

TOWN OF SWANTON

ORDINANCE RELATIVE TO PUBLIC LANDS

Section 1. Authority.

This ordinance is enacted pursuant to the authority granted the Town to promote the public health, safety, welfare and convenience contained in 24 V.S.A. § 2291. This ordinance shall be a civil ordinance with the meaning of 24 V.S.A. Chapter 59.

Section 2. Purpose.

It is the purpose of this ordinance to regulate access to and camping on public lands in the Town of Swanton

Section 3. Definitions.

“Public Lands” means any real estate owned or leased by a municipality located in the Town of Swanton.

“Access” means the entering the public lands owned or leased by a municipality located in the Town of Swanton.

“Camping” shall include the placing of any bedding, sleeping bag, or other material at a site to serve as a sleeping area; the placing of any tent, lean to, other structure or vehicle at a site to serve as a sleeping or living area; or the use of any public land in the Town of Swanton.

Section 4. Applicability.

- a. This Ordinance applies to, but not limited to, the following public lands:
 1. Lamoille Valley Rail Trailhead – 99 Robin Hood Drive
 2. Swanton Recreation Fields – 16 Jewett Street
 3. Swanton Town Offices – 1 Academy Street
 4. Swanton Town Garage – 221 First Street
 5. Ronald F. Kilburn Railroad Museum – 56 South River Street
 6. Vacant lot – 23 Fourth Street
 7. 366 North River Street
 8. Riverside Cemetery – 176 North River Street
 9. Church Street Cemetery – 24 Church Street
 10. Dorman Cemetery – 126 St. Albans Road
 11. West Swanton Cemetery – 155 Tabor Road
 12. Green’s Corners Cemetery – Sheldon Road
 13. Richard J. Thompson Fit and Healthy Trail
 14. Swanton Public Library – 25 Grand Avenue

Section 5. Prohibited Activities

1. No person or persons shall access public lands during the hours of 10:00 pm and 7:00 am unless it is for an official function and an employee or an elected official of the Town of Swanton is present.
2. No person or persons shall use public lands for camping at all times.

Section 6. Enforcement.

Any person who violates a provision of this civil ordinance shall be subject to a civil penalty of up to \$500 per day for each day that such violation continues. Police Officers certified by the State of Vermont shall be authorized to act as Issuing Municipal Officials to issue and pursue before the Traffic and Municipal Ordinance Bureau a municipal complaint.

Section 6. Waiver Fee.

An Issuing Municipal Official is authorized to recover a waiver fee, in lieu of a civil penalty, in the following amount, for any person who declines to contest a municipal complaint and pays the waiver fee:

First offense -	\$50
Second offense -	\$125
Third offense -	\$200
Fourth offense -	\$275
Fifth and subsequent offense -	\$300

Offenses shall be counted on a calendar year basis.

Section 7. Civil Penalties.

An issuing Municipal Official is authorized to recover civil penalties in the following amounts for each violation:

First offense -	\$100
Second offense -	\$200
Third offense -	\$300
Fourth offense -	\$400
Fifth and subsequent offense-	\$500

Offenses shall be counted on a calendar year basis.

Section 8. Other Relief.

In addition to the enforcement procedures available before the Traffic and Municipal Ordinance Bureau, the Selectboard is authorized to commence a civil action to obtain injunctive and other appropriate relief, or to pursue any other remedy authorized by law.

This ordinance is hereby entered in the minutes of the Selectmen of the Town of Swanton and shall be posted in at least five conspicuous places within the Town of Swanton.


Furthermore, a summary of it shall be published in the St. Albans Messenger within fourteen days of this date of adoption. Unless a petition is filed pursuant to 24 V.S.A. Section 1973 is filed this ordinance shall become effective sixty days after this date of adoption. If such petition is filed, this ordinance, shall become effective at the conclusion of the meeting called for that purpose.

Adopted at Swanton, Vermont this 17th day of February 2026


TOWN OF SWANTON SELECTBOARD



Joel Clark, Chair



Earl Fournier, Vice Chair



Nicole Draper

Steven Bourgeois



Nicholas Brosseau