



Lake Stevens Parks Department Water Recreation Program

The purpose of this information is to give the public highlights on rules for recreation on Lake Stevens. This is intended for information purposes and not an exhaustive list of requirements and authority. For more detailed information, please reference Lake Stevens Municipal Code, Title 10.

The information contained derived from common questions our staff receives and activities the Parks and Recreation Department and Lake Stevens Police Department staff have observed.

Boating Safety

There are two public boat launches serving Lake Stevens, Davies Beach and North Cove, paid parking is available at each launch. Different rules apply for parking at each launch due to funding sources used at the time of construction. For each launch parking information, please check [here](#).

- Users should not power load or off-load their boats at the launch, this causes prop wash and damages the launch.
- The speed limit is 35 MPH on Lake Stevens.
- No wake during hours of darkness and in North Cove after 1pm. North Cove is marked by buoys at the mouth of the cove.
- Boats must yield to non-motorized uses, including swimming, kayaking, paddle boards, etc.
- No wake or 8 MPH speed limit, whichever is less, if within 100 feet of swimming area, structures or floating objects. Or within the lake safety area between safety markers and the shore or dock.
- Lake Stevens is a counter-clockwise lake meaning that when a boat is underway it must travel in a counter clockwise path.
- Boat skippers must be 12 or older if the boat has a 15 HP motor or greater.
- When underway, everyone must remain seated with legs inside the boat. Sitting on the bow or gunwale with legs over the side is prohibited.
- Avoid fuel and oil spills on the water and shoreline, spills are polluting.
- Lake Stevens is a year-round fishing lake, please consult Washington State Fish and Wildlife for specific information.
- Personal watercraft must follow same rules and required equipment as other boats and:

- Operate during daylight hours only.
- Everyone must wear a USCG approved personal floatation device for the activity
- Have a cutoff switch with lanyard attached to the operator is required when applicable.

Lake Stevens has floats, buoys and lake safety markers

- Buoys mark dangers in the water and swimming areas.
- Floats are located around swimming areas
- Lake Safety Markers are placed approximately 100 feet from docks to visually show where the 100 feet from the dock no wake zone is located. This keeps non-motorized uses safe. Please see below for additional information.

Required Boating Equipment

- Current vessel registration must be on board.
- Personal flotation devices are required for everyone on board. These must be US Coast Guard approve Type I, II, III, or V. They must be readily available, in good condition and fit the person. Floating cushions (Type IV) do not count as life jackets.
- Children 12 years and younger must wear a life jacket when on a vessel shorter than 19 feet.
- Boats 16 feet and above must have a Type IV, USCG-approved floatation device.
- A fire extinguisher is required on all boats using fuel or having an electrical system.
- All vessels are required to have a sound-producing device like a horn or whistle.
- Muffler noise cannot exceed the level of a normal conversation when heard at the shoreline.
- Vessel operators born after January 1, 1955, are required to possess a boater education card.
- We Also Suggest:
Flares, First Aid Kit, Cellular Telephone, and an Anchor.

Required Skiing and Wakeboarding Equipment and Rules

- Must ski in a counterclockwise direction only.
- Skiers must wear an USCG-approved personal flotation device for the activity.
- An observer, other than the skipper, who is 10 years or older is required.

- Skier down flag is required: red or orange square foot flag on a 2-foot pole.
- Skiing is prohibited from one hour after sunset to one hour before sunrise.
- Vessel must be rated to carry the total number of passengers on board plus those being pulled.

Water Safety

- Swimming is allowed in designating swimming areas.
- No boats, kayaks, canoes or similar vessels allowed in designated swimming areas.
- Where waterskiing or other devices are permitted, swimming, bathing and floating is limited to 100 feet from the shoreline.
- If you are swimming, bathing or floating 100 feet or farther from shore, you are required to have a spotter in a vessel with a skier-down flag displayed. The swimmer must be within 50 feet of the vessel.
- Please supervise children at all times.

Other Information

It is unlawful for any person or nongovernmental agency to place any buoy or marker within the jurisdiction of Lake Stevens without a permit.

- Permits for temporary buoys or markers for a sporting event are processed through the Event Permit process and may require Hydraulic Permit Approval from Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife. Applications for events can be made through the [online permit center](#).
- Residential property owners without a dock can apply for a private mooring buoy. Applications can be made through the [online permit center](#). Select a Type I Land Use Application
- Residential property owners can apply for a Lake Safety Marker through the [online permit center](#). Select a Type I Land Use Application. Lake Safety Markers are placed by staff within 30 days of approval.

For additional information on lake management or development regulations, please visit our website at [Lake Stevens At A Glance | Lake Stevens, WA - Official Website \(lakestevenswa.gov\)](#). Other policies and documents that apply to the lake are

- [Lake Stevens Shoreline Master Program \(SMP\)](#)
- [Aquatic Weed Management Plan](#)
- [Lake Level Management Plan](#)

Contact Parks and Recreation at
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