

LCRA Land and Water Use Regulations

The purpose of these regulations is to ensure a safe and enjoyable stay for all visitors to LCRA parks. For more information, submit your questions to [Ask LCRA](#).

- Updated Land and Water Use Regulations took effect Oct. 1, 2015.
- [View a printable version of the Highland Lakes Marina Ordinance](#).
- [Follow updated regulations](#) to prevent the spread of zebra mussels.

1. AUTHORITY

These regulations are adopted and promulgated under authority vested in the LCRA Board of Directors and laws of the State of Texas, including, but not limited to, the LCRA Act, Chapter 51 of the Texas Water Code, and Chapter 31 of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code.

2. DEFINITION OF TERMS

The following terms in these regulations have these meanings:

- a. "General manager" means the general manager or the acting general manager of LCRA or his or her designee.
- b. "Watercraft" means any boat, vessel, personal watercraft, barge or similar floating craft used or capable of being used for transportation on water.
- c. "Motorboat" means any vessel propelled or designed to be propelled by machinery, whether or not the machinery is permanently or temporarily affixed or is the principal source of propulsion.
- d. "Floating habitable structure" means a floating structure intended to be used or actually used as a temporary or permanent domicile by one or more persons and containing all or part of the following: cooking, eating, sleeping or sanitary facilities. A floating habitable structure includes a structure that may be capable of navigation but is not designed primarily for that purpose. The attachment of an outboard motor and registration as a vessel does not exclude the structure from this definition. This definition expressly excludes houseboats or other watercraft with overnight accommodations that are designed primarily for navigation.
- e. "Grandfathered Floating Habitable Structure" means a floating habitable structure that existed on one of the Highland Lakes prior to Oct. 20, 2010.
- f. "LCRA Land" shall include any real property owned or leased by LCRA.
- g. "LCRA Water" shall include the Highland Lakes along the Colorado River from Mansfield Dam to the 1,020 foot above mean sea level line above Lake Buchanan and any other lakes under LCRA's control.
- h. "Highland Lakes" for purposes of these regulations means Lake Travis, Lake Marble Falls, Lake LBJ, Inks Lake and Lake Buchanan collectively.

3. ABANDONED PROPERTY

Abandonment of personal property on or in LCRA Land or LCRA Water, including but not limited to docks, watercraft and vehicles, is prohibited. Personal property left unattended on LCRA Land or in LCRA Water for more than 24 hours shall be considered abandoned property. Abandoned property may be removed and disposed of in any manner deemed appropriate by the general manager. LCRA is not responsible for personal property left on LCRA Land or in LCRA Water.

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4. ADVERTISEMENTS

No commercial notices, signs or advertisements shall be placed on LCRA Land. Private messages may be posted only in areas designated by the general manager for such messages.

5. BUOYS

No persons other than LCRA employees performing their duties shall place any buoy or marker on LCRA Water.

6. DREDGING AND FILLING

Any excavation, discharge or fill of materials in LCRA Water shall be performed in accordance with all applicable regulations and permits of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Fort Worth or Galveston District) and LCRA's Highland Lakes Watershed Ordinance.

7. EMERGENCY RESTRICTIONS

In the case of extreme flooding, water contamination, or other emergency or natural disaster, the general manager is authorized to declare restrictions on the use of all or any portion of LCRA Water as deemed necessary and convenient for purposes of public health, safety and welfare. No person shall engage in any activity that violates such restrictions.

8. FIREARMS, HUNTING, TRAPPING AND BOW FISHING

- a. Hunting and the possession or use of a firearm, bow, crossbow, slingshot or any other type of weapon on LCRA Land are illegal under Chapter 62 of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code, with certain exceptions. No person shall hunt or shoot a firearm, bow or crossbow on or over LCRA Water except bow fishing as noted below. No person shall place poisons, salt blocks, feed, or mechanical devices such as traps and snares on LCRA Land.
- b. Bow fishing is allowed on the Highland Lakes with these restrictions:
 - I. Bow fishing must take place from a boat.
 - II. Bow fishing is not allowed from the bank, within 75 feet of any marked designated swimming area, within 50 feet of any boat dock, pier, restricted or residential areas, or while wading.
 - III. Crossbows, draw-locking mechanisms and arrows designed for flight through the air are prohibited; only hand-pulled and hand-released equipment is allowed.
 - IV. Archery equipment is prohibited on LCRA Land.

9. FIREWORKS AND EXPLOSIVES

Possession or discharge of fireworks or explosives on LCRA Land or LCRA Water is prohibited.

10. FLOATING HABITABLE STRUCTURES

- a. Floating habitable structures are prohibited within the floodplain of the Highland Lakes.
- b. A Grandfathered Floating Habitable Structure is excluded from the prohibition in this Section if it complies with all of the following conditions:
 - I. A Grandfathered Floating Habitable Structure must be registered with LCRA within six months after notification by LCRA staff;
 - II. A Grandfathered Floating Habitable Structure may not be relocated, replaced, expanded or modified, other than as required for necessary maintenance; and

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- III. A Grandfathered Floating Habitable Structure shall comply with all applicable federal, state or local rules and regulations, including any applicable LCRA rules and regulations.

11. GROUPS

Prior written permission shall be obtained from LCRA for any organized group activity involving 20 or more individuals on LCRA Land. At the sole discretion of the general manager, LCRA may designate a particular site reserved for any group activity.

12. MOTOR VEHICLES

Except in special-use areas designated by the general manager, all motor vehicle operation on LCRA Land shall be confined to designated roads and parking areas. All motor vehicles operated on LCRA Land shall be licensed for street use and shall be operated only by persons with valid driver licenses in a reasonable and prudent manner. No motor vehicle may be operated in excess of a posted speed limit.

13. OBSTRUCTION OF NAVIGATION AND WATER FLOW

- a. No person shall anchor any watercraft or construct or maintain any floating or fixed structure on or in LCRA Water that unreasonably prevents, impedes or interferes with safe navigation or access to the water by the public. No person shall construct or maintain in LCRA Water any fence, pump, pipe or similar device for the purpose of diverting water and/or wind currents or interfere with the normal movement of water and floating debris.
- b. All floating or fixed structures of any type on LCRA Water shall be adequately marked or lighted so as not to create a safety hazard for the public. This paragraph does not apply to breakwater structures permitted under the Highland Lakes Marina Ordinance.

14. PARK USE

- a. Picnicking and camping are allowed on LCRA Land only in those public areas so designated.
- b. No person shall camp on any LCRA Land for more than five consecutive days or on multiple LCRA Lands for more than 10 days within any calendar month without reservations.
- c. No person shall litter or contaminate any camping, picnic, or other areas of LCRA Land or LCRA Water. Park visitors may dispose of garbage and waste only in trash barrels or dumpsters provided by LCRA. In areas in which there are no trash receptacles provided, campers and picnickers shall collect and remove their garbage and waste from LCRA Land for lawful disposal.
- d. Campfires are allowed only in established fire rings or in contained camp stoves. During times of extreme fire hazard conditions, the general manager may declare a ban on all ground fires on all or any part of LCRA Land. No person shall build or maintain a fire on LCRA Land at any time when a burn ban declaration is in effect. No person shall at any time burn garbage, brush or other refuse on LCRA Land.
- e. All pets must be kept on leash at all times while in designated camping and picnicking areas; outside the designated camping and picnicking areas, pets must be kept under their owners' direct control. In no case shall a pet be allowed to constitute a nuisance.
- f. No horses shall be allowed in designated camping or picnicking areas unless equine facilities are established at the park.
- g. No person shall place, construct, erect or occupy any temporary or permanent structure for human habitation or other purposes on LCRA Land. This provision does not apply to the use of normal

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camping equipment. No person shall install or construct an electric, water, wastewater or other utility line or service upon, over or under LCRA Land.

- h. No person shall bring or use any glass containers on LCRA Land.
- i. No person shall cause, create or contribute to excessive noise, including generators and amplified music on LCRA Land, between the hours of 10 p.m. and 6 a.m. Noise that unreasonably disturbs other visitors is considered excessive.
- j. Public consumption or display of alcoholic beverages is prohibited on LCRA Land. Intoxicated persons are not allowed on LCRA Land.

15. PARK REGULATIONS

In addition to these regulations, LCRA may enact regulations specifically for certain LCRA Lands and adjacent LCRA Water, and may approve park regulations enacted by other political subdivisions for LCRA Land leased to them for public parks. In case of conflict between specific park regulations and these general use regulations, the specific park regulations shall govern.

16. PROTECTION OF LCRA PROPERTY AND NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

- a. Archaeological and historical features of every character located in, on or under LCRA Land or LCRA Water are protected by state law and may not be disturbed or removed without a permit from the Texas Historical Commission, or successor agency, and without having obtained prior written permission from LCRA.
- b. No person shall destroy, alter, excavate or remove from LCRA Land any timber, shrubs, other vegetation, rock, sand, gravel, caliche, or any other substance, or material or any archaeological, historic or geologic feature.
- c. No person shall use or operate a metal detector on LCRA Land.
- d. No person shall damage, deface or destroy any LCRA property, including equipment and facilities provided for outdoor recreational purposes.
- e. No person shall, in any manner, alter or remove any LCRA sign, survey marker, boundary fence, cross fence, gate, cattle guard or wire gap. No person shall construct any road, trail, path or other avenue on, over or across LCRA Land or cross LCRA Land to reach adjacent property.

17. RESTRICTED AREAS

- a. To ensure the safety and health of the public and to provide for the security, safeguarding, and preservation of property and improvements, the general manager is authorized to designate areas of LCRA Land that the public is prohibited from entering or in which certain activities are prohibited. Such areas will be clearly marked by signs indicating the prohibition.
- b. The general manager is authorized to designate certain areas of LCRA Water as fishing, swimming or otherwise restricted areas. Such areas will be marked by buoys or signs.
- c. No person shall enter into such prohibited areas or engage in any activity that violates a posted prohibition or restriction, sign or buoy.
- d. The use of drones or other types of surveillance equipment is strictly prohibited near LCRA's core infrastructure such as dams, power plants, substations, natural gas facilities, power lines and other designated areas.
- e. This section shall not apply to authorized maintenance, patrol or rescue activities.

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18. SANITATION

No person shall dump or otherwise dispose of garbage, polystyrene foam, construction materials, hazardous materials or other solid waste on LCRA Land or into LCRA Water. No person shall discharge wastewater, sewage or effluent from holding tanks, sinks, toilets or other plumbing fixtures on LCRA Land or in LCRA Water.

19. SOLICITATION OF BUSINESS

No person shall engage in or solicit any business on LCRA Land or LCRA Water.

20. SWIMMING

Swimming is prohibited within 50 feet of any public boat ramp.

21. VIOLATIONS

Any person who knowingly or intentionally violates or fails to comply with any provision of these regulations is guilty of a Class C misdemeanor. Upon conviction, a violator is subject to punishment by a fine not to exceed \$500. In addition, a violator may be barred from use of LCRA Land and facilities. It is a defense to prosecution for a violation of these regulations that the person had a current valid permit issued by the general manager and that the person was in compliance with any special conditions of the permit.

22. WAIVER AND PERMITS

Except when prohibited by state law, any provision of these regulations may be waived in whole or in part as deemed necessary and appropriate at the sole discretion of the general manager. A waiver shall be evidenced by a permit or other prior written permission issued by the general manager.

23. WATERCRAFT

- a. A motorboat operating on LCRA Water must have an exhaust water manifold or a factory-type muffler installed on the engine.
- b. Watercraft on LCRA Water shall be equipped and operated in accordance with all provisions of the Water Safety Act and all water safety rules and regulations adopted by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.
- c. The operator of any watercraft involved in an accident shall immediately report the accident to an LCRA Ranger or other law enforcement official.
- d. Any watercraft operated on the Highland Lakes that is equipped with an optional exhaust noise-suppression device shall be operated with the device engaged when in a "No Wake" area.
- e. No person may operate a motorized watercraft on the Highland Lakes at a speed greater than the minimum speed necessary to maintain steerageway and headway within 50 feet of the shoreline, structures, swimmers or restricted areas.
- f. No person may operate a watercraft on the Highland Lakes at a noise level greater than 92 decibels, measured using the Society of Automotive Engineers' standard J-2005 (stationary test).
- g. It is **unsafe** to operate watercraft faster than 20 miles per hour or the minimum planing speed at night on the Highland Lakes.

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24. WILD AND FERAL ANIMALS; LIVESTOCK

No person shall feed any feral or wild animal on LCRA Land. No person shall place, dump, abandon or leave any animal on LCRA Land. Livestock are not allowed to range or graze on LCRA Land.

25. VALIDITY

If any part of these regulations should be held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be invalid or unconstitutional, the validity of the remainder hereof shall not be affected.