

**ORDINANCE NO. 2026-01**

**TOWN OF ST. JOSEPH**

St. Croix County

An Ordinance revising Chapter 74 – Activities on Town Property.

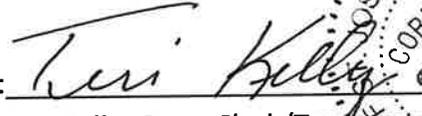
The Plan Commission recommended approval of this language on February 4, 2026.

The Town Board of the Town of St. Joseph does hereby revise the language and add Article II- Parks to the ordinance. The purpose of Article II is to promote the safety, health and welfare of all individuals using or maintaining the parks, while safeguarding and preserving property, facilities and natural resources.

**EFFECTIVE DATE.** This ordinance shall revise the current St. Joseph Town Code Chapter 74 Activities on Town Property and shall be effective upon passage and publication as provided by law.

Adopted by the Town Board this 12th day of March, 2026.

  
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Theresa Johnson, Town Chair

Attest:   
\_\_\_\_\_  
Teri Kelly, Town Clerk/Treasurer



Published: 3/13/26

**Chapter 74**

**ACTIVITIES ON TOWN PROPERTY**

ARTICLE I	§ 74-2.	Definitions.
Alcoholic Beverages and Controlled Substances	§ 74-3.	Violations and penalties.

§ 74-1. Possession prohibited.

ARTICLE II

§ 74-4	Purpose
§ 74-5	Definitions
§ 74-6	Applicability
§ 74-7	General Rules
§ 74-8	Trail Use
§ 74-9	Domestic Animals
§ 74-10	Hunting
§ 74-11	Penalties
§ 74-12	Severability

**[HISTORY: Adopted by the Town Board of the Town of St. Joseph as indicated in article histories. Amendments noted where applicable.]**

**GENERAL REFERENCES**

Outdoor burning — See Ch. 84.  
Public entertainment — See Ch. 98.  
Intoxicating liquor — See Ch. 114.

Lakes and waterways — See Ch. 123.  
Public parking lots and boat launches — See Ch. 141.

ARTICLE I  
**Alcoholic Beverages and Controlled Substances**  
**[Adopted 7-10-1980]**

**§ 74-1. Possession prohibited. [Amended 5-4-2000 by Ord. No. 2000-1]**

- A. It shall be unlawful for any person to have in his or her possession, custody or control any open alcoholic beverage or controlled substance of any kind whatsoever in or at any Town of St. Joseph owned property, including but not limited to Town roads and their rights-of-way, Town parks and beaches, the Town Hall and any and all Town parking lots.

**§ 74-2. Definitions.**

As used in this article, the following terms shall have the meanings indicated:

**ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE** — Includes any liquid intended for human consumption containing more than 1/2 of 1% by volume of alcohol.

**CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE** — A drug or substance defined in Subchapter II of Chapter 961 of the Wisconsin Statutes.<sup>1</sup>**[Amended 9-12-2024 by Ord. No. 2024-16]**

**§ 74-3. Violations and penalties. [Amended 5-4-2000 by Ord. No. 2000-1; 9-12-2024 by Ord. No. 2024-16]**

Any person who violates this article shall be subject to a citation and penalty of \$250, to be issued by a duly appointed representative of the Town of St. Joseph. If the citation is contested or is unpaid, the Town will avail itself to all remedies then available.

**Article II – Parks**

**§ 74-4. Purpose.**

The purpose of this article is to promote the safety, health and welfare of all individuals using or maintaining the parks, while safeguarding and preserving property, facilities and natural resources.

**§ 74-5. Definitions.**

- a. **Bicycle:** has the meaning specified in Wisconsin Statute 340.01(5).
- b. **Closed Area:** means a road, trail, pathway, route, or area that is considered closed to unauthorized motor vehicles when designated by the presence of a sign, gate, berm barricade or any other device placed by the Town for the purpose of notifying or blocking.
- c. **Committee:** refers to the Town of St. Joseph Parks, Trail and Recreation Committee
- d. **Damage:** means any action with negative consequences to the natural resources, features or facilities operated by the Town as determined by the Town or their designee.
- e. **Designated Use Area:** means an area that has been authorized, designed and approved by the Town for a specific use or activity.
- f. **DNR:** refers to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.
- g. **Equine:** means any horse, pony, donkey, mule or hinny.

- h. **Feed:** means a substance or attractant composed of grain, mineral, fruit, vegetable, or any other food material or combination of these materials, whether natural or manufactured, that may attract wildlife.
- i. **Feeding:** means the depositing, distributing or tending of feed in an area frequented by wildlife.
- j. **Firewood:** includes limbs, branches, roots, unprocessed logs, slabs with bark, cut firewood and chips.
- k. **Fireworks:** refers to the meaning given in Wis. Stat. 167.10(1).
- l. **Hunting:** means shooting, shooting at, pursuing, taking, captured or killing or attempting to capture or kill any wild animal.
- m. **Town:** refers to the Town of St. Joseph.
- n. **Trapping:** means the taking, or the attempting to take, of any wild animal by means of setting or operating any device that is designed or made to close upon, hold fast or otherwise capture a wild animal.
- o. **Vehicle:** has the meaning specified in Wis Stat 340.01(74). For purposes of this chapter, a snowmobile is considered to be a vehicle.
- p. **Wildlife:** means all species of wild animals that are protected or otherwise regulated by law, regulation, ordinance, resolution, or administrative rule.

#### § 74-6. Applicability.

This article applies to all town parks, trails, recreation areas, boat landings, forest lands, facilities and structures leased, owned and/or operated and maintained by the Town of St. Joseph.

#### § 74-7. General Rules.

- A. The Town may close, by posted notice, any land, structure or property owned or administered by the Town and under the management, supervision and control of the Parks, Trails and Recreation Committee. Closure may include prohibiting access for one or more types of activities and shall be implemented for the purpose of protecting public health, safety and welfare, or for the protection of natural resources or property as determined by the Town. No person may enter or be in any building, installation or area that may be locked or closed to the public use or contrary to posted notice without permission from the Town.
- B. No person may destroy, molest, deface, damage, remove or attempt to remove, carve or mark on, drive nails in, or injure in any manner any park or forest structure including, but not limited to, buildings, signs, tables, benches, fences, roads, parking lots or other Town property.
- C. No one shall cut brush, trees, or bushes on any Town lands without permission from the town. No one shall remove firewood from Town lands without permission from the town.
- D. Flying related activities, including but not limited to hang gliding, parasailing, hot air ballooning, land sailing, flying model airplanes, operating a drone or sky diving on Town parks, forest and recreation areas shall be prohibited unless authorized by the Town.
- E. No person may transplant, relocate, stock or release any animal, domesticated or wild, without written permission from the Town.
- F. Remote control cars, trucks, boats, helicopters and planes are prohibited in all Town parks and air space without prior Town permission.
- G. No campfires are allowed in any of the Town's parks.
- H. No fireworks are allowed in any of the Town's parks.

#### § 74-8. Trail Use.

- a. **Bicycles:** Bicycles are prohibited on all Town of St. Joseph lands, except on public roads, parking lots and areas or trails posted for their use.

- b. Horses and Horseback Riding: No person may ride, lead or fail to prevent any equine animal or livestock from being on any property regulated by this article unless on a public road.

**§ 74-9. Domestic Animals.**

- a. Dogs, cats and other pets shall be kept on a leash not more than 10 feet long and under control at all times within park, trails and recreation areas. No person may allow their dog, cat or other pet to interfere in any manner with the enjoyment of the area by others.
- b. Persons bringing or allowing pets in designated use areas shall be responsible for proper removal and disposal of any waste produced by these animals.
- c. Notwithstanding the provisions of this chapter, service animals as defined in Wis. Stat 106.32(1)(fm) and WAGS (Wisconsin Academy for Graduate Service) dogs in training, may accompany person with disabilities or their trainer.

**§ 74-10. Hunting.**

- a. No person may take, catch, kill, hunt, trap or pursue any wild animal or bird in any Town Park, Trail or recreation area or other area not open to hunting or trapping.
- b. All parks, trails and recreation area open for hunting and trapping must be in accordance with DNR regulations.
- c. Except for blinds used exclusively for waterfowl hunting as provided in Wis Stat 29.32(2) and NR 10.12(12), and except for blinds constructed entirely of dead vegetation found on the property, no person may do any of the following:
  1. Construct, occupy, place or use any elevated or ground blind or other elevated device; except that on any land open to hunting, portable tree stands and blinds may remain placed only during the daily timeframe beginning one hour prior to, and ending one hour after, the shooting hours established in NR 10.06.
  2. Cause damage to trees by the placement or erection of portable tree stands or by any other manner while climbing or hunting from a tree.
  3. Intentionally place a tree stand or blind so as to shoot into adjoining private property.
  4. Place more than 2 portable tree stands or blinds on Town lands.
  5. Baiting and feeding wildlife, including deer, waterfowl, turkeys and small game is prohibited.
  6. Placing of any foothold or body gripping trap within 100 feet of any designated trail is prohibited.
  7. Shooting of a firearm within 100 yards of a building, residence or other human occupied structure while inside a Town park or recreation area boundary or adjacent to a park boundary is prohibited.
  8. Cameras
    - i. The placement or use of trail cameras are allowed in areas open for hunting.
    - ii. Cameras shall bear the owner's name and DNR customer identification number written in English language on the outside of the camera in a clearly visible location and be kept legible at all times.
    - iii. The cameras shall not cause damage to natural vegetation or town owned property.
    - iv. Placement of cameras on Town owned lands is done at the hunter's own risk. The Town of St. Joseph is not responsible for theft or damage of trail cameras.

**§ 74-11. Penalty.**

Any person who violates this Article shall, upon conviction, be subject to a forfeiture of a minimum of \$500 together with court costs and in default of payment of such forfeiture and costs, may be subject to

imprisonment in the county jail until such forfeiture costs are paid.

**§ 74-12. Severability.**

The provisions of this chapter are declared to be severable, and if any section, subsection, sentence, clause or part thereof is, for any reason, held to be invalid or unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such decision shall not affect the validity of any remaining sections, subsections, sentences, clauses or part of this chapter.

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1. Editor's Note: See Wis. Stats., § 961.11 et seq.