

ORDINANCE NO. 2016-001

**CITY OF VERGAS
COUNTY OF OTTER TAIL
STATE OF MINNESOTA**

AN ORDINANCE REGARDING CAMPING AND CAMPGROUNDS

WHEREAS, the city wishes to allow Recreational Camping Areas (hereinafter “RCA”) within the city limits; and

WHEREAS, the city desires to regulate the construction, composition and use of RCAs to protect public safety and health;

NOW THEREFORE, the City Council of the City of Vergas, Minnesota ordains that the zoning code shall be amended as follows:

§ 151.28 *Recreational Camping Areas*

DEFINITIONS:

1. Recreational camping area (RCA) means any area, whether privately or publicly owned, used on a daily, nightly, weekly, or longer basis for the accommodation of three or more tents or recreational camping vehicles free of charge or for compensation.
2. Recreational camping vehicle (RCV), includes the following:
 - a) Any vehicular, portable structure built on a chassis, designed to be used as a temporary dwelling for travel, recreational, and vacation uses;
 - b) Any structure designed to be mounted on a truck chassis for use as a temporary dwelling for travel, recreation, and vacation;
 - c) Any portable, temporary dwelling to be used for travel, recreation, and vacation, constructed as an integral part of a self-propelled vehicle; and

- d) Any folding structure, mounted on wheels designed for travel, recreation, and vacation use.
3. "Campsite" or "site" means a bituminous, concrete, gravel or wood chip pad specifically designated to accommodate the placement of tents, RCVs or other portable camping structures.

FEES AND LICENSING:

1. Licenses shall be obtained on an annual basis. All license renewal applications for year-round establishments shall be submitted to the City of Vergas on forms provided by the city no later than December 31st of the preceding the for which application is made. All license renewal applications for seasonal establishments shall be submitted to the City of Vergas on forms provided by the City of Vergas no later than March 31st of the year for which the application is made. Applications received after these dates are subject to penalty equal to double the current license fee. Licenses for RCAs which operate for a continuous period of six (6) months (183 days) or less shall be issues effective the first day of the establishment's operation in the calendar year for which the license is issued. Such renewal license shall expire after the 183rd day from the effective date of the license or on December 31st of the year in which the license was issues whichever occurs first.

RECREATIONAL CAMPING VEHICLE LOCATION AND SPACING:

1. No RCA shall be located so that drainage from the camp area will endanger any water supply. All camping areas shall be well drained and no portion of the camping area shall be located in an area subject to flooding, except that RCAs may be located in a flood plain that has been approved for recreational use. No wastewater from recreation camping vehicles shall be deposited on the surface of the ground.
2. There must be 15 feet of open space between the sides of adjacent RCVs and their attachments.

3. The minimum site size for each RCV is 2,000 square feet.
4. All RCVs must be located at least 25 feet from RCA property lines which abut a public street or highway and at least 10 feet from all other property boundary lines.

RCA UTILITIES:

Water Supply

1. The water supply system for the RCA and all water outlets located with the RCA must be connected to the city water supply.
2. Water must be available within 400 feet of every campsite.
3. The minimum water riser pipe size is 3/4 inch; water risers and sewer risers must be constructed of approved materials and separated by at least 10 feet.
4. All plumbing must be installed in accordance with the Minnesota Plumbing Code, Chapter 4715.
5. In the event connection to the city water supply is not feasible, the RCA must have a source of supply and system which is located, constructed and operated in accordance with the provisions of the rules of the Commissioner of Health governing public water supplies (Minnesota Rules, Parts 4720.0100 to 4720.4600) and wells (Minnesota Rules, Parts 4725.0050 to 4725.7450).
 - a. In recreational camping area, the water supply shall be capable of supplying 75 gallons of per site per day for all sites lacking individual water connections, and 100 gallons per site per day for all spaces provided with individual water connections. In recreational camping areas, water from the drinking water supply shall be available within at least 400 feet of every campsite.
 - b. The water piping system shall not be connected with non-potable or questionable water supplies and shall be protected against the hazards of backflow and back siphonage. The system shall be so designed and maintained as to provide a pressure of not less than 20 pounds per square inch under normal operating conditions at service

buildings and other locations requiring a potable water supply. In recreational camping sites provided with individual water service connection, riser pipes shall be so located and constructed that they will not be damaged by the parking of recreational camping vehicles. Water riser pipes shall extend at least four inches above the found elevation, and the minimum pipe size shall be ¾ inch. Adequate provisions shall be made to prevent freezing of service lines, valves and riser pipes. If underground stop and waste valves are installed, they shall be at least ten feet from the nearest buried portion of the sewage system. Water risers on unoccupied sites shall be valved off. There shall be a horizontal distance of at least ten feet between water and sewer pipes; provide that where the sewer pipe and the water pipe is constructed of an approved material, the distance between may be less than ten feet.

Sewage Disposal, Toilets and Shower Facilities

1. All waste disposal facilities including toilet, shower, kitchen, bathing, and washing facilities must be connected to the city sewage system, where such connection is feasible, pursuant to all applicable state, county and city codes.
2. Toilet and shower facilities must be provided in all RCAs which are used by RCVs which are not equipped with toilet and bathing facilities or by tent campers, in accordance with the schedule in MN Rules Chapter 4630.0900. Toilet and shower facilities shall be adequately heated, ventilated and lighted and have durable and washable floors, walls and ceilings and meet ADA requirements. Toilet facilities must be provided within 400 feet of any campsite.
 - a. Individual site sewer connection shall be at least four-inch diameter sewer riser pipe. The sewer connections shall consist of one pipeline only, without branch fittings. All joints shall be watertight.

All materials used for sewer connections shall be corrosion resistant, non-absorbent and durable. The inner surface shall be smooth.

- b. The sewer riser pipe shall be properly capped when a RCA does not occupy the site. Surface drainage shall be directed away from the riser; the rim of the riser pipe shall extend to least four inches above ground elevation.
3. Camping areas harboring RCVs with self-contained wastewater tanks must provide a sanitary dumping station in the ratio of 1 sanitary station for each 100 sites or fraction thereof. Sanitary stations must be adequately screened and located at least 50 feet from any campsite and shall comply in all other respects with MN Rules Chapter 4630.0900.
4. When it is not feasible to connect to the city sewage system, a sewage treatment system which is designed, constructed and operated in accordance with the applicable City of Vergas and Otter Tail County ordinances shall be provided. All sewer lines shall be located in trenches of sufficient depth to be free of breakage from traffic, or other movements and shall be separated from the park water supply system by at least ten feet, unless special acceptable construction of sewer and water lines is provided.
5. Any electrical wiring conducted on an accessory storage structure, deck or addition must be completed in conformance with the Minnesota Electrical Act, Minnesota Statutes, Sections 326.241 to 326.248 and must be inspected by a state electrical inspector.

Garbage and Refuse, Insect and Rodent Control, Vehicle Speed and Misc.

1. The RCA must provide a minimum of one 55 gallon refuse container for every 4 sites. Containers must be fly-tight, watertight and rodent proof. Garbage must be collected for disposal as often as necessary to prevent nuisance conditions and not less than once each week.
2. RCAs must be maintained free of accumulations of debris or material which may harbor rodent or insect breeding or living places. RCAs must be maintained free of noxious weed growths.

3. Domestic animals or pets must not be allowed to run at large or cause any nuisances within an RCA and property adjacent to an RCA. Any kennels, pens or other facilities provided for animals must be maintained in a sanitary condition and in compliance with applicable state, county and local codes. Unless a different number is prescribed by local ordinance or camp rule, the maximum number of dogs and cats allowed per camping vehicle is two. In the case of new litters, the above numbers may be exceeded for ten weeks.
4. No animal washing, car washing, or other slop creating practices shall be carried on in any building, structure or other place not designated for such purposes. No pets or domesticated animals shall be allowed to enter the buildings contained the sanitary or washing facilities for a recreational camping area.
5. There is a maximum speed limit of 10 miles per hour for all vehicles operating within the RCA. This speed limit must be clearly posted at all entrances and throughout the RCA. The speed limit may be enforced by the City of Vergas.
6. All walkways, drives, and commonly used areas RCAs must be provided with night lighting, which illuminates all walking paths or common facilities and areas as to allow pedestrian visibility at least 5 feet at any time.
7. When provided, cooking shelters, barbecue pits, fireplaces, and wood burning stoves shall be located, constructed, maintained and used as to minimize fire hazards and smoke nuisance, both on the property on which used and on neighboring property. No open fire shall be permitted except in facilities provided. No open fire shall be left unattended. No fuel shall be used or no material burned which emits dense smoke or objectionable odors. At no time shall garbage or refuse be burned on the premises.
8. A responsible attendant or caretaker shall in charge of every RCA at all times and the duty of the attendant shall be to maintain the camping area, its facilities and equipment in a clean, orderly and sanitary condition. The caretaker or attendant shall be the owner or operator of the camping area, or an appointed representative.

STORM SHELTERS AND EVACUATION PLAN:


1. A RCA must provide a plan for the evacuation and sheltering of the users of the RCA in times of severe weather such as tornadoes, high winds, or floods. The shelter or evacuation plan must be developed with the assistance and approval of the city. The city may require the RCA owner to construct a shelter if it determines that a safe place of shelter is not available within a reasonable distance from the RCA. The shelter or evacuation plan must be conspicuously posted in the RCA and the RCA owner must provide each user with a copy of the approved shelter or evacuation plan.

PUBLIC ROAD ACCESS:

1. The RCA shall be directly accessible to a public roadway.

Adopted by the City Council of the City of Vergas on February 9, 2016.

Approved:


Dean Haarstick, Mayor

ATTEST:


Julie Lammers, Clerk