GENERAL USE REGULATION
ORDINANCE NO. 124
OF THE
FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT
OF WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS

FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT
OF WILL COUNTY
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Approved August 13, 2020
# GENERAL USE REGULATION

**ORDINANCE NO. 124**  
**OF THE FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF**  
**WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS**

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHAPTER I – SCOPE, CONSTRUCTION OF WORDS, AND DEFINITIONS</th>
<th>PAGE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Section 1: Scope of Ordinance</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 2: Construction of Words</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 3: Definitions</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHAPTER II – PUBLIC USE</th>
<th>8</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Section 1: Public Use and Purpose of the District</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 2: Hours of Use</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 3: Permits Required</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHAPTER III – PROTECTION OF PROPERTY, STRUCTURES AND NATURAL RESOURCES</th>
<th>9</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Section 1: Destruction or Misuse of Property and Structures</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 2: Destruction or Misuse of Natural Resources</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 3: Contraband</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 4: Unlawful Construction or Maintenance</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 5: Destruction or Misuse of Fire</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 6: Pyrotechnics</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CHAPTER IV – REGULATION OF SPORTS AND GAMES</th>
<th>11</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Section 1: Swimming</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 2: Watercraft</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 3: Engine Powered Models or Toys</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 4: Horseback Riding</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 5: Bicycling</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 6: Winter Sports</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 7: Field and Team Sports</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 8: Amusement Contraptions</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 9: Aviation</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Section 10: Gambling</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
CHAPTER V – REGULATION OF MOTORIZED VEHICLES, TRAFFIC AND PARKING ........................................................................................................14
  Section 1: Vehicle Operation and Equipment.................................................14
  Section 2: Vehicles Types and Access Allowed.............................................14
  Section 3: Right-of-Way ..................................................................................15
  Section 4: Parking ..........................................................................................15
  Section 5: Speed Limit ...................................................................................15
  Section 6: Power-Driven Mobility Device.......................................................15
  Section 7: Towing ..........................................................................................16

CHAPTER VI – REGULATION OF PERSONAL CONDUCT AND BEHAVIOR ..................................................................................................16
  Section 1: Preserve and Trail Use ..................................................................16
  Section 2: Honoring Permits ..........................................................................17
  Section 3: Illinois Statute Violation .................................................................17
  Section 4: Vending and Signage .....................................................................17
  Section 5: Unlawful Obstructions ..................................................................17
  Section 6: Interference with Employees ..........................................................17
  Section 7: Sound or Energy Amplification ......................................................18
  Section 8: Weapons and Harmful Substances ..............................................18
  Section 9: Disorderly Conduct .......................................................................18
  Section 10: Public Indecency .........................................................................18
  Section 11: Personal Conduct .......................................................................18
  Section 12: Cannabis .....................................................................................18

CHAPTER VII – CONTROL AND TREATMENT OF ANIMALS.................19
  Section 1: Control of Dogs ............................................................................19
  Section 2: Control of Animals .......................................................................19
  Section 3: Treatment of All Animals ...............................................................20

CHAPTER VIII – PERMITS ...........................................................................20
  Section 1: Permits and Designated Areas - Authority ....................................20
  Section 2: Types of Permits ...........................................................................23
  Section 3: Permits in General ........................................................................24
  Section 4: Permit Suspension, Reinstatement and Appeal ............................25

CHAPTER IX – ENFORCEMENT ....................................................................26
  Section 1: Police ...........................................................................................26
  Section 2: Two Penalties – One Judgment ....................................................26
  Section 3: Fines and Penalties .......................................................................26
  Section 4: Authority of Other Agencies ..........................................................27
  Section 5: Civil Suits .....................................................................................27
  Section 5: State, United States and Local Laws ............................................27
GENERAL USE
REGULATION ORDINANCE NO. 124
OF THE
FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF
WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS

WHEREAS, it is reasonable, necessary and desirable for the FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF WILL COUNTY, ILLINOIS, hereinafter called “DISTRICT”, to establish a General Use Ordinance governing the public use of Forest Preserves of the DISTRICT; and,

WHEREAS, Chapter 70, Section 805/7, of the Illinois Law Compiled Statutes provides as follows:

“The board of any forest preserve district organized hereunder may by ordinance regulate and control the speed of travel on all paths, driveways and roadways within forest preserves, and prohibit the use of such paths, driveways and roadways for racing or speeding purposes, and may exclude therefrom traffic, teams and vehicles, and may by ordinance prescribe such fines and penalties for the violation of their ordinances as cities and villages are allowed to prescribe for the violation of their ordinances.”

and,

WHEREAS, Chapter 70, Section 805/7a, of the Illinois Law Compiled Statutes provides as follows:

“The board of any forest preserve district organized hereunder may by ordinance regulate, control and license all modes of travel within the forest preserve district.”

and,

WHEREAS, Chapter 70, Section 805/7b, of the Illinois Law Compiled Statutes provides as follows:

“The board of any Forest Preserve District organized under this Act may by ordinance issue licenses for any activity reasonably connected with the purpose for which the Forest Preserve District has been created, except that in counties with between 500,000 and 750,000 inhabitants, the ordinance shall be approved by a two-thirds vote of the members elected.”

and,

WHEREAS, Chapter 70, Section 805/8, of the Illinois Law Compiled Statutes provides as follows:
“The board shall be the corporate authority of such forest preserve district and shall have power to pass and enforce all necessary ordinances, rules and regulations for the management of the property and conduct of the business of such district.”

and,

WHEREAS, it is reasonable, necessary and desirable for the DISTRICT to provide rules and regulations in order to provide: for the safe and peaceful use of the FOREST PRESERVES; for the education and recreation of the public; for the protection and preservation of the property, facilities, flora and fauna of the FOREST PRESERVES; and for the safety and general welfare of the public; and

WHEREAS, the DISTRICT has the authority and the power to establish this General Use Ordinance;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDAINED by the PRESIDENT and BOARD of Commissioners of the DISTRICT as follows:

CHAPTER I – SCOPE, CONSTRUCTION OF WORDS, AND DEFINITIONS

SECTION 1: SCOPE OF ORDINANCE. This Ordinance applies to conduct and activities occurring upon or in connection with any PROPERTY of the DISTRICT.

SECTION 2: CONSTRUCTION OF WORDS.

a. SINGULAR AND PLURAL. Whenever any words in any Ordinance importing the plural number shall be used in describing or referring to any matters, parties or PERSONS, any single matter, party or PERSON shall be deemed to be included although distributive words may not be used and, when any subject matter, party or PERSON shall be referred to in any Ordinance by words importing the singular number only, several matters, parties or PERSONS and bodies corporate shall be deemed to be included, provided, however, that these rules or construction shall not be applied to any Ordinance which shall contain any express provision excluding, or inconsistent with, such construction.

b. APPROVAL BY THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. Whenever this Ordinance provides for permission or approval by the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, it is presumed that that the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR can delegate that permission or approval to their designee unless the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’s personal approval is expressly required.

c. REFERENCES TO OTHER LAWS. Whenever this Ordinance references or incorporates the provisions of any statutes, regulations, rules, or ordinances, the references or incorporation shall be interpreted as including any and all amendments to those statutes, regulations, rules, and ordinances.
SECTION 3: DEFINITIONS.

a. “ADULT” means one who has reached the age of majority as defined by the laws of the State of Illinois.

b. “AMUSEMENT CONTRAPTIONS” means any contrivance, device, gadget, machine, equipment, or structure designed to test the skill or strength of the user or provide the user with any sort of ride, lift, swing, or fall experience including, but not limited to, ball-throwing contest devices, pinball-type devices, animal ride devices, ball and hammer devices, and trampoline devices.

c. “ANIMAL” means any mammal, bird, insect, reptile, fish, or amphibian, whether domestic or wild.

d. “BICYCLE” includes traditional human-only powered bicycles and Class 1 low-speed electric bicycles as defined by the Illinois Vehicle Code (625 ILCS 5/1-140.10) as low-speed electric bicycles equipped with a motor that provides assistance only when the rider is pedaling and that ceases to provide assistance when the bicycle reaches a speed of 20 miles per hour.

e. “BOARD” means the Board of Forest Preserve Commissioners of the DISTRICT.

f. “CLIENT” means the client of a dog park business permit-holder.

g. “COMMISSIONER” means an individual elected to the BOARD.

h. “CONSULTANT” means any individual or corporation engaged by the DISTRICT to perform duties in accordance with an approved contract agreement.

i. “CONTRACTOR” means any individual or corporation engaged by the DISTRICT to perform duties in accordance with an approved contractual agreement.

j. “DISTRICT” means the Forest Preserve District of Will County, Illinois.

k. “EMPLOYEE” means any full- or part-time, regular or temporary worker in the employ of the DISTRICT under the supervision of the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.

l. “EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR” means the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR or the CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER of the DISTRICT.

m. “FLORA” means trees, shrubs, foliage, branches, bushes or any other plant life.

n. “FOREST PRESERVE” means lands and waters, or property holdings owned, leased, licensed, or held in easement by the DISTRICT or legally managed by the DISTRICT under an agreement approved by the BOARD.
o. “NATURE PRESERVE” means a natural area, and land necessary for its protection, to be maintained as nearly as possible in its natural condition and to be used in a manner and under limitations consistent with its continued preservation, without impairment, disturbance or artificial development, for the public purposes of present and future scientific research, education, aesthetic enjoyment and providing habitat for plant and animal species and communities and other natural objects, or as classified as NATURE PRESERVE or buffer under the Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act.

p. “NON-DISTRICT EVENT” means an event hosted on District property by an outside group, organization or agency on District property where the District is not an official sponsor.

q. “PAVED” means trails or paths constructed with an asphalt, concrete, or limestone screenings surface.

r. “PERMIT” means written authorization that must be obtained from the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR to carry out a given activity or use including but not limited to picnicking, camping, facility rental, dog park, geocaching and special events.

s. “PERSON” or “PERSONS” means individuals, firms, corporations, societies or any group or gathering whatsoever.

t. “PET” means any domesticated or tamed animal that is kept as a companion and cared for.

u. “POSTED” means that a notice is posted, either by a sign in a FOREST PRESERVE, at the entrance to a PRESERVE or at the DISTRICT’s Headquarters, the location of the posting being at the discretion of the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.

v. “PRESIDENT” means the President of the Board of Forest Preserve Commissioners.

w. “PROPERTY” means any lands, waters, facilities or possessions owned, leased, licensed or held in easement or managed under a BOARD-approved legal agreement by the DISTRICT including FOREST PRESERVES and/or NATURE PRESERVES.

x. “SPECIAL USE PERMIT” means a request for use of any area in a FOREST PRESERVE for an activity not specifically outlined in this ordinance or not covered by a specific type of permit. SPECIAL USE PERMITS are reviewed on a case-by-case basis, and may require Board approval and/or a fee, depending upon site, day of use, and activity.

y. “UNPAVED” means trails or paths constructed with a natural surface of packed earth, woodchips, grass, or other soft surfaces.
z. “VEHICLE” means any device of conveyance on the land using wheels or belt-type track or tracks, skids, or skis and propelled by an engine or motor and includes such land conveyances that are able to float and operate on water.

aa. “VOLUNTEER” means any PERSON or PERSONS who donate their time, talent, or services to the DISTRICT, and work under the same administrative rules, policies and procedures as EMPLOYEES.

bb. “WATERCRAFT” means any device for conveyance on the water whether propelled by motor, engine, wind, or human power, excluding any device that is used for the purpose of swimming or as a swimming aide.

c. “WATERS” means any waters within the jurisdiction of the DISTRICT, including but not limited to lakes, ponds, streams, rivers, retention areas, and creeks.

CHAPTER II – PUBLIC USE

SECTION 1: PUBLIC USE AND PURPOSE OF THE DISTRICT. FOREST PRESERVES are for use by the general public. The DISTRICT’s mission is to protect, conserve, enhance, and promote Will County’s natural heritage for the educational, recreational, and environmental benefit of present and future generations. This is accomplished by acquiring, restoring, restocking, developing and interpreting a well-balanced system of FOREST PRESERVES with scenic, ecological, recreational and historic values for the inspiration, use, and enjoyment by the general public. This Ordinance is intended to help carry out this mission and function.

SECTION 2: HOURS OF USE.

a. FOREST PRESERVES shall be open to public from 8:00 a.m. to sunset Central Standard Time unless otherwise specifically POSTED, signed, or in accordance with established public safety or snow removal procedures. “Sunset” shall be determined based on the applicable sunset times reported by reputable weather sources, such as the National Weather Service, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or weather.com.

b. No PERSON, VEHICLE, or WATERCRAFT shall remain in the FOREST PRESERVES when the FOREST PRESERVES are not open to the public.

SECTION 3: PERMITS REQUIRED. No PERSON shall conduct, operate, present, manage, or take part in the following activities in FOREST PRESERVES unless a PERMIT is obtained prior to the start of the activity in accordance with the PERMIT requirements in Chapter VIII:

a. Host events or meetings;
b. Have exclusive use of any FOREST PRESERVE area or facility to the exclusion of others;

c. Camp on lands of the DISTRICT or inhabit any DISTRICT structure or facility outside of the FOREST PRESERVE’s regular Hours of Use;

d. Engage in any commercial activity;

e. Access or use designated Dog Parks;

f. Engage in activities involving geocaching, metal detecting, scavenger/treasure hunting, laser tag, or paintball;

g. Assemble in a group of 25 or more for any organized activity, including picnics.

CHAPTER III – PROTECTION OF PROPERTY, STRUCTURES AND NATURAL RESOURCES

SECTION 1: DESTRUCTION OR MISUSE OF PROPERTY AND STRUCTURES. Unless otherwise authorized by a PERMIT or by the written permission of the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, no PERSON shall:

a. Alter, damage, destroy, excavate, move, or remove any property of the DISTRICT, including any signs, items, structures, or improvements, whether natural or man-made.

b. Occupy, inhabit, or use for storage any structure.

c. Enter into or upon any FOREST PRESERVE or areas thereof or structure closed or POSTED against trespass.

d. Tamper with, enter, climb upon, damage, move, or remove anything from any DISTRICT VEHICLE, WATERCRAFT, machine, equipment, or implement.

e. Deposit into any trash container or receptacle (1) any garbage or other unwanted material that was not generated on the site in the course of normal, lawful use of a FOREST PRESERVE, or (2) any hot or burning substances.

SECTION 2: DESTRUCTION OR MISUSE OF NATURAL RESOURCES. Unless otherwise authorized by a PERMIT or by the written permission of the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, no PERSON shall:

a. Cut, move, remove, paint, uproot, destroy or in any way alter any FLORA, whether alive or dead.

b. Pick or gather any seed of any FLORA.
c. Remove or relocate any natural material of the FOREST PRESERVE floor, such as earth, sod, fossil, rock, sand, or gravel.

d. Feed, hunt, pursue, trap, catch, capture, molest, poison, wound or kill or attempt to feed, hunt, trap, catch, capture, molest, poison, wound or kill any ANIMAL.

e. Disturb, molest or rob the nest, lair, den or burrow of any ANIMAL.

f. Fish in any WATERS of the DISTRICT POSTED against fishing; fish with attended or unattended lines during the hours that FOREST PRESERVES are closed; or fish in violation of any applicable laws of the State of Illinois or without a valid Illinois Fishing License.

g. Fish in violation of any POSTED regulations or restrictions controlling the size, species, and number of fish that can be taken from a designated body of WATER.

h. Fish in any WATERS of the DISTRICT by using (1) a bow and arrow, spear or slingshot; (2) hooks baited with an amphibian, reptile or bird; (3) any device using more than two hooks per line; or (4) any net, seine or trap.

i. Bring in, plant, or distribute the seeds or spores of any FLORA into or upon DISTRICT PROPERTY from any outside source.

j. Use or cause to be used any chemical or biological pesticide, or any other substance, measure, or process designated to alter the anatomy or physiology of any organism for the purpose of directly manipulating their populations.

k. Drive, or cause to be driven, any cattle, horses, sheep, goats, swine, or other livestock to graze or browse.

l. Deposit or cause to be deposited any fill, sediment, ashes, medical waste, hazardous materials, trash, rubbish, paper, garbage, refuse, debris, or junk. However, on-site produced garbage can be deposited in designated containers or removed from a site as indicated or instructed.

m. Deposit, withdraw, re-route, or alter or cause to be deposited, withdrawn, re-routed or altered any WATERS beyond the natural or background fluctuation of WATER levels, or that alter the WATER quality, quantity, flow direction, and pattern, or that otherwise results in the damage to natural resources.

**SECTION 3: CONTRABAND.** All ANIMALS, FLORA, fossils, artifacts or architectural elements, or parts thereof, killed, captured, trapped, taken, bought, sold or bartered or had in possession contrary to any provision of this Ordinance or applicable laws of the State of Illinois shall be, and are hereby declared contraband and, as such, shall be subject to seizure by any police officer or by any duly sworn peace officer.
SECTION 4: UNLAWFUL CONSTRUCTION OR MAINTENANCE. Unless authorized by PERMIT or by the written permission of the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, no PERSON shall erect, construct, or install any structures, or perform any maintenance on, below, over, or across a FOREST PRESERVE.

SECTION 5: DESTRUCTION BY OR MISUSE OF FIRE. Unless otherwise authorized by a PERMIT or by the written permission of the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, no PERSON shall:

a. Set fire, or cause to be set on fire, any PROPERTY including any tree, forest, brushland, grassland, meadow, prairie, marsh, slash, refuse, container, or structure.

b. Build a fire anywhere, for any purpose, except in provided fireplaces or privately-owned fire receptacles.

c. Build a fire, or cause a fire to start, in or out of a receptacle, close to or in any structure, or close to any FLORA, in such a way as to deface, damage or destroy that structure or scar, injure or destroy any FLORA.

d. Drop, throw away, or scatter any burning, lighted or hot material, including coals, ashes, cigarettes, cigars, firecrackers, or matches.

e. Leave any fire unattended, unless such fire is properly extinguished. For the purpose of this Ordinance, a fire shall be deemed properly extinguished when its ashes, residue, coals, and unburned substance are cold to the human touch.

f. Set fire, or cause to be set on fire, in or out of a receptacle, any materials not for burning, including but not limited to metal objects, chemicals, and wood with metal pieces such as nails.

SECTION 6: PYROTECHNICS. No PERSON shall possess, set off, or ignite, or attempt to set off or ignite any firecracker, fireworks, smoke bombs, rockets, black powder guns, or other pyrotechnics without the written permission of the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.

CHAPTER IV – REGULATION OF SPORTS AND GAMES

SECTION 1: SWIMMING. No PERSON or PET shall swim in DISTRICT WATERS.

SECTION 2: WATERCRAFT. No PERSON shall bring into, attempt to launch or use, or navigate any WATERCRAFT upon the WATERS, except at designated areas or
with the written approval of the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR and in accordance with all applicable rules and regulations.

**SECTION 3: ENGINE-POWERED MODELS OR TOYS.** No PERSON shall start, fly or use any fuel-powered engine or jet-type or electric-powered model aircraft, unmanned aircraft or drone, boat or rocket or like-powered toy or model.

**SECTION 4: HORSEBACK RIDING.**

a. No PERSON shall:
   1. Ride or drive a horse except on those paths, roads, or areas specifically designated for equestrian usage.
   2. Permit a horse in their custody to move about uncontrolled.
   3. Treat a horse cruelly or knowingly permit such treatment.
   4. Ride a horse that is not adequately and safely equipped for riding.
   5. Ride a horse in a reckless manner to endanger or injure themselves, any PERSON, ANIMAL, or property.
   6. Ride a horse while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
   7. Allow a child under the age of twelve (12) to ride a horse unless accompanied by an ADULT.
   8. Permit more than two (2) PERSONS at a time to ride a horse.
   9. Ride a horse at a gallop or race another horse. Only walking, trotting, or a slow canter shall be allowed.

b. Riders shall:
   1. Stay to the right on established trails, paths, or roadways.
   2. Slow to walk or slow to trot on meeting other riders, hikers, or bicyclists, and ride in a single file.
   3. Not ride more than two (2) abreast on any trail, path, or roadway.
   4. Adhere to all other POSTED rules.
SECTION 5: BICYCLING. No PERSON shall:

a. Violate any Federal or State BICYCLE laws, including the Illinois Rules of the Road, Article XV - Bicycles, 625 ILCS 5/11.

b. Ride a BICYCLE except on a designated path, trail, or roadway.

c. Fail to ride a BICYCLE on the right-hand side of any path trail, or roadway, as conditions shall permit.

d. Carry another PERSON on the BICYCLE handlebars, frame or fender, or ride on a BICYCLE except on a suitable seat attached to such BICYCLE for such purpose.

e. Operate a BICYCLE in a reckless manner to endanger or injure themselves, any PERSON, ANIMAL, or property.

f. Ride a BICYCLE that has a throttle or that is capable of exceeding 21 mph (Class 2 or Class 3 e-bikes).

SECTION 6: WINTER SPORTS. No PERSON shall:

a. Sled, toboggan, ski, or slide in any area unless the area is POSTED as being permitted for such use.

b. Enter on or upon any frozen WATERS to skate, fish, slide or walk or for any purpose.

c. Fish through the ice on any frozen WATERS.

SECTION 7: FIELD AND TEAM SPORTS. No PERSON shall play or engage in any team sport or game such as, but not limited to, baseball, football, field hockey, volleyball, lacrosse or horseshoes except in those areas designated for such use. At no time shall such activity conflict with, impede, or disrupt an area’s intended use.

SECTION 8: AMUSEMENT CONTRACTIONS. No PERSON shall bring in, set up, construct, manage or operate any AMUSEMENT CONTRAPTION, without written permission of the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.

SECTION 9: AVIATION. Unless otherwise authorized by a PERMIT or by the written permission of the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, no PERSON shall:

a. Make any ascent, descent, or landing in any balloon, aircraft, airplane, glider, hang glider, or other aviation device except in the case of an emergency.

b. Operate or fly any unmanned aircraft or drone on or above DISTRICT PROPERTY.
SECTION 10: GAMBLING. No PERSON shall:

a. Manage, operate or engage in gambling of any form;

b. Possess, operate or provide any clock, wheel, tape machine, slot machine, pin machine or other machine or device for the reception of money or other thing of value on chance or skill or upon the action of which money is staked, bet, hazarded, won or lost. Any such machine or device shall be subject to seizure and confiscation by any police officer or by any duly sworn peace officer.

CHAPTER V – REGULATION OF MOTORIZED VEHICLES, TRAFFIC AND PARKING

SECTION 1: VEHICLE OPERATION AND EQUIPMENT.

a. No PERSON shall operate, or cause to be operated, any motorized VEHICLE that does not comply with the Illinois Vehicle Code, 625 ILCS 5, or other laws of the State of Illinois having to do with the equipment, control, licensing, registering and/or the licensing of operators of such VEHICLES.

b. No PERSON shall operate, or cause to be operated, any motorized VEHICLE in a manner that does not comply with the Illinois Vehicle Code, 625 ILCS 5, or other laws having to do with the operation or use of such VEHICLES.

SECTION 2: VEHICLE TYPES AND ACCESS ALLOWED. Unless authorized by PERMIT or by the written permission of the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, no PERSON shall:

a. Operate, or cause to be operated, any motorized VEHICLE anywhere except on designated roads, drives, and parking areas.

b. Fail to comply with the directions and restrictions of the local police with respect to the operation of any VEHICLE.

c. Operate, or cause to be operated, any motorized VEHICLE that is not licensed or permitted to be operated on the roads, streets, or highways of the State of Illinois. VEHICLES not so licensed and subject to the provisions of this sub-section include, but are not limited to, snowmobiles, go-carts, trail bikes, mini-bikes, and such other all-terrain off-the-road VEHICLES.

d. Operate or move, or cause to be operated or moved, any motorized VEHICLE before or after the FOREST PRESERVE’s Hours of Use;
e. Operate a motorized VEHICLE on any road, drive or parking area POSTED, gated or barricaded as closed to public traffic.

SECTION 3: RIGHT-OF-WAY. No PERSON shall operate a motor VEHICLE in such a manner as to fail to yield the right-of-way to pedestrians, bicyclists, motorized assistive devices, and equestrians.

SECTION 4: PARKING. Unless otherwise authorized by PERMIT or by the written approval of the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, no PERSON shall:

a. Park a VEHICLE before or after the FOREST PRESERVE’s Hours of Use;

b. Park a VEHICLE in such a way as to block in another parked VEHICLE;

c. Park a VEHICLE in such a way as to block, restrict, or impede the normal flow of traffic;

d. Park a VEHICLE in a zone or area posted prohibiting parking or in an area outside of designated parking areas for a DISTRICT-sponsored event;

e. Park a VEHICLE on turf, meadow, prairie, marsh, field, in a woodland or on the exposed roots of any tree or shrub, except in an emergency or as a matter of public safety;

f. Park a VEHICLE to wash, alter, or repair it except for those repairs of an emergency nature.

g. Park a VEHICLE in a parking space specifically reserved for persons with disabilities unless the VEHICLE properly displays registration plates or decals issued to a person with disabilities and those plates and decals are used in accordance with the applicable requirements of the Illinois Vehicle Code, 625 ILCS 5.

h. Park a VEHICLE in a parking lot or area specifically designated for trailer parking when such VEHICLE does not include a trailer.

i. Congregate within a parking area.

SECTION 5: SPEED LIMIT. No PERSON shall operate any VEHICLE at a speed greater than the POSTED speed limit, or in the absence of such POSTED limit, at a speed in excess of 10 m.p.h.

SECTION 6: POWER-DRIVEN MOBILITY DEVICE. No PERSON shall:

a. Operate a POWER-DRIVEN MOBILITY DEVICE unless said person is a qualified individual under the ADA.
b. Operate a POWER-DRIVEN MOBILITY DEVICE except on a designated PAVED path, trail, or roadway.

c. Fail to drive a POWER-DRIVEN MOBILITY DEVICE on the right-hand side of any road, trail or path, as conditions shall permit.

d. Fail to obey POSTED speed limits while operating a POWER-DRIVEN MOBILITY DEVICE.

e. Carry another PERSON on the frame of a POWER-DRIVEN MOBILITY DEVICE or operate the POWER-DRIVEN MOBILITY DEVICE in a manner to endanger or injure themselves, any PERSON, ANIMAL, or property.

SECTION 7: TOWING.

Any unauthorized VEHICLE and/or WATERCRAFT located in or on any PROPERTY of the DISTRICT before or after the FOREST PRESERVE’s Hours of Use, or parked or operated in any way which violates this Ordinance, the Illinois Vehicle Code (625 ILCS 5), the Illinois Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act (410 ILCS 705), the Illinois Cannabis Control Act (720 ILCS 550), or the Illinois Controlled Substances Act (720 ILCS 570) shall be subject to removal by towing.

Prior to release of the VEHICLE and/or WATERCRAFT, the owner shall pay a $350.00 administrative fee to the DISTRICT. The owner of the VEHICLE and/or WATERCRAFT shall also be responsible for the payment of any and all towing fees and any other ancillary charges including but not limited to storage fees.

CHAPTER VI – REGULATION OF PERSONAL CONDUCT AND BEHAVIOR

SECTION 1: PRESERVE AND TRAIL USE.

a. Use of FOREST PRESERVES is at the PERSON’s own risk. The DISTRICT makes no warranty or representation as to a PERSON’s safety.

b. PERSONS are to stay on designated trails and paths.

c. PERSONS must proceed at safe speeds and at a slower pace when the trails are in heavy use.

d. PERSONS cannot block the trails.

e. PERSONS must follow all POSTED rules and instructions regarding trail etiquette and conduct.
SECTION 2: HONORING PERMITS. No PERSON shall unreasonably interfere with any duly permitted activity or unreasonably intrude on any areas or into the structures designated by PERMIT for the use of a certain PERSON or PERSONS to the exclusion of others.

SECTION 3: ILLINOIS STATUTE VIOLATION. No PERSON shall violate the Illinois Criminal Code (720 ILCS 5), the Illinois Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act (410 ILCS 705), the Illinois Cannabis Control Act (720 ILCS 550), the Illinois Controlled Substance Act (720 ILCS 570), the Illinois Dram Shop Act (235 ILCS 5), the Illinois Vehicle Code (625 ILCS 5), or any other applicable Illinois law, while in or on any PROPERTY administered by or under the jurisdiction of the DISTRICT.

SECTION 4: VENDING AND SIGNAGE. Unless authorized by PERMIT or by the written permission of the BOARD and/or EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, no PERSON shall:

a. Sell or offer for sale any articles or things, or conduct or solicit any business, trade, occupation or profession.

b. Post in or on, or affix to, any DISTRICT PROPERTY any placard, sign, handbill, pamphlet, circular or any other written or printed materials or objects.

c. Distribute any placard, sign, handbill, pamphlet, circular or any other written or printed materials or objects without ensuring that such materials or objects are not discarded or deposited on DISTRICT PROPERTY, other than in proper trash receptacles.

SECTION 5: UNLAWFUL OBSTRUCTIONS. Unless authorized by PERMIT or by the written permission of the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, no PERSON shall:

a. Set or place, or cause to be set or placed, any goods or merchandise, or any stand, cart, or VEHICLE for the transportation or vending of any such goods or merchandise, or any other article upon any PROPERTY of the DISTRICT to the obstruction of use of any FOREST PRESERVE or to the detriment of the appearance of any FOREST PRESERVE;

b. Prevent or obstruct, or conspire with others to prevent or obstruct, any entrance or access to the PROPERTY or WATERS of the DISTRICT by any means, including physical barriers and verbal threats or intimidation. Nothing in this Section shall be construed to deny lawful enforcement of a valid PERMIT granting PERSONS use of certain areas to the exclusion of others.

SECTION 6: INTERFERENCE WITH EMPLOYEES. No PERSON shall interfere with, unreasonably disrupt or delay, or in any manner hinder any COMMISSIONER, EMPLOYEE, CONTRACTOR, CONSULTANT, or VOLUNTEER engaged in the performance of their duties.
SECTION 7: SOUND OR ENERGYAMPLIFICATION. No PERSON shall play or operate any sound amplification devices including radios, television sets, public address systems, musical instruments or any other energy amplification device in such a way as to be audible beyond the immediate vicinity of such device or in such a manner as to disturb the quiet of the camps, picnic areas or other public gathering places.

SECTION 8: WEAPONS AND HARMFUL SUBSTANCES. Except as authorized by the Illinois Firearm Conceal Carry Act (430 ILCS 66), the U.S. Law Enforcement Officers Safety Act (18 U.S.C. §§ 926b & 926c), or by written approval of the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, no PERSON shall have in their possession or on or about their PERSON, concealed or otherwise, any dangerous weapon or device, including firearms, billy clubs, switchblade knives, weapons capable of discharging a projectile, or any explosive or harmful substance.

Nothing contained herein shall be construed to prevent any sworn law enforcement officer or any other duly sworn peace officer from carrying such weapons as may be authorized and necessary in the discharge of their duties, nor shall it apply to any person summoned by any such officer to assist in making arrests or preserving the peace while such person is engaged in assisting.

SECTION 9: DISORDERLY CONDUCT. No PERSON shall engage in any act in such an unreasonable manner as to alarm or disturb another and to provoke a breach of the peace. Disorderly conduct includes violent, abusive, loud, boisterous, or vulgar conduct which disturbs or annoys others.

SECTION 10: PUBLIC INDECENCY. No PERSON, whether clothed or unclothed, shall perform in any public place (1) an act of sexual penetration or sexual conduct; or (2) a lewd exposure of the body done with intent to arouse or to satisfy the sexual desire of any PERSONS. Breast-feeding of infants is not an act of public indecency. For purposes of this section “public place” means any place where the conduct may reasonably be expected to be viewed by others.

SECTION 11: PERSONAL CONDUCT. No PERSON shall urinate or defecate in any place other than designated restrooms or latrines.

SECTION 12: CANNABIS. No PERSON shall:

a. Use cannabis while on the PROPERTY of the DISTRICT.

b. Possess cannabis in a VEHICLE unless the cannabis is stored in a reasonably secured, sealed container and is reasonably inaccessible while the VEHICLE is moving.

c. Possess cannabis or any cannabis-related paraphernalia if the PERSON is under the age of 21.

d. Violate any provisions of the Illinois Cannabis Regulation and Tax Act (410
CHAPTER VII
CONTROL AND TREATMENT OF ANIMALS

SECTION 1: CONTROL OF DOGS.

a. Unless otherwise authorized in writing by the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, no PERSON shall:

1. Bring in, lead, or carry any dog that is unleashed or on a leash longer than ten feet, except in designated Dog Parks.

2. Permit or allow the dog to defecate unless the owner or PERSON having control or custody of the dog immediately removes the feces and properly disposes of it in a sanitary manner.

3. Bring a dog into a NATURE PRESERVE.

b. Sections 1(a)(1)-(3) shall not apply to Service Animals or dogs used by public law enforcement agencies. For purposes of this section, “Service Animals” is defined as in 720 ILCS 4/48-8 and ADA regulations, 28 C.F.R. §§ 35.104, 35.136.

c. Dog Parks

1. A PERMIT is required to access and use any portion of a FOREST PRESERVE designated as a Dog Park.

2. The requirements for obtaining a Dog Park permit are set forth in Chapter VIII, Section 2(d).

SECTION 2: CONTROL OF ANIMALS. Unless otherwise authorized in writing by the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, no PERSON shall:

a. Cause or allow any ANIMAL—whether wild, domestic, or a PET—to be unleashed or to run (except in dog parks with the required permit), to remain at large, or to be abandoned on DISTRICT property.

b. Hitch or tie any ANIMAL to any tree, bush or shrub.

c. Bring any ANIMAL, leashed or unleashed, into or upon any FOREST PRESERVE designated as a NATURE PRESERVE or Nature Area or Historic Site.

d. Permit their ANIMAL to:

1. Molest PERSONS or VEHICLES by chasing, barking or biting.
2. Attack other ANIMALS.

3. Damage property other than that of the owner.

4. Bark, whine, or howl excessively.

5. Create noxious or offensive odors.

Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the use of Service Animals as defined in 720 ILCS 4/48-8 and ADA regulations, 28 C.F.R. §§ 35.104, 35.136, or the controlled use of certain animals approved by the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR for purposes of public safety, such as, but not limited to, the protection of DISTRICT PROPERTY, EMPLOYEES or VOLUNTEERS in the performance of their duties, search or rescue, or for public education programs approved and sponsored by the DISTRICT.

SECTION 3: TREATMENT OF ALL ANIMALS.

a. Each owner shall provide for each of his or her ANIMALS:

1. Sufficient quantity of good and wholesome food and water.

2. Adequate shelter and protection from the weather.

3. Veterinary care when needed to prevent suffering.


b. No PERSON shall torture, whip, beat or cruelly treat or neglect any animal.

c. No PERSON shall leave any ANIMAL unattended in a VEHICLE or enclosed trailer in extreme heat or cold conditions that may result in injury or death to the ANIMAL or may result in hypothermia, hyperthermia, frostbite, or similar condition.

CHAPTER VIII – PERMITS

SECTION 1: PERMITS AND DESIGNATED AREAS – AUTHORITY. To carry out the terms of this Ordinance, the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR is hereby given authority to issue PERMITS, post Notices or to take other action as called for herein, subject to the guidelines herein set forth:

a. The EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR shall have the authority to designate areas, facilities or WATERS suitable for various activities or use, to close FOREST PRESERVES, or parts thereof, in the interest of public health, safety or general welfare or to protect the natural resources from unreasonable harm, and to promulgate and issue
PERMITS where required by this Ordinance, and collect such fees as established by the BOARD in accordance with the following guidelines:

1. That no PERSON be discriminated against because of race, gender, sexual orientation, creed, color, age, ability, or national origin.

2. That the proposed use or activity will not unreasonably interfere with or detract from the general public’s use and enjoyment of the FOREST PRESERVE and surrounding PROPERTY or facilities.

3. That the proposed use or activity is not reasonably likely to result in violence or in harm to PROPERTY or PERSONS.

4. That the proposed activity or use will not entail extraordinary expense or operation costs by the DISTRICT or expose it to unusual or extreme liability.

5. That the area desired has not been reserved for another activity at the same time.

6. That the proposed activity is not reasonably expected to detract from the promotion of public health.

7. That the proposed activity is reasonably compatible with the type of FOREST PRESERVE and the size and character of the area or WATERS involved and the facilities available and is not reasonably expected to cause harm or damage to the natural environment of the FOREST PRESERVE.

8. That the proposed activity is in compliance with applicable Federal or State laws, regulations, or rules relevant to the protection of dedicated state NATURE PRESERVES, land and water reserve sites, or habitats of State or Federally listed species.

b. The EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR may impose reasonable requirements and restrictions on the granting of a PERMIT including, but not limited to, any of the following:

1. Restricting the open dates for reserved area use, the length of time an area will be held for reserved use, the use of ground fires, amusement devices, off-the-road-vehicle access, the number of PERSONS present, location and type of any tents, bandstands, stages or temporary structures, the use of domestic, PET, or trained ANIMALS, the use of shelters or structures, the collecting for any purpose of any water, soils, minerals, flora or fauna, the type and location of sports and games or any other activity which appears likely to create a risk of unreasonable harm to use and enjoyment of the FOREST PRESERVES by others or of damage to DISTRICT PROPERTY.
2. Requiring proof of and establishing the amount of liability and Dram Shop insurance required, requiring a Hold Harmless Agreement, requiring a Certificate of Insurance naming the DISTRICT as an additional insured, and/or requiring a bond or letter of credit as security for the conditions contained in the PERMIT when the activity is deemed by the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR to require such.

3. Requiring the name, address, telephone number, and driver’s license number of an ADULT responsible for the use or activity requested, as well as the name, address, and telephone number of the group represented by the applicant.

4. Requiring that the applicant furnish additional security forces at the applicant’s expense, with such forces to act under DISTRICT supervision.

5. Requiring the applicant to pay for additional DISTRICT law enforcement or maintenance services at the discretion of the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR as established by the annual fee ordinance.

c. All PERMITS required by this Ordinance and issued by the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR shall be issued at the DISTRICT Headquarters, or any other site designated by the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, on a first-come, first-served basis beginning the first working day of each calendar year for open dates or for such total number allowed during that calendar year.

d. The EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR is authorized to seek reasonable information regarding any proposed use, activity or privilege, and to require a record of such information on a PERMIT Application.

e. No PERSON shall misrepresent, falsify, or withhold such required information.

f. No PERSON granted a PERMIT shall violate the requirements, terms, conditions, restrictions or rules duly set forth under the authority of this Ordinance as part of any granted PERMIT.

g. The BOARD of the DISTRICT may set forth in other Ordinances such PERMIT or registration fees as it deems proper and may change them from time to time.

h. No PERSON shall obtain or use any PERMIT without first having paid the fee established by the DISTRICT for such PERMIT.

i. All designated areas, WATERS or facilities and all PERMIT restrictions, rules, regulations or conditions are subject to review at any time by the BOARD. Any aggrieved PERSON shall have the right to petition the BOARD, in writing, regarding denial or restriction of use or activity and be heard by the BOARD as the PRESIDENT shall direct.
j. Even if a PERMIT has been granted, the DISTRICT reserves the right to restrict access to or close any DISTRICT PROPERTY temporarily because of threats to human health and safety, threats of damage to natural resources, emergency situations, or any other situation deemed appropriate by the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.

SECTION 2: TYPES OF PERMITS.

a. PICNIC: A PERMIT is required to have a picnic for groups of 25 PERSONS or more or to reserve for a picnic a designated area, areas or shelter to the exclusion of others. All PICNIC PERMIT holders must abide by the Additional Amenities Information Waiver provided at the time the PERMIT is issued. Any other requests for special permissions, activities, or equipment require approval from the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.

b. CAMPING: A CAMPING PERMIT reserves a designated area or areas to the exclusion of others and allows the permittee to remain in the FOREST PRESERVE overnight. The PERMIT may be valid for from one to seven consecutive nights. All PERSONS granted a PERMIT to camp on FOREST PRESERVE property shall observe quiet time between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and 7:00 a.m. Campers must arrive before sunset. All CAMPING PERMIT holders must abide by the Additional Amenities Information Waiver provided at the time the PERMIT is issued.

c. NON-DISTRICT EVENT or SPECIAL USE: A PERMIT is required for any of the other activities listed in Chapter II, Section 3(a). The PERMIT may be valid for from one to seven consecutive days. The PERMIT may provide for use of an area or areas to the exclusion of others and for other PERMIT-controlled activities pursuant to this Ordinance. The EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR shall specify written conditions regulating the issuance of a NON-DISTRICT EVENT PERMIT, and may impose any special conditions or charge additional fees as approved in the current fee ordinance, which may be related to the issuance of a NON-DISTRICT EVENT PERMIT.

d. DOG PARKS: A Dog Park PERMIT is required to access and use any portion of a FOREST PRESERVE designated as a Dog Park. Unpermitted dogs are not allowed in a Dog Park. Dogs must be older than six months to use a Dog Park.

1. Individual Permits. No more than one PERMIT will be issued per person. Up to three dogs are allowed on one PERMIT.

2. Business Permits. An annual business PERMIT is required for all dog watching or walking services to access and use a Dog Park. The business PERMIT holder is required to provide the DISTRICT with a certificate of insurance. There is no limit on the number of dogs allowed on the business permit. All CLIENTS of the business PERMIT holder must possess a current Dog Park PERMIT for their dogs. The business PERMIT holder must have copies of their CLIENTS’ PERMITS on their PERSON when using a Dog Park.
3. Foster Dog Permits. A PERSON who is a foster dog parent can obtain an annual PERMIT for a foster dog and is allowed to transfer that PERMIT to another foster dog should the original dog be adopted. If the same foster parent has multiple foster dogs at the same time, they must pay the additional PERMIT fees for 2 or 3 dogs, which are also transferrable. Foster dog parents must wear a special lanyard and shall notify the DISTRICT when a PERMIT transfer needs to occur.

4. Each individual, business, or foster PERMIT holder may only have three (3) dogs in a Dog Park at one time.

5. Any Dog Park PERMIT holder must wear their permit on their person when using a Dog Park.

6. Annual PERMITS are valid from the date of issue until December 31 of that calendar year. One-day PERMITS are valid until park closure on the day of issuance.

e. GEOCACHING: A PERMIT is required for placement of geocaches in FOREST PRESERVES. Geocaches are prohibited in Illinois NATURE PRESERVES. Geocaches will only be allowed in locations approved by the DISTRICT. All caches must be placed in approved DISTRICT containers: clear, no greater in size than 4” x 8” x 12”, and labeled “geocache”. Geocache must not contain food items or offensive or hazardous materials. Geocaches will not be buried or attached to vegetation or structures; no vegetation or natural features will be disturbed in any manner upon placement of geocache. Geocaching in FOREST PRESERVES before or after the PRESERVE’s Hours of Use is prohibited. PERMITS are valid from date of issue until March 31 of the next year.

f. FACILITY RENTALS: A PERMIT is required for any facility rentals. The PERMIT reserves a designated area or areas to the exclusion of others.

g. BUSINESS PERMITS: A PERMIT is required for any individual or organization that is using FOREST PRESERVE property to conduct for-profit activities.

SECTION 3: PERMITS IN GENERAL.

a. PERMITS are subject to fees set by the BOARD. Fees established by the BOARD shall not be waived.

b. PERMITS must be secured in advance of use and in accordance with the timeframes set forth in the administrative guidelines and available on the DISTRICT’s website: ReconnectWithNature.org.

c. REQUESTS FOR REFUNDS must be presented to the EXECUTIVE
DIRECTOR for consideration. Refunds may be issued in accordance with administrative guidelines. Refunds are not guaranteed and will be determined on a case-by-case basis.

d. Specific CHANGES TO A PERMIT may be made upon written permission of the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR for no additional fee, including date changes if available, location changes if available, and the addition of other reservable spaces if available, provided such changes comply with all rules and regulations. Permits are not transferrable or assignable except for foster dogs as noted in Section 2(d)(3).

1. One occurrence is allowed for making the changes noted above.
2. Fourteen (14) days advance notice is required for changes to a NON-DISTRICT EVENT PERMIT.
3. Two (2) business days advance notice is required for changes to all other PERMITS.

e. PERMITS shall only be issued to an ADULT, and the ADULT who is the PERMIT holder must be present during the PERMIT activity with a copy of the PERMIT on their person.

f. PERMIT holders must abide by any and all rules and regulations contained in the PERMIT or the Additional Amenities Information Waiver provided at the time the PERMIT is issued.

g. The PERMIT shall specify any written conditions regulating the issuance of the PERMIT. The EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR may impose any additional special conditions or charge additional fees as approved in the current fee ordinance, as related to the issuance of the PERMIT.

h. Groups holding a valid Picnic, Camping, or Special Event PERMIT may display signs to identify their location, provided such signs are temporary, are removed by the Permittee at the termination of the activity, are no larger than 24” by 30”, and are not attached to any tree or shrub, post, building, DISTRICT sign, gate or other structure.

SECTION 4: PERMIT SUSPENSION, REINSTATEMENT AND APPEAL.

If the PERMIT holder is found guilty in court of violating the terms of the PERMIT, the PERMIT suspension remains in effect for one year from the date the citation was issued.

a. Repeat offenses after the initial PERMIT suspension will be documented by a written warning, ordinance ticket, or local ordinance violation and may result in additional time for a PERMIT suspension or the permanent revocation of PERMIT privileges.

b. Final determination of additional time for a PERMIT suspension or the permanent revocation of PERMIT privileges will be made at an administrative review hearing held by a Committee of the BOARD. The aggrieved person is required to appear at the administrative review hearing and present his or her case; failure to appear and
participate will result in an *ex parte* review of the case by the Committee and may result in the imposition of additional time for PERMIT suspension or the permanent revocation of PERMIT privileges as the Committee determines.

c. If unsatisfied with the decision of the Committee, the aggrieved person has the right to appeal and petition the BOARD in writing regarding the denial to obtain a PERMIT, or the temporary or permanent suspension of a PERMIT. The BOARD’s decision is final.

**CHAPTER IX – ENFORCEMENT**

**SECTION 1: POLICE.** All sworn law enforcement officers or any other duly sworn peace officer has the power and is authorized to arrest, with or without process, any PERSONS found in the act of violating any Ordinance of the DISTRICT or law of the State of Illinois.

**SECTION 2: TWO PENALTIES – ONE JUDGMENT.** In all cases where the same offense shall be made punishable or shall be created by different clauses or sections of this or any other Ordinance or statute, the Police or other duly sworn peace officer or person prosecuting may elect under which to proceed but not more than one judgment shall be had against the same PERSON for the same offense.

**SECTION 3: FINES AND PENALITIES.** Any PERSON found guilty of violating any provision of this Ordinance shall be issued a written warning, ordinance ticket or local ordinance violation as outlined in BOARD-approved administrative procedures and fine schedule.

a. For minor violations including but not limited to parking, after hours use, ANIMALS off-leash in prohibited areas at a FOREST PRESERVE, or other PERMIT violations, a PERSON or VEHICLE shall be issued an ordinance ticket in an amount of not less than $25.00.

b. The fine set by an ordinance ticket shall be paid directly to the DISTRICT at its face value within fourteen days from the date of issuance. After fifteen days but within 28 days from the date of issuance, the fine due to the DISTRICT will be double the face value of the ordinance ticket. If payment of the fine is not received by the DISTRICT after 28 days from the date of issuance of the ordinance ticket, a court appearance shall be required.

c. For all other prosecuted violations, a PERSON is issued a local ordinance violation and shall be fined an amount not more than $1,000.00, except for Public Indecency violations under Chapter 6, Section 10, for which a PERSON shall be fined $1,000.00 and shall not be allowed upon, within or in connection with any PROPERTY of the DISTRICT for a period of not less than one (1) year.

d. In addition to any fines, the DISTRICT may seek a court order requiring the
PERSON to pay restitution to reimburse the DISTRICT for any damages proximately caused by the violation.

e. If a local ordinance violation is issued for a PERMIT violation, that PERMIT is automatically suspended for one (1) year from the date the citation was issued, or until the case is resolved in court as outlined in BOARD-approved administrative procedures.

f. Any violations on DISTRICT PROPERTY that is designated an Illinois NATURE PRESERVE is subject to fines and costs as detailed in the Illinois Natural Areas Preservation Act (525 ILCS 30) or accompanying administrative rules.

SECTION 4: AUTHORITY OF OTHER AGENCIES. Nothing in this Ordinance shall be construed to prevent other officers from carrying out their sworn duties within the territories of the DISTRICT as defined by applicable laws of the State of Illinois and the United States or ordinances of Will County, Illinois, or in accord with any other Policing Agreement approved by the BOARD.

SECTION 5: CIVIL SUITS. Nothing in this Ordinance shall be construed to prevent or preclude the lawful use by the DISTRICT of a civil remedy at law or in equity to correct an abuse or loss suffered by the DISTRICT as a result of violation of this Ordinance or any law of the State of Illinois.

SECTION 6: STATE, UNITED STATES AND LOCAL LAWS. All PERSONS within the DISTRICT’s PROPERTY and FOREST PRESERVES are subject to all Ordinances, rules and regulations of the DISTRICT, as well as all applicable laws of the United States, State of Illinois and local Statutes and Ordinances. These laws include, but are not limited to, the Illinois Downstate Forest Preserve District Act (70 ILCS 805), the Illinois Vehicle Code (625 ILCS 5), the Illinois Criminal Code (720 ILCS 5), the Illinois Wildlife Code (520 ILCS 5), and the Illinois Fish and Aquatic Life Code (515 ILCS 5).

CHAPTER X – MISCELLANEOUS

SECTION 1: REPEALER. All DISTRICT Ordinances and parts of Ordinances and all Resolutions and Orders, or any parts thereof, in conflict with this Ordinance, or any parts thereof, are hereby repealed.

SECTION 2: ENACTMENT. This Ordinance shall be in full force and effect from and after its passage, approval and publication, as by Statute in such cases made and provided.

SECTION 3: CAPTIONS AND HEADINGS. The captions and headings used herein are for convenience of reference only and do not define or limit the contents of each paragraph.
SECTION 4: SEVERABILITY. The provisions of this Ordinance shall be deemed to be severable and the invalidity or unenforceability of any provisions shall not affect the validity and enforceability of the other provisions hereof.

SECTION 5: COPIES. The Secretary of the BOARD of the DISTRICT shall transmit a copy of this Ordinance to the EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR and Attorney of the DISTRICT, respectively.

CHAPTER XI – AMENDMENTS

This Ordinance may be amended from time to time by the DISTRICT.

This Ordinance Number 124 shall repeal Ordinance Number 106 “Rules and Regulations Pertaining to the Use of Lands and Facilities of the Forest Preserve District of Will County.”