



2024 Boat Launch passes available Now!

Boat launch passes for use in 2024 at the American Lake Park boat launch facility 9222 Veterans Dr SW, Lakewood, WA 98498 are available now. The 2024 pass is valid from **January 1, 2024, through December 31, 2024.**

Please complete the enclosed form and return it to Lakewood City Hall at 6000 Main Street SW, Lakewood, WA 98499 or email to parks@cityoflakewood.us. If emailed, payment can be made over the phone with a credit card and pass will be mailed.

To qualify for the Lakewood resident discount, you will need to provide proof of residency. A current utility bill or WA drivers' license may serve as valid proof of residency. Your drivers' license will be copied as part of the application process.

Please note that the 2024 fees are the same as last year and noted on the application. Lakewood sales tax is now 10.1%. Washington State taxes must be collected on boat pass and single launch purchases and will be added to our annual pass fee at the time of purchase at Lakewood City Hall.

Your **boat trailer license number(s)** must be included on the application form. We will be unable to issue the boat launch pass to you until that license number is provided.

If staying overnight on the water, an overnight permit (purchased at City Hall and dated for the current 24-hour period) must be placed face up next to this permit. Overnight parking in the boat launch parking lot is NOT permitted unless an overnight receipt (fee \$50.00) is displayed. The annual pass for launching does not include overnight parking. Vehicles left in the parking lot after sunset or 9 p.m. whichever is earlier may be ticketed or towed.

Reminder: Boat launch kiosks will NO LONGER BE ACCEPTING CASH.

The City's boat launch passes are very popular. They are limited in number in order to ensure that launch site parking is also available for daily users. Over the last few years all available passes were sold. We encourage you to submit your application early. If you have questions regarding the passes or the process, please contact Parks and Recreation at 253-983-7887 or email parks@cityoflakewood.us

Please note: The City reserves the right to close the boat launch for various reasons. There will be construction starting in October 2024 through June 2025 that may cause intermittent access and/or closure of the boat launch.

American Lake Park Boat Launch
9222 Veterans Drive SW
Lakewood, WA 98498

Rules to be followed by all boaters using this launch site:

- Launch Hours are 7:00a.m. To 9:00p.m. Or Sunset-whichever comes first
- Lake Speed Limit on Weekdays is 60 Miles Per Hour
- Lake Speed Limit on Weekends and Holidays is 45 Miles Per Hour
- Lake Speed Limit in Darkness is 8 Miles Per Hour
- Lake Speed if Less than 200' Offshore or Within 100' of a Swimmer is 5 Miles Per Hour

- Direction of travel on the lake is counterclockwise

- Noise Level Restrictions: 75 dB shoreline measurement or 70dB on water measurement

- Do you have your boating safety card and all of the required safety equipment on board your boat? **Your PFD only works if you wear it!**

- Please respect other boaters.

Definitions:

Commercial Use: means any use of a park facility where money is exchanged on site~ the area is used as a staging? instruction or display area; or doing work at a park location (i.e. testing engines, storing or delivery of goods) that could result in a personal/professional benefit.

Holiday: means any federally recognized holidays.

Overnight: means a 24 hour period of time with a defined start time/end time.

Power Loading: the use of a boat motor to load a boat onto a boat trailer. (Boaters should use the boat winch to load and unload their boat.) **See attached** information regarding power loading.

Resident: means anyone who can verify proof of Lakewood residency with identification such as a public utility bill, Lakewood business License or Washington Drivers' License.

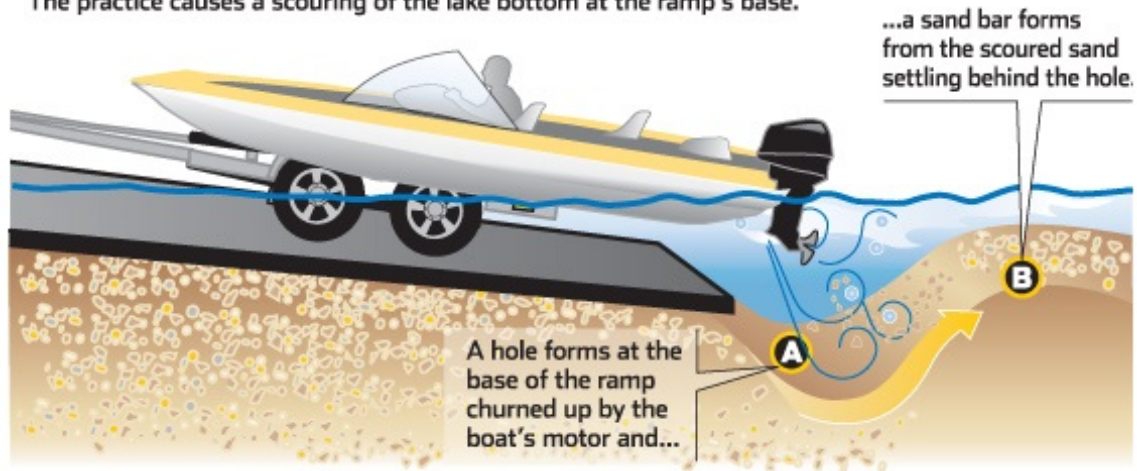
Vehicle -Vessel- Boating Occupancy Policy: In order to afford the general public the greatest possible use of marine facilities, continuous occupancy of marine facilities by the same person or group in any area is limited to one day in any seven day period, provided that this day shall not include overnight, unless otherwise posted. A boat launch permit must be purchased and the permit/receipt clearly visible inside the vehicle. Shorter or longer limitation of occupancy may be established by special permit. In addition to the penalties noted in Park V of the City of Lakewood Parks and Recreation Code any boat/trailer/vehicle found to be in violation of this chapter may be towed away at the owner's expense. No person shall launch a boat in any park except in areas specifically designated and/or marked for that purpose. Float planes may dock on designated docks for up to 14 consecutive days.

The Lakewood Police Department, Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, Fort Lewis Military Police, and the American Lake Homeowners Volunteer Marine Service Unit patrol American Lake. Violations of Federal, State, or Local Ordinances may result in penalties by law.

Power Loading Boats On-To Trailers
Can Damage Boat Launch Facilities!
DO NOT use this procedure at this boat launch facility.
Please use your winch to off-load or load your boat.

Boat ramps and 'power loading'

The practice causes a scouring of the lake bottom at the ramp's base.



“Power Loading” can cause damage to launch ramps that may not be visible from the surface of the water. “Power Loading” is a term used to describe using the motor to load or unload a boat onto and off the trailer. Many of the state’s public boat launches were not designed to sustain the forces generated by today’s larger and more powerful boats or the practice of power loading. Propeller wash creates a significant force that can erode the lakebed and create a large hole at the end of the ramp. Eroded material is often deposited beyond the ramp to create a mound, which can result in a barrier for launching and loading. Boats and equipment can incur damage if the boat or lower unit runs aground on the mound or if the trailer becomes stuck in the hole. In the worst cases, the end of the ramp could collapse, resulting in an unusable launch ramp. In low water conditions, the mound created from the propeller wash can obstruct launching and loading.

Department of Natural Resources crews have been busy rehabilitating damaged launch ramps statewide. Boat launch repairs are time consuming and expensive.

The DNR recognizes that some boaters are accustomed to power loading. However, it is preferable that boaters do not race their engines while on the boat ramp. Slightly more than idle speed should be all that is necessary to load and/or unload the boat. The best practice is for boaters to refrain from power loading and use the winch to load and unload their boat.

sunrise to sunset.

It shall be unlawful to operate a vessel in excess of 5 MPH in the area known as Little American Lake which starts at the narrowest point of the channel leading into Little American Lake and encompasses the entire area of Little American Lake.

CLASS "B" LAKES

Lake Steilacoom and Gravelly Lake are designated Class "B" Lakes, because they cover fewer than 500 acres, but more than 100 acres.

Specific Regulations for Class "B" Lakes:

It shall be unlawful to operate a vessel in excess of 5 MPH from sunset to sunrise on Lake Steilacoom and Gravelly Lake.

It shall be unlawful to operate a vessel in excess of 40 MPH on Lake Steilacoom and Gravelly Lake.

Additional Specific Regulations for Steilacoom Lake:

It shall be unlawful to operate a vessel in excess of 8 MPH within 75 feet of the Interlaaken Drive Bridge except for the following reason: A vessel pulling a water-skier or any other watercraft which desires to pass under the bridge in excess of 8 MPH may do so only if the water area is clear of other boats for a distance of 100 feet from both sides of the bridge. The vessel will approach the bridge at a right angle for at least a distance of 100 feet and pass under the bridge.

It shall be lawful to operate a vessel pulling a skier in excess of 8 MPH through the entrance to Evergreen Terrace Lagoon for the purpose of taking off or landing of a water-skier from specific property within the lagoon, provided that said boat operator may enter the lagoon if he approaches the entrance to the Evergreen Terrace Lagoon from either side and the water area is clear of all water traffic.

It shall be unlawful to operate on Steilacoom Lake a motor-powered vessel that is more than 20 feet, 6 inches in length as registered in the State of Washington and as measured by U.S. Coast Guard Standards, except for law enforcement motor-powered vessels.

It shall be lawful to operate a vessel pulling a skier in excess of 8 MPH through the entrance of the area known as Skate Rink Cove for the purpose of taking off or landing of a water-skier from specific property within the cove, provided that said boat operator may enter said cove if he approaches the entrance at a right angle for a distance of 200 feet from the entrance to the cove from either side, and the water area is clear of a water traffic.

CLASS "C" LAKES

Lake Louise is a designated Class "C" Lake, because it covers fewer than 100 acres, but more than 25 acres.

Specific Restrictions for Lake Louise:

It shall be unlawful to operate any vessel in excess of 5 MPH between one half hour before sunset and 10:30 a.m. on Lake Louise.

It shall be unlawful to operate any vessel in excess of 35 MPH on Lake Louise.

A violation of any of the preceding provisions of these sections constitutes a Class 2 Civil Infraction under Chapter 1.48 of the City Code.

For additional information go to:
www.parks.wa.gov/boating

This brochure contains summaries of selected watercraft regulations for the City of Lakewood. The complete text of these regulations can be found in Chapter 8.60.0 of the Watercraft Regulations in the Lakewood Municipal Code and RCW 88.12.



Marine Service Unit

VESSEL REGISTRATION

The vessel registration expiration date is June 30 of every year. Numbers must be displayed on the forward half of the vessel in three-inch block numbers and in a color contrasting with the background. They must be clearly visible from another boat. The decal must be displayed aft and within 6 inches of the registration numbers. Those vessels required by law, including personal watercraft, must carry the registration certificate on board.

LEGAL AGE OF OPERATION

It is unlawful for a person under the age of 16 to operate a vessel with greater than 10 horsepower unless under the direct supervision of their parent or legal guardian who is onboard the vessel. State law prohibits anyone under 14 years of age from operating a personal watercraft.

PROHIBITED OPERATIONS

It is illegal to operate a vessel while under the influence of or when affected by an intoxicating liquor or narcotic; it is illegal for the owner or person in control of a vessel to permit a person to operate a vessel if that person is under the influence of an intoxicating liquor or narcotic; it is illegal for the owner or person in charge of a vessel to allow a person, who is by reason of a physical or mental disability incapable of operating a vessel, to operate said vessel; it is illegal for the owner or person in charge of a vessel to authorize or knowingly permit the vessel to be operated if the operator is under the legal age of operation.

REQUIRED VESSEL SAFETY EQUIPMENT
Depending on the length, horsepower and vessel

Marine Service Unit

For boating related questions or concerns please call the following numbers:

Lakewood Police Department (253) 830-5000

For Law Enforcement or Medical Emergencies call:
911

Non Emergency (253) 287-4455 (Press 1)

design, a number of the following regulations may apply to your vessel.

1. PERSONAL FLOTATION DEVICE (PFD):

All vessels, whether on Puget Sound, lakes or rivers, shall carry at least one wearable U.S.C.G.-approved type I, II or III PFD for every person on board regardless of the vessel size. Every child 12 years old and under shall wear an approved PFD while on board any vessel, except in a cabin. All persons on boats less than 16' shall wear a PFD. PFD must be in good and serviceable condition and sized properly for the intended wearer and stored so that it is immediately available should it be needed. In addition, vessels 16 ft. and over must have a minimum of one U.S.C.G. approved type IV throwable PFD. Type V and V-hybrid devices may be used but must be worn to be legal.

2. SOUND PRODUCING DEVICE: Every vessel must have means of making an efficient sound signal such as an air or vessel horn or whistle. This includes personal watercraft.

3. FIRE EXTINGUISHER: Motorized vessels less than 26 feet must carry at least one B-II type U.S.C.G.-approved fire extinguisher. A vessel 26 ft. but less than 40 ft., two extinguishers, 40 ft and over, three extinguishers. One B-II type can be substituted for two B-I extinguishers. These are not required on vessels with outboard motors if the gas tank is not permanently installed and there are no areas where vapors could be entrapped. If a portable tank is held down in any fashion, it is considered a permanent tank.

4. VISUAL DISTRESS SIGNALS: It is highly recommended all vessels carry visual distress signals that are daytime and nighttime approved by the U.S.C.G. Signals are mandatory on areas of salt water.

SPEED RELATED LAWS

(See also specific area laws)

Five (5) mph or less when within 200 feet of shore, docks, bridges or public swimming areas, within 100 feet of swimmers or boat within 300 feet of a public boat launch. Eight (8) mph or less when between legal sunset and legal sunrise and not in a 5 mph area. No operation allowed when within 300 feet behind a skier; within 200 feet in front of a vessel pulling skiers, within 100 feet when alongside a skier, or within 100 feet of public or private bathing or swimming areas when the area is marked by buoys or some other device.

NOISE RELATED LAWS

It shall be unlawful to operate a vessel in such a manner as to exceed noise levels of 75 decibels (dB) as

measured from the shoreline or 70 (dB) as measured from the water.

DIRECTION OF TRAVEL

All vessels shall keep the closest shore to the operator's starboard or right-hand side for a counter clockwise direction of travel.

TAKING OFF AND LANDING LAWS FOR ALL VESSELS; (with or without water skiers) Taking off shall be done perpendicular to shore, or as near to perpendicular as possible, and at no time less than a forty five degree angle to shore, dock or other launching facility. Landing shall be done at less than a forty five degree angle to same. This includes personal watercraft.

WATER SKIER RELATED LAWS

It is unlawful to operate any vessel towing any person(s) unless the following are strictly followed: the vessel must have a competent operator who must be attentive to the duties of operating a vessel; the vessel must be manned by a competent skier observer who must be facing the skier at all times; at all times if a skier is down in the water, a flag must be displayed; the flag must be visible for 360 degrees and be red or international orange in color, size must be 1 ft. x 1 ft., and attached to a two foot pole. No skiing is permitted between legal sunset and legal sunrise. All skiers being towed shall wear a U.S.C.G. approved personal flotation device (wet-suits are not accepted unless they are U.S.C.G. approved as a PFD). No water skiing shall be permitted within 300 feet of any public boat launching area or fueling dock or designated swimming area at a public park or a private designated swimming area. This includes all taking off and landings of skiers. *At no time will a vessel pulling a skier have any special privileges over any other vessel.*

PERSONAL WATERCRAFT (PWC) LAWS

All persons operating a PWC must be at least 16 years old in Lakewood unless they are under direct supervision of a parent or legal guardian who is also on board. State law prohibits anyone under 14 years of age from operating a personal watercraft. Anyone riding a PWC must wear an approved PFD at all times. If the PWC is equipped with a lanyard-type engine cutoff switch, the operator shall attach the lanyard to his/her person, clothing or PFD. It is illegal for any person to remove or disable a cutoff switch that was installed by the manufacturer. A person shall not operate a PWC between the hours of legal sunset and legal sunrise. A person shall not lease, hire, or rent a PWC to a person under 16 years old.

Boaters Safety Education Card

Required for all those born after 12-31-1954, and operating a boat with 15 or more horsepower, you must have a boaters safety education card in your possession.

ACCIDENT REPORTS

The operator of any vessel who has an accident causing an injury or death to any person, or damage to any property, shall stop and give full identification of both the operator and vessel and render any assistance necessary. The master, owner or operator of any vessel involved in an accident where death, personal injury requiring medical treatment, or with property damage in excess of \$2000 shall file a written boating accident report within 48 hours with the Police Department.

HAZARDOUS CONDITIONS

Law enforcement officers can order immediate corrective steps be taken, including returning to a moorage when hazardous situations exist. Hazardous conditions include, but are not limited to: insufficient lifesaving (PFD) devices; insufficient fire fighting devices; overloading conditions; improper navigation light display; fuel leakage; fuel in the bilge; improper ventilation; improper backfire flame control.

PENALTIES DESIGNATED

All violations of the above laws shall constitute a misdemeanor or infraction. There are additional laws that apply to the waters of Lakewood.

RECKLESS OPERATION OF VESSELS

It will be considered reckless operation of a vessel when the vessel is operated in such manner as to endanger or be likely to endanger any persons or property. This includes, but is not limited to: operating within 100 feet of shore or a public swimming area; overloading; operating while under the influence of alcohol or drugs and recognizable by erratic operation; excessive speed in violation of stated speed restrictions; operating in clearly dangerous waters; operating without proper lights at night; bow, seat back, gunwale or transom riding when going over 5 mph unless the vessel is specifically designed for that purpose; continued use or refusal to terminate use of boat after being ordered to correct an especially hazardous condition by a law enforcement officer.

SPECIFIC AREA LAWS

CLASS "A" LAKES

American Lake is designated as a Class "A" Lake, because it covers 500 acres or more.

Specific Regulations for American Lake:

It shall be unlawful to operate a vessel in excess of 60 MPH except during periods of lake congestion. These periods are assessed to be Saturdays, Sundays, and holidays during the summer (Memorial Day to Labor Day). During periods of lake congestion, it shall be unlawful to operate a vessel in excess of 45 MPH from