

TOWN OF SARATOGA

Camping Ordinance

Section 1 – Authority

This Ordinance is adopted pursuant to the authority granted in Wis Stats. 6022 and the Wisconsin Administrative Code section 327.06.

Section 2 - Purpose

The purpose of this ordinance is to assure the rights of private property owners while ensuring that camping is conducted in a manner that protects public health, safety, and welfare. The standards and requirements of this Ordinance are intended to educate property owners in regard to fire safety, conservation of natural resources, and emergency access to properties. This will promote enjoyment for property owners, while resulting in the retention and protection of the rural nature of our township. This ordinance applies to **developed and undeveloped** private lands in the Town of Saratoga. Camping is prohibited on Town of Saratoga Public properties.

Section 3- Adoption of Administrative Code Section

Section ATCP 79.03 of the Wisconsin Administrative Code is hereby adopted by the Town of Saratoga in its' entirety.

Section 4 – Definitions

As used in this Ordinance, the following terms shall have the meaning indicated:

Address Tile – Signage that is acquired from the Town of Saratoga and installed by Wood County Emergency Government to depict a driveway location on a parcel. (permit required, see fee schedule)

Black Water – is the wastewater from bathrooms (toilets) that contain fecal matter and urine.

Camp – means to place, pitch, or occupy camp facilities, including recreational vehicles, motorized campers, and park models (as defined by State rules) to live temporarily in a camp facility or outdoors; or to use camp paraphernalia for the purpose of **temporary** human habitation.

Camp facilities – includes, but is not limited to bedrolls, tarpaulins, cots, beds, sleeping bags, hammocks, or cooking facilities and similar equipment.

Camping Unit – any portable device, no more than 400 square feet in area, used as temporary shelter, including but not limited to a camping trailer, motor home, truck camper, or tent.

Driveway – Any area of land designated or to be used as a means of ingress or egress for either vehicles or pedestrian traffic from a public road to a parcel of land. (possible driveway permit required)

Grey water – water from kitchen or bathroom sinks, showers, tubs, and washing machines. It is not water that has come in contact with human waste.

Inspection – In this Ordinance, to examine a camping site to determine compliance with the “Town of Saratoga Camping Ordinance”. Inspections are done on a “complaint driven” basis.

Inspector – the Town Board designated enforcement officer.

Permanent Human Habitation – In this ordinance the definition of “permanent Human Habitation” means to use a camping facility as a means to reside in year-round.

Person – Any natural person, partnership, firm, association, organization, company, corporation or municipal authority.

Personal Use – means the use of a private residential property by the property owner or by others with the property owners’ permission and without the exchange of any form of compensation or remuneration.

Temporary human habitation – the occupation of a camper vehicle or other non-permanent structure (tent) for a period of time not to exceed the limits set forth in this ordinance.

Undeveloped Land – Land that may have **utilities** and accessory buildings but, NO DWELLINGS

Section 5 – Regulations

5.1 ALL CAMPSITES

- a.) A one time registration is requested by the Town of Saratoga prior to initial camping within the Town.
- b.) No person may make use of or permit other persons on land under their ownership or control to utilize a Recreational vehicle or other means of camping as a permanent means of human habitation.
- c.) All parcels used for camping purposes must have a Town issued address tile clearly displayed near driveway entrance (installed by Wood County- see fee schedule).
- d.) No mail service shall be rendered.
- e.) All ingress and egress (driveways) must follow the Town of Saratoga driveway Ordinance and setback requirements for the Zoning District the parcel is in.
- f.) All camping units must follow setback requirements for the Zoning District in which they occupy.

- g.) The quiet time is 10pm – 7am.
- h.) All campsites are subject to inspection by an officer appointed by the Town Board or any law enforcement officer upon receipt of a complaint.
- i.) All campfires must be in a fire ring and 10' away from all combustibles (Additional recommended protection: fire pit cover, fire extinguisher).
- j.) No structures can be affixed to any camping unit.
- k.) All storage/ accessory buildings must comply with setbacks of the district and require a Building Permit (if over 100 square feet)
- l.) The wheels or similar devices for transportation of any camper vehicle shall not be removed except for repairs lasting no more than ten (10) days.
- m.) Camping Units must not be enclosed by any other means. (open perimeter must be maintained, no skirting allowed)
- n.) Camping units cannot be used as storage facilities.
- o.) All camping units must remain fully intact (tongue, tires etc.).
- p.) Maximum of 4 camping units beyond any 15 continuous camping days
- q.) Black and grey water must be properly disposed of (porta potties are permitted if regularly serviced).
- r.) Proper and timely disposal of trash and garbage required, No municipal service provided!

5.2 PARK MODELS (in addition to above, m, n, o not applicable) ONLY ALLOWED ON UNDEVELOPED LOTS

- a.) No more than four (4) park models per parcel.
- b.) Park Model Recreational Vehicles may be skirted, hitches removed and tied down to guard against high winds.
- c.) Shall have a state approved water supply.
- d.) Shall be connected to a state approved sewage system.
- e.) Electrical Service must comply with the NEC (National Electrical Code).
- f.) Year-round occupancy prohibited!

Section 6 – Penalties

- a.) Any person who violates, disobeys, neglects, omits, tries to willfully circumvent the intent of the Ordinance, refuses to comply with this Ordinance, or resists enforcement of any of its provisions shall be subject to a written notice of violation.
- b.) The appointed officer may require owners of camper vehicles or other forms of non-permanent structures used for human habitation to effect compliance with the terms of this ordinance within thirty (30) days or such time period as is specified in written notice directed to their attention. If the owner of the camper vehicle or other form of non-permanent structure used for human habitation cannot be located, said notice shall be directed to the owner of the parcel of real estate upon which it is found.
- c.) Each failure to obey a written order shall constitute a new violation of this Ordinance. Forfeitures shall be assessed in the following manner:
 - 1. Failure to comply with the first written notice, second notice.
 - 2. Failure to comply with the second written notice: \$150.00
 - 3. Failure to comply with the third written notice: not less than \$150.00 nor more than \$1,000.00 for each day of continued non-compliance following the expiration of the notice period contained in the notice served.
- d.) If use of a camper vehicle or other form of non-permanent structure used for human habitation is not brought into full compliance with this ordinance within the time period specified in the written order under Sec. 6.b. at the option of the Town Board, the Constable or any law enforcement officer may issue a citation for such violation. In addition, the Town of Saratoga reserves the right to pursue injunctive relief to effect compliance with this ordinance on a case -by-case basis.

Section 7 – Effective Date.

This Ordinance shall take effect upon passage and publication as provided by law.

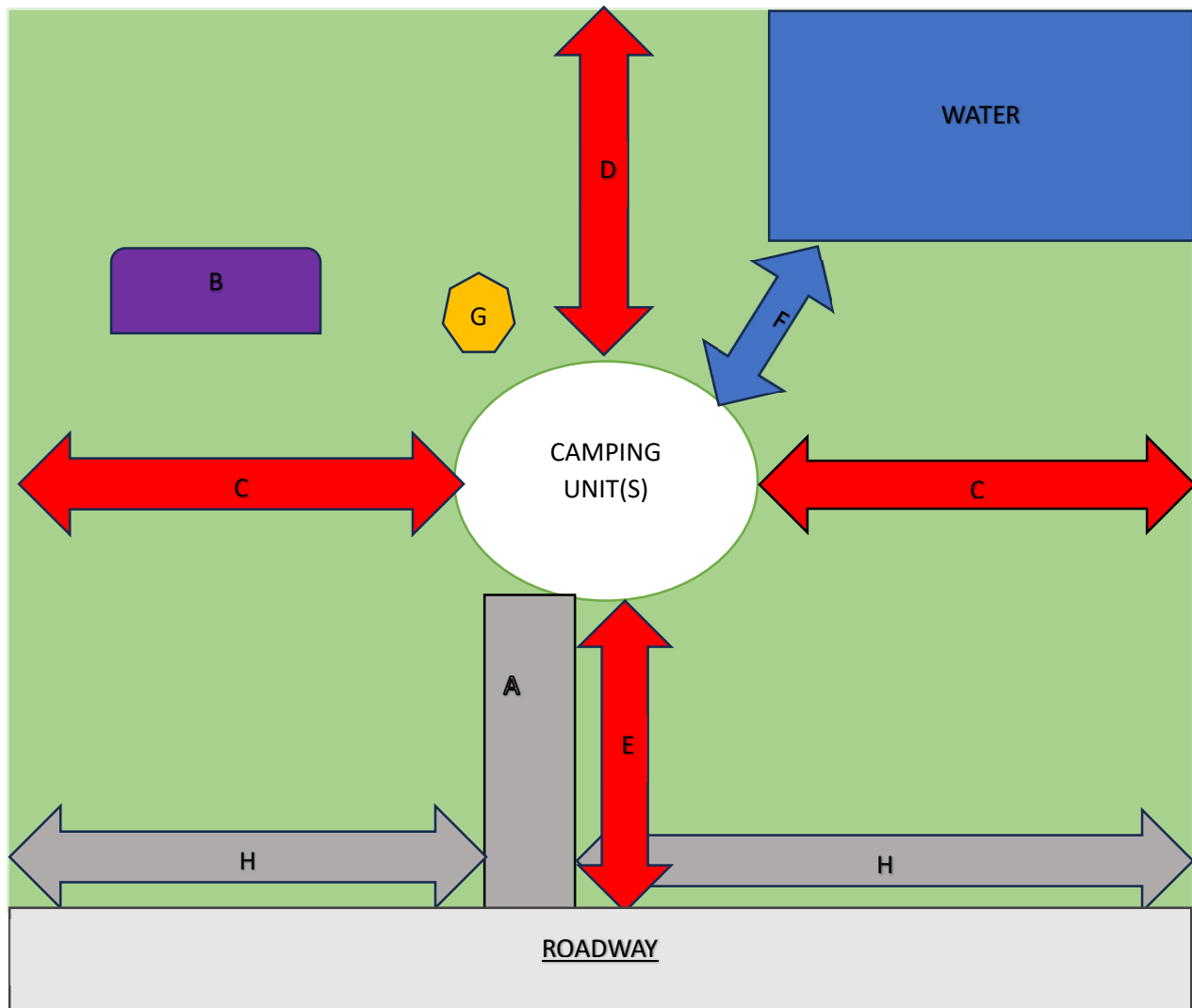
Date Adopted - ____August 19, 2026

Date Published and in effect - _____August 27, 2026

Approved and adopted by the Town of Saratoga Board on - _____August 19, 2026

Town Clerk - _____

Town Chairman - _____



A – DRIVEWAY – must conform with Town of Saratoga Driveway Ordinance

B – SHED – must meet current setback requirements for the district

C – SIDEYARD SETBACKS (per Zoning District requirement)

D – REAR YARD SETBACKS (per Zoning District requirement)

E – FRONT YARD SETBACKS (per Zoning District requirement)

F – WATER SETBACKS (Per Wood County – 75')

G – CAMPFIRE (must be contained in fire ring and setback from flammables 10')

H – DRIVEWAY SETBACKS (setback requirements within District)

