

**WEST TRAVERSE TOWNSHIP ORDINANCE  
ESTABLISHING NATURE PRESERVE RULES  
AND REGULATIONS:**



**1. DEFINITIONS:** As used in these Rules and Regulations:

1. "Nature Preserve" means West Traverse Township Land and Lakeshore leased from Little Traverse Conservancy, including township land within or adjacent to the preserve, hereinafter "Preserve"

2. "Resident Manager" means the full time person employed by the West Traverse Township, hereinafter "Township", to supervise township employees assigned to the Preserve and oversee the use, maintenance and protection of the Preserve.

3. "Controlled Substances" means alcoholic beverages in any form and those controlled substances forbidden by the Laws of the State of Michigan to be possessed, used or sold by any person as defined by such laws.

4. "Flora and Fauna" means any of the plant, marine, bird or animal life attached to, growing in or upon, living or transiting the Preserve.

5. "Express Written Consent" means a written permit issued by the Resident Manager or by a Designated Assistant.

6. "Peace Officer" means any duly authorized officer of the County, Township, State, Department of Natural Resources as defined by the Laws of the State of Michigan.

7. "Ranger" means a person designated by the township board to act as assistant to the Resident Manager.

8. "Motor Vehicle" means any motor driven vehicle or motorized device including but not limited to: automobiles, trucks, all terrain vehicles, snow-mobles, motorcycles, boats with inboard or outboard motors.

9. "Designated Assistant" means a person designated by action of the township board to act in the absence of the Resident Manager.

**II. NATURE PRESERVE: General Provisions**

The Thorne Swift Nature Preserve is provided by the West Traverse Township in cooperation with the Little Traverse Conservancy to preserve and protect an area in its natural state for the enjoyment of the residents of and visitors to this area. Due to the ecologically sensitive nature of the land, dunes, beach area, flora and fauna it is required that use and occupancy of the property be limited to designated areas, lands, paths, observation platforms and buildings.

**NATURE PRESERVE: Prohibited acts generally:**

A person shall not:  
1. Enter, use or occupy the Preserve lands or waters for any purpose before 10:00 o'clock in the forenoon or after one half (1/2) hour after sunset between Memorial Day and Labor Day, or on those weekends in late spring and early fall when the Preserve will be open to the public Saturday and Sunday inclusive between the day after Labor Day to the day before Memorial Day unless permitted by express written consent to do so given by the Resident Manager, or by a designated assistant.

2. Enter, use or occupy Preserve lands or waters for any purposes when the lands and water are posted prohibiting such entry, use or occupancy.

3. Destroy, damage, remove trees, shrubs, wildflowers, planted grasses, or other vegetation. Mushrooms, berries, nuts and edible fruits may be picked and removed with the express written consent.

4. Peddle or systematically solicit business of any nature; distribute handbills or other advertising matter; post signs on any lands, waters, structures or property; or use such Preserve area as a base of commercial operations.

5. Use a loudspeaker, public address system, or sound amplifying equipment or any kind without express written permission. Permission shall not be granted if such equipment is capable of interfering

with the use and enjoyment of the Preserve or neighboring private property by others. No motor vehicle, radio, television, phonograph, tape recorder or any other device shall be operated in such manner as to create excessive noise so as to disturb or annoy others.

6. Engage in any violent, abusive, loud, boisterous, wanton, obscene or otherwise disorderly conduct or language tending to create a breach of the peace, disturb or annoy others, sit, lie or otherwise obstruct walks, passageways, steps, building, so as to obstruct the free passage of others, nor remove, damage, steal the property of another or of the Preserve.

7. Build fires at any time or in any place within the Preserve lands or lakeshore, or bring a burning object into the Preserve.

8. Dump, place, throw or leave or cause or permit the dumping, placing, throwing or leaving of litter in any Preserve land, waters except in containers provided; deposit refuse or waste material that has originated outside the Preserve in Preserve receptacles provided for Preserve use; set fire to the contents of a refuse container or burn garbage or other litter.

9. Store or leave a boat, trailer, or other property in any Preserve area.

10. Camp overnight or during the daytime in any manner.

11. Bring into or possess a glass container within the Preserve lands or waters.

12. Throw stones or other missiles within or into the Preserve.

13. Willfully obstruct, resist, oppose or interfere with the Resident Manager or any other employee of the Preserve or any peace officer attempting to serve or execute any rule, regulation or order lawfully promulgated by the Township, or any other county or state law or regulation.

14. Consume, transport, possess, sell an alcoholic beverage or a controlled substance as defined by MCLA 333.7101 et seq; MSA 14.15 (7101) et seq Michigan Compiled Laws as amended within the Preserve.

15. Trespass upon the adjoining properties not part of the Preserve.

16. Swim in Preserve waters except at their own risk and only at their own risk.

17. Cook by fire, stove, or other device capable of cooking foods on Preserve lands.

18. Shoot off, use, possess or activate any fireworks of any kind or description within the Preserve.

19. Enter any building, place or enclosure upon which there is a sign of "No Admittance", "No Trespassing" or any other sign of similar intent.

20. Deface, injure or destroy any building, notice, sign, placard or other Preserve property belonging to the Preserve place upon or place therein by Preserve personnel.

21. Ride a bicycle within the confines of the Preserve other than in or on the vehicle entrance drive or parking area.

22. Defecate or urinate on Preserve property or adjoining waters except at provided sanitary facilities.

**III. ANIMALS: Prohibited acts:**

A person shall not:

1. Bring a dog or other domestic animal, except leader dogs for the blind, into the Preserve grounds or into any Preserve Building. Any leader dog must be, at all times, accompanying and under the control of its owner. Any dog or other domestic animal found running loose or creating a nuisance or disturbance, may be removed from the Preserve by any peace officer, a county animal control officer or an employee of the township.

2. Ride, permit or allow horses or other riding animals within the Preserve.

**IV. MOTOR VEHICLES: Prohibitions:**

A person shall not:

1. Operate or park a motor vehicle except on a designated road or designated parking areas, in an unsafe manner, at a speed greater than posted, or disobey traffic signs. When a motor vehicle is found parked in a Preserve parking area or roadway, the registration plate displayed on such motor vehicle, or registration number or such other identification as required by the Laws of the State of Michigan, shall constitute prima facie evidence the owner of the vehicle is the person who parked it there.

2. Operate an unlicensed vehicle on any Preserve road or parking lot.

3. Transport or possess in a motor vehicle within the Preserve any alcoholic beverage which is open or uncapped.

4. Possess, transport or have under a person's immediate control any alcoholic beverage.

5. A person shall display his or her drivers license on request of any peace officer, the Resident Manager or Preserve Ranger.

**V. FIREARMS: Prohibited Acts**

A person shall not:

1. Shoot, carry or have in possession a firearm, an air gun, gas gun, spring-loaded gun or slingshot, a bow and arrow or have any of them in possession within the confines of the Preserve.

2. Hunt, trap, kill, wound, or capture or intentionally disturb any bird, animal or other wildlife.

3. The Township may allow by express written consent the taking of fauna consistent with the enjoyment, maintenance, protection and preservation of such fauna to preserve the environmental characteristics envisioned by Little Traverse Conservancy and the Township in the Lease entered into between those parties.

**VI. PERSONS EXEMPT:**

Peace Officers, the Resident Manager, Rangers, or Designated Assistant acting in the line of duty or persons performing specific acts authorized by written permission are exempt from the provisions of these rules.

**VII. WHEN RULES AND REGULATIONS HEREIN**

**TAKE EFFECT:**

The Rules and Regulations above entitled shall take effect upon being promulgated in a suitable publication notifying the public of the rules and Regulation and the time of their effective dates after first being duly enacted at a lawful meeting of the Township and proper public discussion at an open meeting to be noticed.

**VIII. PARKING FEES:**

A daily fee shall be charged for the parking of a motor vehicle at a designated parking area in the confines of the Preserve as follows:

1. Vehicles of West Traverse Township residents displaying Thorne Swift Nature Preserve parking emblems in the lower left corner of its windshield No Charge
2. All other vehicles \$2.00

**IX. PENALTIES:**

A person who violates any of the provisions of this ordinance shall be deemed to be guilty of a misdemeanor and subject to a fine of not more than \$100.00, or by imprisonment in the county jail for not more than 30 days or by both fine and imprisonment at the discretion of the court.

A person who violates any provisions of this ordinance may be required to leave the preserve if ordered to do so by the Resident Manager, Ranger or a Designated Assistant.