

Medina County Park District Rules & Regulations

SPECIFIC TO CHIPPEWA LAKE

FISHING REGULATIONS

State of Ohio fishing regulations apply. A fishing license is required for ages 16 years or older to fish in Chippewa Lake and in the inlet.

Fishing from watercraft is prohibited within 50 feet of docks, within the slalom course established for water-skiers, and in designated swim areas.

In winter, ice anglers may use holes no larger than 12 inches in diameter and no more than six tip-ups and two rods per person. Ice fishing shelters must display the full name and address of the owner or user in English lettering.

From Section 4.0: MOLESTING WILDLIFE, HUNTING, TRAPPING, FISHING

WATERCRAFT REGULATIONS

For the purposes of this rule, "waters of the district" means any water areas within the boundaries of any park and any waters under the management authority of the Medina county park district.

The administrator of the Medina county park district, or the administrator's designee, may grant written permission for vessels exceeding the horsepower limits or motor restrictions established in this rule to operate on waters of the district if it is determined that the public safety will be adequately protected. Such a permit may be issued to park district personnel and contracted service providers for law enforcement, training, rescue, salvage, testing, and maintenance activities when necessary for safe and efficient operations. Written permission allowing for the operation of vessels that exceed established horsepower limits or motor restrictions may also be issued to the owners or operators of recreational vessels and commercial passenger carrying vessels when it is determined that greater horsepower is necessary for safe operations due to the size, shape, and weight of such vessels.

(A) Limitations on powercraft.

(1) On any waters of the district except Chippewa lake:

- (a) It is unlawful to operate or permit the operation of any powercraft other than a powercraft propelled by an electric motor.
- (b) The operation of a powercraft propelled by an electric motor or combination of electric motors exceeding a total combined horsepower rating of ten horsepower is forbidden.

(2) Upon the waters of Chippewa lake:

(a) It is unlawful to operate or permit the operation of a powercraft propelled by a motor or combination of motors with a total combined horsepower rating in excess of three hundred, ninety-nine horsepower.

(b) It is unlawful for any person to operate or permit the operation of a watercraft in manner that does not comply with an area of controlled operation as designated and marked under the provisions of Revised Code 1547.08.

(c) No person is permitted to operate or permit the operation of a powercraft at a speed greater than idle speed or at a speed that creates a wake in the south bay, the western shore zone, or the eastern shore zone.

(i) "South bay" includes all waters south of a line extending southeast from the boat launch (41° 3' 39.69" N 81° 54' 35.56" W) to the north end of Beau Bay beach (41° 3' 35.49" N 81° 54' 13.54" W) on the eastern shoreline.

(ii) "Western shore zone" includes all waters of a uniform width of one-hundred feet lying parallel with and contiguous to the shoreline extending northward from the boat launch (41° 3' 39.69" N 81° 54' 35.56" W) to the inlet (41° 4' 24.21" N 81° 54' 40.47" W) along the western side of the lake.

(iii) "Eastern shore zone" includes all waters of a uniform width of three-hundred feet lying parallel with and contiguous to the shoreline extending northward from the Beau Bay beach (41° 3' 35.49" N 81° 54' 13.54" W) to the inlet (41° 4' 24.21" N 81° 54' 40.47" W) along the eastern side of the lake.

Exemptions to the Chippewa lake powercraft limitations may be granted by the administrator of the Medina county park district, or the administrator's designee, for sanctioned events or activities. Any person or organization wishing to apply for an exemption may submit an application detailing the dates, times, and any other information deemed to be necessary not less than thirty days prior to the commencement of such activities. Notice of an approved exemption will be provided to the applicant. Any person operating a powercraft while participating in exempted activities may be compelled to show proof of such exemption to law enforcement or Medina county park district personnel upon request. Failure to abide by provisions stated in the notice of exemption may result in the suspension or revocation of the exemption.

(B) It is unlawful for any person to operate, or permit to be operated, a powercraft at a speed in excess of idle speed on any waters of the district between sunset and sunrise local time.

(C) It is unlawful for any person to voluntarily leave any vessel to swim in district waters except in a designated boater swim area.

(D) The operation of submersibles, seaplanes, hovercraft, mechanically propelled

airboats, wing-in-ground craft, and ski-free mechanisms is prohibited on all waters of the district.

(E) It is unlawful for any person to operate or allow the operation of any mechanically powered apparatus, device, contrivance, or combination of a mechanically powered recreational vessel and any towable apparatus, device, or contrivance to become airborne over the waters of the district.

(1) It is unlawful for any person, while operating a powercraft, to tow or allow the towing of any person using an apparatus, device, or other contrivance for the purpose of becoming airborne over the waters of the district.

(2) It is unlawful for any person to utilize any device, or allow the utilization of any apparatus, device, or contrivance designed or used for the purpose of becoming airborne over the waters of the district while being towed by a powercraft.

(3) It is unlawful for any person to use any hydro jet device while operating upon waters of the district.

For the purposes of this rule, "hydro jet device" means a modular apparatus that is tethered to a mechanically powered recreational vessel or other type of power unit by a hose or conduit that delivers pressurized water allowing the device to utilize water jets for the purpose of allowing an operator or passenger to maneuver along the surface of the water, ascend above the surface of the water, or dive below the surface of the water by means of controlling the thrust and direction of the water jets.

Use of any sailboard or kite board, as defined in section 1547.532 of the Revised Code, is permitted on waters of the district, provided that any such vessel is operated in a safe manner and does not interfere with the navigation of other vessels.

(F) It is unlawful for any person to possess or overtly and publicly consume or display the presence of any beer or intoxicating liquor, as defined in section 4301.01 of the Revised Code, while occupying any vessel on the waters of the district.

(G) It is unlawful for any person to use, access, moor, tie-up or otherwise secure a vessel to a privately held dock or park district dock designated for seasonal contractual use without permission of the owner or contracted lessee except in emergency situations or in storm conditions which constitute a hazard to the safety of any persons or property involved.

(H) It is unlawful for any person to operate or permit the operation of a powercraft at a speed greater than idle speed on waters of the district or at a speed that creates a wake at any time when warning flags are posted.

(J) No person shall operate a paddlecraft outside of the South Bay, Western Shore, and Eastern Shore no-wake zones at Chippewa Lake on Saturdays, Sundays, and federal holidays.

From Section 10.0: WATERCRAFT REGULATIONS

DOCKING RULES

Definitions. The following definitions shall apply to all subsections of these rules:

- a. “**Anchor**” shall mean to anchor, dock, store, beach, tie-up or otherwise leave a watercraft unattended.
- b. “**Chippewa Lake**” shall mean the waters of Chippewa Lake up to the high-water mark, as distinguished from the Village of Chippewa Lake, or other land or water areas which may be owned or controlled by Park District.
- c. “**Chippewa Lake Communities**” shall mean the Village of Chippewa Lake, the Village of Gloria Glens, and residents of Euclid Avenue, Lakeside Drive, Lakeview Court, and Shady Slope Drive in Lafayette Township, Medina County, Ohio who reside within 600 feet of Chippewa Lake.
- d. “**Chippewa Lake Community Residents**” shall mean owners of real property in any of the Chippewa Lake Communities, and current residential tenants of such properties named in a current lease agreement.
- e. “**Dock**” shall mean a wharf, platform, or any other similar permanent or semi-permanent structure which is used to secure or access watercraft to or from a shoreline area.
- f. “**Lakeshore Property**” shall mean real property which abuts and includes a portion of the high-water mark of Chippewa Lake.
- g. “**Lakeshore Property Owner**” shall mean the owner of title to Lakeshore Property.
- h. To “**Place or Maintain**” a dock, and “**Placement or Maintenance**,” shall mean to install, construct, maintain, install, use, repair and replace a dock.
- i. “**Private Dock**” shall mean a dock which is affixed to Lakeshore Property and is not owned by the Park District.
- j. “**Private Dock Owner**” shall mean the owner of a Private Dock.
- k. “**Private Dock Tag**” shall mean a tag provided by an issuing agency approved by the Park District that provides proof that a Private Dock is properly registered for the current year.
- l. “**Private Dock Watercraft Sticker**” shall mean a tag provided by an issuing agency approved by the Park District that provides proof that a watercraft is properly registered for the current year to be anchored at a Private Dock.
- m. “**Rules**” shall mean the rules of the Medina County Park District.

n. “**Shoreline**” means any portion of a parcel of real property which includes the high-water mark of Chippewa Lake.

Applicability. Unless otherwise explicitly stated herein, the subsections of Section 20 of these Rules shall apply exclusively to Chippewa Lake and the lands and waters directly abutting Chippewa Lake.

Anchoring watercraft. No person shall anchor a watercraft except as may be in compliance with Park District rules. Unattended watercraft shall be anchored to a secure dock which is placed or maintained in compliance with these Rules. Unattended watercraft shall not be anchored to each other (“rafted up.”)

Private Docks. Any Lakeshore Property Owner, or any person who can provide proof of a deeded property right to place or maintain a Private Dock, shall have the right to place or maintain a Private Dock, for the purpose of providing access from the Lakeshore Property to the navigable waters of Chippewa Lake, subject to these Rules. No other person may place or maintain a Private Dock on any portion of Chippewa Lake without prior, written consent of the Park District.

Placement and maintenance of Private Docks.

a. Placement. All Private Docks must be placed or maintained, between 80 degrees and 100 degrees perpendicular from the shoreline, and with a minimum of 30 feet between any other dock at every point of the dock structure(s) regardless of configuration. No person may change or alter the location, length, size or configuration of a Private Dock unless that person first provides an update to the registration of such Private Dock specifying the proposed location, length, size or configuration of such Private Dock to the Park District or its designee as set forth in Section 20.6.

b. Construction/materials. All Private Docks shall be of materials which are durable, designed for its intended use, and shall be placed and maintained in a good, workmanlike, safe manner. Private Docks may be floating or stationary. Private Docks shall extend no more than 200 linear feet from the shoreline.

c. Overnight docking. No person may anchor a watercraft at a Private Dock within the Chippewa Lake Communities between one hour after sundown to one hour before sunrise unless that person is a Chippewa Lake Community Resident. All watercraft anchored at a Private Dock must prominently display a Private Dock Watercraft Sticker for the current boating season.

Registration of Private Docks. Private Dock Owners shall register every Private Dock within 30 days of placement, and before June 1 of every year thereafter. For each new registration, a Private Dock Owner shall provide proof in a manner that is satisfactory to the Park District that the Private Dock Owner is either the owner of the real property where the Private Dock is to be located, or has written permission from the owner of the real property where the Private Dock is to be located for placement of the Private Dock. For each registration or renewal of registration, Private Dock Owners shall (i) provide proof of ownership of the real property that contains the Private Dock, (ii) provide information regarding the location, length, size and configuration of the Private Dock; (iii) provide current proof of liability insurance in the minimum amount of \$1,000,000 coverage for property damage and personal injury including wrongful death; and (iv)

pay a registration fee as may be determined by the Park District. The registration fee from January 1, 2025 through 2044 shall be \$25. Private Docks shall be registered annually through the designee of the Park District, which will provide a Private Dock Tag for each registration. For the purpose of allowing the Park District to complete a survey of all dock locations, lengths, sizes, and configurations for safety and consistency, no new dock registrations will be accepted for calendar year 2025 that were not previously issued a Private Dock Tag during the most recent issuance of Private Dock Tags.

Display of Private Dock registration. Every Private Dock owner shall affix and maintain a current Private Dock Tag to the Private Dock in a manner which is prominent and legible. No person shall remove, deface, cover or otherwise obscure a Private Dock Tag from a Private Dock.

Registration for watercraft anchored at Private Docks. Every owner or user of a watercraft shall register said watercraft through the designee of the Park District, in addition to any registration which may be required with the Ohio Department of Natural Resources, prior to anchoring at a Private Dock. Every owner or user of such watercraft shall re-register said watercraft prior to June 1 each year thereafter as long as said watercraft is intended to be anchored at a Private Dock. For each registration or renewal of registration, watercraft owners shall (i) provide proof of ownership of the watercraft; (ii) identify the Private Dock where the watercraft is intended to be anchored; and (iii) the signature of the owner of the residential dwelling within the Chippewa Lake Communities which shall be associated with said watercraft. The watercraft owner shall pay a registration fee of \$75 per year per watercraft through December 31, 2034, and \$125 per year per watercraft for the year starting January 1, 2035 through 2044. Owners of a watercraft will be provided with a Private Dock Watercraft Sticker for each registration. There shall be a limit of two Private Dock Watercraft Stickers issued per property with an inhabited residence within the Chippewa Lake Communities. Private Dock Watercraft Stickers may only be issued to residents of Chippewa Lake Communities or owners of inhabited residences within Chippewa Lake Communities.

Display of Private Dock Watercraft Sticker. Every owner of a watercraft which is intended for docking at a Private Dock shall affix and maintain a current Private Dock Watercraft Sticker to the watercraft on the starboard side, to the right of state watercraft seals, and in a manner which is prominent and legible to persons who are not onboard the watercraft. The Private Dock Watercraft Sticker does not replace any registration sticker(s) required by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources. No person shall remove, deface, cover or otherwise obscure a watercraft sticker from a watercraft that is intended for anchor at a Private Dock.

Compliance. In addition to the penalties set forth in Section 21.1:

- (i) Failure to properly register a watercraft or to properly display a Private Watercraft Sticker may result in the removal of watercraft at the owner's expense. The Park District or its designee will post notice on the watercraft at least 5 days before such removal.
- (ii) Failure to properly register a Private Dock or properly display a Private Dock Tag may result in the removal of the Private Dock at the owner's expense. The Park District or its designee will post notice on the watercraft at least 10 days before such removal.

Emergency docking. The restrictions on docking in Section 20 of these Rules shall not apply when compliance would reasonably constitute a hazard to the safety of the person or property involved due to an unforeseen emergency or storm conditions.

Other structures prohibited. No person may construct, maintain, install, use, repair or replace any structure or object that is affixed to Park District property, including structures or objects which are secured or attached to or weighted upon the bed of Chippewa Lake, other than those specifically permitted under these Rules without prior, written consent from the Park District.

From Section 20.0-12: CHIPPEWA LAKE DOCKING RULES

Fishing & Watercraft Regulations
Adopted March 29, 2024

Docking Rules
Adopted March 19, 2025

Medina County Park District
Board of Commissioners