

**PENINSULA TOWNSHIP
GRAND TRAVERSE COUNTY, MICHIGAN
ORDINANCE NO. 61 of 2025**

PENINSULA TOWNSHIP ROAD END ORDINANCE

At a meeting of the Township Board of Peninsula Township, Grand Traverse County, Michigan, held at the Peninsula Township Hall on January 21, 2026, at 3:00 p.m., Township Board Member [Signature] moved to adopt the following ordinance, which motion was seconded by Township Board Member [Signature]:

An ordinance to regulate activities within road ends that are riparian to Lake Michigan, to provide for the use, conduct, protection, regulation, and control of these road ends within Peninsula Township, and to provide for enforcement and penalties for violations of the ordinance to ensure the protection of the health, safety, and welfare of the township, its citizens, and members of the public.

THE TOWNSHIP OF PENINSULA, COUNTY OF GRAND TRAVERSE, ORDAINS:

Section 1: Title.

This ordinance shall be known and cited as the Peninsula Township Road End Ordinance.

Section 2. Statutory Authority.

This regulatory ordinance is adopted in accordance with the authority conferred by the Township Ordinances Act, 1945 P.A. 246, as amended, which authorizes the township board to adopt ordinances regulating traffic and the parking of vehicles, MCL 41.181 (1), including ordinances that apply to particular streets, roads, highways, or portions of the township, MCL 41.181(2). This ordinance is also enacted pursuant to Chapter 87 of the Revised Judicature Act, 1961 P.A. 236, as amended, which permits the township board to designate one or more authorized local officials to issue municipal civil infraction violations and citations, per MCL 600.8701(a).

Section 3. Purpose.

It is the intent of Peninsula Township, in order to promote the health, safety, and welfare of township residents and visitors, to regulate and control activity at public road ends that are riparian to Lake Michigan. Road ends terminate at the ordinary high water level, a fixed elevation on the waterfront. Road ends provide the public with the right to access Lake Michigan by using the roadway. Once individuals are lawfully below the ordinary high water level, they may take part in activities incidental to use of the water like swimming, fishing, boating, and walking along the shoreline. This ordinance prohibits activities that interfere with the public's right to unrestricted ingress and egress to Lake Michigan and the public safety of all citizens.

However, pursuant to Michigan law, public road ends are for access to the water below the ordinary high water level *only* and do not permit sitting, sunbathing, picnicking, camping, lighting fires, storing boats, congregating, etc., above the ordinary high water level. Peninsula Township owns public parks at which many of these activities are allowed.

Section 4: Definitions.

- A. "Camping" means the lodging or sleeping of person or persons on the ground or in any manner, whether during the day or overnight, or in any sleeping bag, tent, hammock, bivy sack, trailer, tent, trailer coach, vehicle camper, motor vehicle, watercraft, or in any other conveyance erected, parked, or placed on the premises or waters within any road end within the jurisdiction of Peninsula Township.
- B. "Fire" means any combustion of wood or other fuel, whether within a fire ring, fire pit, camp stove, or otherwise.
- C. "Domestic pets" means a domestic cat (*Felis Catus*), domestic dog (*Canis Familiaris*), or registered therapy or service animal.
- D. "Road end" means the end of a public road, platted or otherwise, or any part of a public road, including the full width of the public road's right-of-way (66 feet, or 33 feet in each direction of the shoreline from the center point of the road), that is riparian to, i.e., terminates in, Lake Michigan and is not maintained by the Grand Traverse County Road Commission.
- E. "Riparian" means contiguous to and actually connected at the ordinary high water level to the waters of Lake Michigan.
- F. "Ordinary high water (OHW) level" means the point on the bank or shore up to which the presence and action of the water is so continuous as to leave a distinct mark either by erosion, destruction of terrestrial vegetation, or other easily recognized characteristic.
- G. "Vehicle" means every device in, upon, or by which any person or property is or may be transported or drawn upon a highway, except devices exclusively moved by human power or used exclusively upon stationary rails or tracks. "Vehicle" specifically includes but is not limited to cars, trucks, off road vehicles (ORVs), golf carts, and electric or gas engine bicycles. "Vehicle" does not include wheelchairs or other ADA ambulatory assistance devices, which may be used to access the area below the ordinary high water line but may not be left at the road ends.
- H. "Road" means any public or private property intended for use by the public for movement of vehicles throughout the township.
- I. "Water point" means a location with access to Lake Michigan where the fire department can withdraw water from the lake for fire protection. As of the adoption of this ordinance,

there are 36 water points in Peninsula Township. For clarification, all road ends within Peninsula Township are water points, but not all water points are road ends.

- J. "Watercraft" means a floating object that provides for the movement of persons on the water, including self-propelled objects such as canoes, kayaks, stand-up paddleboards, or surfboards.

Section 5: Prohibited Activities and Conduct on a Road End.

- (a) Constructing, placing, or maintaining a dock, hoist, or mooring device within a road end.
- (b) Anchoring, beaching, or mooring an unattended watercraft on a road end, except in the case of an emergency or the mechanical breakdown of the watercraft, and then only for a temporary period of time sufficient to remove the watercraft, not to exceed 24 hours.
- (c) Driving or backing a trailer into the water within a road end for the purpose of launching a watercraft on Lake Michigan on any road end, except in areas specifically designated for boat launching by Peninsula Township.
- (d) Violating the clearly posted parking restrictions, which are specific to each road end, in Peninsula Township.
- (e) Driving any vehicle, including cars, trucks, motorcycles, etc., past the clearly posted signage stating that no motorized vehicles of any kind are allowed past this point.
- (f) Possessing any glass container or any other disposable container within a road end.
- (g) Possessing, consuming, serving, or providing another person with any alcoholic beverage on a road end.
- (h) Setting up chairs or towels on the road end for the purpose of sitting, picnicking, or sunbathing on the road end.
- (i) Interfering with the public's right to use road ends to access Lake Michigan or interfering with the public's incidental uses of the water like swimming, fishing, boating, and walking along the shoreline below the OHW level.
- (j) Using road ends to trespass on private property.
- (k) Auguring, driving, or installing any boat mooring posts or placing any permanent or seasonal watercraft anchoring devices, shore stations, or swimming rafts within the area of any road end.

- (l) Storing any watercraft, boat hoists, docks, or ice shanties or placing any other man-made structures or plantings that obstruct or encroach upon the road end.
- (m) Permitting unleashed domestic pets on a road end, unless the domestic pet is a service animal and the use of a leash would interfere with the service animal's work or if their handler's disability prevents use of a leash, in which case the service animal must otherwise remain under their handler's control.
- (n) Camping, staying overnight, or otherwise remaining upon a road end when not accessing the water or walking along the shoreline below the OHW level.
- (o) Making unauthorized alterations or improvements to a road end, such as grooming trails or cutting trees, tree branches, shrubs, bushes, or woodland; painting; constructing structures; planting or removing plants; landscaping; or earth moving. None of these or other improvements are permitted.
- (p) Igniting and/or maintaining a fire on a road end.
- (q) Dumping, depositing, placing, throwing, leaving, causing, or permitting litter on a road end. No household refuse or other items shall be brought into any road end.
- (r) Engaging in any business activity in a road end including but not limited to peddling or soliciting business of any nature.
- (s) Preventing fire department ingress or egress to a water point by parking in marked No Parking areas.

Section 6. Violations.

- A. **Determination of Violation.** The initial determination of whether any activity or conduct violates the prohibitions of this ordinance shall be made by an authorized enforcement officer. Authorized enforcement officers include the Township Ordinance Enforcement Officer, Township Supervisor and Township Zoning Administrator, and law enforcement officers of the Grand Traverse County Sheriff's Office, Michigan State Police, or Michigan DNR Enforcement Division.
- B. **Municipal Civil Infraction.** Any person or entity that violates any provision of this ordinance shall be deemed responsible for a municipal civil infraction and shall be subject to a civil fine established by resolution of the Peninsula Township Board as well as the township's costs and attorney fees as provided by law. Every day that a violation continues to exist shall constitute a separate violation. In addition to civil infractions and civil penalties, this ordinance may be enforced by a civil action against an alleged violator for injunctive relief authorized under law. Municipal civil infractions may be issued by any authorized enforcement .

C. **Nuisance Per Se; Other Remedies.** Violations of this ordinance shall constitute a nuisance per se. In addition to the penalties provided above, this ordinance may also be enforced by suit for injunction, damages, or other appropriate legal action.

Section 8. Severability.

The provisions of this ordinance are hereby declared to be severable, and if any part is declared invalid for any reason by a court of competent jurisdiction, it shall not affect the remainder of the ordinance, which shall continue in full force and effect.

Section 9. Conflicting Provisions Repealed.

Any ordinances or parts of ordinances in conflict with the provisions of this ordinance are hereby repealed, except that this ordinance shall not be construed to repeal any provision of the Peninsula Township Zoning Ordinance.

Section 10. Effective Date.

This ordinance shall become effective within thirty days following its publication.

Roll Call:

YEAS: Sanders, Clark, Miller, Alexander, Sawyer, Chown

NAYS: _____

ABSENT/ABSTAIN: Wanda

ORDINANCE DECLARED ADOPTED.

CERTIFICATION

I, Rebecca Chown, clerk of Peninsula Township, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and accurate copy of Ordinance No. 61 adopted by Peninsula Township on the 27th day of January, 2026. A summary of the ordinance was duly published in the Record-Eagle newspaper, which circulates within Peninsula Township, on January 5, 2026. Within 1 week after such publication, I recorded the ordinance in a book of ordinances kept by me for that purpose, including the date of passage of the ordinance, the names of the members of the township board voting, and how each member voted. I filed an attested copy of the ordinance with the Grand Traverse County clerk on February 16, 2026.

Rebecca Chown
Rebecca Chown, Peninsula Township Clerk

2026.01.08 Peninsula Twp Road End Ordinance