



The 200 Foot Law: "A person shall not operate any vessel except a sailboard or a police or emergency vessel, within 200' of the shoreline, a person in the water, a canoe, rowboat or other vessel, an anchored or moored vessel containing any person, anchorages or docks, except at a speed of less than five miles per hour which does not create a wake." Title 23, VSA, Chapter 29, 3311 (c) (1)

Paddling

There are two 5 mph/no-wake zones, which, with the protection by the 200' law and right-of-way laws, provide areas for quiet uses. Paddlers, please try to stay in these quiet-use zones during times of heavy summer weekend and evening traffic when convenient. The more courtesy that is extended to motor-boaters, the more courtesy paddlers may expect in return. For further information, contact the Friends of Waterbury Reservoir, 802-244-8683.

Emergency, Information, and Law Enforcement

Emergency: call 911 or Waterbury Ambulance Service: 802-244-5003

Violations: should be reported to VT State Police: 802-229-9191.

Information: The complete booklet of laws on boating may be obtained from the VT Dept. of Public Safety, State Police Marine Division, 277 St. George Rd, Williston VT 05495; tel: 802-878-7111 ext 2014.

Other uses of public water rules may be obtained from the VT Natural Resources Board, National Life Records Center Bldg, Drawer 20, Montpelier VT 05620-3201; tel: 802-828-3309.

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Waterbury Reservoir Boating Guide



Enjoy and share beautiful Waterbury Reservoir and protect this special place within the Mt. Mansfield State Forest. Waterbury Reservoir offers unique recreational opportunities for fishing, canoeing, kayaking, swimming, and other quiet uses, as well as motor-boating, including using personal watercraft, and water skiing. The current boating rules represent an effort to manage potentially conflicting uses so that all uses may be enjoyed in a reasonable and safe manner. These rules include increased 5 mph/no-wake zones. Please be courteous and considerate to those you meet on the lake. Respect the environment. Please don't litter or pollute.

Required Safety Equipment

Life Preservers: Every vessel must carry at least one US Coast Guard approved personal flotation device (PFD) for each person on board. A PFD must be worn by every person under age 12 on all vessels, and under age 16 on a sailboard, and by all persons on a personal watercraft.

Lights: Between sunset and sunrise a red/green light fore, and a white light aft visible from all directions, are required for motorboats when underway. Manually propelled boats must display a lantern in time to present a collision.

Water Skiing

Slalom Courses: The two courses maintained by the Green Mountain Water Skiers (GMWS) are available to the general public (see map). Course #1 may be located in the northern arm of the reservoir or in the alternate locations noted on the map, and course #2 is near blush hill. For GMWS guidelines for slalom course use, you are encouraged to contact the GMWS, 802-244-1756 or www.greenmountainwaterskiers.com

PFD: A water skier must wear an approved personal flotation device. For bare footing, instead of a PFD, a barefoot wetsuit may be used.

Observer: There must be an observer in the boat (in addition to the operator) who is at least 12 years old. No observer is required only when using a regulation slalom course, and only if the boat is an American Water Ski Association approved tow boat and, the driver is a minimum of 18 years of age.

All Vessels

Age Limit: No person under the age of 12 may operate a motorboat exceeding six horsepower. No person under age 16 may operate a personal watercraft.

Certificate of boating education: No person born after Jan 1, 1974 may operate a motorboat without a certificate of boating education which must be in his or her possession. Contact VT State Police Marine Division for information.

Alcohol & Drugs: Operating a vessel while under the influence of alcohol or drugs is forbidden and is punishable by fine and suspension of boat operating privileges.

Personal Watercraft

Age: Persons under age 16 may not operate a personal watercraft (Jet Ski).

Noise: Personal watercraft, by law, may not be operated in a manner or at a speed that causes the exhaust jet to come out of the water. This is to avoid an increase in the noise level or pitch above that experienced in normal operation on smooth water.

Nighttime: Personal watercraft may not be operated at nighttime.



Milfoil, Zebra Mussels and Other Aquatic Nuisances

Please comply with state guidelines and laws to avoid the spread of aquatic nuisances in Vermont. Always check your vessel before launching and make sure that your boat and trailer are free of any mussels or plant fragments. Transporting such nuisances is illegal and carries heavy penalties. Remove all water from live-wells, bilges and engines and allow equipment to dry completely.

Right-of-way / Boat Handling

Approach: When two boats are approaching head-on, each shall bear to the right. At an angle, the boat on the right has the right-of-way. Powerboats should yield the right-of-way to all canoes, kayaks, rowboats, sailboats, and wind surfers, and other non-motorized craft.

Wakes: Wakes must not endanger anyone. Canoes and small boats are especially vulnerable to wakes. You are responsible for any act of yours which endangers or jeopardizes the safety, life, or property of another person. Boats with deep wakes should avoid traveling along the shoreline to avoid erosion and swimmers.

Swimming

Designated Areas: Swimming areas at the two state parks are marked by orange flags. All vessels, including manually propelled craft, are prohibited from entering these designated public swimming areas. Watch out for swimmers in other areas as well.

Fishing

Smallmouth bass, rainbow and brown trout are the primary sport-fish. There are also yellow perch and brown bullhead. Fishing licenses are required for persons 15 or older. Information on fishing licenses, regulations, and fisheries' management should be directed to the Dept. of Fish & Wildlife; tel: 802-241-3700.

Environment & Special Events

Wildlife: Herons, osprey, loons, ducks, mergansers, moose, deer, beaver, and other wildlife are sensitive to boat traffic, including canoes. Please give them a wide berth. It is a punishable offense to kill or harass any water bird through the operation of a boat on any Vermont lake.

Litter: Please pick up any litter you find on or around the lake. Help keep the lake beautiful. Carry all your trash away with you. Please don't litter.

Noise: Sound carries and even amplifies over the water, especially in calm weather and at night. Please respect the desire for fishing and quiet enjoyment of the lake by controlling noise, especially in the evenings and mornings.

Concerts: Occasional Sunday afternoon concerts by the Waterbury Community Band are performed on pontoon boats near the Waterbury Center Day Use State Park. Please limit motorboat usage in that area when concerts are in progress.

Special Events: Exceptions to the 5 mph/no-wake zones may be made when authorized by the State Police Marine division for special events such as fishing and water-ski tournaments.