



## Park Shelter Rental FAQ's

- *What county parks have shelters for rent?*
  - *Goose Island* located near Stoddard
  - *Veterans Memorial* located near West Salem
  - *Neshonoc Swarthout* located near West Salem
- *How does the shelter get unlocked? Do I receive a key?*
  - Park staff will unlock the padlock for the shelter at the designated time that was specified on the reservation. At this point you are responsible for the shelter. If you are planning to come and go, bring your own padlock to secure the shelter. Upon completion of your shelter use for the day, simply secure all the doors and lock the shelter padlock.
- *How many people will a shelter accommodate?*
  - Each shelter is roughly the same size and will accommodate approximately 150 people.
- *Do the shelters have running water?*
  - Shelters do not have running water but have potable hand pumps for water near each building.
- *Do the shelters have electricity?*
  - All shelters have electricity, however if plugging in multiple slow cookers, crock pots, NESCO cookers, etc., please bring surge protectors and extension cords as needed.
- *How many tables are in each shelter?*
  - All shelters have 8-10 picnic tables inside the shelter with more tables around the outside for seating – a longer serving table is also present in each shelter. Tables range in length from 6 - 8 feet.
- *Do the shelters have horseshoe pits and/or volleyball courts?*
  - Yes. As of 2026 equipment is provided, but failure to return equipment and secure shelter will result in fees for replacement.
- *Do the shelters have bathrooms and are they handicap accessible?*
  - Vault toilets are present near each shelter, but some are not handicap accessible except for the bathroom located at Neshonoc Swarthout. As we upgrade facilities, all new vault toilets will be ADA compliant.
- *Can I bring a golf cart or UTV into a County Park?*
  - Prior approval must be received from the La Crosse County Facilities Department to bring a golf cart and use within the park system on the day of your rental. The request must meet specific criteria and is considered individually. ATVs and UTVs are not allowed. No exceptions.
- *What are the shelter hours?*
  - Shelter season is May 1<sup>st</sup> through September 30<sup>th</sup>. Shelter rentals are available Monday through Sunday.
  - Each shelter is rented for an entire day. The earliest a shelter can be opened is 8:00 am and county parks close at 10:00 pm.
- *Do any of the shelters have a fireplace?*
  - We have two shelters with fireplaces: Veterans Memorial Shelter #1 and the Neshonoc Swarthout Shelter.
- *Is amplified sound permitted?*
  - Amplified sound is not permitted in County Parks – per County Ordinance Chapter 19.
- *Are weddings permitted?*
  - Weddings are permitted provided they comply with all County Ordinances.
- *How is garbage handled?*
  - Two garbage cans with liners are present at each shelter. At the end of your shelter use, ensure the garbage cans are inside the closed shelter. *Please*, do not leave garbage bags/cans outside of the shelter.
  - If you anticipate generating more than two (2) large trash bags worth of garbage, please bring additional bags and arrange to remove your excess garbage as part of shelter clean-up.

- *Do I have to clean the shelter?*
  - Shelters should be left as they are found or cleaner. A “Shelter User’s Checklist” is provided with your receipt at the time of reservation. Please be sure to bring this with you on the day of your shelter rental. The checklist should be completed and left inside the shelter for our park staff. The checklist not only provides a reminder of areas that should be cleaned but also contains an area for you to provide us with comments.
- *What is the cancellation policy?*
  - Cancellation requests must be received by the Facilities Department at least 14 days prior to the shelter use date to receive a partial (50%) refund of the shelter fee. Cancellation requests less than 14 days of the reservation date will result in no refund.
- *Is alcohol allowed?*
  - Yes, but sales and disorderly conduct is prohibited. County Ordinance reads: 19.12 DISORDERLY CONDUCT PROHIBITED. No person shall engage in any disorderly conduct as defined by s. 947.01(1), Wis. Stats., in any County park, nor shall any intoxicated person be or remain in any County park. 19.13 SALES OF INTOXICATING BEVERAGES PROHIBITED. No person shall sell or offer for sale any intoxicating liquors or fermented malt beverages in any County park, except as authorized by the Public Works and Infrastructure Committee.
- *Can I hold a fundraising event in the parks?*
  - All fundraising events require prior approval from the Public Works & Infrastructure Committee. If you plan to hold an event with the intention of raising money or charge a fee for admission/programming and it will be open to the public, you must first receive approval from La Crosse County. The process starts with a letter detailing your proposed event. The letter must answer the questions of who, what, where, when, why and how. Include complete contact information for who is making the request and for all involved in organizing the event. Explain what the event is, where, when and why you want to hold the event. Lastly include details on how you plan to run the event including set-up, tear-down, parking, event times, etc. La Crosse County requires an insurance certificate in the amount of \$1,000,000 listing La Crosse County as additional insured for all events of this type. Be sure to indicate that you can meet this requirement in your letter. Don’t wait until the last minute. Committee meets one time per month and we highly recommend you seek approval at least 3 months prior to your event.
- *What happens if there is high water at Goose Island Park (Mississippi River)/Veterans Memorial Park (La Crosse River)?*
  - Flood preparedness actions are necessary if the river stage is projected to rise to the flood stage warning level. Facilities Dept. may need to close a shelter as part of our flood preparedness actions (example: road to the shelter is flooded). If available, Facilities Dept. will attempt to relocate your event to another shelter or offer you an alternate date. If none are available, we would then issue you a full refund.

Please visit our website for park maps, shelter pictures,  
online reservations, procedures, and more

[www.lacrossecounty.org/](http://www.lacrossecounty.org/)

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