Welcome to Lake Minnetonka

Avoid these common offenses

According to Hennepin County Sheriff’s Water Patrol, the following boating rules are among the most common boating violations. 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, lmcd.org, and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, dnr.state.mn.us.

- 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 I throwable device. Note: Minnesota state law requires a life jacket be worn by children less than 10 years of age while aboard watercraft that is underway.
- Under the influence/mandatory testing: No person shall operate any watercraft while under the influence of an alcoholic beverage or controlled substance.
- Observer required for boats to tow persons: For a watercraft and operator to tow a person on water skis, surfboard, tube or similar device, an additional person – the observer, at least 12 years old – is required to continually observe the person being towed.
- 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.
- Quiet Hours: Between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m., no personal watercraft after hours: No person shall operate any watercraft, regardless of length and nonmotorized watercraft over 10 feet must have current registration visible.
- No personal watercraft after hours: 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.
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- 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.
- Speed limits: 40 mph during the daytime, 20 mph at night, and under 5 mph in Quiet Water Areas and within 150 feet of shorelines, beaches, docks, anchored boats and swimmers.
- Quiet Hours: Between 10 p.m. and 7 a.m., any equipment or device that is plainly audible at a distance of 150 feet shall be a noise violation.

Check your boat

IS IT CLEAN?
DID YOU DRAIN?
DID YOU DISPOSE?

STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!

- no plants
- no mud
- no mussels, etc.
- Remove drain plugs
- live well
- bilge
- wakeboard ballast
- unwanted bait in trash
- no anchoring between designated safety lanes.
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- Big Island Cruiser’s Cove
- No anchoring between designated safety lanes. Minimum wake in designated quiet water.

Danger buoys
Identifies potential hazards in the middle of a bay

Point buoys
Identifies potential hazard between buoy and the closest shore

Channel buoys
Stay between red and green channel buoys. Create minimum wake when 110 feet from shore/structure

Big Island Cruiser’s Cove
No anchoring between designated safety lanes. Minimum wake in designated quiet water.

Key:

Safety lane

Go to lake minnetonka.org 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.

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