

Chapter 13.5 LAKE THOM-A-LEX RULES AND REGULATIONS

Sec. 13.5-1. Operation and Control.

- (a) The Cities of Lexington and Thomasville in conjunction with Davidson County shall be designate the official custodians of the lake and surrounding property owned by the cities. It shall be their duty to enforce all rules, ordinances and regulations adopted by the cities for operation as well as all applicable state and federal laws and regulations.
- (b) The lake warden shall be responsible for collecting all fees and properly accounting for them.
- (c) Admission shall be denied to any person having intoxicating beverages or drugs in his possession or who shows evidence of being under the influence of alcohol or drugs.
- (d) All activities on or around the lake must fully comply with the North Carolina State Board of Health and local regulations protecting the public water supply.
- (e) Firearms and loud music are prohibited.
- (f) The lake advisory committee shall adopt a schedule of hours and operations.
- (g) A copy of these rules and regulations shall be posted at the lake at all times.
(Ord. No.01-69, 6-25-01)

Sec. 13.5-2. Permits.

- (a) No person shall fish in or boat on Lake Thom-a-Lex without a proper permit obtained from the lake warden's office at the park on Yokeley Road. Failure to obtain said permit shall constitute a trespassing violation and may be prosecuted as a misdemeanor.
- (b) A permit shall be valid only when used by the person(s) for whom it was obtained. Daily permits are valid only on the day obtained. Annual permits shall be only for the year issued.
- (c) Every permit shall be issued subject to revocation or cancellation if the holder violates any of the rules and regulations governing the use of the lake and its activities.
- (d) A copy of the fee schedule shall be posted at the Lake Thom-a-Lex Park.
- (e) Senior citizens (sixty-five (65) and older), and children (sixteen (16) and under) do not need permits.
(Ord. No.01-69, 6-25-01)

Sec. 13.5-3. General.

- (a) No person shall fish, launch a boat, or have any contact whatsoever with Lake Thom-a-Lex except at designated entry points. It shall be unlawful for anyone to wade or swim in the lake unless incidental to launching a boat.
- (b) Any action or conduct on the lake that endangers life or property shall be deemed inappropriate and shall be cause for immediate expulsion from the lake or legal prosecution.
- (c) All activities on the lake, at the park or on property owned by the cities surrounding the lake after posted hours are not allowed.
- (d) The lake advisory committee shall have the authority to close the lake when it has been determined that further activities shall be detrimental to water quality or public safety. Any use at that time shall not be allowed.

- (e) No person shall be allowed to picnic or cook foods in an area not designated as a picnic area. Lighting fires outside of areas designated as picnic areas is not allowed.
- (f) Felling trees into the water or dumping brush or other materials into the lake in order to create fish habitat is not allowed.
- (g) Any activity on the dam or spillway shall be treated as trespassing.
- (h) No person is allowed to tamper with or disregard any buoy or sign.
- (i) No person shall be allowed to dump trash, garbage, refuse, offal, dead animals, or scrap fishing lines into Lake Thom-a-Lex or at the surrounding park and property of the cities.

(Ord. No.01-69, 6-25-01)

Sec. 13.5-4. Boating.

- (a) Launching of boats shall be restricted to points designated by the lake committee. Boats may be launched only during days and hours when the lake is open to the public.
- (b) Boats with motors exceeding one hundred (100) horsepower are prohibited. Boats may be inspected at any time by the designated custodians. Boats not in compliance with a standardized checklist used by the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary or exceeding the horsepower limit will not be allowed to launch or remain on the lake. Inspection is not a certification or guarantee of boat safety and the cities and county shall not be held liable in case of an accident.
- (c) Every boat placed on the lake must be supplied with at least one Coast Guard approved life jacket per occupant. For boats sixteen (16) feet and longer, all occupants must have a life jacket and there shall also be one (1) throwable cushion on the boat.
- (d) No boat shall be allowed within fifty (50) feet of the City of Thomasville's intake structure.
- (e) No boat shall be allowed past the buoy line at the spillway and Lexington's intake structure.
- (f) No boat shall be allowed to tie up buoys or the buoy line. No fishing devices may be attached to buoys or the buoy line.
- (g) No one will be allowed to enter or leave a boat except at designated launch areas.
- (h) All power boats shall be subject to the following no wake zones: within five hundred (500) feet of the designated launch areas; at the Yokely Road bridge as designated; when operated within one hundred (100) feet from shore; and when operated in less than three (3) feet of water. All boat operators are responsible for damages created by their boat wakes.
- (i) No person sixteen (16) years of age and under shall be permitted to operate a powerboat without parental supervision in the boat.
- (j) Water skiing, operation of jet skis, personal watercraft, sailboats and similar activities are not compatible with water quality needs and are not permitted.
- (k) Canoes not equipped with suitable buoyancy devices are not permitted.
- (l) Windsurfers and rubber and canvas rafts are not allowed.
- (m) No boats are allowed to remain on the lake overnight.
- (n) **All boats must be off the water fifteen (15) minutes before closing time.** Boat launching is not permitted one (1) hour prior to closing.
- (o) No boat equipped with a direct sewage system shall be allowed on the lake.

- (p) No horseback riding is allowed on lake property.
- (q) No motorized vehicles shall be operated in areas not designated for their use. (This provision shall not apply to motorized wheelchairs for the handicapped and disabled.)
(Ord. No.01-69, 6-25-01; Ord. No. 02-17, 10-22-01)

Sec. 13.5-5. Fishing.

- (a) The regulations of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission regarding licenses, the kinds and sizes of fish, number of fish to be taken, seasons when fishing is allowed and methods of catching fish shall apply.
- (b) At the request of the lake warden, each persons catch must be submitted for inspection.
- (c) Bank fishing is not permitted in the following areas: within fifty (50) feet of the City of Thomasville's raw water intake structure; on or below the dam and spillway while on the property of the cities; or from the bridge on Yokely Road.
(Ord. No.01-69, 6-25-01)

Sec. 13.5-6. Hunting.

Hunting on the lake or on publicly owned property surrounding the lake is forbidden.
(Ord. No.01-69, 6-25-01)

Sec. 13.5-7. Exemptions.

Designated representatives of the governmental bodies involved in their operation and upkeep of the lake, park, water intakes and surrounding property of the cities are exempt from these rules and regulations while performing assigned duties. Other agencies may be declared exempt on a case by case basis by appropriate representatives of the Lake Thom-a-Lex Advisory Committee.
(Ord. No.01-69, 6-25-01; Ord. No. 02-17, 10-22-01)

Sec. 13.5-8. Enforcement.

The violation of any provisions of this chapter shall constitute a misdemeanor and shall be punishable in accordance with the provision of N.C. General Statute 14-4(a), (b).
(Ord. No.01-69, 6-25-01)