

Lake Minnetonka Summer Rules 2022



ENJOY THE LAKE

PRESERVE THE LAKE

SHARE THE LAKE

SAFELY & RESPONSIBLY



Lake Minnetonka Summer Rules 2022

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This brochure contains a summary of rules of conduct for Lake Minnetonka. Since Lake Minnetonka is one of the busiest lakes, certain regulations are in place to help protect the Lake and all those who use it. More information about applicable laws can be found by contacting the State of Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MN DNR), Hennepin County Sheriff's Office Water Patrol, and the Lake Minnetonka Conservation District (LMCD) and its member cities. Thank you to all the agencies and volunteers that help make the lake fun and safe. Thank you for doing your part in these protection efforts. Have a safe and enjoyable summer!

Lake Minnetonka Conservation District (LMCD)
Office 952-745-0789 lmcd.org email: lmcd@lmcd.org
5341 Maywood Road, Suite 200 • Mound, MN 55364



OUR MISSION

For more than 50 years, the Lake Minnetonka Conservation District (LMCD) has been managing the use of Lake Minnetonka in its mission to preserve and enhance the “Lake Minnetonka experience.”

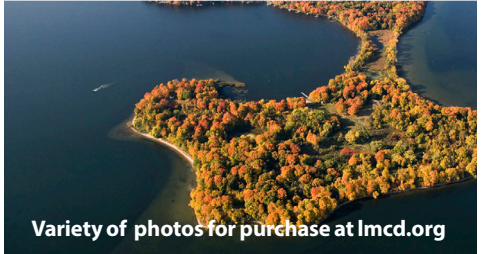
The (LMCD) brings together 14 different cities, two counties, and many state and local agencies to **protect, preserve and enhance Lake Minnetonka’s environment, economy and vitality.** We are one, uniform, coordinating body that cares for and regulates one of Minnesota’s most important resources in a way that is consistent across all jurisdictions, representing all stakeholders. Lake Minnetonka is a unique asset requiring unique governance.

Some services such as **emergency response, solar lights, boater safety education, vegetation management, and more** are supported by the generous contributions of lake enthusiasts through the **LMCD SAVE the LAKE Fund.** Lake Minnetonka is a highly valued year-round asset with vibrant aesthetic, recreational, commercial and natural qualities. The LMCD works to ensure these qualities and values will be protected and preserved not just today, but for generations to come.

Visit lmcd.org and join us on Facebook and Twitter for Lake Minnetonka information and updates.

New Lake Resources Online

Find lake maps, lake amenities (gas, bathrooms, etc.), beaches, safety tips, events, and more at lmcd.org

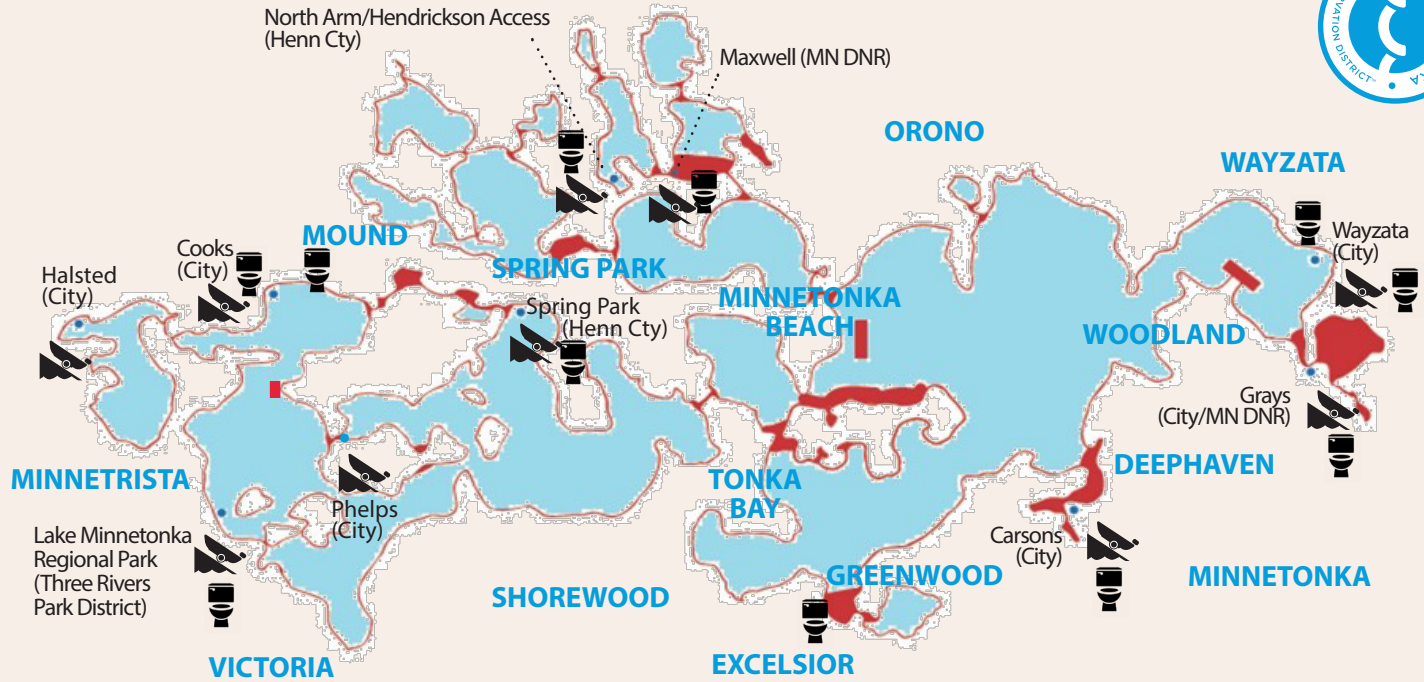


Variety of photos for purchase at lmcd.org

DID YOU KNOW?

Lake Minnetonka is known for its:

- 125 miles of shoreline
- 14,043 acres of surface area—the Ninth largest lake in Minnesota
- 42 bays/named bodies of water
- Deepest bay of 113 feet (Crystal Bay)
- 30-foot mean water depth
- 39 percent of the lake has a water depth of less than 15 feet
- Vibrant community, including 14 cities surrounding the Lake
- Sacred indigenous areas, featured in Dakota legends
- Dakota name of “Minn-ni-tanka,” meaning “Big Water”
- Located within the Minnehaha Creek Watershed
- Abundance of nature, including regional parks, islands and trails
- Numerous sightings of “Lou,” a legendary sturgeon in-excess of 10 feet in length (per local folklore)
- First known “Electric-lit” inland steamboat in the US (1881)



Quiet Water, Slow Areas, Public Accesses, Toilets

KEY



Public Access/Boat Launch



Public toilet facilities indicated on map. See lmcd.org, THE LAKE section, for additional business and amenity information.

QUIET WATER / SLOW AREAS

Proceed at minimum wake along shorelines and all designated areas.



Slow Areas (150 ft from shore, docks, swimming area, diver, anchored craft, etc.)



Quiet Waters

MAXIMUM WATERCRAFT SPEED LIMITS



DAYTIME
Speed Limit
40 mph



NIGHTTIME
Speed Limit
20 mph

AT ALL TIMES

Speed Limit
5 mph Within

- 150 feet of the shore; dock structure—except where a person is being towed from; of an authorized bathing area, swimmer, scuba diver's flag, anchored craft or structure
- 300 feet for PWCs and repetitive passes

LAKE MINNETONKA QUIET WATER AREA LOCATIONS

ENTIRE BAYS

Carsons Bay
Emerald Lake
Libbs Lake
St. Louis Bay

Grays Bay
From 4 p.m. Fridays through 11:59 p.m. Sundays and all day on holidays

PARTIAL BAYS

Black Lake—*north side*
Coffee Cove—*east of a line from Fagerness Point to Park Lane*
Excelsior Bay—*south end*
Harrisons Bay—*north of Seton channel area*
Lower Lake North—*north side of Big Island/Cruiser's Cove*
Maxwell Bay—*south shore from Noerenberg Bridge to Boy Scout Bridge and Noerenberg Inlet*
St. Albans Bay—*southwest corner*
Wayzata Bay—*southeast corner near Hwy 101 Causeway*

CHANNEL AREAS

All channels between bays
Channels between Black/Emerald/Seton Lakes
Echo and Lafayette Bays—*west end of Big Island by West Point*
Lower Lake North—*west side, northwest of Huntington Point and Arcola Bridge*
Lower Lake North and Lafayette Bay—*south of Huntington Point*
Wayzata Bay—*south side, north of Cedar Point east of Huntington Point*

KEY DEFINITIONS

Quiet Water Areas
Established areas where motor-operated watercraft (including waterborne aircraft) cannot be operated in excess of 5 mph or at a speed that results in more than a minimum wake." Designated QWAs are delineated by waterway markers.

Watercraft
Any vessel, boat, sailboat, canoe, raft, barge, paddleboard, sailboard, or any similar device used or usable for carrying and transporting persons on the Lake.

Minimum Wake
The wave moving out from a watercraft and trailing in a widening 'V' of insufficient size to affect other watercraft or be detrimental to the shoreline.

Daytime
One-half hour before sunrise to one-half hour after sunset—except when weather or other conditions do not provide sufficient light to see people or watercraft at a distance of 500 feet.



HEALTH & SAFETY AT THE LAKE

OWN YOUR WAKE-- FOR EVERYONE'S SAKE

Wakes present dangers to lake users and can damage property. Therefore, it is especially important that boaters be aware of their wakes and how it impacts the shorelines, other people, and the lake.



Under Minnesota law, the damage your wake causes is treated the same as damage caused by an actual collision. You may also be held **personally liable** for injuries or damage due to your wake.

Be aware of your environment and what's going on around you to prevent injuries or damage to the lake – this applies to everyone on and around the water.

Observe minimum wake zones. Further, if your wake is hitting the shoreline, other watercraft, or docks, move farther away or reduce your wake.

Please **respect the lake and rights of others** so everyone can enjoy their time on the water – keep the noise down, be courteous to other boaters, and show consideration to all recreationists on and around the water. Be extra aware of your wakes when operating near shore or when water levels are higher than usual. More information about reducing safety hazards and environmental damage is available at lmcd.org or mndnr.gov.

STAYING HEALTHY ON THE LAKE

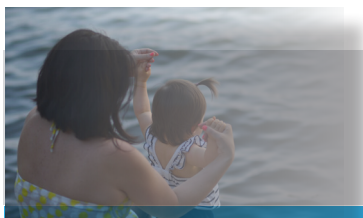
MDH, Hennepin County, and the CDC offer some tips that everyone can take to minimize the risk of illness while enjoying the water and to keep the lake healthy for everyone. More information is available at health.state.mn.us.

Minimize the risk of illness

- Don't swallow the water
- Shower after swimming
- Avoid swimming after a rain event
- Avoid swimming near discharge pipes
- Avoid swimming if you see a blue-green algal bloom
- Wash your hands before eating

Help keep the lake healthy for everyone

- Stay out of the water if you have diarrhea
- Shower before swimming
- Don't go to the bathroom in the water
- Take frequent bathroom breaks
- Change diapers frequently and away from the water
- Dispose of trash, animal waste, raw meat juices, and boat waste properly



Please follow any applicable State/Governor's Executive orders regarding COVID-19 and any guidance.

TOP TEN SUMMER VIOLATIONS

The following are the most common boating violations observed by HCSO Water Patrol. Be mindful of the rules and use common sense so everyone can have a safe and enjoyable time on the lake.

- 1 LIFE JACKETS & THROWABLES**
One coast guard approved life jacket must be readily available for each person on board the watercraft. Watercraft measuring 16 or longer must also have a throwable flotation device. Children below the age of 10 must wear a life jacket while on a watercraft that is underway.
- 2 BOATING UNDER THE INFLUENCE**
Boating while under the influence of alcohol, or any other controlled or illegal substance.
- 3 FIRE EXTINGUISHERS**
Boats with enclosed fuel tanks must have ventilation and fire extinguishers.
- 4 REGISTRATION**
All motorized watercraft and unmotorized watercraft over 10 feet in length must be registered by the Department of Natural Resources.
- 5 RIDING ON GUNWALES OR DECKING**
It is illegal to ride or sit on, or operate a motorboat while someone is riding or sitting on the gunwale, bow, transom, decking over the bow, side or stern while underway (unless it is equipped with an adequate railing).
- 6 OPERATING PERSONAL WATERCRAFT AFTER HOURS**
Personal watercraft may only be operated from 9:30 a.m. until one hour before sunset, and no longer than 30 consecutive minutes in a single area.
- 7 QUIET WATERS/Minimum Wake Zones**
Motor-operated watercraft (including waterborne aircraft) cannot be operated in excess of 5 mph or at a speed that results in more than a minimum wake in designated quiet water areas. See the summer rules brochure for a map of locations.
- 8 TOWING OBSERVER**
In addition to the watercraft operator, an observer (not a rear-facing mirror) is required to continuously observe the person(s) being towed. The observer must be at least 12 years old and able to communicate with the driver.
- 9 NAVIGATIONAL LIGHTS**
Proper navigational lights, including a red light to port, a green light to starboard, and a white light to stern, must be displayed when boating after sunset and before sunrise.
- 10 SPEED LIMITS**
The daytime speed limit is 40 mph; the nighttime speed limit is 20 mph; the speed limit for Quiet Water Areas or within 150 of shoreline, docks, swimmers, etc. is 5 mph.



UNIQUE LAKE REGULATIONS

BIG ISLAND PUBLIC SAFETY LANES

Public Safety Lanes are installed at the north end of Big Island to provide better access by the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office for emergency purposes. Buoys delineate these lanes and extend 600 feet from shore (visual reference when high water declaration in effect). Watercraft may not be anchored in these lanes, but may use for traveling.

BOW FISHING

Bowfishing is prohibited one half hour after sunset to sunrise, and from November 15th through May 1st. Bow fishing is also prohibited in designated areas and during specific dates and times. View the LMCD code for details.

SPECIAL "HIGH-WATER" DECLARATION

The LMCD may declare "High Water" when lake water levels reach 930.00 feet NGVD for a certain number of days or reach 930.25 feet. When "High Water" is declared, minimum wake restrictions are implemented for user safety and shoreline protection. During "High Water," watercraft must maintain minimum wake within 600 ft from shore for some bays and entirely for other bays, or otherwise directed. The Ordinary High Water level is 929.4 ft. Visit minnehahacreek.org or [@graysbaydam](https://twitter.com/graysbaydam) for the latest water levels. Updates will be provided at lmcd.org.



WASTEWATER DISCHARGE REQUIREMENTS

MARINE TOILETS & WASTEWATER DISCHARGE

To prevent illnesses from the accidental or intentional discharge of sewage into the lake from watercraft, any watercraft operating on Lake Minnetonka must meet the following requirements:

- Macerator/grinder pumps must be removed, and,
- Discharge valves ("Y-valves") must be locked.



If the watercraft has been re-piped to satisfy regulations on other waters, you may be in compliance.

Monitoring & Reporting

All boaters on Lake Minnetonka must comply with the ordinance. Lake service providers who launch watercraft or provide pumping services are required to report to the LMCD any situations where marine toilets do not comply with regulations and may not launch any watercraft in violation.

Penalty for Violating Ordinance

Any person launching a watercraft equipped with a marine toilet that is not following the ordinance is subject to a petty misdemeanor.

The LMCD Code and links to applicable state laws can be found on the LMCD website.

TOWING (SKIING, WAKEBOARDING, WAKESURFING...)

NUMBER TOWED

No more than three persons may be towed at one time.

OBSERVER

In addition to the watercraft operator, an observer (not a rear-facing mirror) is required to continuously observe the person(s) being towed. The observer must be at least 12 years old and able to communicate with driver.

HOURS

Towing is prohibited from one-half hour after sunset until sunrise.

LIFE JACKETS

A person being towed must wear a life vest, belt, or other buoyant device. If the buoyant device is not U.S. Coast Guard-approved, a U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket must also be on board and readily available to the person being towed.

LENGTH OF TOW

Maximum length of 85 ft (except with written permission of the Sheriff).

DISTANCE

Towing may not occur within 150 ft of a swim area, skin or scuba diver's flag, swimmer, watercraft, or dock or pier (except dock/pier where initially operating from).

EMPTY TOW

An unoccupied tow line may not be dragged behind a watercraft for an unreasonable length of time.

TOWING IN CHANNELS

No person shall tow or be towed into or through any marked channel connecting two bodies of water. It is unsafe.

SHARE THE LAKE

Wake in the Middle of the Bay
Avoid Repetitive Passes
Keep the Sound Down

SAFETY TIPS FOR NONMOTORIZED WATERCRAFT

Whether operating in low light conditions, wakes, or areas with powerboats, operators of **nonmotorized watercraft** should be extra cautious and take precautions to make themselves **VISIBLE** to other lake users to prevent accidents.

If you are kayaking, canoeing, or paddleboarding, some ways to become more visible include:

- Wear vibrant clothing
- Fly a flag
- Install a light
- Pay attention to lake conditions such as wakes, boat traffic, and weather

Powerboaters and larger boat operators should be aware of their surroundings and take measures to **LOOK FOR** smaller boats and nonmotorized watercraft on the lake. Avoid injuring other lake users by being courteous, reducing wakes, and increasing distance.





YOUTH REGULATIONS

In addition to the **minimum age requirements for Minnesota youth operators**), State regulations for **Operator's Permits** are followed and vigorously enforced on Lake Minnetonka. What's more, **lake-wide curfew regulations** also apply.

Youth operators-- know the rules and keep your boating experience fun and safe!

CURFEW

Youth under the age of 15 may not be on a watercraft between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.—*unless accompanied by a parent or guardian*. Those between the ages of 15 and 17 must be supervised by a parent or guardian while on watercraft between the hours of 12 a.m. (midnight) and 6 a.m.

OPERATOR'S PERMIT

See *Minnesota Age Restrictions* section for information about required Watercraft Operator's Permits. Permits may be obtained by successfully completing an approved boating safety course—including the boater safety education course offered through the LMCD or one offered on-line by MN DNR.



OPERATOR'S PERMIT & BOATING SAFETY COURSES

LMCD BOATER SAFETY EDUCATION PROGRAM

Funded through its Save the Lake Fund, the LMCD partners with the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office Water Patrol and Mound Fire Department to offer the **Boater Safety Education Program**. Adults and youth (ages 12 to 17) work directly with presenters to obtain their MN DNR Watercraft Operator's Permit in a single full-day session. Parents and guardians are encouraged to attend to enhance the training. Additional educational materials are being created for the website. Visit lmcd.org or call LMCD Office at 952-745-0789.

BOAT MINNESOTA: MN DNR'S ON-LINE BOATING SAFETY COURSE

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources offers an on-line Minnesota Watercraft Operator's Permit program for youth ages 12 to 17. Adults who want to learn more about boating safety or to enhance their current knowledge can also take the course. Some insurance companies offer premium discounts for such certification; check with your insurance company for participation and possible discounts. For more information visit the MN DNR site at mndnr.gov/boatingcourse.

STATE OF MINNESOTA AGE REGULATIONS

WATERCRAFT AGE MINIMUMS

Operators less than 12 years of age: 25 hp or less—no restrictions; more than 25 hp to 75hp must have someone at least 21 years of age on board and within reach of the controls; over 75 hp, cannot operate watercraft even with an adult on board

Operators 12 to 17 years of age: 25 hp or less—no restrictions; over 25 hp, must have either a valid Watercraft Operator's Permit or someone at least 21 years of age on board and within reach of the controls

PERSONAL WATERCRAFT (PWC)-SPECIFIC AGE MINIMUMS

Operators less than 13 years of age: Cannot operate (even with an adult on board)

Operators 13 years of age: Must have someone at least 21 years of age on board or have a valid Watercraft Operator's Permit and be in visual supervision by someone at least 21 years of age

Operators 14 to 17 years of age: Must have a valid Watercraft Operator's Permit or someone on board who is 21 years of age

PERSONAL WATERCRAFT (PWC) OPERATION & REGULATIONS

A personal watercraft (PWC) is a watercraft less than 14 feet in length that uses a motor powering a water jet pump as its primary source of power, and is designed to be operated by a person sitting, standing or kneeling on, rather than the conventional manner of sitting or standing inside the watercraft. This includes jet skis. The regulations for motorboats apply, in addition to specific PWC requirements.



AUTOMATIC CUTOFF DEVICES

If the machine is equipped by the manufacture with a lanyard-type engine cutoff switch, it must be attached to the person, life jacket or clothing of the operator when underway.

ON LAKE MINNETONKA:

Lanyard-type or wireless engine cutoff switch may not be altered, disabled or removed.

CARELESS OPERATION

A PWC may not be operated in a manner that unreasonably or unnecessarily endangers life, limb, or property (including weaving through congested boat traffic).

ON LAKE MINNETONKA:

Includes swerving at the last moment to avoid a collision if you weren't paying attention.

PWC CONT...

HOURS OF OPERATION

9:30 am to one hour before sunset.

LIFE JACKETS

Anyone operating or riding on a PWC must wear a U.S. Coast Guard-approved wearable life jacket that is compatible with that activity. Check the label.

TOWING

Operator must have an additional observer on board.

ON LAKE MINNETONKA:

The observer must be 12 years or older. See Towing section for more towing information.

SPEED

PWC operators must travel at slow, no-wake speed (5 mph or less) within 150 ft of non-motorized boats, shore (unless launching or landing skiers directly to or from open water), docks, swim rafts, swimmers, or any moored or anchored boat.

ON LAKE MINNETONKA:

Speed limit also applies to proximity to persons fishing, docks, or other water structures. Further, speed limit of 5 mph or no more than minimum wake between 150 ft and 300 ft of shoreline, unless PWC is being driven perpendicular to the shoreline, and to or from the nearest point of water 300 ft from the shoreline, or parallel to the shoreline from one location to another in non-repetitive manner.

WAKE JUMPING

PWC operators may not jump wakes within 150 ft of another watercraft or PWC.

PROLONGED OPERATION

ON LAKE MINNETONKA:

PWC may not be operated more than 30 consecutive minutes in a single area (defined as a small area where noise emanating from the PWC may be a nuisance or cause substantial annoyance to one or more shoreline properties).

RENTAL REQUIREMENTS

Businesses required to: 1) Distribute summary of laws free of charge (including instructions to laws and safety factors), 2) Provide required safety equipment, and 3) Ensure those less than 18 years of age show their Watercraft Operator's Permit.

ON LAKE MINNETONKA:

A PWC may not be rented to anyone less than 16 years of age. Further, a Watercraft Operator's Permit is required for all persons under 18 years of age.



The LMCD Code and links to applicable state laws can be found on the LMCD website.

CARBON MONOXIDE ALARMS SAVE LIVES

Sophia's Law, named for a seven-year-old who died from carbon monoxide (CO) poisoning while boating on Lake Minnetonka, requires functioning marine-grade CO alarms on certain motorboats. Minnesota is the first state in the nation to require CO alarms in motorboats to prevent tragic accidents. To learn more about CO alarms, stickers, and when they are required, visit the MN DNR website: dnr.state.mn.us/safety/boatwater.



BEWARE OF ESD ELECTRIC SHOCK DROWNING

ESD results from paralysis caused by electrical currents in the water—by electricity leaking into the water from faulty wiring of boats, docks, and lifts. ESD kills both humans and animals. There are many ways to prevent ESD. The most important way to stay safe is to **never enter water around boats and docks using electrical power**. For more information, visit electricshockdrowning.org or links on the LMCD website. Also, learn about new electrical code requirements (NFPA 70) for marinas, commercial and noncommercial docking facilities, and residential docks.

FIRE PREVENTION & SAFETY

Safe Refueling

Before fueling make sure all passengers have exited the boat and all doors, ports, and hatches are closed to prevent fumes from accumulating. Do not operate any electrical switches, chargers, or other electrical items while refueling or before the fumes dissipate. When you are done fueling, wipe up spilled fuel and be sure to operate the boat's blowers for several minutes to diffuse any lingering fumes. Learn more at <https://lmcd.org/lake-safety>.

Regular Inspection & Maintenance

Many boat fires begin from electrical malfunctions. Regular inspection of engines for damage and timely replacement of critical parts could prevent a considerable amount of boat fires. Check newly purchased boats thoroughly.

If Your Boat Catches Fire

If the size of the fire is beyond what a single portable extinguisher can put out, evacuate and call for professional firefighters. Your life is infinitely more valuable than your boat.

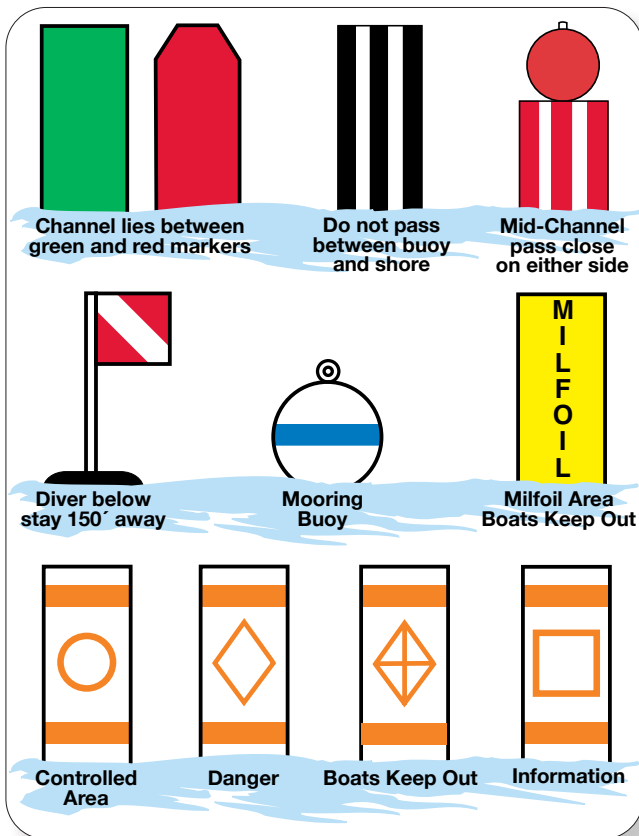




KNOW YOUR MARKERS/BUOYS BEFORE YOU SET SAIL!

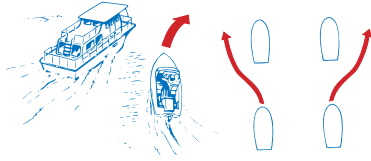
Comprehensive boating safety information, regulations and tips—including details on all inland waterway markers—can be found on the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources' website at mndnr.gov/boatingsafety. Inland markers are used to: help boaters safely navigate channels; direct traffic; control speeds; protect resources; and identify dangerous waterways/areas.

Minnesota Inland Waterway Markers



Graphic source: mndnr.gov

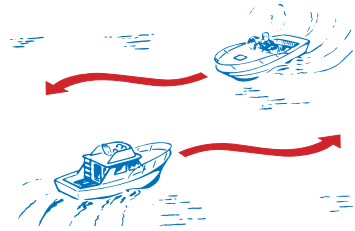
1 WHEN OVERTAKING- When overtaking another vessel, pass when safe.



When watercraft are running the same direction, the craft that is astern must pass only when there is sufficient distance between the craft so it can do so safely and only at such speed that its wash or wake will not endanger the craft being passed or its occupants. No person operating a watercraft may abruptly change its course without first determining that it can be done safely and without risk of collision.

Although the smaller craft has moved up into the overtaken vessel's "danger zone", the relative right-of-way has not changed. She is still burdened and must make any necessary course and/or speed changes to pass safely.

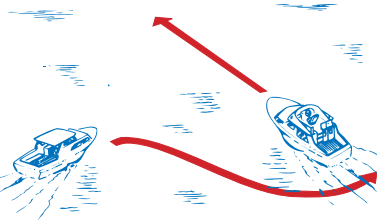
2 APPROACHING- When approaching head-on or nearly so, pass to the right.



When watercraft are approaching each other head-on, or nearly so, each must turn to the right a sufficient distance so that they will safely pass. When the course of an approaching craft is so far to the right as not to be considered as meeting head-on, each must maintain its course and pass clear.

In a nearly head-on meeting situation, both vessels must give way to starboard; neither has the right-of-way.

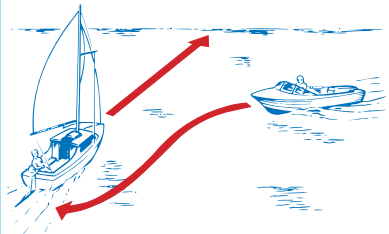
3 CROSSING- When crossing, yield to the vessel on your right.



When watercraft are crossing paths, or approaching each other obliquely or at right angles at the risk of collision, the craft that has the other on its right must yield the right-of-way.

In an encounter between two vessels where one has the right-of-way over the other, both have responsibilities. Not only must the burdened vessels give way, the privileged vessel has the duty of maintaining its course and speed.

4 SAILBOATS- Yield to sailboats, except when they are overtaking.



Sailboats under sail alone have the right-of-way over all other watercraft underway, except when overtaking other watercraft.

Any sailboat under power of a motor (with or without sails) is considered a power-driven vessel and must obey the same rules as other power-driven watercraft.



COMMON STATE & LAKE MINNETONKA REGULATIONS

SAFETY

LIFE JACKETS

Readily accessible and wearable approved life jacket for each person must be on board a boat, paddleboard, and other watercraft. Some inflatable life jackets (automatic or manual) are not considered valid PFDs unless being worn. All **children under the age of 10 years** are required to wear life jackets while watercraft are underway. One **Type IV throwable** is required on boats 16 ft or longer (except canoes, kayaks, and paddleboards) and must be immediately available. All PWC operators and passengers must wear life jackets.

RIDING ON GUNWALES OR DECKING

It is illegal to ride or sit on, or operate a motorboat while someone is riding or sitting on the gunwale, bow, transom, decking over the bow, side or stern while underway (unless it is equipped with an adequate railing).

SAFETY EQUIPMENT

Fire extinguishers, horns, marine-grade carbon monoxide detectors (for specified watercraft), and lighting must be in compliance with State law.

UNDER THE INFLUENCE

"Little Alan's Law" went into effect Aug. 1, 2018. Drivers convicted of DWI will face additional consequences such as criminal penalties, civil litigation, and other liabilities regardless of the type of vehicle they were driving at the time. Boating while under the influence of alcohol, or any other controlled or illegal substance, is illegal. The Minnesota alcohol concentration level for impaired operation is 0.08. Designate a captain for safety. Underage drinking is also strictly enforced. Watercraft owners or operators may be held liable for violations.

WASH AND WAKE

It is a violation to operate a watercraft in a manner that its wash and wake will endanger, harass, or unnecessarily interfere with any person or property.



CHANNELS & NAVIGATION

No person may interfere or block navigation of watercraft, moor, or otherwise create safety hazards in channels or public passageways. Swimming, jumping from bridges, or overtaking boats in channels is also prohibited.

COMMON REGULATIONS CONTINUED...

NUISANCES & SAFETY

SHARE THE LAKE SAFELY & RESPONSIBLY SO EVERYONE CAN ENJOY THE LAKE

PUBLIC NUISANCES

No person may commit or engage in any activity that constitutes a public nuisance—including excess noise, inappropriate behavior, indecent exposure, etc.

LITTERING

Littering on Lake Minnetonka is illegal. Carry out what you carry in. Please be kind and remove any litter you notice. Help prevent hazards to people and animals.

PLAN AHEAD FOR SANITATION

If bathroom facilities are not available on the watercraft, find a location with public facilities. Find a list of Lake Minnetonka amenities at lmcd.org.

EQUIPMENT NOISE

All watercraft motors must have a muffler, underwater exhaust, or other device that suppresses the sound of the motor to levels consistent with State law.

NOISE & QUIET HOURS

Please keep the sound down, whether from music, yelling, or other actions. It may also protect your hearing. Sound travels easily across the lake. Noise must not unreasonably disturb the peace, quiet or comfort of anyone nearby. Between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m. sound from any device plainly audible at a distance of 150 feet is a violation of LMCD Code.

RESTRICTED ACCESS TO DOCKS & SHORELAND

Lake Minnetonka has several public accesses, commercial marinas, and transient docks for use by the general public. However, some multiple dock facilities are intended for the exclusive use of their tenants. Further, other docks and shoreland are private property with restricted access. Please respect nonpublic docks and do not trespass.

LIGHTING

All watercraft must display the proper navigation lights when underway or in use between sunset and sunrise.

WAKES

Visit **Own Your Wake** to learn about wake safety and the importance of watching your wake regardless the type of watercraft, e.g. large cruisers, wake boats, etc. Learn wake surfing tips from experts by visiting links on lmcd.org

The LMCD Code and links to applicable state laws can be found on the LMCD website.

PLEASE BE COURTEOUS!

Many residents live on Lake Minnetonka. When you recreate on or around the Lake, you are having fun near someone's backyard!





STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS! IT'S THE LAW.

Lake Minnetonka currently has identified five Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) in its waters—the zebra mussel, Eurasian watermilfoil, curly-leaf pondweed, flowering rush and purple loosestrife. **Help keep other AIS out of Lake Minnetonka by taking the following steps.**

CLEAN

Clean visible aquatic plants, zebra mussels and/or other prohibited invasive species off all watercraft, trailers, and water-related equipment *before* leaving a water access or shoreland property. **It is illegal to transport aquatic plants, zebra mussels or other prohibited species—dead or alive.**

SPRAY

Use a high-pressure washer to spray down your watercraft and equipment.

RINSE

Rinse with very hot water whenever possible—using water at 120° F for at least two minutes (or 140° F for at least 10 seconds) kills zebra mussels and some other AIS.

DRAIN

Drain water-related equipment (boat, trailer, ballast tanks, portable bait containers, motor) and drain bilge, livewell and baitwell by removing drain plugs *before* leaving a water access or shoreline property. **Keep drain plugs out and water-draining devices open while transporting watercraft.** It is illegal to transport a watercraft or water-related equipment without draining water.

DRY

Allow your watercraft or equipment to dry for at least five days whenever possible.

RUN THE MOTOR

Discharge all water by running your motor (or personal watercraft) for a few seconds *before* leaving a water access.

DISPOSE

Be prepared! Transport your catch in a cooler. Dispose of unwanted bait—including minnows, leeches, worms, and fish parts in the trash. If you want to keep live bait, drain bait containers and refill with bottled or purified tap water. **It is illegal to release bait into the water or release worms onto the ground.**



Curly-leaf pondweed,
Potamogeton crispus



Zebra mussel, *Dreissena polymorpha*



Eurasian Watermilfoil,
Myriophyllum spicatum

YOU CAN DO EVEN MORE TO PREVENT THE SPREAD OF AIS



Be on the lookout for Starry stonewort, spiny waterflea and other aquatic invasive species threats. Visit lmcd.org or StopSpiny.org for more information.



BE AN AIS SLEUTH

Since Lake Minnetonka is a regional and national recreation destination, the risk of exposure to a variety of AIS threats is high. AIS damage the ecology of the lake, enjoyment of recreation, economics of the area, and is a significant financial burden to manage.

Learn about AIS management on Lake Minnetonka and report any suspicious aquatic vegetation or animals at lmcd.org or call 952-745-0789.

AIS Detector Opportunities

If you would like to connect your love of lakes with meaningful ways to protect them, consider AIS Detectors training sponsored by the University of Minnesota Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center (MAISRC). For more information, visit maisrc.umn.edu/ais-detectors or contact the LMCD.

KNOW THE LAW!

YOU MAY NOT...

- Transport watercraft without removing the drain plug
- Arrive at a lake access with a drain plug in place
- Transport aquatic plants, or prohibited invasive species. Learn more at mndnr.gov
- Launch a watercraft with prohibited species attached
- Transport water from Minnesota lakes or rivers; or release bait into water.

There are many regulated species—such as spiny waterfleas, faucet snails, ruffe round goby, rusty crayfish, and mystery snails—that cannot be released into another body of water.

What's more, **docks, structures, and boatlifts must be dried for 21 days before placing in another body of water.** Violating these regulations may result in fines up to \$1,000.



LAKE MINNETONKA RESOURCES & LINKS





Lake Minnetonka Conservation District (LMCD)

5341 Maywood Road, Suite 200
Mound, MN 55364

Office: 952-745-0789

Email: lmcd@lmcd.org Website: lmcd.org

Connect with us at:  [/LakeMinnetonkaConservationDistrict](https://www.facebook.com/LakeMinnetonkaConservationDistrict)
 [@LakeMtkCD](https://twitter.com/LakeMtkCD)

- Licensing and surface regulations
- Docks, structures, and watercraft storage
- Public navigation harvesting program
- Boater safety course
- Solar lights program
- Some services funded by SAVE the LAKE Fund contributions



Hennepin County Sheriff's Office (HCSO)

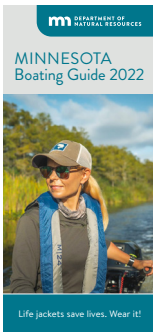
Water Patrol Unit
4141 Shoreline Drive
Spring Park, MN 55384

EMERGENCY or Officer Assistance: Call 911

Non-Emergency 24/7: 952-258-5321 Office: 612-596-9880

Website: HennepinSheriff.org

- Patrol and enforcement of State and LMCD laws on Lake Minnetonka
- Emergency and rescue operations
- Special events



Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (MNDNR)

Conservation Officers
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, MN 55155

DNR Information Center: 651-296-6157 or

888-MINNDNR (646-6367)

Officer Locator: mndnr.gov/officerpatrolareas

Website: mndnr.gov

- Boating and fishing regulations and enforcement
- AIS prevention and management