

Boating & Water Safety

CHECKLIST

Make sure you're OK to go!

REQUIRED ON BOARD...

- Boater Safety Course Certificate**
Anyone born on or after Jan. 1, 1989 must pass a boater safety class to operate a motor boat in Wisconsin and carry a boater education card.
- Valid registration decals displayed**
- Wearable PFDs**
USCG-approved personal flotation device for each person on board
- Throwable PFD**
USCG-approved throwable on boats 16-26 ft.
- Type B fire extinguisher**
For certain conditions on board
- Horn, whistle, or bell**
- Navigation lights in working order**
- Paddle**

Also, required for PWCs:

- Engine cut-off switch**

This partial checklist is taken from the *Handbook of Wisconsin Boating Laws and Responsibilities* as a quick guide for Lake Wapogasset and Bear Trap Lake boaters and their guests. Refer to the Handbook for all requirements for boating. Pick up a Handbook at boat landing kiosks and at Mort's Marina.

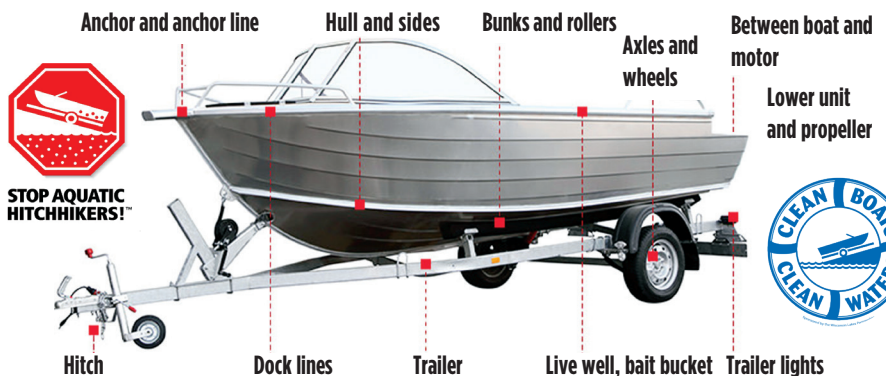


The guiding principles to respectful boat operation on Wapogasset and Bear Trap Lakes



- 1) **Keep Your Distance.** Practice no wake within 100 ft. from shore and docks for boats and 200 ft. for PWCs to prevent shoreline erosion and potential damage to docks. Stay at least 100 ft. from passing boats when at cruising speed. Suggested operation of wake surfing is 500 ft. from shore and docks in the areas shown on the map. Pro Tip: Wake boats perform best in deeper water.
- 2) **Minimize Repetitive Passes.** Don't make too many passes along the same shoreline.
- 3) **Drive A Predicted Path & Avoid Power Turns.** This is a big one—Unpredictable driving patterns create dangerous situations for passengers, your rider and other boaters. Turning around to pick up a fallen rider at cruising speed unnecessarily throws a wake in all directions. Instead, reduce speed and idle through your turn to return to your rider slowly.
- 4) **Avoid Riding in Small/Congested Bays.** Pull your riders in larger, deeper parts of the lake as outlined on the map.
- 5) **Consider Your Wake & Your Surroundings.** Please be considerate of how your wake may impact others, including anchored boats, fishing boats, sailboats, kayaks, canoes, and paddle boarders and swimmers.
- 6) **Keep Music At Reasonable Levels.** Sound travels much farther than you think on water. Loud music can ruin the peace and quiet for lakefront property owners.
- 7) **Please Be Respectful.** By following these guidelines you are giving respect to other boaters and lake goers. Giving respect gets respect.
- 8) **Help Spread The Word.** Self-police/manage your sport or boating activity. Educate anyone operating your watercraft on laws and etiquette.
- 9) **Learn More.** Take a Wisconsin boating safety education course. Wake surfers, take the exam and pledge at WakeResponsibly.com.

Clean your boat and equipment to prevent the spread of aquatic invasive species!



State of Wisconsin: Section 30.715 WI Act 16 prohibits launching a boat or placing a boat or trailer in navigable waters if it has aquatic plants or animals attached. Polk County Ordinance 29-11: prohibits launching or operating on a public roadway any boat, boat trailer, or hunting, trapping, fishing, or boating equipment, including canoes, lines, anchors, nets, decoys, and waders if aquatic plants or invasive animals are attached.

Wapogasset/Bear Trap Lake Improvement Association, Inc.
P.O. Box 345 • Amery, WI 54001-5100
www.wbtlakes.com email: wbtlakes@gmail.com

DNR TIP LINE

800-847-9367 Voice or text

Sheriff Non-Emergency

715-485-8300 24 hr

Deputy Ryan Jordan

ryan.jordan@co.polk.wi.us

EMERGENCY 911



know your watercraft
 match your skills with conditions on the water

noise quiet
 observe quiet mornings and evenings

slow no wake
 100 FT FROM SHORE
 PWCS 200 FT

LEGEND

- Public access
- Idle speed within 100 ft. of buoys

LAKE SUBSTRATE

- MK Muck
- SD Sand
- GR Gravel

protect habitat
 go slow in areas less than 10 ft. deep

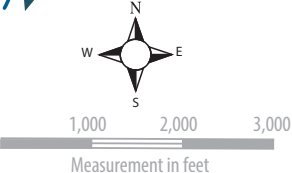


These areas support valuable plant communities, fisheries and wildlife.

respect non-motorized craft



Observe no-wake rules around non-motorized and anchored watercraft, and docks, swimmers, and buoys.



BEAR TRAP LAKE