

No. 606
OUTDOOR RECREATION ACT
July 13, 1973

Chapter 1
Outdoor Recreation Routes

Section 1

If, for purposes of general outdoor recreation pursuits, it is important to allow persons engaged in said pursuits passage through a property, and this does not cause major inconvenience to the property, an area of said property shall be assigned for use as an outdoor recreation route.

Areas required for rest and recreation purposes by persons engaging in outdoor pursuits shall be considered to be adjunct areas forming part of outdoor recreation routes.

What is provided in paragraph 1 shall likewise apply to the assignment of an area of land for use as a rest and recreation place by persons travelling on water.

The provisions of this Act regarding properties shall also apply to land areas not entered in a land register.

Section 2

A plan for the establishment of an outdoor recreation route shall be drafted and ratified, and official proceedings conducted at the place in question to establish said route.

The upkeep of an outdoor recreation route, which shall include laying out and maintaining the route, shall be the charge of the local authority. A local authority may entrust said duties to a corporation deemed suitable. (30.12.96/1270)

An outdoor recreation route may be established on State land of public importance for outdoor recreation. The upkeep of an outdoor recreation route of this kind shall be the responsibility of the State unless other arrangements are made in the official proceedings, with the State's consent.

Section 3

A plan for an outdoor recreation route shall be drafted by the local authority and said plan shall indicate the course of the route and the adjunct areas referred to in section 1, paragraph 2, in order that they may be marked out if necessary, on the basis of the plan. The plan shall also specify the properties through whose land the route is to pass.

The plan shall specify which recreation-related traffic the route is intended for.

Section 3a

(28.6.1993/618) An outdoor recreation route shall be planned in such a way that its establishment and use cause no major disruption to the living conditions or reproduction of game animals.

Section 4

A plan for an outdoor recreation route shall be ratified by the provincial government in whose land the route or the greatest part of it lies. Before a plan is ratified, those parties whose rights or interests are affected by the plan shall be provided with an opportunity to lodge objections arising from the plan.

For the purpose referred to in paragraph 1, a local authority shall display the plan publicly for 14 days. Objections to the plan shall be addressed to the provincial government and lodged with the appropriate municipal authority within 30 days of the end of the display period. The local authority shall, at its expense, announce the display of the plan and the manner and period for lodging objections, in the usual manner for municipal notices in the local authority concerned. In addition, if this can be done without inconvenience, landowners and, in reindeer herding areas, the local reindeer herding association through whose land the route is to pass shall also be notified separately that the plan has been put on display.

The local authority shall forward any objections lodged, together with its own opinions, to the provincial government.

Section 5

When an outdoor recreation route plan has been ratified under a decision with legal force, the local authority shall, within one year of the decision's taking on legal force, apply in writing to the land survey office of the land survey district in question for an order for official proceedings to establish the route. The plan shall be appended to the application.

The costs of the official proceedings shall be borne by the party maintaining the route.

Section 6

The official proceedings to establish an outdoor recreation route shall be performed by a surveyor with two assistants who shall be trustees appointed for land partitioning or members of the road committee.

What is provided regarding the trustee referred to in paragraph 1 shall also apply to the right of a member of the road committee to receive remuneration, compensation for travel costs, and a per diem allowance.

A chartered city or township surveyor authorized to perform parcelling and certain other land survey functions may, in his own district, and with the consent of the local



authority, also perform the official proceedings to establish an outdoor recreation route referred to paragraph 1.

Section 7

In official proceedings to establish an outdoor recreation route, the boundaries of the area shall be defined on the basis of the plan and, if necessary, at the order of the local authority, a map and commentary on the area shall be drafted and, insofar as is deemed necessary, the course of the route through the terrain and its boundaries shall be marked out. Immoveable property within the area shall pass into the ownership of the local authority unless otherwise stipulated in the proceedings. In the course of said proceedings, any gate, wicket or comparable facility to be made in a fence on the route shall also be stipulated.

The official proceedings shall also stipulate any payment of compensation.

If any inconvenience arising from use of an outdoor recreation route becomes substantially greater than was possible to estimate using the data available at the time of the official proceedings, the payment of additional compensation may be ordered in new official proceedings concerning the outdoor recreation route. The owner of the area may also apply to the land survey office in the land survey district concerned for an order for new proceedings. The costs of the proceedings herein referred to can be ordered payable in part or in full by the owner of the area.

Section 8

Compensation shall be paid for the assignment of land usufruct so that the land may be used as an outdoor recreation route, and for any other damage or inconvenience caused to the owner or holder of the area or to the local reindeer herding association by maintenance and use of said route. The compensation shall be paid as a lump sum or for a predetermined period.

In other respects, the relevant parts of the provisions of the Private Roads Act issued on June 15, 1962, shall apply to the determination and payment of compensation.

Section 9

When the official proceedings to establish an outdoor recreation route have taken on legal force and compensation has been paid to the owner or holder of the land, the party maintaining the route shall be entitled to take possession of the area covered by the route. If necessary, trees and shrubs and any other natural obstacles impeding maintenance of the route may be removed from the area thus acquired.

If necessary, gates, wickets or other comparable facilities to ensure that routes do not cause inconvenience to proper use of properties shall be provided in fences on routes by and at the expense of the party maintaining the route.

Section 10

A local authority may issue regulations and guidelines concerning the use of an outdoor recreation route.

Section 11

What is provided concerning the establishment of an outdoor recreation route shall apply, where appropriate, to the relocation of a route. The landowner may make a proposal to the local authority concerned regarding relocation. In the event of the local authority's opposing said relocation, the landowner may refer the matter to the provincial government.

Section 12

In the event of an outdoor recreation route or any part thereof no longer being necessary for outdoor recreation activities due to altered circumstances, the provincial government may, for that or some other special reason, and on the application of the local authority or landowner, close the outdoor recreation route or any part of it.

When an outdoor recreation route or any part of it has been closed, the area covered by the route shall be restored to the owner without compensation being required in return.

The provincial government shall be required to notify the land survey office of the closure of an outdoor recreation route, and the office shall make the necessary entries on the map and in the land register.

Section 13

If an outdoor recreation route is included in a plan referred to in the Building Act of August 16, 1958 (370/58), or if the parties have agreed that the area is to be assigned for use as an outdoor recreation route, official proceedings may be conducted, observing the provisions of this chapter, even if no outdoor recreation route plan has been made.

Section 14

The provincial government may order a local authority to see to drafting of an outdoor recreation route plan concerning another local authority's land, application for its ratification, application for an order for official proceedings to establish the route, and maintenance of the route, provided the local authority concerned has agreed thereto. The provincial government shall stipulate how the costs and compensation arising from the route are to be divided up between the local authorities concerned, unless said authorities have agreed on the matter between themselves.



Section 15

Unless otherwise specified under the provisions of this Act, the relevant parts of the provisions of the Private Roads Act in respect of proceedings for the execution of a road construction plan shall apply to the procedure to be followed in official proceedings to establish an outdoor recreation route, inspection of the official proceedings, appeals against a decision issued or action taken in the proceedings, and entry in the land register.

Chapter 2 State Wilderness Recreation Areas

Section 16

A wilderness recreation area can be established on State land of major public importance for outdoor recreation purposes. In such an area, the practice of silviculture, hunting and fishing, and other uses of land and water areas must be arranged in such a way that the needs of outdoor recreation activities are taken adequately into account. In reindeer herding areas, particular attention must be devoted to ensuring that reindeer husbandry is not caused any major inconvenience.

If land belonging to a party other than the State, and contained within or otherwise contiguous to an area as referred to in paragraph 1 is needed in order to create a sufficiently large or otherwise practicable wilderness recreation area, said land may be included in the wilderness recreation area which is being established.

Section 17

The establishment of a wilderness recreation area and the principles according to which it is to be used shall be decided by the Council of State. The Council of State decision shall include permission to purchase the area referred to in section 16, paragraph 2, or to limit the right to use it, in compliance with the provisions of the Act on Compulsory Purchase of Real Estate for Public Needs of July 14, 1898 (27/1898).

More detailed regulations concerning the use of a wilderness recreation area shall be issued in bye-laws. If use of a vehicle may cause nuisance or disturbance to outdoor recreation, said use may be prohibited or restricted in the bye-laws. However, regulations issued in bye-laws must not cause inconvenience to the livelihood of permanent local residents.

Said bye-laws shall be issued by the authority in charge of the area concerned.

Chapter 3 Camping Sites (22.12.1994/1343)

Section 18 (22.12.1994/1343)

For the purposes of this Act, 'camping site' shall be taken to mean an area intended for temporary, usually recreational accommodation in a holiday cabin, tent, caravan or recreational vehicle, which holds a combined number of at least 25 cabins or places reserved for tents, caravans or recreational vehicles. The above notwithstanding, an area with at least 10 holiday cabins shall without exception be regarded as a camping site.

What is provided in this Act concerning camping sites shall apply to corresponding areas providing accommodation for more than 40 persons, where no more than one family or small group is accommodated per building.

Section 19 (22.12.1994/1343)

Camping sites shall be located, constructed and maintained in such a way that their use does not:

- 1) cause harm or hazard to human health;
- 2) damage nature;
- 3) pollute or litter the environment;
- 4) substantially impair the amenity of the environment;
- 5) endanger road safety; or
- 6) in any corresponding way jeopardize public interests.

Camping sites shall be located so as not to impede the implementation of any plan referred to in the Building Act.

What is provided or stipulated separately concerning fire safety, public safety and health precautions shall also be observed at camping sites.

The Ministry of the Environment shall, as necessary, issue more detailed regulations concerning the standard criteria to be met by camping sites and temporary camping sites.

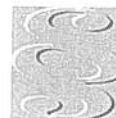
Section 20 (22.12.1994/1343)

No later than three months before a camping site is established or significantly altered, such intent shall be notified in writing to the authority appointed by the municipality in which the site lies (*municipal camping authority*), which, however, shall not be the municipal board.

This notification shall contain the relevant information on the manager and location of the camping site and on the nature and scope of its operations.

Section 21 (22.12.1994/1343)

On receiving notification and after hearing the manager of the camping site, the municipal camping authority is authorized to issue any regulations as prove necessary for implementing this Act or provisions and regulations issued



thereunder. If the consequences described in section 19 cannot be prevented by issuing regulations, the municipal camping authority is authorized to prohibit the intended activity on the site concerned.

Section 22 (22.12.1994/1343)

Police authorities may designate a person to keep order at a camping site. In the first instance this shall be an appropriately qualified person nominated by the site's manager. What is provided concerning security attendants at entertainment functions shall apply to persons keeping order at a camping site.

If the maintenance of order or appropriate use of the camping site so demands, the site's manager and staff may deny access to a person attempting to enter it or, as necessary, remove said person from the site.

Section 23 (22.12.1994/1343)

The municipal camping authority shall be responsible for supervising the observance of the appropriate sections of this Act applying to camping sites, and provisions and regulations issued thereunder.

The municipal camping authority and its appointed office holders are authorized to inspect camping sites and are entitled to any information as proves necessary for the purpose of supervision.

Section 24 (22.12.1994/1343)

The municipal camping authority may issue the manager of a camping site with an official warning, if:

- 1) the camping site fails to comply with the provisions laid down in section 19;
- 2) the site's manager neglects to notify the authorities as stipulated in section 20, or the given notification is inaccurate, or regulations issued on the basis of said notification are not observed;
- 3) the camping site is otherwise managed in a manner contrary to this Act or provisions and regulations issued thereunder; or
- 4) the camping site causes a public disturbance.

If, despite said official warning, the shortcoming persists or re-occurs, the municipal camping authority may close the site for a specific period. A decision to close down a camping site may be implemented immediately irrespective of appeal.

Section 25 (22.12.1994/1343)

An area intended for accommodating more than 100 persons in tents, caravans or other recreational vehicles which are to remain on the site for not more than 14 days shall be considered a temporary camping site. The provisions of

sections 19 and 24 concerning camping sites shall correspondingly apply to temporary camping sites.

The municipal camping authority can prohibit a temporary camping site and issue any further regulations on said site as prove necessary for the implementation of this Act and provisions or regulations issued thereunder, unless it falls within the purview of another authority to issue said regulations.

Section 26 (5.12.1996/1019)

The municipal council may authorize the municipal camping authority to delegate powers to a subordinate office holder. Delegation of powers to a subordinate office holder shall not extend to use of coercive measures.

What is provided concerning the municipal camping authority and appeals of its decisions shall correspondingly apply to office holders who have been delegated duties under paragraph 1.

(Section 27 repealed on 22.12.1994/1334)

**Chapter 4
Miscellaneous Provisions**

(Section 28 repealed on 22.12.1994/1343)

Chapter 29 (22.12.1994/1343)

A decision by a provincial government ratifying the establishment of an outdoor recreation route or closing one down shall be issued after a public announcement is made. Notice is regarded as having been received immediately as of the time it is issued.

Section 30 (22.12.1994/1343)

Whosoever maintains a camping site contrary to this Act or provisions or regulations issued thereunder, shall be sentenced to a fine for *violation of camping site regulations*, unless a more severe penalty is provided elsewhere.

Whosoever maintains a temporary camping site contrary to a prohibition issued by an authority shall be sentenced to a corresponding penalty.

Section 30a (22.12.1994/1343)

A decision issued by a municipal camping authority as referred to in chapter 3 shall be appealed in the Provincial



Administrative Court within 30 days from the day the appellant receives notification of the decision. What is provided in the Administrative Appeals Act (154/50) shall otherwise apply to the appeal procedure.

Section 30b (22.12.1994/1343)

It shall be the duty of the police to render executive assistance in the enforcement of this Act and provisions and regulations issued thereunder.

Section 31

This Act shall not apply to the Province of Åland.

Section 32

More detailed regulations concerning implementation of this Act will be issued by decree if necessary.

Section 32 a (24.1.1995/69)

What is laid down or provided in or under this Act concerning provinces and provincial governments shall apply to regional environment centres and their jurisdictions.

Section 33

This Act comes into force on August 1, 1973.

If an area which is being used for tourism or outdoor recreation purposes at the time the Act comes into force is intended to be used as a camping site as referred to in section 18 of this Act, the permission for its maintenance referred to in said section shall be applied for within a year of this Act's entry into force.