation system to ensure that a site will be available upon arrival.

. State park, recreation area, and southern forest properties that offer camping shall not turn away non-motorized traveling campers solely because the family campground or group camp sites are full. Properties with camping shall provide a space for non-motorized travelers, unless an appropriate location is not available within the property.

. If the family campground is full and a group campsite or equestrian campsite is available, the individuals should be accommodated and registered as family campers at the resident rate, (up to six people per group for one night only) and allowed to camp on a group or equestrian campsite. These campers shall not have exclusive use of a group campsite unless they pay the normal group campsite rate.

. If a group or equestrian campsite is not available, non-motorized travelers shall be assigned to camp in an area designated for such specific use, for a maximum of one night. Each group of up to six persons shall pay the current resident family campsite rate.

.The non-motorized traveler camping area shall meet the following criteria:

A “common area” shall be provided to set up camp in place of individually marked campsites.

If possible, the camping area shall be located away from designated day-use areas.

If possible, the camping area shall be located near or adjacent to an existing family campground or group camp area.

The camping area shall have access to drinking water and restroom facilities.

The camping area may provide other amenities, as deemed appropriate or available, such as picnic tables, fire rings, etc. At a minimum a flat, cleared or mowed area for placing tents should be available.

Properties that do not have locations meeting the above criteria are not required to provide overnight camping areas designated for non-motorized travelers. In such cases staff should be trained to refer them to the nearest state or local park, or private campground.

Due to capacity limitations, it may not be possible to accommodate large groups in a non-motorized traveler area.

Each property should pre-determine a capacity for the non-motorized traveler camping area. Except in emergency situations, potential campers may be turned away when capacity is reached.

(Emergency is defined as a situation where non-motorized travelers arrive near nightfall; where personal exhaustion, injury or equipment breakdowns exist, or when alternate accommodations cannot be readily obtained at nearby parks or private campgrounds.)

Property staff may turn away persons who abuse the intent of this policy by parking motor vehicles away from camp areas and bike, walk or boat short distances to the campground. For attendance reporting purposes, non-motorized travelers camping on these specialized camping areas shall be report resident family campers.