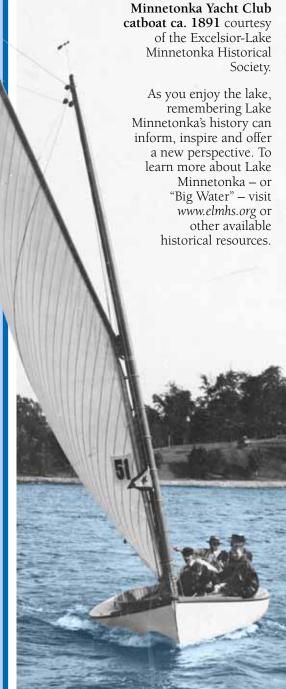


Lake Pin County 2011 Minnetonka Inty 201 Map

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safety on the waterways. Hennepin County Sheriff's Water Patrol maintaining

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бло.bวml.www Deephaven, MM 55391 18338 Minnetonka Blvd 6870-245-289 Conservation District Lake Minnetonka

www.hennepin.us/environment 272-348-3777 Environmental Services Ytnuo⊃ niqənnəH







# Welcome to Lake Minnetonka

## **Boating Rules & Regulations 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 or her role as "Skipper" of the craft.

Regulations are necessary, 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 their boating activity.



Minnetonka to aid boaters with navigational hazards and special regulations.

## **Boating Rules and Regulations**

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

#### WATERCRAFT

means any vessel, boat, canoe, raft, barge, sailboat, or any similar device used or useable for carrying or transporting persons on the lake.

#### AGE RESTRICTIONS FOR OPERATORS OF WATERCRAFT

- a. Less than 12 years of age
- 1) 25 horsepower or less no restrictions.
- 2) more than 25 through 75 horsepower must have someone at least 21 years of age on board in reach of the controls
- 3) more than 75 horsepower cannot operate even with an adult on board.
- b. 12 to 17 years of age
- 1) 25 horsepower or less no restrictions. 2) over 25 horsepower - must posess a watercraft operator's permit or have someone at least 21 years of age on board in reach of the controls.

#### **PERSONAL WATERCRAFT**

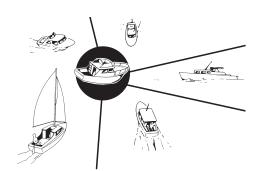
means a watercraft less than 14 feet in length that uses a motor powering a water jet pump and that can be operated by persons sitting, standing or kneeling. All watercraft laws apply to personal watercraft. Some additional laws also apply to personal watercraft. Hours of operation for personal watercraft are 9:30am to one hour before sunset.

#### AGE RESTRICTIONS FOR OPERATORS OF PERSONAL WATERCRAFT

- a. Less than 13 years of age
- 1) Cannot operate even with an adult on board. b. 13 years of age must either have
- 1) someone at least 21 years of age on board, or
- 2) a watercraft operator's permit and be in visual supervision by someone at least 21 years of age.
- c. 14 to 17 years of age must either have 1) a watercraft operator's permit, or
- 2) someone at least 21 years of age on board.

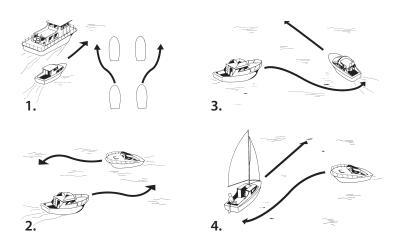
#### Speed Restrictions. No person shall operate a personal watercraft at a speed in excess of five miles per hour or at a speed that results in more than a minimum wake within 150 feet of any shoreline, swimmer, anchored boat, person fishing,

## The Inland Rules of the Road



The Inland Rules of the Road recognize three types of "passing" situations – overtaking, approaching and crossing. Specific procedures are established to govern the actions of both vessels in such encounters.

The vessel in a crossing situation that has the other to starboard is the "give-way" vessel the other is the "standon" vessel.



mooring, dock or other water structure. Between 150 and 300 feet of shore, the five mile per hour and minimum wake restrictions 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 nonrepetitive manner.

Other Restrictions. 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 such as may cause annoyance to others is prohibited. U.S. Coast Guard approved personal flotation devices must be worn at all times when on a personal watercraft.

#### MINIMUM WAKE DEFINED

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.

#### **BOAT OPERATIONS: TOWING PERSONS**

- 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 operator of such watercraft shall be at least 12 years of age (restrictions apply from 12 to 17 years of age: Minnesota State Statute 86B.305) and must watch where the watercraft is being driven at all times. The second person 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 restrictions for operating a watercraft are previously described in Age Restrictions section.
- *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 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.

#### 1. OVERTAKING – When overtaking another vessel, pass when safe.

When watercraft are running in the same direction, the craft that 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 craft.

#### 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 a sufficient distance to the right so they will pass safely. In nearly head-on meeting situations, both vessels must give way to the starboard. Neither vessel has the right-of-way.

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

When watercraft are on crossing courses, or approaching each other obliquely or at right angles where there is risk of collision, the craft which has the other on its own right shall yield the right-ofway. In an encounter between the two vessels where one has the right-of-way over the other; both have responsibilities. The giveway vessel must give way and the stand-on 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

- *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 channel.

treetcar boat Hopkins steaming under the Narrows bridge ca. 1912 - 1925. Photo courtesy Excelsior-Lake Minnetonka Historical Society, www.elmhs.org.

#### 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 waters 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.

**RIDING ON GUNWALES OR DECKING** No person shall ride on gunwales or decking over the bow, transom or appendage 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.

## **QUIET WATER AREAS**

No person shall operate a motor-operated watercraft, including waterborne aircraft, on quiet water areas of the lake at a speed in excess of 5 miles per hour, or at a speed that results in more than a minimum wake. The areas of the lake restricted to quiet waters are mapped on the other side in the darker shades of blue.

"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 although anchoring in the lanes is prohibited, travel in the lanes by boaters is allowed.

## **STOP AQUATIC HITCHHIKERS!**

Prevent the transport of nuisance species. Clean all recreational equipment.



- **INSPECT** your boat trailer and equipment,
- **REMOVE** visible aquatic plants, animals and mud before leaving the water access.

**DRAIN** water from boat, livewell, bilge and impellor by removing drain plug.

**DISPOSE** of unwanted bait.

SPRAY, RINSE OR DRY boats and recreational equipment before transporting to another water body.

#### "PUBLIC SAFETY" LANES AT BIG ISLAND

#### 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.

nterference with Aircraft. No person shall operate a watercraft in a manner that 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 impede the passage of large commercial vessels

#### **CAPACITY OF WATERCRAFT**

No person shall operate a watercraft that is loaded with passengers or cargo beyond its safe carrying capacity or that is equipped with any motor or other propulsion machinery beyond its safe power capacity. The B.I.A. or O.B.C. rating shall not be exceeded as to loading or power. Other unrated or experimental watercraft must comply with standard O.B.C. rating and obtain a Sheriff's water patrol permit.

Aquatic hitchhikers can spread in many ways, such as on aquatic plants, on recreational equipment and in water. Fortunately, there are a few simple actions you can take to prevent them from spreading.

Some of the current invasive species present in Lake Minnetonka:



Butomus umbellatus, flowering rush found in lake: 1976

Curlyleaf Pondweed





nat could be next? p control the spread of

#### **MUFFLERS & NOISE**

A person may not operate any watercraft on the lake so as to exceed a noise level of 80dbA at 50 ft. or 79dbA on boats or motors built after January 1, 1992. The sheriff may order a noise test. No motor shall be equipped with any cut-out.



through the Hennepin County Lake Improvement Program, which includes the maintenance of 33 channels on Lake Minnetonka.

#### **OBSTRUCTING CHANNEL**

No person shall operate any watercraft in a manner that obstructs normal and ordinary navigation. No person shall moor, attach or hold a watercraft to any buoy or any other marking device or guide other than mooring buoys placed in the waters of the lake pursuant to lawful authority. No person shall operate, anchor or tie-up, except at a lawful dock, a watercraft in such 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 channel in the lake, or jump or dive from any bridge over any channel.

#### LIGHTING

Every watercraft when underway or in use between sunset and sunrise shall have in operation in the forward section of the watercraft a red 10 point light to the port (left) and a green 10 point light to starboard (right), visible at least one mile, and a white light visible all around the horizon at a distance of two miles or more.

All Watercraft when at anchor or drifting must show a white light visible from any direction for a distance of one mile, and such light shall be lit from sunset to sunrise.

## **Vertical Clearances Under Bridges**

The following list gives the vertical clearance under bridges (the lowest bridge is used if there is more than one over the channel) to the normal lake elevation 929.4 ft. For current lake elevations please call the Minnehaha Creek Watershed District at 952-471-0590.

**CAUTION**: Temporary cables, wires, ropes, and changes in lake elevation may reduce vertical clearance to something less than that listed.

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'-8″	Seton Lake	12'-8″
Grays Bay	14'-4"	Tanager Lake	10'-2″
Halsted Bay	14'-11″	Zimmermans Pass 11'-6"	



Minnetonka that pass under a bridge. Basic safe boating involves an understanding of your boat height on the water, the current water level and bridge clearances prior to entering a channel.

*No Watercraft* other than an authorized Sheriff's boat or other

running red light.

LIFE PRESERVERS

HORN, WHISTLE, BELL

FIRE EXTINGUISHER

TOILETS

police watercraft shall use or display a red light other than a

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

that is underway in Minnesota. Exceptions from wearing

children less than 10 years of age when aboard watercraft

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, such as a buoyant

seat cushion. For more information, please call, write or visit

the DNR Info Center: 500 Lafayette Rd., St. Paul, MN 55155-

Motorboats 16 feet or more in overall length shall carry a

power, hand or mouth operated horn, whistle or bell capable

at least one-half-mile. The operator of such motorboats shall,

only when reasonably necessary to ensure safe operation,

sound such horn, whistle or bell. Proper horn signals are as

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."

Fire extinguishers and ventilation must be provided in

accordance with state law. Motorboats carrying or using fuel

or other flammable or toxic liquid in a tank or engine which

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

Marine toilets must retain waste on board for pump out or

contact with the open atmosphere or if it is located in an area

approved B.C. charged fire extinguisher and an efficient

is in any enclosure of the boat shall be equipped with a USCG

Sirens are illegal under Minnesota Statute.

where fumes or vapors could accumulate.

follows in a meeting situation: One blast means "pass port to

4040, (651) 296-6157 or MN Toll Free 1-888-646-6367.

other proper disposal on shore and be in compliance with Minnesota Pollution Control Agency requirements.

#### **RESIDING ON LAKE PROHIBITED**

#### **UNDER THE INFLUENCE/MANDATORY TESTING**

#### PUBLIC NUISANCES ON WATERCRAFT

nuisance on the lake.

#### CURFEW

of producing a sound for at least two seconds and audible for

### WATERCRAFT REGISTRATION

Watercraft must be registered in accordance with state law.

#### MOORING TO NAVIGATION BUOY

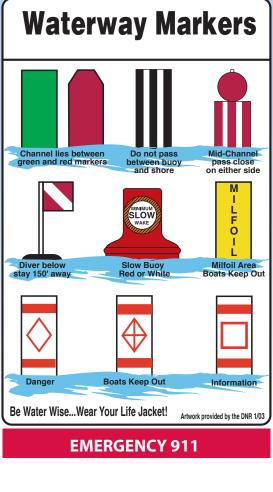
**STOP FOR SHERIFF** 

### Ordinances are Enforced.

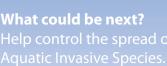
SEASONAL RULES Seasonal rules are available at public accesses, LMCD, marinas, Sheriff's Water Patrol and some local bait stores.













## 1 The



Hennepin County **Board of Commission** 

Mike Opat, 1st District Mark Stenglein, 2nd District Gail Dorfman, 3rd District Peter McLaughlin, 4th District Randy Johnson, 5th District Jan Callison, 6th District Jeff Johnson, 7th District

No person may dwell in a watercraft on the lake for more then 10 successive days or a total of 30 days in any calendar year.

No person shall operate or be in actual physical control of any watercraft while under the influence of an alcoholic beverage or a controlled 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 or a controlled substance. By law, the watercraft operator is required to submit to chemical testing. Note: Minnesota's legal alcohol concentration level for impaired operation is .08.

No person shall commit or engage, or allow any person to commit or engage, in any conduct that constitutes a public

Except when accompanied by a parent or guardian, no minor under the age of 15 shall be on any watercraft between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. No minor between the age of 15 and 17 shall be unsupervised on any watercraft from midnight to 6 a.m.

It is illegal to moor to, move or remove any navigation buoy.

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 Sec. 3.04.