



Zebra Mussels

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department requires all boats operating on public fresh water in Texas to be drained before leaving or approaching a lake or river to help prevent the spread of zebra mussels, a highly destructive invasive species threatening Texas waters. You can prevent the spread of zebra mussels by cleaning, draining and drying your boat. Possession or transporting of zebra mussels in Texas is a Class C misdemeanor for a first offense, punishable by a fine of up to \$500.

lcra.org/zebramussels

ABOUT LCRA

The Lower Colorado River Authority serves customers and communities throughout Texas by managing the lower Colorado River; generating and transmitting electric power; ensuring a clean, reliable water supply; and offering access to nature at more than 40 parks, recreation areas and river access sites along the Texas Colorado River, from the Hill Country to the Gulf Coast. LCRA and its employees are committed to enhancing the lives of Texans through water stewardship, energy and community services. LCRA was created by the Texas Legislature in 1934. The organization neither levies taxes nor receives tax money.

HELPFUL PHONE NUMBERS

*Be prepared.
Save these numbers on your mobile phone
before you head out onto the water.*

LAKE HAZARDS, ACCIDENTS OR EMERGENCIES:

LCRA DISPATCH CENTER

512-482-6322 OR 866-527-2267

TEXAS PARKS AND WILDLIFE DEPARTMENT

800-792-1112

LAKE AUSTIN RECREATION INFORMATION

512-974-6700

MARINE SANITATION DEVICES:

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

512-239-2628



NAVIGATING

• THE •

Highland Lakes

HAVE A FUN, SAFE TIME



The Lower Colorado River Authority manages the Highland Lakes — Buchanan, Inks, LBJ, Marble Falls and Travis — northwest of Austin. The City of Austin manages Lake Austin, which is within the Austin city limits.



RULES OF THE HIGHLAND LAKES

In addition to the Texas Water Safety Act, boaters must follow these boating rules LCRA adopted to improve safety for boaters, residents and visitors on the Highland Lakes:

- Maximum watercraft noise level is 92 decibels at idle.
- Watercraft equipped with an optional exhaust noise-suppression device must engage it when in “No Wake” areas.
- Watercraft, including personal watercraft, may not be operated within 50 feet of the shoreline, structures or swimmers, except at headway speed (just fast enough to steer the boat).
- Nighttime speed guideline is 20 miles per hour or the minimum planing speed.

For more information on boating laws in Texas and to view a digest of the Texas Water Safety Act, visit lcra.org/safeboating.

Contact Texas Parks and Wildlife Department at 800-792-1112 for boater education classes.

SAFE BOATING

Navigating the Highland Lakes, especially Lake Travis, can challenge even the most experienced boater. Lake Travis is a flood control and water supply reservoir. Lake elevations may change daily, creating potentially hazardous boating conditions. Guiding a boat safely requires preparation, good boat-handling skills and local knowledge of lake and river conditions.



Safely enjoy boating on the Highland Lakes by following these tips:

Take a safe boating class. Learn about navigation, required equipment and state laws for all types of boating. People under 18 are required by state law to take the class before handling a boat on Texas waters. Personal watercraft such as Jet Skis must follow all boating laws in addition to specific rules regarding personal watercraft.

Learn the lay of the lake. If you're unfamiliar with the Highland Lakes, take a boat trip or two with someone who knows the lakes and can show you around.



Know where you are and carry a map onboard. Aerial contour maps of the Highland Lakes include many known hazards, a global positioning system (GPS) grid, color infrared aerial photography and other helpful information. Convenience stores around the lakes sell the maps.

Watch for unmarked hazards. Hazards on the lake can change from one day to the next as lake levels rise and fall. Look out for unmarked hazards.



Tips for navigating shallow waters:

- Lighter color water often indicates shallow water depth.
- Water is usually deeper on the cliff side of lakes. The shallow side usually slopes gradually down to the water.
- The point at which a river turns becomes a shallow area. The inside of a bend in the river is usually shallower than the outside.
- V-shaped shallow areas often form downriver of an island or sandbar.
- Shallow areas are often located at the opening of a cove or inlet.
- Allow extra clearance between the boat and shoreline around a point of land or the mouth of a cove.



Watch for hazardous areas:

- Tree stumps and floating debris are common, especially during and after heavy rain or high water.
- Deadheads (also called sinker logs) are a serious hazard. Impact at a high speed with a deadhead can punch a hole in a large boat or destroy a small one. Deadheads are almost impossible to see at night.
- Keep a lookout for debris. Heavy rainfall upstream can move debris into the lake even if it hasn't rained at the lake.