



Camping Rules, Policies and Regulations

For a full list of park rules, regulations, and operations standards please refer to the Overnight Camping Policy & Guide.

Falls Reserve Conservation Area

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Conservation Area - Rules of Conduct & Related Legislation

1. Falls Reserve Conservation Area is governed by the Conservation Authorities Act of Ontario, R.S.O. 1990, whereas permitted activities are regulated under, Rules of Conduct in Conservation Areas - Ontario Regulation 688/21.
2. All entry onto Falls Reserve Conservation Area is permitted only for activities conducted in accordance with a Day Use Permit, Overnight Camp Permit or Additional Vehicle Camp Permit and subject to Ontario Regulation 688/21, made under the Conservation Authorities Act of Ontario, R.S.O. 1990. Activities are permitted in accordance with the provisions of these Regulations or as designated by the Superintendent or by MVCA.
3. All other prohibited activities not listed within are in accordance with provisions of the Trespass to Property Act as designated by the Superintendent or by MVCA.
4. Superintendent(s) and other appointed Conservation Area staff members are officers appointed under section 30.1 of the Conservation Authorities Act and are designated as Provincial Offences Officers for the purpose of enforcement of the Rules of Conduct in Conservation Area Regulations, Trespass to Property Act and other accompanying legislation.
5. Not complying with the Rules of Conduct of Conservation Areas may result in enforcement actions by Conservation Authority Staff or Police. In addition to charges that could be laid under the law, you or any domestic animal may be evicted from all MVCA properties without a refund.

If you observe a violation of our park rules and regulations or require assistance, please contact our Park Patrol Staff at 519-525-6315 or contact the Park Gatehouse at 519-524-6429.

Camper Conduct

General Rule – have respect and consideration for your fellow campers and the park environment. Unnecessary excessive noise or disturbance to others is not permitted at any time.

1. Under the Rules of Conduct in the Conservation Area Regulations, the permit holder is responsible for the conduct of themselves and all occupants at their campsite.
2. Violation of park rules and regulations may result in the cancellation of your overnight camping permit with an eviction and without refund.
3. All campers are responsible for the actions of their visitors and will be held liable for any damage, vandalism, or destruction to/of the campsite or MVCA property.
4. MVCA or Park Staff may evict without refund, at its sole discretion, any person(s) whose conduct or actions are harmful to the operation of the campground and the enjoyment of the public.

Campground Etiquette

1. All campers, family members and visitors at the campsite are responsible for their behaviour and actions and must not interfere with others enjoyment of the Conservation Area and will be held liable for any damage, vandalism, or destruction to/of the campsite or MVCA property.
2. **Verbal or physical abuse or threatening behaviours or actions toward MVCA personnel, campers and visitors will not be tolerated and will result in immediate eviction, without a refund, from all MVCA properties.**
3. Excessive noise or disturbance is NOT permitted at any time. Any fighting, yelling, intoxication or use of obscene or vulgar language will not be tolerated.
4. No detachable or external amplified speakers are permitted.
5. **Should police involvement occur at a campsite because of camper, family members or visitors' actions, the camper may be found in violation of park rules resulting in an eviction.**

Zero Tolerance

Falls Reserve Conservation Area has a Zero Tolerance Policy towards verbal, threatening or physical abuse of staff or other park visitors. As such, privileges will be revoked at any time without refund at the sole and unfettered discretion of the Superintendent or designate. At any such occurrence those in violation shall leave the Falls Reserve Conservation Area property immediately without question.

Quiet Time and Radio/Audio Free Zones

1. **Falls Reserve Conservation Area has a quiet time between 10:00 pm and 10:00 am.**
2. All radio, music, audio or electronic devices be turned off between 10:00 pm and 10:00 am.
3. Loud music, audio, excessive noise, or other disturbance is prohibited at all times. Staff may at anytime request any radio, music, audio or electronic devices be turned off at staff discretion or if disturbing other campers. Campers and visitors that do not observe the "Quiet Time" or cause disturbance to others may be evicted without refund.
4. Indoor radios, televisions and other indoor entertainment equipment must not be heard or be penetrable to the outside of the camping unit as this is considered a disturbance during quiet times and can negatively affect other campers' enjoyment of the Conservation Area.
5. **Radio, music, audio or electronic devices are prohibited in Radio / Audio Free Zones.**

Campsite Occupancy

1. **Only 6 (six) people may occupy the site overnight.** This includes all occupants (adults, children, babies and visitors).
2. **Only 2 pets are permitted on a campsite at any time.**
3. Campsites are used for temporary "non-permanent" camping only by the camp permit.
4. Campsites are intended for use by the campers that are listed on the Overnight Camping Permit whereas the campsite may include up to a maximum of six camping members.
5. Anyone using the campsite that is not listed on the Camp Permit is a visitor and will be required to vacate the Conservation Area by 10:00 pm nightly.
6. Campers and visitors shall only access the campground for recreational vacation purposes, and for activities permitted under the Conservation Authorities Act or regulations created thereunder.

Camp Visitors

1. **A maximum of six (6) people is allowed to occupy each campsite.**
2. All visitors to the campsite must check in and register at the park Gatehouse on arrival.
3. Visitors may only attend the campsite areas if accompanied by the campsites registered campers.
4. Campground visitors are permitted between 8:00 am and 10:00 pm daily. No new visitors will be admitted after 8:00 pm. Campground hours may be restricted, as necessary.
5. Additional Vehicle Permits (AVP) fees are not transferable.

Dogs "Pets" at the Campsite

1. **Only two (2) pets on a campsite at any time.**
2. **All pets must always be on a leash with a maximum length of two (2) metres. The person in charge of a pet that is not secured shall capture and secure the animal at the request of an officer.**
3. Pet owners must clean up after their pets.
4. No pets shall be left unattended or disturb other persons at any time. A barking dog is considered a disturbance to other persons in the Conservation Area.
5. **No pets shall be at large (be off leash); damage property or vegetation; chase or harass wild animals or birds; injure, or attempt to injure, a person or other pet or domestic animal.**
6. Any aggressive or inappropriate behaviour, including excessive barking, growling, or whining, by any pet will result in immediate removal of the pet from the Conservation Area.
7. Pets are not allowed in washrooms, showers or entering Conservation Area ponds.
8. Pet owners shall be considerate of others using the areas at the river or Maitland Falls.
9. As a pet owner, if you feel you cannot meet these Pet or Domestic Animal rules, we ask that you leave your pet at home or at a kennel.

Camp and Permitted Sheltered Equipment

1. A maximum of three (3) sheltered equipment are permitted on a campsite. These shelters can include a Camp Unit RV, tent, or dining shelter.
2. Only one (1) Camp Unit RV is permitted on the campsite. Either a RV camper, RV trailer, RV fifth wheel trailer and RV motor home. Refer to "Camp Units RV".
3. Location of Camp Unit RV on campsite is at discretion from the Superintendent.
4. Camp Unit RVs are to be towed into the park only by licenced passenger vehicles. The use of tractors or other pieces of equipment to transport a Camp Unit RV is prohibited.

Camp Vehicles

1. All vehicles that enter the Conservation Areas must have a valid Permit.
2. Only one vehicle entry is included with a Camp Permit.
3. A maximum of 2 vehicles are allowed to park on one campsite.
4. All additional vehicles parked on the campsite or other area of the Conservation Area require an Additional Vehicle Permit (AVP), available for purchase at the park gatehouse on park arrival.
5. Additional vehicles include a motor vehicle, a motorcycle, a motorboat, a watercraft, or any trailer that exceeds 10 feet in length at the discretion of the Superintendent or designate.
6. Gooseneck or dump type trailers are prohibited camp equipment in the Conservation Area.
7. If the utility trailer is being used for sleeping accommodations or used to transport camp equipment into the Conservation Area in place of a Camp Unit RV, the utility trailer is included with the Camp Permit at no additional fee. The utility trailer then becomes one of the 3 allowed shelter or one of the 2 allowed vehicle parked on the campsite. A maximum of 5 combined pieces of camp equipment per campsite is at the discretion of the Superintendent or designate.

Campsite Cleanliness

1. **Campsites must always be kept neat, clean, and tidy and comply within the standards established by the Superintendent.**
2. Litter or scattered items on the campsite is prohibited. It is the responsibility of the camper to ensure that the campsite and adjacent area is garbage and litter free.
3. The use of pesticides and herbicides within the Conservation Area is prohibited.
4. The use of rodent control methods such as poisoning (e.g., rodenticide) is prohibited.
5. Equipment or structures that are in poor condition, deemed to be unsafe or unsightly, are at the Superintendent or designate's sole discretion in determining its acceptable use at the Conservation Area.
6. Failure to keep and maintain a neat, clean and litter free campsite could result in termination of your camp permit and overnight campsite privileges.

Alcohol, Cannabis, Smoking & Vaping

1. **Alcohol** – The consumption of alcohol is only permitted on registered overnight campsites within the Conservation Area. **Open alcohol is prohibited in all other areas of the Conservation Area** including but not limited to; roadways, pathways,

trails, day-use areas, washroom/shower facilities, pavilion or other area not listed.

2. **Cannabis** – All Ontario Cannabis use legislation applies within the Conservation Area. The use of cannabis shall not interfere with the enjoyment of other campers at the Conservation Area. Respect and consideration of others is encouraged. Anyone knowingly or unknowingly disturbing others with the use of cannabis will be asked to take all measures to prevent this disturbance. Anyone NOT willing to comply with respectful cannabis use around others will be asked to leave the Conservation Area. Cannabis is not permitted to be grown within MVCA lands.
3. Conservation Areas may have alcohol, and cannabis bans in effect during the Camping Season which prohibits the possession or consumption of alcohol and/or cannabis anywhere within the Conservation Area. Anyone found to be in possession of/or consuming alcohol and/or cannabis during a ban will be immediately evicted from the Conservation Area for a period of three (3) days on the first offence.
4. **Smoking/ Vaping – All Ontario smoking and vaping legislation apply within the Conservation Area.** All washroom facilities, buildings, playgrounds, and sporting areas are smoke free.
5. **Smoking / Vaping or Cannabis use is prohibited:**
 - a) within an enclosure area.
 - b) within 20 metres of playgrounds, or event area.
 - c) within any enclosed public area including picnic shelters, pavilions, or inside any washrooms or other public building.
 - d) within any motor vehicle or dwelling unit that occupies any child 15 years of age or younger.
6. **The use or possession of any other narcotic, or illegal substance is prohibited in the Conservation Area.**

Generators

The use of generators is not permitted except for the following circumstances:

- a) Generator use will only be granted for medical reasons or other exceptional circumstances with the approval of the Superintendent.
- b) In the event of a power outage the use of a small quiet generator type may be used for only the duration of the power outage at the approval of the Superintendent. Continuous or prolonged generator use can be a disturbance to others and limited use should be considered during quiet times.
- c) **Generator use is prohibited in Radio & Audio Free Zones.**

Wild Animals – Bird feeders & Feeding Wildlife

1. Campers are prohibited from feeding any wild animal in the Conservation Area.
2. Bird feeding and bird feeders are prohibited.
3. It is prohibited in a Conservation Area to kill, trap, pursue or disturb a wild bird, reptile or animal.
4. Most wild animals avoid human activity but may become a nuisance when campers don't keep their campsite area clean. The best way to prevent wild animal from becoming a nuisance at the campsite is to keep the campsite clean and put food safely away.

Tips

- Never feed wild animals such as chipmunks, squirrels, raccoons, skunks, birds or other.
- Pack away your cooler and food when away from your campsite and at nighttime.
- Clean dirty dishes right after meals and dispose of dishwater away from the campsite.
- Dispose of food scraps at waste disposal site right away. Do not dispose of food scraps or garbage in the firepit.
- Never cook or eat in your tent.
- Do not keep captive critters at the campsite. Baitfish and worms for fishing will also attract wild animals.
- Never leave pet food out and available as it will attract wild animals.

Trees & Vegetation

1. Campers are prohibited to cut, prune or trim or harm trees, shrubs or limbs or strip bark from trees. Campers shall not chop trees with axe or another tool. Campers shall not use fasteners such as nails, screws or attach wires to trees or shrubs. This type of damage to our trees allows for the tree to be more likely affected by fungus or disease resulting in the loss or health of the tree.
2. Temporary use of rope or line around trees is permitted if the rope or line is loosely tied and not restricting or choking the tree in any way. Any rope or line left tied tightly around a tree or limb may result in injury to the tree or cause failure of a limb or tree.
3. All ropes or lines shall not be strung lower than 7 ft. (2.1 m) from the ground at any point and must be removed while not in use to prevent personal injury.
4. All ropes and lines must be removed at departure.
5. While the MVCA maintains an inspection program for tree hazards on all campsites, campers are encouraged to be aware of overhead hazards and report these concerns to the Superintendent or other CA staff member to evaluate and tend to the matter.
6. Campers should be aware that trees and shrubs may be impacted by a variety of pests and diseases

including Emerald Ash Borer), Beech Bark Disease, Hemlock Woolly Adelgid and other invasive pest and diseases that are threatening Ontario woodlots. Exposing the tree to weakened health and eventually deteriorate the trees' structure resulting in the death of the tree.

Fires & Firewood

1. **The Conservation Area provides dry firewood available for sale at the park Gatehouse office.**
2. **Campers are prohibited from gathering of tinder or wood from any area of the Conservation Area.** The natural decay of all tinder and wood left in forested areas provides necessary nutrients required to maintain healthy woodlots in our Conservation Area.
3. Painted or treated wood, wood pallets or skids shall not be used as firewood. The smoke and fumes from this wood poses health concerns and is a disturbance to others under regulation.
4. Old lumber and wood with nails, screws or other fasteners shall not be burnt in firepits
5. Fires must be contained within an approved fire pit and always kept under control. Fires must not be left unattended. Ensure campfires are extinguished before you retire for the night or leave the site.
6. In the event of a fire ban, all campsite occupants are expected to comply with the order of the Fire Chief, Fire Marshall, or Superintendent with regards to the fire hazard order. Failure to comply may result in fines levied by the issuing authority and/or the eviction from the Conservation Area.
7. Campers are prohibited from the use of chainsaws in the Conservation Area.
8. Movement of firewood from one area to another poses a great threat to Ontario woodlots. Firewood may harbour invasive pests and carry disease that will destroy our forests. Emerald Ash Borer, Beech Bark Disease and Hemlock Woolly Adelgid are just a few of the invasive pest and diseases that are transported through firewood movement and are threatening Ontario forests. We encourage campers to buy firewood locally and burn it in the same area. **The Conservation Area has well seasoned dry firewood available for purchase at the park Gatehouse. This firewood has been harvested using good forestry and firewood handling practices that limit this threat.**

Fire Pit Use

1. **Fire pits shall not be moved or relocated by the camper.**
2. Firepits are for burning firewood only and are used for cooking.
3. The burning of old lumber and wood with nails, screws or other fasteners is prohibited.
4. The burning of painted or treated wood, wood pallets or skids is prohibited.
5. Firepits are not use for trash disposal. Please dispose of all trash or waste at our waste disposal site.

Fire Pit Ash Disposal

1. Park staff tend to fire pit ash cleanout as necessary between noon and 2:00 pm daily.
2. **Park staff will NOT dispose of any hot ashes from firepits.** Ashes must be allowed to burn down or doused with water within the contained fire pit area so ashes can be safety disposed of by park staff.
3. Disposing of ashes or other debris in the forest, or areas adjacent to campsites within the Conservation Area, is prohibited.

Motor Vehicle Operation

1. Drivers must: be licensed, be sober, obey the *Highway Traffic Act*, obey posted speed limits, obey instructional signs, and be aware of pedestrians. Failure to adhere may result in police involvement.
2. **Riding in the box of pickup trucks or on the outside of motor vehicles is strictly prohibited.**
3. All vehicles entering the Conservation Area require a vehicle permit.
4. **A maximum of two (2) vehicles are permitted to park on each campsite.**
5. All overnight vehicle passes expire at 2:00 pm on date of departure.

Motorboats, Watercrafts & Trailers

1. A Watercraft Trailer Parking Permit fee will be applied to each motorboat or watercraft trailer that enters the Conservation Area. This fee does not apply to personal canoes, kayaks.
2. A Utility Trailer Parking Permit fee will be applied to each utility trailer, equipment trailer, or an enclosed trailer, which exceed 10 feet in length. This fee does not apply to small utility trailers under 10 feet in length or trailer being used to haul camping gear or used for sleeping accommodations.
3. Each watercraft or utility trailer parked on the campsite is considered parking of one (1) vehicle on a campsite and is at the discretion of the Superintendent or designate.

Bicycles & Bicycle Helmets

1. Bicycles are permitted in the Conservation Area.
2. All trails in the Conservation Area are shared by hikers, pedestrians and cyclists. Bicycle operators must yield to all trail users including hikers and pedestrians.
3. Bicycle operators must: be sober, obey the *Highway Traffic Act*, obey posted speed limits, obey instructional signs, and be aware of pedestrians and other vehicles.
4. Bicycle helmets must be worn by anyone under 18 years-of-age riding a bicycle on Conservation Area roadways.

E-bikes

1. E-bikes / Power Assisted "Pedal-Driven" Bicycles are permitted on roadways only at the Conservation Area under all Ontario legislated rules as follows: operators must: be 16 years-of-age, wear a helmet, be sober, obey the *Highway Traffic Act*, obey posted speed limits, obey instructional signs, and be aware of pedestrians and other vehicles.
2. **The use of E-bikes / Power Assisted "Pedal-Driven" Bicycles is prohibited on the Conservation Area trail system.**

ATV's & Golf Carts

1. ATV's and Golf Carts are not allowed within the Conservation Area.
2. Under the Superintendents discretion, if an overnight camper does require the transport of an ATV or other prohibited vehicle into the Conservation Area, the ATV or other prohibited vehicle must remain always contained within the transporting vehicle and out of direct sight of public view.

Fireworks & Firearms

1. Possession or igniting of fireworks or sparklers in the Conservation Area is prohibited.
2. Possession, use or discharge of firearms in the Conservation Area is strictly prohibited.
3. Possession, use or discharge and anything that shoots any form of projectile in the Conservation Area is strictly prohibited.

Service Posts

1. **Tampering with any service post is prohibited.**
2. Fastening or physically attaching any foreign items; nails or other fasteners to any electrical, water, sewer or other service post is prohibited. Any damages occurred due to fastening of foreign items will be at the responsibility of the camper.
3. Service posts are property of the Conservation Area and may require servicing from time to time.

4. Camper must maintain a 3 ft. (1 m) easement around all service posts.

Picnic Tables

1. The campsite is provided with one picnic table that is owned by the Conservation Area. **Tampering with or removal of any picnic table is prohibited.** If you require picnic table maintenance, contact park staff. Switching out another camp-site picnic table is prohibited.

Conservation Area Natural Property

1. No digging or excavating in-ground is allowed in the Conservation Area.
And includes but is not limited to:
 - Trenching for rainwater flow around campsite is prohibited
 - Digging for leveling of camp equipment is prohibited
 - Digging for use of Metal Detector or other means is prohibited
2. No rock shall be moved or defaced in any way. This includes but is not limited to:
 - Painting of rocks is prohibited
 - Moving rocks to place around campfire pit area is prohibited
3. All natural features of the Conservation Area are the property of the Conservation Area. It is prohibited for anyone to move, deface, or destroy any natural feature of the Conservation Area.

Decorations and Lighting at the Campsite

1. Flood lighting at the campsite is prohibited.
2. Low impact trailer or exterior lighting is allowed at the discretion of the Superintendent or designates.
3. All site decorations are at the discretion of the Superintendent or designates.
4. Decorations or lighting deemed unsafe or unsightly, are at the Superintendent or designates sole discretion in determining its acceptable use at the Conservation Area.

Prohibited at the Campsite

1. Signs offering sale or transfer of items is prohibited.
2. Signs displaying inappropriate or criminal nature is prohibited.
3. Personal portable swimming pools, wading pools, hot tubs and outdoor spas or portable playgrounds, swings or similar equipment is prohibited.
4. Personal portable playgrounds, swings or similar equipment is prohibited.

Drones

1. The possession or use of drones or remote-controlled aircraft for professional, personal or recreational use is strictly prohibited.
2. Only the MVCA or those persons with a permit issued by the Authority may use drones in the CA.

Ropes in Trees at the Campsite

1. Portable temporary clotheslines are allowed but must not be strung lower than 7 ft. (2.1 m) from the ground at any point and must be removed while not in use to prevent personal injury.
2. Any ropes tied in trees must be completely removed at departure. Ropes left tied in trees or around a tree limb will damage or kill the tree.

Electrical, Water, and Sewer Services

1. An electrical, water and sewer service is provided at each serviced overnight campsite and included in the campsite fee.
2. **Tampering with any electrical, water or sewer service connections is prohibited.** All electrical, water and sewer services are owned and managed by the Conservation Authority. Increased use of services or tampering of services may reflect on to the campers' camp permit fees.
3. **ELECTRICAL:**
 - a) **Campers should ensure that their electrical connections are in good working condition and are not causing undue demand.** Electrical plugs ends should be free of corrosion. Electrical cords connections should be secure so not to cause arcing.
 - b) **Campers should ensure that they are not overloading a circuit, or the campsites provided amperage. 30-amp campsites have a 30-amp maximum draw limit.**
 - c) All electrical power cords, electrical hardware, and electrical connections may be subject to inspection by the Superintendent or the Electrical Safety Authority.
 - d) Campers shall reimburse the MVCA for any and all costs and damages incurred because of improper use of electrical connections by the camper.
4. **WATER:**
 - a) All water provided at the campground is regulated under Public Health and is potable and safe for drinking unless it is posted otherwise.
 - b) Campers are encouraged to use their own back-flow preventer device at the water service connection as a preventive measure and should turn water supply OFF at the water service connection when away from the Camp Unit RV for lengths of time.

- c) Campers shall inspect connections to ensure they remain free of leaks. **Please ensure hose connections have adequate hose washer in place to prevent waste of water.**
- d) Due to the MVCA's request to reduce water consumption whenever possible, washing vehicles or using water sprinklers at the campsite is prohibited.

5. SEWER:

- a) Campers shall ensure all wastewater is contained within the piping of the sewer connection.
- b) **The camper shall not flush sanitary wipes, or other non-flushable items into the sewer connection or wastewater dumping station as these items cause increased maintenance, malfunctions or failed operation of the wastewater system and can cause damage to the pumps and equipment within the system.**
- c) Wastewater in the park is treated through a large in-ground leaching bed, where it naturally filters through layers of soil and rock. This process allows the water to gradually replenish the groundwater aquifer, which serves as a source of drinking water. To protect groundwater quality, flushing chemicals or other toxic substances into the system is strictly prohibited.
- d) The camper is required to ensure no leakage of wastewater from any outlets, valves, plumbing and fixtures, or at sewer connections. See RV Wastewater Disposal.

Wastewater Disposal

1. A sewer wastewater service connection is provided at sewer serviced overnight campsites only.
2. Wastewater of any kind (including Greywater or Blackwater) shall NOT be dumped from the Camp Unit RV in any place except into the provided sewer wastewater connection at designated campsites or must be disposed of at the wastewater dumping station.
3. Disposal or leaking of wastewater or sewage waste onto the ground or other area is prohibited.
4. It is encouraged that Camp Unit RV wastewater valves remain closed, except when opened for appropriate disposal. It is the full responsibility of the camper to properly dispose of Camp Unit RV wastewater and ensure no leakage of wastewater from their Camp Unit RV.
5. Wastewater sewer connection hoses and piping shall be limited in length where possible and inspected regularly to ensure no leakage of any wastewater.

Waste "Trash" Disposal

The Conservation Area provides waste disposal services of campsite waste material only. Large items and hazardous waste are NOT acceptable material to leave at the Conservation Areas disposal site. Park dumpsters and disposal of waste material will be monitored.

Acceptable Disposal Waste

1. Food waste, biodegradable waste, disposable food utensils and small item packaging's are acceptable disposable items at the Conservation Area.
2. Campers are also encouraged to separate recyclables from acceptable waste and place in the proper waste bin provided.

Non-Acceptable Disposal Waste

1. Discarded furniture, mattresses, appliances, construction material, BBQs, bicycles, batteries, vehicle or camping unit parts and or any hazardous items are NOT permitted for disposal at the Conservation Area.
2. Discarding these items into or beside waste bins is NOT permitted. It's the responsibility campers to properly dispose of large non-acceptable items such as those listed above, and or hazardous waste, at a municipal disposal site.
3. Campsite garbage must be bagged and deposited in the large "green" waste bins provided at the park waste disposal site. Please do not leave campsite garbage at your site post or deposit campsite garbage in the washroom waste receptacles.
4. Let's all do our part to keep our Conservation Area clean and help reduce waste-disposal costs.