



Safety and Etiquette Guide

We are all blessed to be able to enjoy our time on Blue Lake. This is a short list of considerations that will keep everyone safe and help us be good neighbors at the same time. A complete list of DNR regulations can be found in the *MN DNR Boating Guide*. Additional information can be found on our website:

<http://www.bluelakeparkrapids.com>.

Boating

- Use a Life Jacket. For adults, life jackets must be “readily available,” including a throwable float on boats over 16 feet in length. Any child under 10 years must wear an appropriately-sized life jacket while underway. This applies to watercraft of all kinds - boats to PWCs to pontoons and non-motorized craft.
- Don't Drink and Boat. Minnesota laws are the same for boats as for automobiles. Be safe, not sorry.
- When boating, try to stay at least 150 feet from shore and other watercraft. If your boat produces a larger wake, try to stay even further away.
- Because of the ice ridges on Blue Lake, large waves created by your wake contribute to bank erosion and a reduction in the clarity of the lake. Note that larger wakes are produced at slower speeds.
- For that reason, reduce repeated passes along the same shoreline whenever possible. Repeated passes cause even greater bank erosion.

Boating, Water-skiing, Wakeboarding, Tubing and PWC (Jet Ski) use

- Limit motorized activities to between 8:30 am and one hour before sunset.
- When pulling skiers, tubing or wake-boarding, you must have a second person in the boat to watch for other boats, swimmers, people fishing, land, docks, and for signals from your skiers or tubers. And, try to stay at least 150 feet from shore.
- Watch your speed. Remember boats, and especially PWCs, do not have brakes.
- Have a serious conversation with minor children about safety and etiquette before allowing them to use PWCs. These are powerful machines; a ride can go from fun to a mishap in a matter of seconds.
- Pontoons are some of the safest boats on the water, but you must be cognizant of your pontoon's capacity. Do not overload the boat and spread the weight of passengers out evenly when out for a cruise. Keep everyone inside of the pontoon when moving. No dangling feet over the edge.
- The safest place for Canoes, Kayaks, Paddle Boards, and other non-motorized watercraft is near the shore, especially during busy times on the lake. These craft generally have no lights and should not be used after dark without a light kit.

Protect Blue Lake from AIS (aquatic invasive species)

- Boats coming to Blue Lake from outside must follow all state AIS laws:

Clean all watercraft before launch *Drain* all water and remove the plug
Dispose of all unused bait

- Blue Lake is free of aquatic invasive species. Let's keep it that way.

Be Safe and be sure to wave to each other while on the lake.