

SUMMER



www.lmcd.org

WELCOME TO LAKE MINNETONKA



KEEP YOUR LAKE CLEAN

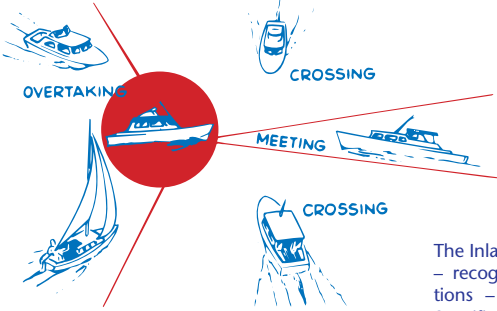
Updated 5/09

RULES OF THE ROAD FOR LAKE MINNETONKA

Nothing is more important in the prevention of boating accidents than knowledge and education. The situations that a boater may face when afloat require more than common sense. It is necessary that the boater acquire the knowledge and skill essential in fulfilling his/her role as "Skipper" of the craft.

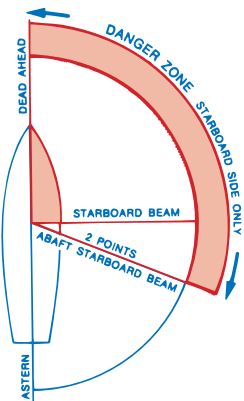
Regulations are necessary in some areas, but the ultimate responsibility for safety lies not with the government but with the individual boater. That boater who knows how to operate a craft legally and safely will get the most enjoyment from boating activity.

A copy of the complete ordinances governing the lake are available at the Lake Minnetonka Conservation District, Hennepin County Sheriff's Water Patrol or area libraries.



The diagram features a central red circle with a white boat silhouette. Four red lines radiate from this circle to four smaller boat illustrations. Clockwise from the top, the labels are: 'CROSSING' (two motorboats), 'MEETING' (two motorboats), 'CROSSING' (two motorboats), and 'OVERTAKING' (a motorboat and a sailboat).

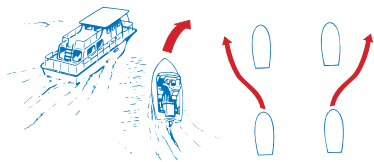
The Inland Rules of the Road – and others, too – recognizes three types of “passing” situations – meeting, crossing, and overtaking. Specific procedures are established to govern the actions of both vessels in such encounters.



The diagram shows a boat's profile with a red shaded area extending from the bow to the starboard beam. The area is labeled 'DANGER ZONE STARBOARD SIDE ONLY'. A vertical line from the bow is labeled 'DEAD AHEAD'. A horizontal line from the centerline to the starboard beam is labeled 'STARBOARD BEAM'. A line from the centerline to the aft part of the starboard beam is labeled '2 POINTS ABAFT STARBOARD BEAM'. The word 'ASTERN' is written vertically below the boat's hull.

The vessel in a crossing situation that has the other to starboard is the “burdened” vessel and must give way. The other is “privileged” in this situation. Hence a “danger zone” exists from dead ahead to two points abaft the starboard beam, within which a crossing vessel has the right-of-way.

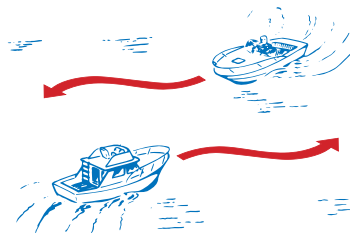
1. WHEN OVERTAKING - When overtaking another vessel pass when safe.



Overtaking. When watercraft are running in the same direction, the craft which is astern shall 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 shall abruptly change its course without first determining that it can be safely done without risk of collision with another watercraft.

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

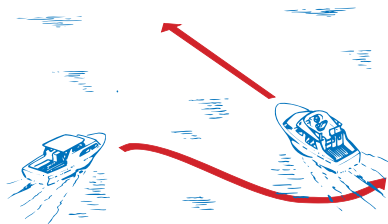
2. APPROACHING - When approaching head-on or nearly so, pass to the right.



When watercraft are approaching each other head on, or nearly so, each shall 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 shall maintain its course and pass clear.

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

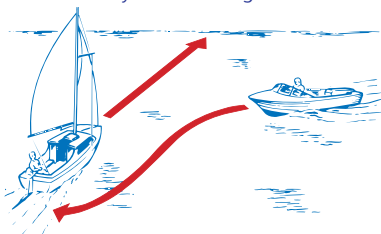
3. CROSSING - When crossing, yield to the vessel on your right.



When watercraft are crossing courses, or approaching each other obliquely or at right angles, so as to involve risk of collision, the craft which has the other on its own right shall yield the right-of-way.

In an encounter between the 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 her course and speed.

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



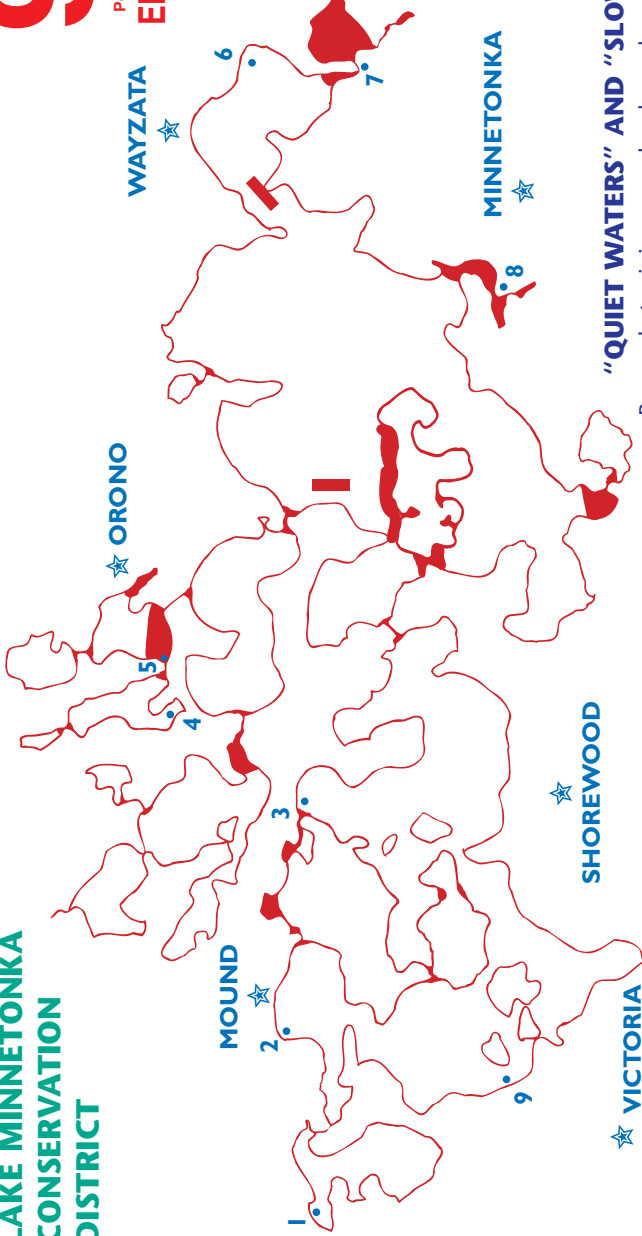
Sailboats under sail alone shall have right-of-way over all other watercraft underway except when overtaking such other watercraft.

In any encounter between a sailing vessel and a power-driven vessel, the former has the right-of-way unless she should be overtaking the other.

LAKE MINNETONKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT

911

Police • Fire • Medical
EMERGENCY



"SLOW" AREAS — 150' from shoreline and/or dock structure
"QUIET WATERS" —

"QUIET WATERS" AND "SLOW" AREAS
Proceed at minimum wake along shoreline and in other areas indicated on Lake Minnetonka

Public Launching Ramps

- 1. Halsted's Bay
- 2. Cooks Bay (DNR Access)
- 3. Spring Park Bay (Spring Park Access)
- 4. North Arm (Hendrickson Access)
- 5. Maxwell Bay (DNR Access)
- 6. Wayzata Bay (Grays Bay)
- 7. Grays Bay (DNR Access)
- 8. Carsons Bay
- 9. Lake Minnetonka Regional Park



SYNOPSIS OF THE LAKE MINNETONKA CONSERVATION DISTRICT BOATING ORDINANCE



HENNEPIN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE WATER PATROL DIVISION

WATERCRAFT means any contrivance used or designed for navigation on water.

AGE MINIMUM FOR OPERATOR OF WATERCRAFT

MOTORBOAT OPERATING RESTRICTIONS	
OPERATOR AGE	RESTRICTIONS
less than 12 years of age	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. 25 hp or less - no restriction.2. more than 25 thru 75 hp - must have someone at least 21 on board within reach of the controls.3. over 75 hp - cannot operate, even with adult on board.
12-17 years of age	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. 25 hp or less - no restriction.2. over 25 hp - must either have:<ul style="list-style-type: none">• a watercraft operator's permit, or• someone at least 21 on board within reach of the controls.

PERSONAL WATERCRAFT means a watercraft less than 14 feet in length powered by a water jet pump and which can be operated by persons sitting, standing or kneeling. ALL WATERCRAFT LAWS APPLY TO PERSONAL WATERCRAFT UNLESS THEY CONFLICT WITH PERSONAL WATERCRAFT LAWS, IN WHICH CASE THE PERSONAL WATERCRAFT LAWS PREVAIL.

PERSONAL WATERCRAFT OPERATOR AGE RESTRICTIONS REGARDLESS OF HORSEPOWER	
OPERATOR AGE	RESTRICTIONS
less than 13 years of age	Cannot operate, even with adult on board.
13 years of age	Must either have: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• someone at least 21 on board, or• a watercraft operator's permit and be in visual supervision by someone at least 21.
14-17 years of age	Must either have: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• a watercraft operator's permit, or• have someone at least 21 on board.

Speed Restrictions - No person shall operate a personal watercraft at a speed in excess of 5 miles per hour or at a speed which results in more than a minimum wake within 150 feet of any shoreline, swimmer, anchored boat, person fishing, mooring, dock or other water structure. Between 150 and 300 feet of shore, the five mile per hour and minimum wake restric-

tions apply unless the personal watercraft is being driven perpendicular to the shoreline and to or from the nearest point of water 300 feet from the shoreline or parallel to the shoreline in a non-repetitive manner.

Noise Restrictions - No person may operate a personal watercraft manufactured after January 1, 1992 that exceeds a noise level of 79 dbA at 50 feet. The Sheriff may order the noise test.

Other Restrictions. All personal watercraft are required by State law to have a rules decal, provided at no cost by the MN DNR, in full view of the operator. Operation is allowed only between the hours of 9:30 a.m. and one hour before sunset. No person shall operate a personal watercraft with an altered, disabled or removed automatic cut-off device. Jumping the wake within 150 feet of another watercraft is prohibited. Careless or reckless operation of a personal watercraft, such as by weaving through congested boat traffic or swerving close to another watercraft, is prohibited. Operation of a personal watercraft in a single area for more than 30 consecutive minutes is prohibited. U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation devices must be worn at all times when on a personal watercraft.

Rental of Personal Watercraft. No person shall rent a personal watercraft to anyone who is under 18 years of age and not in possession of a watercraft operators permit. The rental agency must record this information on a signature record before the rental. Persons renting personal watercraft must provide to renters a summary of laws and rules governing the operation of personal watercraft, instruction as to the actual operation of the personal watercraft, instruction as to the actual operation of the personal watercraft, and a U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation device.

MINIMUM WAKE DEFINED - For the purposes of this section, a minimum wake is the wave moving out from a watercraft and trailing behind in a widening "V" of insufficient size to affect other watercraft or be detrimental to the shoreline.

TOWING PERSON ON WATER SKIS OR OTHER DEVICE.

Observers Required. Watercraft may not be operated to tow a person on water skis, an aquaplane, surfboard, saucer, or similar device, unless there is in such watercraft another person in addition to the operator in a position to continually observe the person being towed. The observer on board shall act as observer of the person being towed, shall be at least 12 years of age and shall watch the person, or persons, being towed at all times. Additional age restrictions for operating watercraft are described in AGE MINIMUM SECTION above.

Hours. No person shall be towed, or shall operate a watercraft towing a person on any such device on the lake at any time from one-half hour after sunset to sunrise of the day following.

No person shall be towed, or shall operate a watercraft towing a person on any such device unless the person being towed is wearing a life vest, belt or other buoyant device. If the buoyant device worn is not a U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation device, a U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation device must also be on board and readily accessible to the person being towed.

No person shall be towed by a rope, cable or other towing device longer than 85 feet, except with the written permission of the sheriff.

Not more than three persons may be towed at one time, except with the written permission of the sheriff.

No person shall operate a watercraft when towing a person, and no person being towed shall come within 150 feet of any bathing area, skin or scuba diver's warning flag, swimmer, raft, watercraft, dock or pier except the raft, dock or pier from which operating.

No person shall drag an unoccupied tow line behind a watercraft for an unreasonable length of time.

No person shall tow or be towed into or through any marked channel connecting two bodies of water of the lake.

MAXIMUM SPEED - No watercraft may be operated on the lake at a speed in excess of the following limits.

- a. 40 miles per hour during the daytime;
- b. 20 miles per hour during the nighttime;
- c. 5 miles per hour in the following areas
 - a quiet water area.
 - that area within 150 feet of the shoreline of the lake.
 - that area within 150 feet of an authorized bathing area or swimmer, an authorized scuba diver's warning flag, an anchored raft or watercraft, or a dock or pier except that from which the watercraft with a person in tow is being operated.

QUIET WATER AREAS - No person shall operate a motor operated watercraft, including waterborne aircraft, on those areas of the lake at a speed in excess of 5 miles per hour, or at a speed which results in more than a minimum wake. The areas of the lake restricted to quiet waters are: Bay St. Louis, north Black Lake, Carsons Bay, Emerald Lake, Excelsior Bay, Seton Lake, Libbs Lake, the causeway area of Wayzata Bay, and Grays Bay 4 p.m. Fridays to midnight Sundays and holidays. The above also pertains to all marked channels, the two channels near Frog Island in Gideons Bay, the Wayzata municipal channel, the channel between Big Island and West Point, the narrow point of North Arm (Windjammer Point), the south shore of Maxwell Bay from Noerenberg Bridge to Boy Scout Bridge, Noerenberg Inlet, Coffee Cove, St. Albans Bay southwest of Solberg's Point, the channel northeast of Huntington Point, the channel at the southern tip of Huntington Point, and through the shallow water area channel in Wayzata Bay north of Cedar Point East.

"PUBLIC SAFETY" LANES AT BIG ISLAND - "Public Safety" lanes have been established on the northwest side of Big Island (known as "Cruiser's Cove") to allow the Hennepin County Sheriff's Water Patrol better access to the area for emergency purposes and to better manage the rafting activities that occur in the area. Signed Buoys delineate the "Public Safety" lanes and while anchoring or any part of the anchoring structure in the lanes is prohibited, travel in the lanes by boaters is allowed.

WASH AND WAKE - No person shall operate a watercraft in such manner that its wash or wake will endanger, harass or unnecessarily interfere with any other person or property.

Interference With Aircraft. No person shall operate a watercraft in a manner which intentionally obstructs or interferes with the landing, take-off or taxiing of any aircraft.

Large Commercial Vessels. Small watercraft shall not insist on the right-of-way, nor unnecessarily impede the passage of large commercial vessels, which are restricted in their ability to maneuver by size, draft, or speed.

Sailboat Races. Yacht Clubs on Lake Minnetonka have been running sailboat races (regattas) since 1882. Today, the yacht clubs receive permits from both the Lake Minnetonka Conservation District and the Hennepin County Sheriff's Water Patrol for their schedule of races in specific areas. These specific areas are reserved for the sailboat racers during race times. Powerboats as well as non-racing sailboats need to stay clear of these areas and the sailboat racers as much as possible. In addition, powerboats, particularly on low wind days when the lake is quite calm, need to take special care not to generate large wakes that disrupt the racing sailboats.

TAMPERING - No person shall board, use, damage, or tamper with a watercraft, except the owner or a person having the owner's consent, except as provided by ordinance.

CAPACITY OF WATERCRAFT - No person shall operate a watercraft which is loaded with passengers or cargo beyond its safe carrying capacity, or which is equipped with any motor or other propulsion machinery beyond its safe power capacity.

RIDING ON GUNWALES OR DECKING - No person shall ride or sit on the starboard or port gunwales or the decking over the bow or transom or any appendage thereto of any motorboat while underway, unless such boat is provided with adequate guards or railing to prevent passengers from falling overboard, and no person shall operate such a motorboat while any person is so riding or sitting.

MUFFLERS - A motor may not be used on any watercraft unless it is equipped with an efficient muffler, underwater exhaust or other device which at all times adequately muffles or suppresses the sound of the exhaust of the motor so as to prevent excessive or unusual noise, and no motor shall be equipped with any cut-out.

NOISE - A person may not operate any watercraft on the lake so as to exceed a noise level of 80dba at 50 ft. The sheriff may order a noise test.

OBSTRUCTING CHANNEL - No person shall operate any watercraft in a manner which obstructs or tends to obstruct the normal and ordinary navigation of the waters of the lake. No person shall moor, attach or hold in any manner a watercraft to any buoy, other than mooring buoy, or any other marking device or guide placed in the waters of the lake pursuant to lawful authority. No person shall operate, anchor, tie-up, except at a lawful dock, a watercraft in such a manner as to obstruct or interfere with the passage of any other watercraft through any channel or narrow water passageway. No motorboat shall overtake and pass another motorboat going in the same direction in a channel, closed throttle area, or restricted waterway.

No person shall swim in any such channel in the lake, or jump or dive from any bridge over any such channel.

LIGHTING - Every watercraft when underway or in use between sunset and sunrise must display the proper navigation lights. All white lights must be visible for at least two miles and red and green lights visible for at least one mile. This is only a short summary and does not cover all types of lighting. You should consult the latest MN DNR Boating Guide for more detailed information as it relates to your boat.

Motorboats: When underway, lighting usually consists of a combination red-green OR separate side lights, showing red to port (left) and green to starboard (right), displayed on the forward section of the boat. Either type of lighting must be visible from dead ahead through an arc of 112.5 degrees on the respective side. In addition a white light, visible for 360 degrees, must be displayed on the rear half of the craft.

Non-Motorized Boats: At a minimum, you must display a white light in time to avoid a collision.

Anchored Boats: All boats at anchor must display a white light visible 360 degrees.

LIFE PRESERVERS - All watercraft when underway or in use must carry one readily accessible Coast Guard approved Type I, II, or III wearable personal flotation device (life jacket) for each person on board. **Note: State law requires a life jacket be worn by children less than 10 years of age when aboard watercraft that is underway in MN.** Exceptions from wearing the life jacket include: 1) When in an enclosed cabin or below the top deck of watercraft, 2) When on an anchored boat that is a platform for swimming or diving, and 3) When aboard a charter (passenger) craft with a licensed captain. In addition, watercraft of 16 feet or longer, except canoes and kayaks, must have one Type IV throwable device.

HORN, WHISTLE - Motorboats 16 feet or more in overall length shall carry a power, hand or mouth operated horn or whistle capable of producing a sound for at least two seconds and audible for at least one-half mile. The operator of such motorboats shall, only when reasonably necessary to ensure safe operation, sound such horn or whistle. Proper horn signals are as follows in the a meeting situation: One blast means "pass port to port"; two blasts mean "pass starboard to starboard"; three blasts mean "backing from closed area"; four blasts mean "danger of collision exists, stop or slow to bare steerage." Sirens are illegal under Minnesota Statute.

FIRE EXTINGUISHER: VENTILATION - Fire extinguishers and ventilators must be on board in accordance with state law. Motorboats carrying or using fuel or other flammable or toxic liquid in a tank or engine which is in any enclosure of the boat shall be equipped with B.C. charged fire extinguisher and an efficient natural or mechanical ventilation system which will remove gases prior to and during the time any person operates the watercraft. Such fuel or fluid is in an "enclosure" if it is not in contact with the open atmosphere or if it is located in an area where fumes or vapors could accumulate.

CERTAIN FLAGS PROHIBITED - No watercraft other than an authorized water patrol boat or other police vehicle shall use or display a police, sheriff, or law enforcement officers flag, or any device designed to simulate such a flag.

TOILETS - Marine toilets must retain waste on board for pump out or other proper disposal on shore and be in compliance with MN Pollution Control Agency requirements.

RESIDING ON LAKE PROHIBITED - "Living quarters" means a facility or place where people dwell permanently, seasonally, for more than 10 successive days, or for a total of more than 30 days in any calendar year.

No person shall use a watercraft as living quarters while it is in or upon the lake.

No person shall permit such use, in or upon the lake, of any watercraft owned or leased by him or otherwise in his custody or under his control.

UNDER THE INFLUENCE / MANDATORY TESTING - No person shall operate or be in actual physical control of any watercraft while under the influence of an alcoholic beverage, a controlled substance or its metabolite, or a hazardous substance. Any officer who has probable cause to believe that the operator of a watercraft is under the influence may request the operator to submit to chemical testing to determine presence of alcohol, a controlled substance or its metabolite, or a hazardous substance. By law, the watercraft operator is required to submit to chemical testing. **Note: Minnesota's alcohol concentration level for impaired operation is .08.**

PUBLIC NUISANCES ON WATERCRAFT - No person shall commit or engage, or allow any person to commit or engage, in any conduct which constitutes a public nuisance on the lake.

CURFEW - Except when accompanied by a parent or guardian, no minor under the age of 15 shall be on any watercraft between 10:00 pm and 6:00 am. No minor between the age of 15 and 17 shall be unsupervised on any watercraft from 12:00 midnight to 6:00 am.

WATERCRAFT REGISTRATION - Watercraft must be registered in accordance with state law.

MOORING TO NAVIGATION BUOY - It is illegal to moor to, or remove, any navigation buoy.

FAILURE TO STOP FOR SHERIFF - All watercraft must stop for the Sheriff when signaled to do so. Failure to produce the required equipment for inspection upon request is a violation of LMCD Code Section 3.04.

SPECIAL LAKE MINNETONKA "HIGH-WATER" EMERGENCIES

During very "HIGH-WATER" periods, the shoreline of the lake is in danger of rapid and unusual erosion. The Lake Minnetonka Conservation District (LMCD) has determined that (i) the wakes from watercraft operated at normal speeds during these periods has serious adverse effects on the shoreline, and (ii) that the restriction of watercraft wakes during these periods is essential to the conservation of the shoreline.

The LMCD Executive Director may make a "High Water Emergency Declaration" when the Lake elevation has been at or above elevation 930.0 feet NGVD for five consecutive days, and shall make a "High Water" Declaration when the Lake elevation has been at or above elevation 930.0 feet NGVD for eight consecutive days or the Lake elevation has reached or exceeded 930.25 feet NGVD.

During a “Declared High Water Emergency”, the shoreline minimum wake zone is extended from 150 feet from shore to 600 feet from shore. “Minimum Wake” means no more than five miles per hour speed and minimum wake.

During a “Declared High Water Emergency” the areas and bays listed below are automatically designated “Minimum Wake” areas. Further details on “High Water Emergencies” may be directed to the LMCD office at (952) 745-0789 or obtained at the LMCD Website www.lmcd.org.

Big Island Passage	Forest Lake	St. Albans Bay
Black Lake	Grays Bay	St. Louis Bay
Carsons Bay	Jennings Bay	Seton Lake
Coffee Cove	Libbs Lake	Stubbs Bay
Emerald Lake	Priests Bay	Tanager Lake
Excelsior Bay	Robinsons Bay	

INVASIVE SPECIES PREVENTION

Lake Minnetonka was infested with Eurasian Watermilfoil in the late 1980’s. There is a concern that recreational boaters may unknowingly spread Eurasian Watermilfoil from Lake Minnetonka or introduce other invasive species, such as zebra mussels, into Lake Minnetonka. If your watercraft has been in identified zebra mussel infested waters within the last 30 days and you want to launch it into Lake Minnetonka, you need to comply with the LMCD ordinances that include either ensuring that all areas of the watercraft have been completely dry for at least five days or it needs to be inspected and/or cleaned by LMCD approved staff prior to entering the Lake. We recommend that you use the checklist below prior to leaving Lake Minnetonka for Eurasian Watermilfoil or prior to entering the Lake for other invasive species, primarily zebra mussels, if you have been in infested waters.

INSPECT	DRAIN	WASH	REMOVE AQUATIC PLANTS	
X		X	X	Trailer frames
X		X		Boat hulls
X	X	X	X	Outdrive units
X		X		Trim plates
X		X		Trolling plates
X		X	X	Props and prop guards
X			X	Transducers
X		X	X	Anchor and rope or chain
	X	X		All bilge water
X	X	X		Live wells (and their pumping systems)
	X			Bait buckets
	X	X		Raw water engine cooling systems
X	X	X	X	Other boat accessories that get wet

Waterway Markers

effective 2003



Channel lies between green and red markers



Do not pass between buoy and shore



Mid-Channel pass close on either side



Diver below stay 150' away



Slow Buoy Red or White



Milfoil Area Boats Keep Out



Danger



Boats Keep Out



Information

Be Water Wise...Wear Your Life Jacket!

Artwork provided by the DNR 1/03

PROCEED SLOWLY - MINIMUM WAKE

Through Channels Within 150 Ft. of Shore, Docks, Divers, Swimmers & Fishermen • In Designated Quiet Water Areas • In All Areas marked "SLOW" • During High Water Emergencies

DO YOU HAVE?

One USCG Approved Life Wearable Jacket Per Person Aboard • Required Lights • Properly Loaded Boat • Boat Registration • Fire Extinguisher • Horn • Driver and Observer When Towing • Driver That Meets Minimum Age Requirements

SPEED LIMITS

Day - 40 M.P.H. • Night - 20 M.P.H.
Ensure You Manage Your Wake Properly

NOISE CONTROL ORDINANCE IN EFFECT

The Lake Minnetonka Conservation District is a governing body set up by the state legislature to enact ordinances to regulate activity on Lake Minnetonka

INTERESTED IN SAFE BOATING?

The Hennepin County Sheriff's Water Patrol is dedicated to safe boating. If you are interested in becoming a volunteer Special Deputy Sheriff, contact the Water Patrol office for further information.

SPRING PARK, MINNESOTA
PHONE (612) 596-9800
www.waterpatrol.org

This is a summary of the various rules governing conduct on Lake Minnetonka. It is distributed for purpose of educating the public, but it is not a text of the actual laws applicable to the Lake. Laws and regulations of the State of Minnesota and its agencies, and ordinances of the LMCD should be consulted for the exact language of such laws, regulations and ordinances.