



April 2023

Controlling Non-Resident Use of Our Lake and Fishery

An increasing number of non-resident, unregistered watercraft, including boats, kayaks, canoes and paddle boards have been spotted on our lake over the past couple years. In almost all cases, these trespassers are illegally fishing on our private lake.

After lengthy discussions and idea-sharing, the Lake Commission along with WLV board and resident input, has concluded that several new actions need to be taken, as well as increasing the enforcement of existing policies to stop the growing number of watercraft and shoreline offenders.

Please review the following WLV watercraft and fishing regulations carefully as some are revised and/or new for 2023.



WLV Watercraft and Fishing Regulations - Enforcement EFFECTIVE May 2023

WLV Watercraft Stickers

Similar to the Westlake Village golf cart annual sticker program, ANNUAL registration stickers will now be required for ALL TYPES of resident watercraft, including boats, kayaks, canoes and paddle boards. Per Illinois law, TWO stickers are required (mounted on the left and right side of each craft). Sticker color will change every year.

- GREEN stickers will be valid for 2023. If you have already obtained green stickers for your watercraft, there is no need to get new stickers this year.

WLV Boat Trailer Stickers

As with the new annual watercraft sticker regulation above, new registration stickers will now be required EVERY year for all resident boat trailers. Stickers must be applied on the trailer in an easily visible area.

WLV Ice Fishing Vehicle Mirror Hanging Placards

New annual rear view mirror hanging registration placards will now be required EVERY year for all resident vehicles used for ice fishing.

WLV Shore Fishing Red Buckets

ALL residents that fish from shore are required to have a registered WLV red bucket with them at all times. Shore fishing is only allowed in public/common areas of the lake and fountain lagoon. Shore fishing is not allowed in the wetlands or on the townhome private property and docks.

Non-Resident Boats

Non-resident boats of any type are NOT allowed on our lake.

Non-Resident Kayaks and Canoes

A dated WLV registered Day Pass is required for all non-resident kayaks and canoes to allow a family member or friend use their watercraft on our lake. Passes must be carried on vessel.

WLV watercraft and trailer stickers, vehicle hanging placards, fishing buckets and kayak/canoe day passes are available at the WLV office in the community center starting on April 20 (check for office hours). Stickers and placards will cost \$2 each. Buckets will only be given out to adult homeowners.

ENFORCEMENT

If violators are spotted, photos of non-stickered boats, trailers and ice fishing vehicles will be sent immediately to our local DNR officer's cell phone so he (or an other available officer) can come out to investigate and issue tickets with a standard **\$195** fine. Our local DNR officer has been informed of our regulations and will begin more random patrols of our lake to increase visibility, deter unauthorized fishing and ensure proper Illinois watercraft safety regulations are being followed (ie: life jackets/vests, fire extinguishers, etc.).

www2.illinois.gov/dnr/boating/documents/boatdigest.pdf

Don't Contaminate Our Lake - Clean Your Boat Before Launching

Aquatic invasive species, including plants, fish, and mussels, pose an ongoing threat to native species. These undesirable hitchhikers can be accidentally transported on your boat when you move it from one body of water to another. By following a few simple steps every time you leave the water, you can help prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species from entering our lake.

Clean, Drain, Dry, Dispose

CLEAN off visible aquatic plants, animals, and mud from all equipment before leaving water access. Rinse equipment and boat hulls (with high pressure, hot water when possible). Rinse interior compartments of boats with low pressure, hot water (120°F). Flush motor with hot water (120°F) for 2 minutes (or according to owner's manual).

DRAIN motor, bilge, live well, and other water containing devices before leaving water access.

DRY everything for at least five days OR wipe with a towel before reuse.

DISPOSE of unwanted bait, worms, and fish parts in the trash. When keeping live bait, drain bait container and replace with spring or dechlorinated tap water. Never dump live fish or other organisms from one water body into another.



Cleaning will remove visible large-bodied organisms attached to or in watercraft or recreational equipment. Rinsing with water removes organisms, while hot water often kills them. Water at least 120°F is recommended; be sure to avoid contact with skin and check manufacturers' recommendations to ensure equipment can withstand high temperatures. If hot water is not available or may cause damage, rinsing with tap water and completely drying will help prevent spread of aquatic invasive species.

Draining removes small and nearly invisible organisms such as zebra mussel larvae (veligers) potentially entrained in water containing devices. Drying is necessary as many organisms can survive in standing water. The use of chemical prophylactics or disinfectants (e.g., bleach) are not recommended for treating watercraft and recreational equipment. Chemicals may damage equipment or components, cause environmental damage, harm human health. Chemical disinfectants may not be effective against many aquatic invasive species.

Source: U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Thanks to all WLV residents for your cooperation in protecting our lake!