



# Mile Zero Trailhead Policies

Group and Event Guidelines for Use of Walker Station and other Trailhead Amenities

1400 South Street

Osawatomie, KS 66064

[www.osawatomieks.org/mile-zero](http://www.osawatomieks.org/mile-zero)

<https://www.osawatomieks.org/home/news/events-mile-zero>

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## Overview

The City of Osawatombie owns, operates, and maintains the “Osawatombie Reach” portion of the Flint Hills Trail (now a designated Kansas State Park) from the Mile Zero trailhead to near the John Brown Highway crossing. The Osawatombie Reach and the Mile Zero trailhead are considered property of the City of Osawatombie and certain usage policies have been established to help protect these public amenities. Members of the public who request use of our facilities, both indoor and outdoor, must abide by the policies set forth by the City of Osawatombie or risk forfeiture of any deposit(s) or reservation(s) already placed and risk receiving fine(s) or citation(s).

## General Code of Conduct

1. RESPECT Mother Nature
2. STAY ON designated trail and STAY OFF private property
3. PACK OUT whatever you pack in
4. BE SAFE and responsible in your travel
5. BE POLITE and follow trail etiquette when you encounter others
6. NO MOTORIZED VEHICLES are allowed on the trail, with very few exceptions for maintenance, repair, or the placement of necessary equipment

## Trail and Trailhead Operation Policy

Individual and small-group members of the public are welcome to use and enjoy the amenities featured at the Mile Zero trailhead for the Flint Hills Trail State Park, such as the Walker Station informational kiosk, restroom and solid waste facility, water spigot, and bike repair station without any prior notice or reservation. For larger groups or community events, such as fundraiser rides or corporate retreats, a TRAILHEAD SPECIAL EVENT PERMIT must be obtained to reserve the use of the space and prevent double-booking. For groups or events that extend beyond Osawatombie Reach, organizers must also coordinate with the Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks including receiving a State Parks permit. City of Osawatombie officials may not grant a Trailhead Special Event Permit to groups that do not have proof of State approval.

## Special Event Permits

An approved special event permit does not give a group the right to block access to the trail or trailhead to members of the general public, but does allow the group access to a variety of resources such as park rangers, public safety officers, event rental storage box,



additional utility connections, barricades, etc. For groups or businesses hosting events at the Mile Zero trailhead or along the Osawatomie Reach portion of the Flint Hills Trail State Park, certain operation policies are in place:

## Policies

### I. Solid Waste Removal

Trash and other solid waste must be collected and disposed of in appropriate containers following the conclusion of any event(s). Solid waste should not be left on-site or in the site containers. Event organizers are responsible for the proper disposal of event refuse.

Additional solid waste containers may be rented from Waste Management if necessary, or event coordinators may elect to provide their own containers. Event organizers are responsible for arranging and paying for any additional solid waste needs.

### II. Ecological Impact

The City of Osawatomie expressly prohibits the use of non-biodegradable confetti or other “throwable” materials during any celebrations or events. Users found in violation of this policy will be required to pay for professional cleanup services and may incur additional fines or fees based on damages incurred.

Instead, we suggest using dried leaf punch-outs or native Kansas wildflower seeds. *Please note: paper confetti is **not** considered an acceptable alternative and can cause significant damage to stormwater systems.*

The release of balloons is also prohibited, regardless of material (latex or mylar). Instead, we ask that you consider releasing native butterflies or other non-invasive/non-pest species.

### III. Overnight Parking or Camping

Overnight parking at the Mile Zero trailhead is permitted and up to the discretion of event organizers or participants. The City of Osawatomie cannot be held responsible for vehicle damage, theft, or other incurred personal property losses or damages.

Overnight camping is currently not available at the Mile Zero trailhead. Instead, we encourage campers to reserve a space inside the nearby John Brown Memorial Park where there are designated camping stalls and utility hookups available. Camping permits may be obtained from Osawatomie City Hall during business hours, or through the Osawatomie Police Department after-hours or on weekends.



## IV. Site Alterations

Users may not change, damage, or otherwise alter any of the facilities or amenities present at the Mile Zero trailhead or along the Flint Hills Trail. Temporary decorations or signage may be installed, but must leave no permanent mark on any property. Damage to property, including the trail surface or parking lot(s), may result in a fine or require restitution.

## Resources

**Miami County Sheriff's Office** - (913) 294-3232 | 209 S Pearl St, Paola, KS 66071

- For road closure assistance or crossing assistance outside of Osawatomie city limits

**Osawatomie City Hall** - (913) 755-2146 | PO Box 37, 439 Main Street, Osawatomie, KS 66064

- For permit questions, other departmental resources (Public Works, Utilities, etc.)

**Osawatomie Police Department** - (913) 755-2101 | 105 E. Main Street, Osawatomie, KS 66064

- For traffic or road closure assistance within Osawatomie city limits, safety/EMS resources

**Kansas Department of Wildlife and Parks** - (833) 587-2164

- For State Park permit and other access questions