

AGE RESTRICTIONS (MOTORBOATS & PWCs)

• Motorized Watercraft:

- Under 10 yrs NEVER may operate a motorboat.
- 10 or 11 yrs may operate a motorboat (not a PWC) only if accompanied by parent or guardian (designated by parent) 18 yrs or older*.
- 12 to 15 yrs may operate a motorboat (not a PWC) only if accompanied by parent or guardian (designated by parent) 18 yrs or older
-*or*- has a DNR Boating Safety Certificate*.
- A person at least 16 yrs or older may operate a motorboat if they have their own DNR Boating Safety Certificate* -*or*- if accompanied by another person 18 yrs or older*.

• Personal Watercraft - PWC (Jet Ski, Wave Runner):

- Under 12 NEVER may operate a PWC.
- 12 yrs or older may operate a PWC only if he or she has a DNR Boating Safety Certificate*.
- Under 16 may NOT rent or lease a PWC.

* Those who have passed the boating safety course must have their valid DNR Boating Safety Certificates on their person when boating. Persons born before January 1, 1989 are exempt from the boating safety course requirement.

PERSONAL WATERCRAFT (PWC)

Jet skis, Wave Runners, or any type of personal watercraft must adhere to the same rules as other watercraft plus the following:

- All persons riding a PWC must wear a USCG approved Personal Flotation Device (PFD).
- A PWC must operate at SNW within 100 ft of any other watercraft.
- A PWC may never be operated between sunset and sunrise.
- See “Age Restrictions” above.

PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICES (PFD’S)

All vessels (including canoes, kayaks, and paddleboards) must have at least one USCG approved wearable personal flotation device or PFD (life jacket) for each person on board.

WATER SKIING, WAKEBOARDING & TOWABLE DEVICES

All watercraft involved in any towing operation must maintain 100 ft clearance from any vessel or object. Clearance includes the object/person being towed also maintaining the 100 ft clearance.

- Tow boat must have a driver and a competent person as observer -*or*- be equipped with a wide-angle rearview mirror - not recommended during times with heavy lake traffic.
- PWC’s must have a competent observer in position to observe skier or towable device.
- Must adhere to all SNW rules.
- Must operate in a counter-clockwise direction.
- Persons being towed shall wear a USCG approved Personal Flotation Device (PFD).
- No more than 2 tow lines per boat not to exceed 100 ft.

SWIMMING

- Must be within 200 ft of shore or within 50 ft of any pier.
- Must be within 25 ft of anchored raft or boat. If boat is unanchored it must be manned by a competent person with a readily available ring buoy and such boat shall stay reasonably close to and guard such swimmer(s).
- No watercraft permitted within any buoyed swim areas.

SAILBOATS

- Sailboats under sail always have the right-of-way over power boats, except when overtaking one.
- Sailboats should give way to unpowered vessels.

PADDLEBOARDS & KAYAKS

Paddleboarders and kayakers must always have a PFD onboard. Wearing a PFD is recommended for inexperienced swimmers.

ALCOHOL AND DRUGS

Wisconsin law prohibits anyone from operating a motorboat or manipulating water skis or similar devices while under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

- Anyone who operates or attempts to operate a vessel is deemed to have given consent to an alcohol and/or drug test.
- It is illegal for a person to operate a motorboat or use water skis, a surfboard, or other device if he or she:
 - Is under the influence of an intoxicant or a controlled substance or ...
 - Has a blood alcohol concentration of 0.08% or greater.

MUFFLERS AND NOISE LEVEL LIMITS

- The exhaust of every internal combustion engine on any vessel must be effectively muffled. That is, the engines exhaust must be muffled or suppressed at all times so as not to create excessive noise.
- It is unlawful to operate a vessel that exceeds a noise level of 86 dBA.
- The use of exhaust cutouts is prohibited.
- Keep music at reasonable levels. Sound travels well over water. If it’s loud enough to hear at 80 ft. back, it is likely loud enough for homeowners to hear too.

Boating Safety Certification

Persons required to have successfully completed a Boater Education Course must carry their Boater Education Certificate on board and make it available upon request by a law enforcement officer.

Visit the DNR website at dnr.wi.gov and enter the keyword “boat safety” to find boat safety education courses.

Report Water Related Emergencies

Dial 9-1-1. Otherwise call the TLPD non-emergency line at 262-877-9056 and Dispatch can send water patrol to assist you.

Lakes Mary & Elizabeth Twin Lakes, Wisconsin

Boating & Lake Rules Summary

This is only a portion of the Wisconsin State Boating Laws. Go to DNR.WI.gov for more detail or Wisconsin State Statue Ch 30 and Village of Twin Lakes Municipal Code Ch 8.36.

HOURS & SPEED LIMITS

- **Sunset or 8:30 PM (whichever comes first) to 9 AM is always Slow-No-Wake (SNW) for all boats.**
- Boats operating after sunset must use required lights.
- PWCs may NOT operate after sunset.
- Sunrise and Sunset Schedule can be found on most cell phone weather apps, in local daily newspapers or by contacting the US Coast Guard.
- Maximum speed limit is 55 mph.

SLOW-NO-WAKE - (SNW)

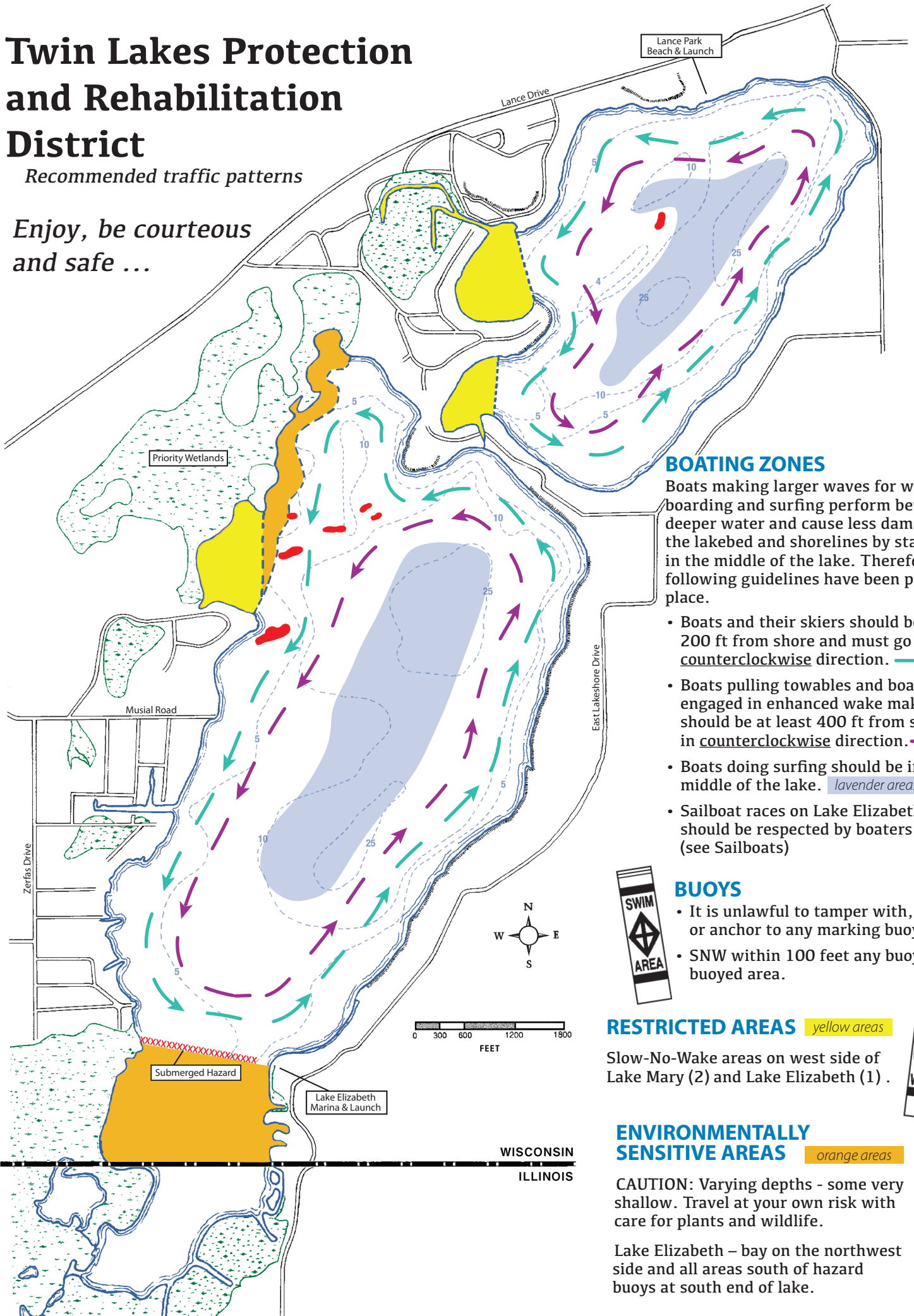
Slow-No-Wake is the speed at which a boat moves **as slowly as possible while maintaining steering control.**

- Always SNW within 200 ft of shore.
- **All Vessels Must** operate at SNW within 100 ft of any swim area, raft, pier, buoy, person, tow line, or skin diver’s flags.
- In the event of High-Water SNW, red flags will be displayed on piers around each lake until the SNW is lifted. Notification will be posted on the Village website, signs around the village, and all Village launches.

Twin Lakes Protection and Rehabilitation District




Recommended traffic patterns

Enjoy, be courteous and safe ...



BOATING ZONES

Boats making larger waves for wakeboarding and surfing perform better in deeper water and cause less damage to the lakebed and shorelines by staying in the middle of the lake. Therefore the following guidelines have been put in place.

- Boats and their skiers should be 200 ft from shore and must go in a counterclockwise direction. 
- Boats pulling towables and boats engaged in enhanced wake making should be at least 400 ft from shore in counterclockwise direction. 
- Boats doing surfing should be in the middle of the lake. 
- Sailboat races on Lake Elizabeth should be respected by boaters. (see Sailboats)

BUOYS

- It is unlawful to tamper with, move, or anchor to any marking buoys.
- SNW within 100 feet any buoy or buoyed area.



RESTRICTED AREAS

Slow-No-Wake areas on west side of Lake Mary (2) and Lake Elizabeth (1).



ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE AREAS

CAUTION: Varying depths - some very shallow. Travel at your own risk with care for plants and wildlife.

Lake Elizabeth – bay on the northwest side and all areas south of hazard buoys at south end of lake.

Environmentally Sensitive Areas

These are areas of the lakes which are prime fish habitat, spawning or nursery areas, or which contain special vegetation. The preservation of these areas is important to the overall health of the lake. Motorized watercraft of any type are very damaging in these shallow waters. Follow SNW rules if you need to boat in these Wisconsin areas.

AVOID the **RESTRICTED** McHenry County Conservation District area at the far south end of Lake Elizabeth in Illinois.

Without proper authorization you are subject to arrest, fines and penalties from law enforcement officers for violations.

HAZARD AREAS

These buoys mark the vicinity of a hazard – some hazards, especially rock bars cover an extensive area around the buoy – PROCEED WITH CAUTION. Hazard areas are more dangerous when water-level is lower.

- Lake Mary:
 - Buoyed rock bar in center of lake.
- Lake Elizabeth:
 - Buoyed series of rock bars at northwest end.
 - Large, very shallow buoyed rock bar on west side marked with several buoys.
 - Buoyed submerged trestle crossing south end of lake to very shallow gravel bar at west side.

