

Welcome to Lake Minnetonka

Avoid these top ten common offenses

According to Hennepin County Sheriff’s Water Patrol, the following boating rules are among the most common boating violations. Don’t let that be you. Follow the rules and common sense for safe and courteous boating.

For a complete list of boating rules and regulations, go to the Lake Minnetonka Conservation District, www.lmcd.org, and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, www.dnr.state.mn.us.

1.

Life Jackets: For each person on board, carry one readily accessible Coast Guard approved Type I, II, or III life jacket. Watercraft of 16 feet or longer must have one Type IV throwable device, such as a buoyant seat cushion. **Note:** Minnesota state law requires a life jacket be worn by children less than 10 years of age when aboard watercraft that is underway.
2.

Under the influence/mandatory testing: No person shall operate any watercraft while under the influence of an alcoholic beverage or controlled substance. Any officer with probable
3.

Fire extinguishers: All boats with enclosed fuel tanks must provide fire extinguishers and ventilation.
4.

Registration: All motorized watercraft regardless of length and nonmotorized watercraft over 10 feet must be licensed by the Department of Natural Resources (DNR). More information at www.dnr.state.mn.us.
5.

No riding on gunwales or decking: Prevent passengers from falling overboard. No person should ride on gunwales or decking over the bow or transom while boat is underway unless there are adequate guard rails.
6.

No personal watercraft after hours: Personal watercraft means a watercraft less than 14 feet in length that uses a motor powering a water jet pump and that can be operated by persons sitting,

cause may request chemical testing. By law, the watercraft operator is required to submit to chemical testing. **Note:** Laws prohibiting alcohol consumption by minors are enforced.

standing or kneeling. Hours of operation for personal watercraft are 9:30 a.m. to one hour before sunset. Cannot operate more than 30 consecutive minutes in a single area.

7.

Quiet Waters Areas: No person shall operate a motor-operated watercraft on quiet water areas of the lake at a speed in excess of 5 mph, or at a speed that results in more than a minimum wake. The areas of the lake restricted to quiet waters are shown on the other side of this map.
8.

Observer required for boats to tow persons: For a watercraft and operator to tow a person on water skis, an aquaplane, surfboard, saucer or similar device, an additional person – the observer – is required to continually observe the person being towed. The observer must be at least 12 years of age.
9.

Navigational lights: When boating (underway) between sunset and sunrise, you must display proper navigational lights: a red light to port, a green light to starboard, and a white light to stern.

At anchor, all boats must display a white light visible 360 degrees. Consult the Minnesota DNR Boating Guide for more details.

10.

Speed limits: 40 mph during the daytime, 20 mph at night, and 5 mph in Quiet Water Areas and within 150 feet of shorelines, beaches, docks, anchored boats and swimmers.



STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!™

CLEAN
DRAIN
DRY
Stop Invasive Species

Prevent the transport of invasive species. A few simple, required actions can prevent them from spreading.



1.

CLEAN watercraft, trailer, motor, and equipment. Remove visible aquatic plants, mussels, other animals, and mud before leaving any water access. Dispose of unused bait in the garbage (not the lake).



2.

DRAIN water from boat, bilge, motor and livewell by removing drain plug and opening all water draining devices away from the boat ramp. Regulations require this when leaving accesses in many states and provinces.



3.

DRY everything at least five days before going to other waters and landings or SPRAY/RINSE recreation equipment with high pressure and/or hot water (120°F/50°C or higher).

Some current invasive species present in Lake Minnetonka



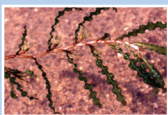
Zebra mussels
found in lake: 2010



Eurasian Water Milfoil
found in lake: 1987



Butomus umbellatus, flowering rush
found in lake: 1976



Curlyleaf Pondweed
found in Minnesota: > 100 years

More information about aquatic invasive species can be found on the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources website: www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/preventsread_watercraft.html

Find a courtesy decontamination site: www.dnr.state.mn.us/invasives/watercraft_inspect/courtesydecon.html

Bridge heights

These are the vertical clearances under bridges to the normal lake elevation 929.4 feet. For current lake elevations, call the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District, 952-471-0590.

Channel	Clearance	Channel	Clearance
Arcola	14'9"	Hendrickson	14'11"
Black Lake	9'9"	Libbs Lake	8'10"
Boy Scout	6'11"	Lost Lake	11'1"
Carson's Bay	5'8"	Narrows	18'3"
Coffee	13'6"	Noerenberg	12'8"
Emerald Lake	12'4"	St. Albans Bay	12'5"
Forest Lake	11'3"	Seton Lake	12'8"
Grays Bay	14'4"	Tanager Lake	10'2"
Halsted Bay	14'11"	Zimmermans Pass	11'6"

The Narrows Channel. Originally dredged in 1884.



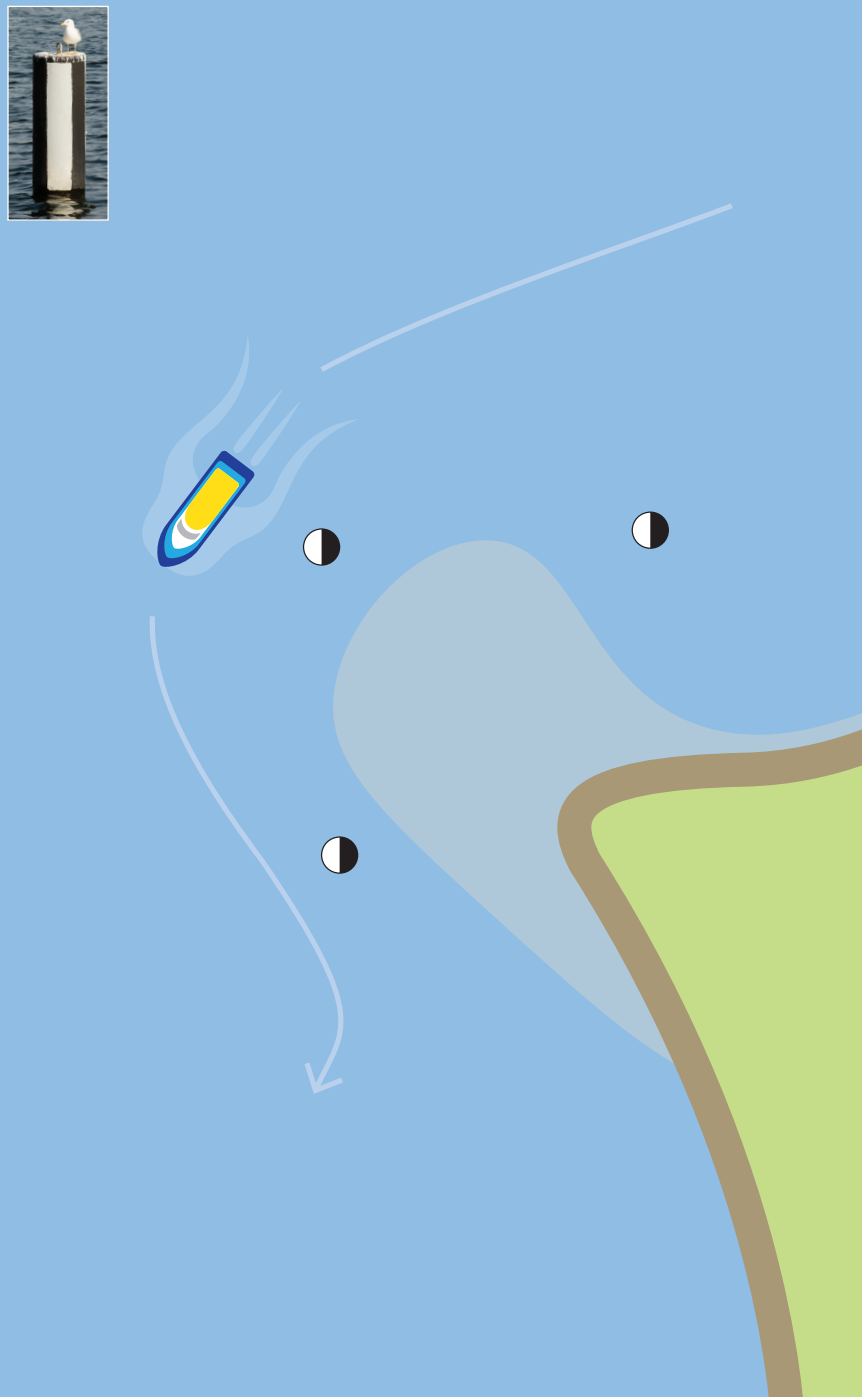
Danger buoys

Identifies potential hazards in the middle of a bay



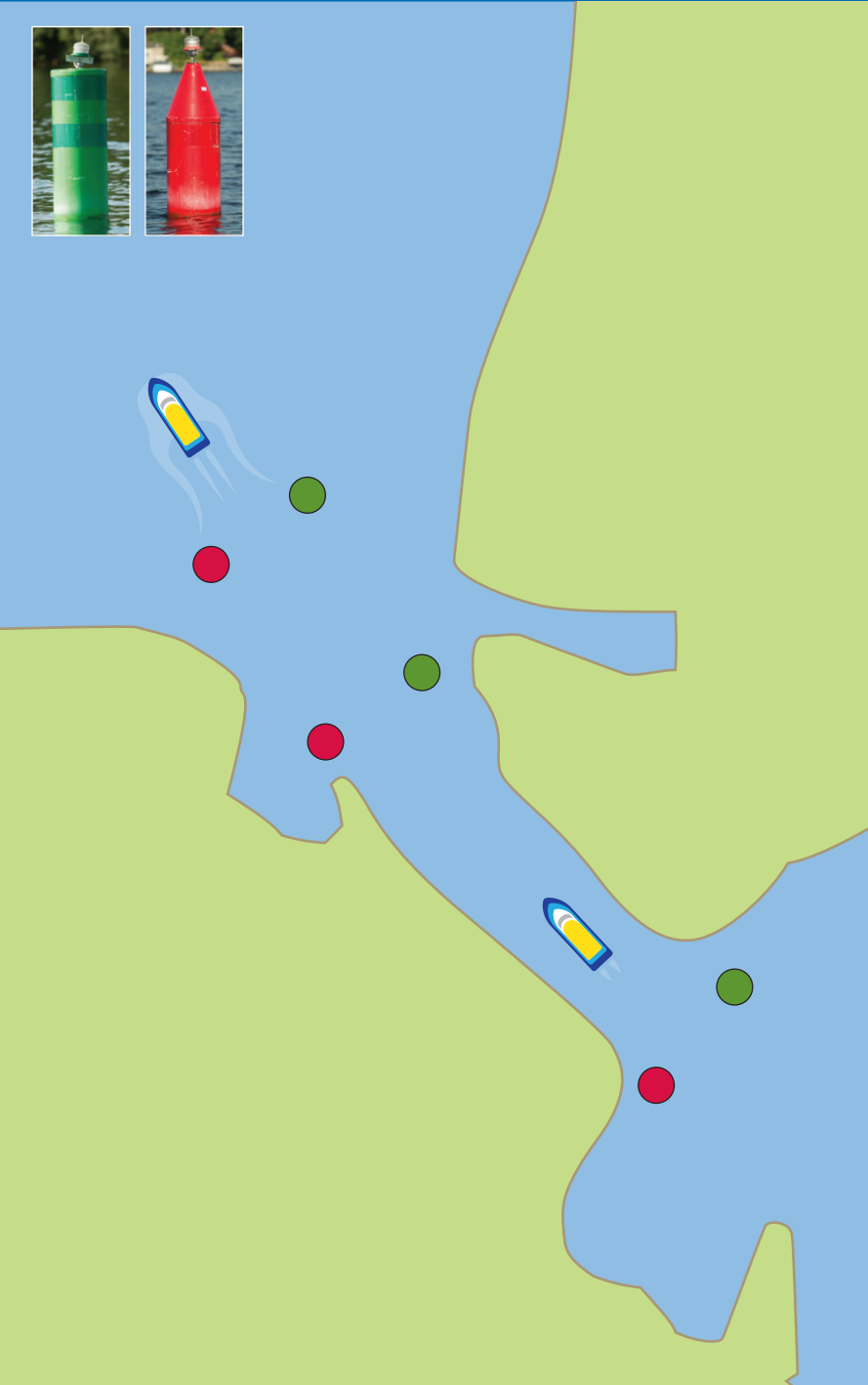
Point buoys

Identifies potential hazards between buoy and the closest shore



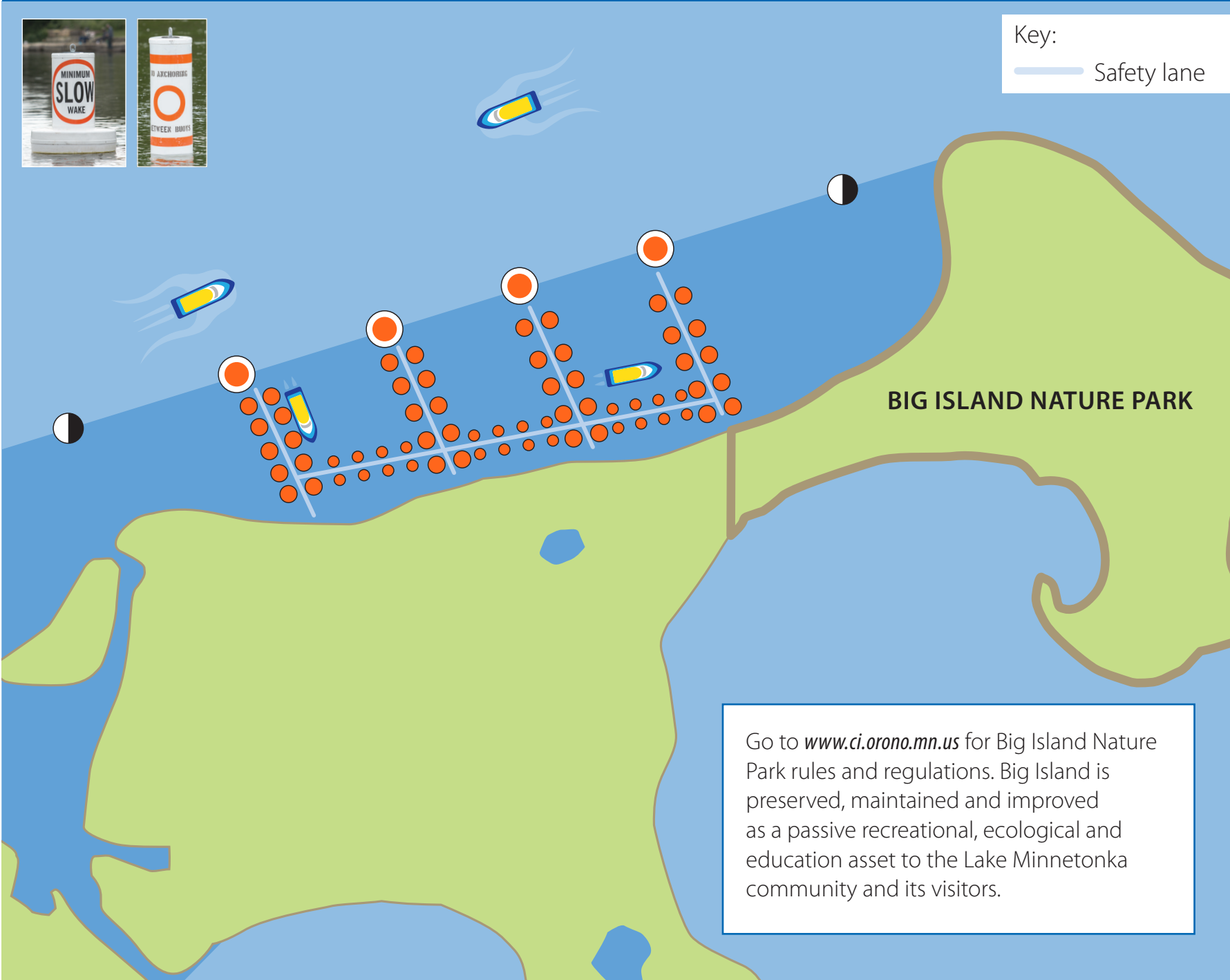
Channel buoys

Stay between red and green channel buoys. Create minimum wake when 150 feet from shore/structure.



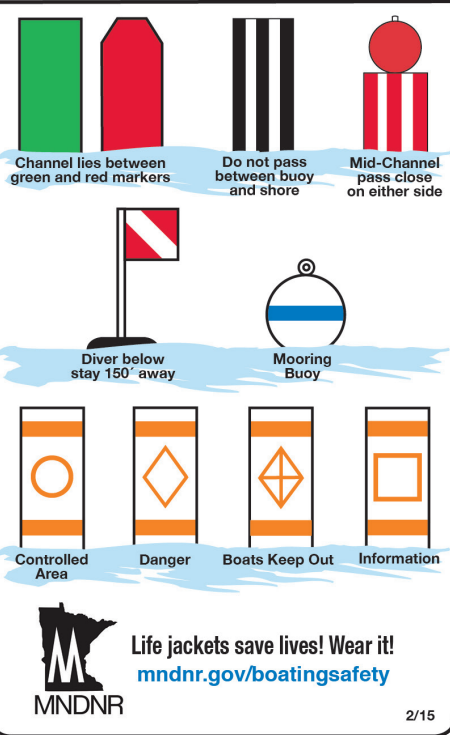
Big Island Cruiser's Cove

No anchoring between designated safety lanes. Minimum wake in designated quiet water.



Go to www.ci.orono.mn.us for Big Island Nature Park rules and regulations. Big Island is preserved, maintained and improved as a passive recreational, ecological and education asset to the Lake Minnetonka community and its visitors.

Minnesota Waterway Markers



EMERGENCIES

1.

Call 911.
2.

Stop at the scene and assist others who are in trouble if you can do so safely (required by law).
3.

Don't risk your life or the lives of others to save equipment.
4.

If a second boat or other property is involved, exchange your name and boat registration with the other operator or owner (as required by law).
5.

Promptly report all boating accidents to the county sheriff when there is:
 - Property damage of \$2000 or more.
 - Personal injury.
 - A fatality.This is required by law.

