

**Little River Band of Ottawa Indians
Natural Resource Commission**

**Camping Regulations
R500-01: NRC-04**

Section 1. Purpose; Findings.

1.01 Purpose.

The purpose of these regulations is to protect Tribal land and resources while encouraging those under Tribal jurisdiction to enjoy outdoor activities.

1.02 Findings.

The Natural Resource Commission finds that:

- a. The Constitution of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians vests the Tribal Council with the power to exercise the inherent powers of the Band by establishing ordinances and resolutions governing the conduct of its members and other persons within its jurisdiction to promote, protect, and provide for public health, peace, morals, education, and general welfare of the Band's members (Article IV, Section 7(a));
- b. The Constitution further vests in the Tribal Council the power to delegate its legislative and rulemaking authority to regulatory commissions and subordinate organizations to manage its affairs; and
- c. Tribal Council created this Natural Resource Commission as a subordinate regulatory commission to oversee and regulate the wise utilization of natural resources within its jurisdiction in Ordinance #06-500-01, adopted by Resolution #12-0229-052.

Section 2. Adoption, Amendment, Repeal, Severability

2.01 Adoption.

The Natural Resource Commission adopts a resolution to recommend these regulations to Tribal Council by resolution number NRC-2026-0309-002. A work session was held with Tribal Council on 03-24-2026.

2.02 Amendment.

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R500-01: NRC-04, Camping Regulations Amendments approved by NRC March 09, 2026, Resolution NRC 2026-0309-002

Amendments adopted by Tribal Council 03-25-2026, Resolution 26-0325-018

The Natural Resource Commission or Tribal Council may amend these regulations according to the Administrative Procedures Act, Ordinance #04-100-07.

2.03 Repeal.

The Natural Resource Commission or Tribal Council may repeal these regulations according to the Administrative Procedures Act, Ordinance #04-100-07.

2.04 Severability.

Any provision of this regulation which is determined to be illegal by a court of competent jurisdiction or an administrative body having jurisdiction over this regulation, or which is otherwise determined to be unenforceable, shall be ineffective to the extent necessary without invalidating the remaining provisions of this regulation. This regulation will be deemed modified to the extent necessary to render enforceable the remaining provisions of this regulation.

Section 3. Definitions

3.01 Camping:

Means any of the following:

- The erection of a tent; and/or
- The opening or setting up of a tent-style camper; and/or
- The parking and occupancy of a travel trailer; and/or
- Sleeping in any type of motor vehicle, sleeping bag, or sleeping in any other manner between 10:00 PM and 6:00 AM.

3.02 Campsite:

Means the area occupied as defined under “Camping” Section 3.01.

3.03 LRBOI Enforcement Officer:

Means any sworn Little River Band of Ottawa Indians (“LRBOI”) Public Safety Officer, Conservation Officer, or Law Enforcement Officer authorized by tribal regulation or statute to enforce tribal conservation-related regulations, including camping.

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3.04 Designated Campground:

Means an area recommended by the Natural Resource Commission (“NRC”) and designated by the Tribal Council, located at the LRBOI Gathering Grounds powwow area behind the Little River Trading Post.

3.05 Designated Campsite:

It means a campsite at a designated campground.

3.06 Undesignated Camping:

It means camping in areas other than Designated Campgrounds under the management of the LRBOI Natural Resource Department (“NRD”) that can withstand low-impact rustic camping over large areas. These are undeveloped wild areas with little or no amenities.

3.07 Natural Resource Department:

Means the NRD of the LRBOI.

3.08 LRBOI Tribal Court:

Means the Tribal Court of the LRBOI.

3.09 Tribal Member:

Means an enrolled member of the LRBOI.

3.10 LRBOI Justice Center:

Means the building located at 3031 Domres Rd. Manistee, MI. 49660

3.11 Off-Road Vehicle (“ORV”):

Means a motor-driven, off-road recreation vehicle capable of cross-country travel without the benefit of a road or trail, on or immediately over land, snow, ice, marsh, swampland, or other natural terrain.

Section 4. Camping Regulations

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4.01 Permits Required:

A valid permit is required for a Tribal Member to camp on tribal lands. Permits must be displayed prominently at the campsite. Permits are waived during Cultural Events such as Powwow, Language Camp, Sacred/Funeral Fires, other sanctioned traditional ceremonies, or community events.

4.02 Designated Campgrounds:

Campers must use designated campgrounds unless specifically authorized for undesignated camping by a LRBOI Enforcement Officer.

Tribal Members who wish to camp in designated campsites must:

- Obtain a valid permit at LRBOI Justice Center prior to setting up camp or next business day.
- Provide the names of all individuals in the camping party and the expected duration of stay.
- Follow any additional guidance or restrictions issued by the LRBOI Enforcement Officer at the time of check-in.

4.03 Undesignated Camping:

Tribal Members who intend to camp in undesignated areas must:

- Obtain a permit from LRBOI NRD prior to camping.
- Identify the general location of the intended campsite.
- Acknowledge and agree to comply with all environmental and safety regulations.

4.04 Campfires:

Campfires are only allowed in designated fire rings/pits. Campers must follow fire safety regulations and ensure fires are fully extinguished before leaving. Campers shall follow fire danger warnings by the NRD, LRBOI Enforcement Officer, or USFS, and shall not burn during Red Flag Warnings. Campers must keep fires small and use only dead/down local wood; Fires must be attended by an adult and must be fully extinguished before leaving.

Failure to comply with this regulation will result in fines, eviction, and civil infractions.

4.05 Waste Disposal:

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All waste must be packed out or disposed of in provided receptacles. Campsites must be clean upon permit expiration. Permit holders will be cited and charged for cleanup of trash or items left behind.

4.06 Wildlife Protection:

Feeding wildlife is prohibited. Campers should secure food. It is also prohibited to harass wildlife.

4.07 Quiet Hours:

Quiet hours are between 10:00 PM - 6:00 AM. During this time, campers must minimize noise. Loud noise and generators are prohibited during quiet hours. Group activities must end by 10:00 PM. Continued disturbance of the peace will result in fines or an eviction.

4.08 Vehicle Use:

Vehicles must remain on designated roads/trails. Off-road travel is prohibited.

4.09 Length of Stay:

There is a maximum stay of fourteen days per permit. Campers must vacate the property for forty-eight hours before returning.

4.10 Group Size:

There is a maximum of eight people allowed per campsite.

4.11 Emergency Procedures:

Call 911 or contact a LRBOI Enforcement Officer if needed.

4.12 Pets:

Pets are allowed on campsites, including service animals, however a leash is required (max six feet). Campers must clean up after pets and dispose of pet waste. No aggressive pets are allowed. Campers must keep pets out of sacred areas, Defined as the outer edge of the sidewalk around the Pow Wow Arena, the arena and within 50 feet of the lodge.

4.13 No Alcohol and Zero Drug Tolerance:

Alcohol and illegal drugs prohibited in the campsites. Violations of this regulation will result in fines or an eviction.

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4.14 Sex Offender Restrictions:

Registered sex offenders are prohibited from obtaining a camping permit and entering camping areas. Violations of this regulation will result in removal from campsite pursuant to Ordinance #11-400-11.

Section 5. Enforcement and Penalties

5.01 Enforcement:

These regulations shall be enforced by LRBOI Enforcement Officers. Violations of these regulations may result in fines, eviction, or other penalties.

5.02 Civil Infraction:

Camping without a permit or in violation of a permit may result in a civil infraction in LRBOI Tribal Court, with fines up to \$1,000, Per Tribal Court Administrative order: 2023-02

5.03 Restitution:

Damage or litter requiring cleanup by officials will result in fines and restitution. Unauthorized cutting or damage to vegetation or wildlife may also result in restitution.

5.04 Appeals:

Penalties may be appealed to the LRBOI Tribal Court within fourteen days, with a response within thirty days.

5.06 Waiver:

Nothing in these regulations waives the inherent sovereign immunity of the Little River Band of Ottawa Indians.

Section 6. Amendments

6.01 Amendments.

Natural Resource Commission

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These regulations may be amended by the Tribal Council or the Natural Resource Commission as needed to protect Tribal lands and resources.

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EXHIBITS

Designated Campground Rules:

1. No ATVs or ORV allowed (except Powwow staff golf carts/Gators);
2. All dogs must be leashed (max six feet) and under control;
3. Owners must clean up after pets;
4. No homesteading;
5. There is a maximum stay of fourteen days per permit. Campers must vacate the property for forty-eight hours before returning;
6. Quiet hours are between 10:00 PM – 6:00 AM;
7. Check-out is at 11:00 AM;
8. Max eight people per campsite;
9. Permit must be posted visibly;
10. Pull-through sites are for large campers/motor homes only;
11. Fires must be attended or fully extinguished;
12. Destruction of Tribal property prohibited;
13. LRBOI is not responsible for lost/stolen items;
14. LRBOI is not responsible for damage to property;
15. Abandoned property becomes LRBOI property after two weeks;
16. Permits are distributed on a first come, first served basis;
17. Permits are available at the LRBOI Justice Center;
18. Obey posted speed limits;
19. LRBOI Enforcement Officers may refuse to issue a permit;
20. No alcohol or illegal drugs allowed;
21. Disturbing the peace is prohibited;
22. Pets must be leashed, under control, cleaned up after;
23. Aggressive pets prohibited;
24. No pets are allowed in sacred areas;
25. Service animals permitted;
26. In emergencies, call 911;
27. Sex offenders prohibited per Ordinance #11-400-11.

Undesignated Camping Rules:

1. Maximum fourteen day stay per permit;
2. Permit must be posted visibly;
3. No homesteading;
4. Vehicles must remain on established roads/trails;
5. No off-road travel;
6. Fires allowed if conditions permit;
7. Fires must be attended and then fully extinguished;
8. Destruction of Tribal property prohibited;
9. No fires during bans/Red Flag Warnings;
10. All trash and waste must be packed out;
11. Campsites must be left clean;
12. Do not feed or harass wildlife;
13. Secure food from animals;
14. Abandoned property becomes LRBOI property after two weeks;
15. Permits are distributed on a first come, first served basis;
16. Permits are available at the LRBOI NRD;
17. LRBOI is not responsible for lost/stolen items;
18. LRBOI is not responsible for damage to property;
19. Quiet hours are between 10:00 PM – 6:00 AM.
20. Pets must be leashed, under control, cleaned up after.
21. Illegal drugs are prohibited;
22. No alcohol or illegal drugs allowed at Indian Village;
23. In emergencies, call 911;
24. Compliance with these rules is required;
25. Failure to follow rules may result in fines, permit revocation, or removal from campsite.