



LAKE ECOLOGY INTERGOVERNMENTAL AGREEMENT

CRYSTAL LAKE BOATERS 2024 WATERCRAFT LAKE USAGE DECAL CHANGES

Residents of the City of Crystal Lake, the Village of Lakewood and the Crystal Lake Park District are eligible to purchase a lake usage decal for launching both non-motorized and motorized watercraft on Crystal Lake. These decals are required for any watercraft on Crystal Lake. Revenues from the decals will support lake ecology work.

WHERE DO I GET MY 2024 WATERCRAFT DECAL? *New!*

EFFECTIVE APRIL 1, 2024, BOTH WATERCRAFT LAKE USAGE DECALS AND PARK DISTRICT BOAT LAUNCH ACCESS KEYS WILL BE SOLD AT ONE LOCATION, THE CRYSTAL LAKE PARK DISTRICT ADMINISTRATION BUILDING, 1 E. CRYSTAL LAKE AVENUE. As in prior years, decals will only be sold to residents of Crystal Lake, Lakewood or within the Crystal Lake Park District. Proof of residency is required for all decal purchases. A copy of the registration card showing the watercraft is registered to the same owner/address must also be provided for motorized decals.

WHAT IS THE FEE FOR THE 2024 WATERCRAFT LAKE USAGE DECAL?

Watercraft lake usage decal fees for non-motorized boats such as kayaks, canoes, rowboats, paddleboards, rafts or paddleboats will remain \$20 for the 2024 season. This fee is used to fund lake safety efforts by the Village of Lakewood.

Beginning the 2024 season, motorized boat lake usage decal fees will have two components. The first component will be the traditional \$30 for lake safety. The second is a lake ecology fee which will be used to supplement current lake ecology efforts. Boat users will contribute to the increase in lake maintenance through a tiered fee structure based on motor horsepower. The fee structure is based on surveying of neighboring communities and their watercraft decal fees.

WHY THE ADDITION OF AN ECOLOGY FEE FOR MOTORIZED BOATS?

Lake ecology reports indicated that invasive species have become more prevalent. This combined with disruptions in the lakebed due to increased motorboat horsepower contribute to weed mats on the surface. The Park District currently budgets \$60,000-\$80,000 per year from the General Fund towards lake ecology and maintenance. The Crystal Lake Park District contracts with Hey and Associates, Inc. to provide the recommended annual work to be completed.

WHAT WILL THE DECAL FEE REVENUE GO TOWARDS?

- Additional ecology work and reporting
- Control and removal of invasive species such as Eurasian Milfoil, as well as other invasives
- Purchase and in-house operation of a weed harvester which will allow for increased weed removal
- Ongoing aquatic plant herbicide treatment

TIERED FEE STRUCTURE

**NON-MOTORIZED
WATERCRAFT**
\$20

MOTORIZED WATERCRAFT

> 0-39 HP	\$ 50
40-99 HP	\$ 75
100-199 HP	\$ 125
200+ HP	\$ 200
Unspecified HP	\$ 200