

DEPARTMENT OF UTILITIES



RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR RECREATIONAL USE OF WATER SUPPLY RESERVOIRS

WATER SUPPLY RESERVOIRS

RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR RECREATIONAL USE OF WATER SUPPLY RESERVOIRS CITY OF LIMA

USE RESERVOIRS AT YOUR OWN RISK

The following Rules and Regulations are prepared and placed in force by authority of Sections 1044.01, 1044.02 and 1044.99 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Lima.

These regulations have a twofold purpose. First, to protect the public water supply against the harmful acts of those who would deliberately or without awareness engage in activities detrimental to the public good. Second, to allow for the fullest enjoyment by those who choose to use the City Reservoirs for recreational activities which in no way interfere with the operation of the reservoirs as a part of the public water supply system.

GENERAL

IT IS UNLAWFUL TO:

1. Operate any motor driven vehicle, of any design whatsoever, any place on a reservoir property other than on those roadways designated for public use, leading to parking, observation or designated boat launching and landing areas. This includes, but is not limited to, snowmobiles, all-terrain vehicles and 4-wheel drive vehicles.
2. Operate any motor vehicle of any design whatsoever anywhere on reservoir property contrary to the instructions of any traffic control device, light or sign.
3. Park any motor vehicle at any location other than those designated as parking areas.

4. Tamper with or remove any sign placed by the City, the Department of Natural Resources or to tamper with or remove any cable, lock or other device intended to restrict public access.
5. Alter, deface, or destroy any sign, structure, tree, shrub, fence barrier or any other physical feature located on any reservoir property.
6. Remove, rearrange or throw any stone placed along an embankment as wave protection, or in a roadway at the top of any reservoir embankment.
7. Dispose of any object in the water.
8. Dispose of paper, beverage bottles or cans, empty bait containers, bits of uneaten food or another form of garbage or refuse by throwing on the ground, in the water or on the stone rip-rap inside the embankment. All such materials may be disposed of by depositing them in refuse containers which have been provided for that purpose.
9. Commit any nuisance in connection with the disposition of human body wastes at any location on reservoir property except at latrines provided.
10. Build or use an open fire at any location on any reservoir property.
11. Swim or wade in any reservoir property.
12. Have dogs that are not on a leash.
13. NOT clean up pet waste.
14. Allow animals to swim in the water.
15. Ride or exercise a horse upon any reservoir property.
16. Drink or possess alcoholic beverages on any reservoir property.
17. Have, carry (unless you are a CCW permit holder), or use any firearm or dangerous ordinance on any reservoir property except while engaged in lawful hunting of waterfowl.
18. Commit any other act which is clearly detrimental to the use of any City reservoir as a public water supply source or that interferes with the rights of others who wish to engage in lawful recreational activity in connection with the City reservoirs.
19. Camp overnight without permission from the director of utilities.

FISHING

20. Recreational fishing is permitted from the shores of all City reservoirs and from approved types of boats on approved reservoirs. {SEE RULE 23 & 24}
21. Ice fishing is at fisherman's own risk.
22. No unattended ice fishing structures shall be permitted on reservoirs. Name and address of owner shall be provided on structures.

BOATING

THE OPERATION OF WATERCRAFT ON THE RESERVOIRS SHALL BE SUBJECT TO THE WATERCRAFT LAWS OF OHIO.

23. The use of boats is permitted on Williams, Bresler, Metzger, Ferguson, and Lost Creek Reservoirs. No watercraft is allowed on Twin Lakes.
24. The use of boats is limited to sail boats, hand propelled boats or canoes and craft propelled by electric outboard motors. The use of gasoline motors is prohibited.
25. All boats used on the reservoirs must be numbered and licensed according to the Watercraft Laws of the State of Ohio.
26. All boats shall have safety equipment (life jackets, signal flag, etc.) on board as per State Law.
27. All watercraft shall be launched and/or landed at the boat ramp except in emergencies. (Where boat ramp is provided)
28. When a boat is launched from an automobile drawn trailer, only the driver may occupy the automobile during the launching operation. (Where boat ramp is provided.)

**THE DESIGNATED NON-HUNTING AREAS FOR
METZGER AND FERGUSON LAKE SHALL BE AS
FOLLOWS:**

29. The hunting of water fowl will be permitted on Williams, Bresler, and the designated areas of Ferguson and Metzger Lake subject to the game laws of the State of Ohio and Sections 1044.01, 1044.02 and 1044.99 of the Codified Ordinances of the City of Lima. It is unlawful to hunt any waterfowl or other game on the Lost Creek Reservoir and any City owned property adjacent thereto. It is unlawful to discharge a firearm within 400 feet of any structure or parking area located upon or contiguous to reservoir property. The commission of any sanitary nuisance will result in revocation of the hunting privilege. Boats may be used to retrieve waterfowl, but in no case shall boats be used for herding waterfowl. The designated non-hunting areas for Metzger Lake and Ferguson Lake shall be as follows:

FERGUSON LAKE - a non-hunting area shall begin at the southwest intersection of Ferguson Lake and Metzger Lake and continue approximately 600 feet south to the easterly bend in the levee.

The erection of "hunting blinds" shall be permitted subject to the following rules:

Duck Blind Permits shall be issued on a lottery basis with application made at the Water Treatment Plant, 1100 e. Wayne St., between the hours of 7:30 A.M. and 3:00 P.M. commencing on August 1st thru August 7th of any said year. Thereupon, a lottery system shall be utilized for assignment of locations. Should any available site, as determined by the Supervisor of Water Supply & Treatment, not be filled by the above method, that site shall be filled on a first come basis.

METZGER LAKE - A non-hunting area shall begin at the southwest intersection of Metzger Lake and Ferguson Lake and continue approximately 300 feet west to the northerly bend in the levee. The designated non-hunting areas shall be marked in the field by no hunting signs.

BRESLER LAKE

30. Balloon fishing is prohibited on the east embankment along an area extending from the boat launching ramp north 500 yards. Balloon fishing is prohibited on the east and south embankments along an area extending from the boat launching ramp south and westerly 1000 yards.

(Balloon fishing is defined as utilizing a large balloon-like lifloat which when propelled by the wind carries the line, hooks and bait beyond normal casting range. Smaller marker floats are used to keep the extended line afloat and to mark its location.)

PENALTY

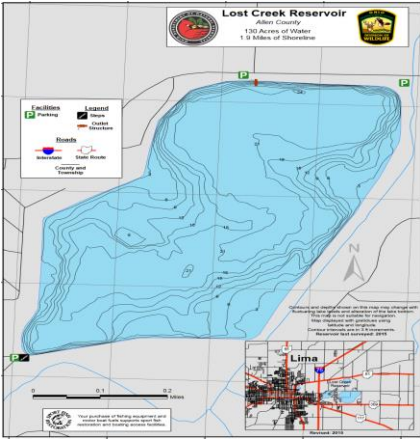
WHOEVER SHALL VIOLATE ANY PROVISIONS OF THESE RULES AND REGULATIONS WHICH DO NOT CONTAIN SPECIFIC PENALTIES, SHALL BE DEEMED GUILTY OF A MINOR MISDEMEANOR AND FINED NOT MORE THAN ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS (\$100), EXCEPT WHEN APPLICABLE LAWS UNDER THE OHIO REVISED CODE ARE VIOLATED, THE PENALTIES ESTABLISHED BY THOSE LAWS FOR VIOLATIONS SHALL APPLY.

EMERGENCY PHONE NUMBERS

POLICE, FIRE AND RESCUE

911

- UTILITIES AFTER HOURS: **419-222-9761**
- PARK RANGERS DAY PHONE: **419-235-4498**
- PARK RANGERS NIGHT PHONE: **419-235-6555**



DISTANCE AROUND RESERVOIRS

<u>Lost Creek</u>	<u>1.75</u>
<u>Metger Lake</u>	<u>1.90 miles</u>
<u>Ferguson Lake</u>	<u>3.30 miles</u>
<u>Metzger and Ferguson (outside)</u>	<u>3.55</u>
<u>Bresler Lake</u>	<u>3.70</u>
<u>Williams</u>	<u>3.71</u>



**CITY OF LIMA
UTILITIES**
50 TOWN SQUARE
LIMA, OHIO 45801