

Lake Edgewood Conservancy District

Lake Usage & Watercraft Rules and Regulations

Revised and Re-Adopted April 12, 2018

The Lake Edgewood Conservancy District Board in exercising full control of the lake has seen fit to adopt the following rules and policies regarding its use. The Lake Edgewood Conservancy District Board fully intends to see that said rules are adhered to by all Freeholders/property owners and their guests and will handle any violations of these rules in accordance with the responsibilities and control issued to the Lake Edgewood Conservancy District Board as stated in statute IC 14-33-5-20. These rules were designed to establish standards and guidelines for the safe care and recreational use of the lake and shoreline.

1. WATERCRAFT REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS

- a. All watercraft operated on Lake Edgewood must be the personal property of a Freeholder/property owner of the Lake Edgewood Conservancy District.
- b. All watercraft operated on Lake Edgewood must be properly registered with the Lake Edgewood Conservancy District.
- c. Trespassers will be removed from the lake and prosecuted.
- d. Watercraft registration fees are effective from May 1 to April 30. (See Lake Edgewood Conservancy District Lake Usage and Watercraft Rules and Regulations Consent Form)
- e. Any attempt to defraud the Board by misrepresenting proper ownership qualifications shall result in suspension of all lake usage rights for a period of thirty days.
- f. There shall be no operation of watercraft that features a conventional or integrated platform hull over 22 feet or pontoon over 28 feet in length.
- g. All registrants shall be required to:
 1. Verify by signature that they have received and read a copy of the current Lake Edgewood Conservancy District Rules and Regulations.
 2. Accept full responsibility to comply with same and accept liability for any damages caused by registrant's watercraft.
 3. Provide a valid driver's license photo identification.
 4. Provide a valid current certificate of insurance (liability) in the minimum amount of \$300,000 per claim limits with all watercraft listed on the certificate.

This information must be presented to the Conservancy District Financial Clerk prior to receiving watercraft stickers. Renewals occurring during the boating season need to be filed with the Conservancy District.

2. WATERCRAFT REGISTRATION STICKERS

- a. Watercraft registration stickers are the property of the Lake Edgewood Conservancy District.
- b. It is the watercraft owner's responsibility to remove the registration sticker if the craft is sold. (See forms entitled Lake Edgewood Watercraft Registration Fees, Watercraft Identification Form).
- c. Watercraft Registration Stickers will be distributed only for the specific watercraft(s) that were registered.

In addition to the Watercraft Registration Sticker:

1. Each watercraft registered must have a Watercraft Identification Number in three (3) inch vinyl block numbers (available at many retail stores) that indicates the watercraft's lot number. (Only one lot number is necessary.)
2. The watercraft Registration Sticker and Watercraft Identification Number must be on the starboard (right) side of the Watercraft.
3. The Watercraft Identification Number must be easily visible from the shore line. Any color may be used to coordinate with the watercraft, but must contrast enough to be visible from the shore.

2. GENERAL INFORMATION CONCERNING WATER AND USE OF THE LAKE

a. IDLE SPEED

All watercraft are to observe Idle speed at all times except during the hours of 10AM to 8PM.

The Red/Yellow/Green Traffic Light located on the spillway identifies Idle/Lake usage status. The Green light between April 15 and Labor Day indicates no idle restrictions outside of the designated idle areas. The Yellow light on any date indicates Idle Only in all areas. The Red light on any date indicates the lake is closed to all watercraft due to lake maintenance or other emergency circumstances. Notice of lake maintenance will be published and posted as far as possible in advance of lake maintenance. If the Traffic Light is not illuminated, please refer to the times and dates for Idle only above.

* Idle speed is defined as the slowest possible speed that maintains steering so that wake or wash is minimal. Idle speed must be maintained within fifty (50) feet of shorelines, in all coves and other areas designated by buoys.

b. LIFE JACKETS

All boats or watercraft (powered or otherwise) in operation on Lake Edgewood must be equipped with U. S. Coast Guard approved buoyant vest, jackets, etc., in sufficient quantity to provide at least one for each person aboard. Any person in tow behind a watercraft must wear a secure U. S. Coast Guard approved life vest/jacket of proper size. (Ski belts are not sufficient.) Stand Up Paddleboard (SUP) operators must be tethered to the paddleboard, or wear an approved personal flotation device (PFD) described above.

c. BOAT LIGHTS

No type of manned watercraft may be used on the lake after sunset without a light in or on the watercraft. The light must be situated in such a manner that it can plainly be seen from outside the craft at water level. Motorized craft equal to or in excess of 10 horsepower must have U.S. Coast Guard approved lighting system both front and rear. (Red and green front – white rear). Operators of non-motorized or craft less than 10 horsepower without navigational lights must use a hand lantern or a large flashlight to shine continuously. Violators are subject to penalties and fines as outlined under "Penalties and Enforcements."

d. SWIMMING

Swimming, floating on rafts, tubes or any floatation device must:

1. Remain within 50 feet of the shoreline.
2. Remain behind buoys.
3. Remain within the marked boundaries of the Lake Edgewood Community Beach Swimming Area. All Freeholders and their guests must adhere to the rules posted at the beach area and stated herein.
4. Fishing, swimming, floating on rafts, tubes, or any flotation device is prohibited off of the Off Lake Property Owners Docks located in Birdhouse Cove.

e. SCUBA DIVING ACTIVITIES

1. Scuba gear or other devices for underwater use must be well marked by U.S. Diver Approved Floatation Flags.
2. Scuba gear or other devices for underwater use are permitted outside of the idle areas only during the hours specified as Idle only for motorized watercraft use. Otherwise such gear will be restricted to within 50 feet of the shoreline or behind buoys.

f. PLEASURE BOATING/TOWING

1. Any watercraft operating on Lake Edgewood must be owned by a Freeholder/property owner and have a current Lake Edgewood sticker visibly positioned on the craft's starboard front side.
2. Trespassers will be removed from the lake and prosecuted.
3. The traffic patterns for all watercraft in the high speed areas will be counter clockwise at all times and must travel at least 50 feet from the shoreline and outside of the established markers and idle zone buoys. No watercraft operating in the high speed areas is to deviate from the counter clockwise traffic pattern except for picking up downed skiers, tubers, etc.
4. All watercraft must use a direct approach when leaving or approaching a dock at idle speed within 50 feet.
5. All approved powered watercraft operators shall be at least 16 years of age and have a current operator's license.
6. It is expected that all Freeholders recognize other's rights to use the lake and

exercise good judgment. No more than **four (4)** watercraft towing shall be in operation on the lake at any given time. Please be courteous when towing for extended periods of time.

7. No speedboat or watercraft of any type may pull more than **one (1)** skier, wake boarder, or knee boarder at any time.
8. Speedboats or other watercraft using the traffic lanes must not follow any other watercraft towing a manned water device closer than 150 feet.
9. No speedboat or watercraft of any type may pull more than **two (2)** people in an inflatable tube or other inflatable device and **only** if the tube or other inflatable device is:
 - a. Designed for two or more riders at one time **and**
 - b. Is of a cockpit design such that the riders sit down inside the inflatable.All other inflatable tubes and devices are limited to **one (1)** rider at a time. Cockpit style inflatables designed for more than two riders are limited to a maximum of two riders at all times.
10. When passing another watercraft in the same traffic lane, it must be done on the **port (left)** side at a distance of not less than 50 feet.
11. All anchoring watercraft must do so outside the normal counter clockwise traffic lanes and in the areas behind the "IDLE" markers/buoys.
12. Any person in tow behind a watercraft must wear a USCG Approved life vest/jacket of proper size. (Ski belts are not sufficient.)
13. No person may operate any watercraft with a person in tow without a spotter within the watercraft whose entire attention is directed toward the continuous observation of that person or object in tow. The observer must be physically capable and mentally competent and at least 12 years of age. (See Rule #14-15-3-20 of the Indiana Boating Laws 1995 DNR Revised).
14. All towing watercraft must carry on board an orange Board approved "**WATER SKIER DOWN FLAG.**" The minimum size of such flags shall be 16" by 16". The spotter must hold up and display the flag **ONLY** while the person being towed is down in the water, or before dropping skier, tubes, etc. in an idle zone.
15. There shall be no mooring of any watercraft that has living quarters.
16. There shall be no overnight anchoring or mooring of any watercraft unless tethered to a permanent dock.
17. There shall be no operation of airboats or watercraft with inboard engines that have exhaust above the waterline.
18. **Personal Watercraft***, snowmobiles, kites, flying tubes, ski jumps or other flying devices pulled by watercraft are not permitted. ***Personal Watercraft are defined by Indiana law as: "A watercraft whose primary source of power is an inboard motor powering a water jet pump as its primary source of power and that is designed to be operated by a person who sits, stands, or kneels on the vessel rather than the conventional manner of sitting or standing inside the watercraft."**
19. No watercraft of any type may pull any device not specifically designed for that purpose.
20. After dark, boaters must control any loud nuisance noise. **The Board reserves the right to determine the definition of excessive noise. The Board reserves the right to remove watercraft and boaters who do not conform to this rule.**

21. The Board reserves the right to inspect and/or have removed watercraft that have been registered fraudulently or fall under categories that are prohibited.
22. Intentionally dropping to transfer tubers, skiers, etc. should take place in the Idle Zone marked by buoys with the least amount of wake in the idle zone possible.
22. All watercraft not running at high speeds must stay clear of the traffic lanes (behind the buoys and/or within 50' of the bank if buoys are not present) during the hours stipulated for high speed traffic when there are persons being towed present. Watercraft behind the buoys may go clockwise or counterclockwise while behind the buoys. Reminder: All watercraft operating behind buoys or within 50' of the shoreline are required to operate no faster than idle speed.
23. No occupant of watercraft underway shall be permitted to sit or stand on the gunwales, seat backs or stand on the craft's bow, except for the purpose of anchoring, mooring or casting off or trolling while fishing.
24. Watercraft leaving an idle zone, dock pier, shore or ramp shall yield the right of way to watercraft underway.

a. **WATER SKIERS OR PERSONS BEING TOWED BEHIND A WATERCRAFT**

1. All skiers or persons being towed must wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved buoyant vest/jacket.
2. Any water skier wishing to drop a ski must do so directly in front of the dam.
3. Any water skier that is in the water and waiting to be picked up should hold one of the skis up to mark their location.
4. Persons on water skis or other manned water device must stay outside of the markers and idle zone buoys.
5. Any person in the water (without skis) should turn to face oncoming traffic and mark their location by holding up their hands.

b. **FISHING BOATS (MOTORIZED)**

1. Operators of approved gasoline powered fishing boats shall be at least 16 years of age and have a valid operator's license.
2. All occupants must have an approved U.S. Coast Guard buoyant vest/jacket for each person aboard.
3. All motorized fishing boats must stay clear of the ski/traffic lanes during the designated ski/tow hours when fishing.
4. Fishing from the dam and Off Lake Property Owner's docks located in Birdhouse Cove is prohibited.
5. Freeholders/property owners and their guests are permitted to fish throughout the year and no license is required. Persons fishing must follow state fishing and safety laws that include the number of fish allowed to be taken from the lake at any given time.
6. No fishing in the beach areas at any time and not within fifty (50) feet of the shoreline anytime there are swimmers present.

i. **SAILBOATS, CANOES, PADDLE BOATS, NON-MOTORIZED FISHING BOATS INCLUDING ELECTRIC TROLLING MOTOR POWERED CRAFT**

1. All non-motorized watercraft must stay behind the buoys and/or within 50' of the bank and clear of the traffic lanes for motorized watercraft during the hours stipulated for high speed traffic lane use, normally 10 AM to 8 PM.
2. Non-motorized watercraft are not to anchor in these traffic lanes during aforementioned hours.
3. Non-motorized watercraft will always have the right-of-way over powered watercraft.
4. All occupants within a sailboat must WEAR a U.S. Coast Guard approved buoyant vest/jacket at all times of operation.

j. **SLALOM SKI COURSE**

1. Placement of any slalom course must be approved by the Lake Edgewood Conservancy District Board annually prior to installation.
2. If approved, installation shall be for a limited period of time according to the provision set forth by the Board.

k. **USE OF BEACH AND LAUNCHING FACILITIES**

1. While swimming at the Lake Edgewood beach, an adult (18 yrs.) must accompany children under the age of 12 at all times.
2. Those using the beach and swim area must stay within the confines of the roped off area when swimming.
3. The launching dock is to be used for launching boats only. Jumping off the launching dock is NOT permitted.
4. **In consideration of neighboring residences and other persons, nuisance noise and/or abusive, foul language will not be tolerated.**
5. Portable waste facilities are provided for Freeholders/property owners and guest's usage only. Do not litter beach/launch area with paper, cans, etc. Carry trash home or place in the designated receptacles.
6. Alcoholic beverages may not be consumed at the beach and/or launch area.
7. Watercraft launching is through designated launching area only.
8. **Vehicles are not to block or be parked in launch area or on adjacent private property.**
9. Secure and lock the launch gate after use to keep trespassers out.
10. No fires or fireworks are permitted on the beach area except as provided for. (Grill)
11. Beach is open from sunrise to sunset or as otherwise posted.
12. Swimmers – PLEASE NOTE – no lifeguards are on duty at the beach.
13. No camping is allowed in the beach area.
14. While using the beach and swimming area all persons must adhere to the rules

posted at the beach.

l. LIMITATIONS OF LAKE USAGE BY GUESTS

1. Guests may use the lake for boating, fishing, skiing or other purposes only if accompanied by a Freeholder of good standing with no active violations or a member of a Freeholder family in good standing.
2. Written permission as evidenced in writing and signed by the Freeholder in good standing and authorization for guests may be granted (thus taking all responsibility for guest) only for specific times on a daily basis while such a person is a guest in residence or for a period not to exceed one week. Copy of written permission shall be forwarded and filed with the Secretary of the Board of Directors.
3. There shall be no operation of any watercraft on the waters of Lake Edgewood that is not owned by a Freeholder as described in the Watercraft Registration Requirements section of this document, or does not have a current Lake Edgewood sticker attached thereto.
4. Lake Edgewood Freeholders are responsible for their guest's actions.

m. GUEST OPERATION OF PADDLEBOAT, CANOE OR KAYAK

1. A guest may operate a non-motorized watercraft in the area between the shoreline and 50-foot no-wake zone and any areas designated as no-wake zones.
2. The guest must have permission and the permit from the Freeholder and the Freeholder must be available for verification.

n. INDIANA BOATING LAWS

1. No person shall operate any watercraft while **under the influence of alcohol or drugs.**
2. The Lake Edgewood Conservancy District considers current Indiana Boating Laws as binding where they have application to Lake Edgewood and to not conflict with the rules as stated above. It is expected that all persons using Lake Edgewood abide by the rules and regulations set forth.
3. All weights, capacity and manufacturer's warnings for safe operation of each individual watercraft must be observed. If towing a person on water skis or other devices, the watercraft must be rated to carry at least the number of persons on board plus those being towed. Do not exceed the watercraft's safe carrying capacity. **NO OVERLOADING!** Safe fueling practices should be used at all times.
4. The operator of every watercraft involved in an accident is required by Indiana Code 14-15-4-2 to file a report in writing if the accident results in loss of life, injury or property damage in excess of \$750. Reports must be mailed within twenty-four (24) hours to: Law Enforcement Division, Dept. of Natural Resources, 402 W. Washington St., Room W255-D, Indianapolis, IN 46204.

o. LAKE SAFETY AND SECURITY

1. The Board shall appoint a Lake Safety and Security Committee comprised of residents to provide assistance with safety education, rules review, rules recording, trespassing complaints and crime watch. The Board shall give this committee assistance in performing its duties.
2. Lake safety is everyone's concern. Should a watercraft or other motorized recreational vehicle be operated in an unsafe manner in the judgment of any resident, they should contact a Lake Safety and Security Committee, Lake Edgewood Conservancy District Board member, or the Morgan County Sheriff's Office. Law enforcement authorities will be called if necessary.
3. Lake privileges can be revoked by Lake Edgewood Conservancy District Board action. Warning letter of observed violations of Rules and Regulations can be used by the Board to suspend lake privileges. **UNSAFE PRACTICES WILL NOT BE TOLERATED.**

p. VIOLATION ENFORCEMENT

The Lake Edgewood Conservancy District Board authorized by law to enforce safety and security regulations and has the duty to safeguard the community's members through publication and implementation of such measures.

1. Lake Edgewood Conservancy District Board, its Freeholders, and its Lake Security have the right to police the water use and vehicular traffic.
2. Failure to comply with the Lake Edgewood Conservancy District Lake Usage & Watercraft Rules and Regulations as revised can result in fine assessments, usage suspension and/or legal action.
3. The following procedures will be followed in cases of rules violation by Freeholders/property owners, family members or guests.
 - a. Lake Security, Lake Edgewood Conservancy District Board of Directors or any officer of the Board is empowered to immediately remove boats and operators from the lake for infractions of the rules that are in a life or property-threatening situation. THIS WILL BE TREATED AS A THIRD WRITTEN CITATION.
 - b. Lake Security can issue and log a verbal citation and instruct the violator to leave the lake and a copy of Lake Edgewood Conservancy District Lake Usage & Watercraft Rules and Regulations sent to the violator with receipt to be acknowledged.
 - c. The Lake Edgewood Conservancy District Board will issue a First written citation to the offending Freeholders/property owners/violator on the Second logged violation. Lake privileges will be suspended for a period of eight (8) days and the assessment/fine will be \$50.00.
 - d. If the violator wishes to protest or appeal the assessment, they will be asked to present their position at the next scheduled Board meeting. At that Board meeting, the Board will either make a decision on the validity of the protest, or take the protest under consideration pending a final decision to be made no later than ninety (90) days from the date of that Board meeting.
 - e. Appeals will be heard on Second written citations. The suspension and collection of the assessment/fine will be delayed pending the outcome of the appeal.

- f. Assessments/Fines and penalties will be:
- (a) First written citation/Second logged offense, a fine assessment of \$50.00 accompanied by a copy of the Lake Usage & Watercraft Rules and Regulations.
 - (b) Second written citation/Third logged offense, a fine assessment of \$100.00 accompanied by a copy of the Lake Edgewood Water Usage & Watercraft Rules and Regulations. Owner's lake privileges will be suspended for fifteen (15) days. Violation of the suspension will be considered a third offense.
 - (c) Third written citation/Fourth logged and Subsequent Violations is loss of owner's lake privileges up to one (1) year and a fine assessment of \$300.00. Violation of the suspension will result in doubling of the fine and an additional suspension to be determined by the Lake Edgewood Conservancy Board of Directors.
 - (d) If a Freeholder/property owner user who also has a registered boat receives a violation while operating another owner's watercraft, the ticket will be against the operator's boat. If a Freeholder/property owner does not have a registered boat, the operator will be assessed a \$50 fine and his/her lake privileges will be suspended for a period of 15 days.
 - (e) If a violator of lake rules was given permission to drive a member's boat and found in violation of the Rules and Regulations, fines and assessments may also be assessed to the Freeholder/property owner owning the boat.
 - (f) All fine assessments to be paid within 30 days. Any unpaid fine assessments that exceed 30 days will have an additional assessment of \$5 per day charged and loss of all privileges until the assessment is paid.

g. **LAKE WATER TESTING**

1. The lake water will be tested annually. Water testing containers are available through the State Board of Health with a water specimen procedure. A minimum of 20 specimens will be collected focusing on the areas around the beach, coves and any area where there is suspected run off from septic systems entering the water.
2. The lake water specimen report will be reported in the minutes of the Conservancy District.

r. **MISCELLANEOUS**

1. Observe lake treatment warnings. An illuminated red light on the traffic light on the spillway indicates the lake is closed for watercraft use. Other restrictions may apply.
2. Deposit of trash, debris, chemicals, drink cans and garbage in the waters of Lake Edgewood is strictly forbidden. Persons observed littering on or from shore may be subject to loss of lake privileges.
3. Quiet time shall be observed from 11PM to 7AM. Please be considerate of your neighbors.
4. There shall be no littering in or around the lake. All trash must be carried home or placed in designated trash receptacles.

5. All watercraft i.e. canoes, kayaks, paddleboats, rowboats, floats, etc. shall be tethered when not in use. In case of high and/or fast moving waters, such debris can be extremely hazardous to other property as well as the dam.
6. Anchoring to, moving, removing, tampering with or damaging any official buoys, markers, slalom course buoys, or any swimming posts, buoys, ropes or markers is forbidden.
7. Buoy placement shall be at the discretion of the Conservancy Board of Directors.
8. The area within 50' of the spillway and/or dam is strictly off limits to everyone and everything in or on the water. There is to be absolutely no trespassing on the dam rip rap, top or bank at any time.

The foregoing Rules and Regulations with Violations Enforcement revised, approved and re-adopted this 12th day of April, 2018 by the Lake Edgewood Conservancy District Board of Directors.

Jennifer Staggs, Chairman

John Allbritten, Vice Chairman

John Dotson, Director

Tonya Mercer, Director

James Thomas, Director