

COLFAX TOWNSHIP
OCEANA COUNTY, MICHIGAN
PUBLIC ACCESS ORDINANCE

ORDINANCE NO. 2024-1

Adopted: Sept. 3 2024

Effective: 30 Days After Publication
(October 11, 2024)

An Ordinance to secure the public peace, health, safety and welfare of the residents and property owners of Colfax Township, Oceana County, Michigan, by the regulation of the use of public lake access points in the Township; to provide civil sanctions and remedies for the violation of this Ordinance; and to repeal any Ordinance or parts of Ordinances in conflict herewith.

COLFAX TOWNSHIP BOARD
OCEANA COUNTY, MICHIGAN

ORDAINS:

SECTION I
NAME

This Ordinance shall be known and cited as the Colfax Township Public Access Ordinance.

SECTION II
DEFINITIONS

- A. "Public access site" means any road end, public street, easement, park, beach, or any other area in Colfax Township where the public can gain access to lakes in Colfax Township.

SECTION III
REGULATIONS

- A. Watercraft operators must have proper license and registration.
- B. No person shall start, maintain, or knowingly permit a camp fire, bonfire, grass fire, charcoal fire, or any other type or kind of open burning or fire at a public access site.
- C. No person shall consume or possess any alcoholic beverage at any public access site.

- D. No person shall dump, deposit, place, throw, or leave, or cause or permit the burning, depositing, placing, throwing, or leaving of any rubbish refuse, garbage, offal, paper, glass, cans, bottles, trash, cigarette butts, debris, or any other waste matter on a public access site.
- E. No vehicles are permitted to park within a public access site or block entrance to a public access site.
- F. Public access sites shall not be used for off-road vehicles except by utility or construction-type businesses for access to property if permission is received from the Township Board.
- G. Power loading of boats is not permitted at any public access site.
- H. The discharge of fuels, chemicals, or sewage into the lake or launch area is prohibited.
- I. No person shall construct, place or maintain a dock, hoist, or mooring device on a public access site in the Township.

SECTION IV SANCTIONS

Any person, firm, association, partnership, corporation or governmental entity who violates any of the provisions of this Ordinance shall be deemed to be responsible for a municipal civil infraction as defined by Michigan Statute which shall be punishable by a civil fine determined in accordance with the following schedule:

	Minimum Fine	Maximum Fine
1 st offense within 3-year period*	\$75.00	\$500.00
2 nd offense within a 3-year period*	\$150.00	\$500.00
3 rd offense within a 3-year period*	\$300.00	\$500.00
4 th or more offense within a 3-year period*	\$500.00	\$500.00

*Determined on the basis of the date of commission of the offense(s).

Additionally, the violator shall pay all costs which may include all expenses, direct and indirect, to which Colfax Township has expended in connection with issuance of the municipal civil infraction. In no case, however, shall costs of less than \$9.00 or more than \$500.00 be ordered. In addition, the Township shall have the right to proceed in any court of competent jurisdiction for the purpose of obtaining an injunction, restraining order, or other appropriate remedy to compel compliance with this Ordinance. Each day that a violation exists shall constitute a separate offense.

SECTION V
SEVERABILITY

The provisions of this Ordinance are hereby declared to be severable and if any clause, sentence, word, section or provision is declared void or unenforceable for any reason by any court of competent jurisdiction, it shall not affect any portion of this Ordinance other than said part or portion thereof.

SECTION VI
REPEAL OF CONFLICTING ORDINANCES AND EFFECTIVE DATE

This ordinance takes effect 30 days after publication after adoption. All ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this Ordinance are repealed.

COLFAX TOWNSHIP
Corinne Norton, Clerk
5594 N 192nd Ave,
Walkerville, MI 49459
231-721-1220
c Norton2021@yahoo.com

**COLFAX TOWNSHIP
OCEANA COUNTY, MICHIGAN
NOTICE OF ORDINANCE ADOPTION**

To: The residents and property owners of the Township Colfax, Oceana County, Michigan and any other interested persons.

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Township of Colfax adopted Ordinance No. 2024-1 at a regular board meeting held on September 3, 2024.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that a summary of the Ordinance, as adopted by the Township of Colfax Board, is as follows:

**TOWNSHIP OF COLFAX ORDINANCE NO. 2024-1
OCEANA COUNTY PUBLIC ACCESS ORDINANCE**

Section I. Title. The Ordinance shall be known and cited as the Colfax Township Public Access Ordinance.

Section II. Definitions. This Section provides a definition for the term "public access site" as it is used in the Ordinance.

Section III. Regulations. This Section provides general regulations for the use of public access sites within the Township, including: requiring that watercraft operators have a valid license and registration; prohibiting any type of fire being lit or maintained at a public access site; prohibiting alcoholic beverages at a public access site; prohibiting the depositing of trash or rubbish onto a public access site; prohibiting vehicles from parking in or blocking the entrance to a public access site; permitting off-road vehicles for the exclusive purpose of unloading watercrafts and parking while using the same; prohibiting the power loading of watercrafts; prohibiting the discharge of fuel, chemicals or sewage into the lake or launch area; and prohibiting the construction of any docks, hoists or mooring devices at a public access site.

Section IV. Sanctions. This Section sets forth the penalty for violation of this Ordinance.

Section V. Severability. This Section provides that if any provision of this Ordinance is declared invalid or unlawful, such a determination shall not invalidate any other provision of this Ordinance.

Section VI. Repeal of Conflicting Ordinances & Effective Date. The Ordinance takes effect thirty (30) days after publication, after adoption.

PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the full text of the Ordinance is on file in the Office of the Clerk of the Township Colfax at the addresses set forth below, and that a copy of the Ordinance may be inspected, reviewed or purchased by contacting the undersigned during regular business hours on regular working days. A copy of the Ordinance is also posted on the Township's website at <https://www.colfaxytownshipocean.org>.

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