


Lake Lawrence Newsletter

Send comments to:
Thurston County
Department of Water and Waste Management
929 Lakeridge Drive S.W.
Olympia, Washington 98502
(360) 357-2491 (TDD line: 754-2933)
E-mail: bachmej@co.thurston.wa.us

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Boater Education Card Required

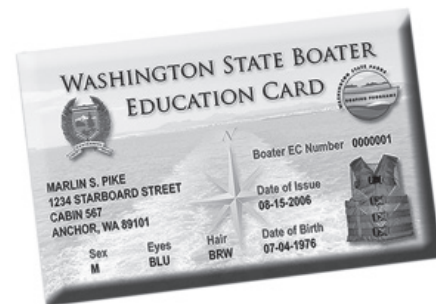
Washington boaters are required by a law passed in 2005 to take and pass a boater education course and have their education card with them when operating a vessel of 15 horsepower or more in Washington waterways. Boaters ages 12 to 20 years are now required to carry the card when operating a boat. The card requirement for other age groups will be phased in through 2014. Boaters born before Jan. 1, 1955, are exempt from this law.

To meet the new education requirements, boaters can take approved courses in a classroom, online or at home. Once the course is passed, boaters pay \$10 for the card, which is good for a lifetime.

Information is available online at www.parks.wa.gov/boating or call (360) 586-6590.

The boater card requirement is phased in for different ages of boaters under the following timeline, starting on Jan. 1 of each year for each age group:

- 2009: 25 years and younger
- 2010: 30 years and younger
- 2011: 35 years and younger
- 2012: 40 years and younger
- 2013: 50 years and younger
- 2014: 59 years and younger



Lake Lawrence newsletter

2008 SUMMER

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Herbicide Treatment Moves Forward

Earlier this month, you received an herbicide-treatment notice from "AquaTechnex," a private company that specializes in managing aquatic plants in residential lakes.

The Lake Lawrence Management District hired AquaTechnex to help us tackle white water lilies and nuisance weeds in our lake. The work is performed under a permit from the Washington State Department of Ecology.



White water lilies: Those of you who lived near Lake Lawrence in the early 90s may remember a time when much of our lake was covered by white water lilies. Fortunately, the Lake Management District (LMD) has been able to turn the problem around.

From 1996 to 1998, the LMD hired licensed applicators to treat about 80 acres of the lake with Rodeo. The treatment was very successful and since then, we've only had to treat small portions of the lake every few years, when enough lilies have grown to make treatment cost-effective.

This summer (July and August) AquaTechnex is treating about three surface acres of the lake with Rodeo to knock back new growth.

Nuisance native plants: Fewer weeds will likely grow in recreational areas of Lake Lawrence this summer thanks to a combination of herbicide treatments and traditional harvesting.

For the first time in the history of the Lake Management District, we have won approval from the state Department of Ecology and Thurston County to use the herbicide "Sonar" to control native weeds. Sonar is effective, because it is absorbed through stems and into roots, blocking photosynthesis and preventing plants from growing back. It is the only herbicide deemed safe enough to provide long-term control of a broad spectrum of nuisance aquatic weeds in county lakes.

The Department of Ecology permit allows us to treat only half of the lake's shoreline with an herbicide, so we'll be treating ¼ of the shoreline in 2008 and the other ¼ in 2009 because of our funding limits. We'll also continue the traditional weed-harvesting program, as needed.

By the time you read this article, AquaTechnex may have already started the first treatment at the lake. Additional treatments may occur through early September, except holiday weekends such as the Fourth of July and Labor Day. If you have questions about the treatment process, please call AquaTechnex at (360) 330-0152.



See the "lakes" button on www.co.thurston.wa.us/wwm

The Lake Lawrence Newsletter is published by Thurston County Water and Waste Management to provide information to members of the Lake Lawrence Lake Management District.

County Enacts New Permit Fees for Docks

If you plan to repair or install a dock this summer, you should be aware of new permitting fees approved by Thurston County in May 2008.

The basic permitting fees are now lower, but applicants are charged for any extra staff-review time needed to process the application – a move aimed at discouraging people from submitting faulty or incomplete information.

Additionally, State Environmental Protection Act* (SEPA) review is now required for all over-water construction. As a result, the overall fees are higher. This article provides basic information to get you started.

Permits required: Virtually any type of dock repair, replacement or new installation requires a "Shoreline Permit" from Thurston County. The only exception is for minor dock repairs.

Minor repairs: The term "minor repairs" refers to dock repairs that involve replacing less than 50 percent of the decking or other above-water structure. No permit is required for minor repairs. (Replacing pilings does not count as a minor repair.)

More than minor repairs: Dock repairs that are more than minor require a Shoreline Exemption Permit.

Installing a new dock where one already exists: If your new dock replaces an existing dock, state law allows it to qualify as a "more than minor" repair (a benefit, because repairs are subject to the less-expensive Shoreline Exemption Permit). To qualify, the dock must be placed in the same location and conform to all requirements of the Shoreline Master Program to the greatest extent possible. The dock also must have been usable at the site within the past twelve months of the time the application is submitted.

Installing a new dock where one currently does not exist: If your new dock is placed where a dock does not already exist and it costs \$10,000 or less, it qualifies for the Shoreline Exemption Permit. If the dock is more than \$10,000, you must obtain a Shoreline Substantial Development Permit.

Shoreline Exemption Permit fee: The fee for a Shoreline Exemption Permit is \$820 + \$330 for the SEPA environmental checklist review. No public hearing is required.

Shoreline Substantial Development Permit fee: The fee for a Substantial Development Permit is \$1,905 + \$2,725 for an environmental checklist review (SEPA). A public hearing is required.

Fees for extra time: The permit fees assume a certain number of staff-review hours. If those hours are exceeded, applicants are charged additional fees ranging from \$110 to \$130 per hour, depending on which department is involved. A typical, non-problematic project will be billed for very little, if any, overtime hours.

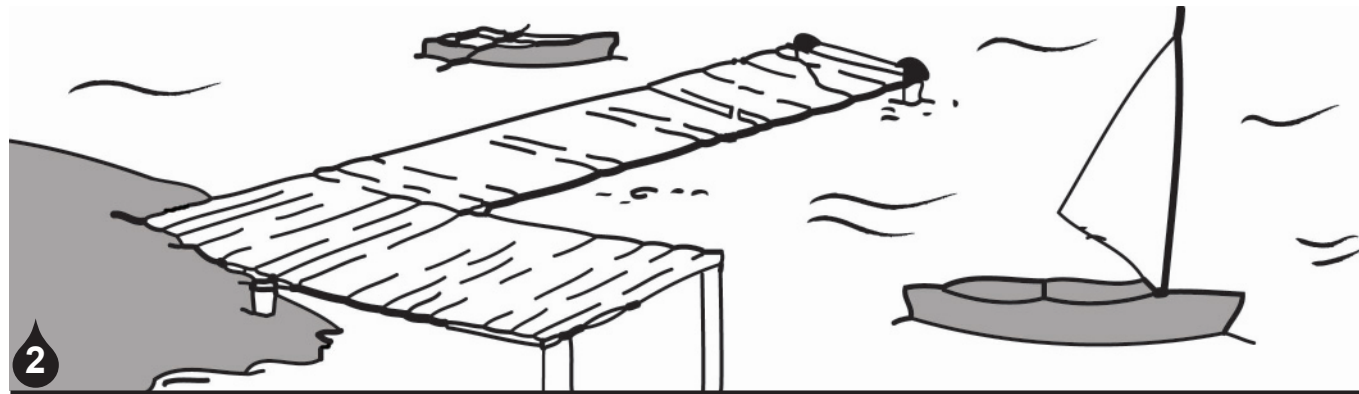
JARPA: To apply for either of the permits mentioned here, residents must submit a "JARPA" application (Joint Aquatic Resource Protection Application). On the JARPA form, applicants check a box indicating which type of permit they need.

Dock length: Generally, new docks cannot exceed the average lengths of neighboring docks located within 100 feet of the property line. If there are no other docks within 100 feet, the dock may extend 50 feet from the ordinary high water mark.

For further help with Thurston County permits, call the Development Services Department at 786-5490 and ask to speak with the planner on-call.

Remember: If your project involves installing pilings, you'll also need to get a Hydraulic Project Approval (HPA) permit from the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife. For more information, call (360) 902-2200.

* A SEPA checklist asks detailed questions about the proposal and its potential impacts on the environment.



Boat Racing Rules Tightened

Thurston County allows only two racing events on Lake Lawrence each year; however, nearby property owners are still inconvenienced by the crowds, noise, and restricted access to the lake. Fortunately, the Lake Lawrence Management District convinced Thurston County commissioners to tighten the rules for organized boat races on our lake. Under the amendments to Thurston County ordinance 14020:

- ◆ Regattas are banned on Lake Lawrence from May through Labor Day, including weekends. The ban starts the weekend that includes the first Sunday in May.

- ◆ At least two weeks before county commissioners are scheduled to act on an event-application, the sponsoring organization must mail a notice to nearby property owners providing details on the event, the commissioners' schedule, and opportunities to provide public comment. A notice must also be placed in the newspaper. Commissioners have always had the option of requiring this type of notification, but now it's mandatory.
- ◆ Permit applications must include plans for public notification, rescue operations, and handling fuel spills.

To view the ordinance, visit the Lake Lawrence link on www.co.thurston.wa.us/wwm.



Safety Rules Save Lives

Thurston County has specific regulations regarding boating operations and water safety on lakes. Below are key provisions of RCW Chapter 16.04:

- ◆ Watercraft may travel up to 45 mph in open basins EXCEPT at night and in the morning, when the speed limit is 5 mph. (The 5 mph limit applies after 8 p.m. or official sunset, whichever comes first, to 11 a.m. in the morning. The Olympian newspaper prints estimated times.)
- ◆ It is illegal to operate any craft while under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- ◆ After sunset, all crafts must use proper running lights.

- ◆ All vessels and watercraft operating above 5 mph are required to stay 200 feet from all shorelines, 200 feet from all public boat launches, 200 feet from all swim area buoy lines, and 100 feet from all other vessels.
- ◆ All watercraft must travel in a counter-clockwise direction.
- ◆ Personal flotation devices must be easily accessible onboard all watercraft, with one device required for each person. Children 12 years old and younger must wear a personal flotation device at all times when traveling on a vessel under 19 feet in length.

- ◆ All water skiers must have at least three people: a driver, an observer over the age of 10, and a skier. The observer is required to watch the skier at all times and to use a 12-inch red or orange flag on a 2-foot mast to signal when a skier is down in the water. All water skiers are required to wear an approved flotation device.
- ◆ All personal watercraft (jet ski) operators must be over 16 years old and wear an approved flotation device.
- ◆ All vessels (motorized or not) are required to have a mechanical sounding device.
- ◆ It is against the law to launch any vessel with aquatic plants attached.

