

2023-2024 Crystal Lake Boating & Safety Regulations

The City of Crystal Lake, the Village of Lakewood and the Crystal Lake Park District welcome you to the Boating Season on Crystal Lake. We hope you have a safe and enjoyable summer!

The City of Crystal Lake, the Village of Lakewood and the Crystal Lake Park District have jointly approved an Intergovernmental Agreement for the use of watercraft on the lake. The following is an overview of this agreement and the City of Crystal Lake and Village of Lakewood Ordinances.

DECAL PURCHASE REQUIREMENTS

Proof of residency is required for all decal purchases. Current watercraft registration card showing the watercraft is registered to the same owner/address must also be provided for motorized decals.

1. DECALS: All watercraft operated on Crystal Lake must display a *Lake Usage Decal*. The Non-Refundable decals are available for purchase at the Crystal Lake Park District Administration Building, located at 1 E Crystal Lake Avenue.

LAKE USAGE DECAL FEES

HUMAN POWERED WATERCRAFT: \$20* Canoe, Rowboat, Kayak, Inflatable, Paddleboat, Paddleboard, Raft

MOTORIZED WATERCRAFT: Lake Safety and Lake Ecology fees are included.

0-39HP	\$50 each
40-99HP	\$75 each
100-199HP	\$125 each
200+ or Unspecified HP	\$200 each
Sailboat*/Pontoon, Motorized Canoe, Kayak, Motorboat, Jet Ski, Wave Runner	

***If a motor is added to a human-powered watercraft, the higher fee applies. Replacement Decal Fee (with old decal) \$1**

Decals can be purchased and displayed beginning May 1 and are only available to residents of City of Crystal Lake, Village of Lakewood, and the Crystal Lake Park District.

Decals must be placed on **the right side**, near the back, of the watercraft and be clearly visible. Sailboards should display the decal on the back **right top of the board**.

2. Wake Zones: Portions of the lake are designated as a wake area. The wake area is that portion of the lake which lies within the confines of the buoys. Wake speed motor boating activities must take place within the wake zone.

3. Wake Times: The following are designated as Wake Times and shall be in effect from the Memorial Day weekend through the Labor Day weekend:

Sundays & Holidays*:	8 AM – 2 PM
MO, WE, FR:	8 AM – 8 PM
TU, TH, SA:	8 AM – 5 PM

***Holidays are Memorial Day Monday, Independence Day, and Labor Day.**

Additionally, wake hours are subject to change if there is to be a fireworks display or special event.

Wake hours shall automatically be suspended when the water level of Crystal Lake is more than 9" higher than the level of the spillway. Notice shall be posted at all private beaches and public entrances to the lake notifying users of the suspension of wake hours. Users will also be informed through the media and/or written notice.

4. Counterclockwise Travel: All motor driven watercraft operating above no wake speed shall travel in a general counterclockwise direction around the lake.

5. Speed Limit: No boat shall operate on Crystal Lake at speeds in excess of 40 MPH at any time.

6. Jet Skis: Jet Skis are subject to the same regulations as any other engine-powered watercraft.

7. Swimming and Flotation Devices: It shall be unlawful to swim or use recreational flotation devices (such as air mattresses) within the designated wake zones unless accompanied by a manned boat or a boat at anchor.

8. Penalties: Any person, firm, or corporation violating any provision of these rules and regulations can be fined up to \$500 for each offense. ALL state and local regulations are applicable and enforced year-round, except for Wake/No Wake times listed in Section 3. In addition to the ordinance adopted by the City of Crystal Lake and the Village of Lakewood, boating on Crystal Lake is also regulated by the Illinois Boat Registration and Safety Act. Boaters must comply with all state laws.

You are responsible for reading the State boating laws.
Boaters must comply with all state laws.
The handbook is available online boat-ed.com/illinois/handbook/

USERS OF THE LAKE ARE REMINDED TO RESPECT ALL SHORELINE PROPERTY,
INCLUDING PRIVATE BEACHES, PIERS AND BOATS

NEW ILLINOIS LAW STATES: ALL BOATERS BORN AFTER JANUARY 1, 1998, OPERATING A BOAT WITH A 10-HP ENGINE OR GREATER, MUST OBTAIN A BOATING SAFETY CERTIFICATE APPROVED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES.

CRYSTAL LAKE RULES Quick Reference

Wake Times

Memorial Day Weekend through Labor Day Weekend

Mon-Wed-Fri	8 AM – 8 PM
Tues-Thu-Sat	8 AM – 5 PM
Sunday & Holidays	8 AM – 2 PM

No wake speed limit is 5 mph

Holidays are: Memorial Day, July 4th, and Labor Day

Counterclockwise Travel when other traffic is present.

Please maintain a courteous distance from other watercraft.

Display Orange Flag during a period of time when a person is in the water or being towed.

Safety Observer Required when towing.

Boat Safety Certification Card is required for operators born after January 1, 1998.

Swimmers in wake area must be accompanied by a manned watercraft.

IT IS YOUR RESPONSIBILITY TO KNOW THE LAW!

Illinois Boating Laws boat-ed.com/illinois/handbook/

Crystal Lake Ordinance

<https://www.crystallake.org/your-government/departments/finance/annual-lake-usage-decal>

Village of Lakewood Ordinance

[https://www.village.lakewood.il.us/ Village Code, Chapter 12](https://www.village.lakewood.il.us/Village%20Code,%20Chapter%2012)

EMERGENCY INFORMATION

In case of **EMERGENCY** Call: 911

For **NON-EMERGENCY** Assistance Call:

Lakewood Police (815) 338-2141

Crystal Lake Police (815) 356-3620

SEECOM Dispatch 815.356.1114

Crystal Lake Park District (815)459-0680 M-F 8:30-5pm

