

QUARRY SPRINGS PARK
STATEMENT CONCERNING ICE FISHING
(FINAL DRAFT)

Ice Fishing is not permitted at Quarry Springs Park. While the Colfax Park Auxiliary Board appreciates the community's enthusiasm for the sport, it has been determined that ice fishing is neither legal nor safe at Quarry Springs Park due to the following facts and circumstances.

First, while the Park Board itself operates independently of the City of Colfax, City regulations apply within the park. Pursuant to Colfax Code of Ordinances, section 47.04, ice fishing is prohibited in City parks:

“PONDS, LAKES, OR OTHER BODIES OF WATER. No person shall swim, ice fish, use or have on board a watercraft with a gasoline powered motor, except for emergency watercrafts, in any park except where specifically posted as allowed. Bow fishing will be allowed with proper licensing from the Department of Natural Resources.”

The Park Board follows the City's regulations and ordinances.

Second, Quarry Springs Park's insurance policy does not provide for or include liability coverage for ice fishing or swimming. Nor is the additional expense of seeking coverage for ice fishing something the Park Board is willing to entertain due to the reality of its budgetary constraints. Quarry Springs Park operates with limited funds, supplemented by fundraising efforts and grants, and thousands of volunteer hours. Adding to the park's monetary obligations in the form of additional insurance coverage costs is simply not fiscally responsible.

Third, ice fishing at Quarry Springs Park is dangerous due the water table rising and lowering, often leaving a gap in the space between the ice and the water level. There is also a current underwater that affects the ice, as does the warmer water rising from the springs within the lakes.

Fourth, if an ice fishing accident or incident were to occur, the Colfax City Council has advised it does not want to put fire, police, paid personnel, and other volunteers at risk. The Park Board shares the City Council's significant and serious concerns in this regard. The Colfax Police presently patrol in Quarry Springs Park

and will continue to enforce the City's ordinances. Because ice fishing is prohibited at Quarry Springs Park, and park users are made additionally aware of the prohibition by posted signage, fines can be imposed for an ice fishing violation occurring at Quarry Springs Park.

The Park Board appreciates and respects this community's viewpoints and opinions on ice fishing. And, for the reasons given above, the Park Board hopes the community will respect ours.

If you disagree with this statement, feel free to take your concerns to the Colfax City Council. As a Park Board, we are committed to following the City's current regulations and guidelines and lack the authority to permit ice fishing at Quarry Springs Park even if we wished to do so.

Lastly, if you observe anyone ice fishing at Quarry Springs Park, please contact the Jasper County Sheriff's Non-Emergency telephone line at (641) 792 5912 to report your observation and to ask that they contact the Colfax Police Officer on duty to handle the situation.

Thank you for your consideration