

LCRA LAND AND WATER USE REGULATIONS

The purpose of these regulations is to protect public safety and critical infrastructure on LCRA Land and LCRA Water, as well as to help protect visitors to LCRA parks. These regulations are effective April 1, 2022.

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. "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 some 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. Houseboats or other Watercraft with overnight accommodations designed primarily for navigation are excluded from this definition.
- b. "General Manager" means the general manager or acting general manager of LCRA or his or her designee.
- c. "Grandfathered Floating Habitable Structure" means a Floating Habitable Structure that existed on one of the Highland Lakes prior to Oct. 20, 2010.
- d. "Highland Lakes" for purposes of these regulations means Lake Travis, Lake Marble Falls, Lake LBJ, Inks Lake and Lake Buchanan collectively.
- e. "Law" means any applicable federal, state or local laws, ordinances, rules or regulations, including these regulations and all other LCRA rules and regulations.
- 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 feet above mean sea level contour elevation line at Lake Buchanan and any other lakes under LCRA's control.
- h. "Motorboat" means any Watercraft propelled or designed to be propelled by machinery, regardless of whether the machinery is permanently or temporarily affixed or is the principal source of propulsion.
- i. "Watercraft" means any boat, vessel, personal watercraft, barge or similar floating craft used or capable of being used for transportation on water.

3. ABANDONED PROPERTY AND PROPERTY IN VIOLATION OF LAW

- a. Abandonment of personal property on or in LCRA Land or LCRA Water is prohibited. Abandoned personal property can include, but is not limited to, docks, Watercraft and vehicles. Personal property left unattended on LCRA Land or LCRA Water for more than 24 hours shall be considered abandoned property, except when authorized at a dock or marina.
- b. Maintaining personal property, including but not limited to, docks, Watercraft, vehicles and structures on LCRA Land or LCRA Water in violation of Law is prohibited. Personal property maintained on LCRA Land or LCRA Water in violation of Law is subject to removal and enforcement when:
 - I. The personal property remains on LCRA Land or in LCRA Water for more than 24 hours after notice of violation is given, regardless of whether the personal property is attended or unattended; or
 - II. With respect to docks or structures, the personal property remains on LCRA Land or LCRA Water for more than 24 hours after the period given to cure a notice of violation, regardless of whether the dock or structure is attended or unattended.
- c. Abandoned property and property remaining on LCRA Land or in LCRA Water in violation of this regulation 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.
- d. Notwithstanding any other provision in this regulation, LCRA may immediately remove personal property, docks or structures on LCRA Land or in LCRA Water if they present an immediate and significant threat to human life, public safety or the environment.
- e. For all property removed from LCRA Land or LCRA Water pursuant to this regulation, LCRA may seek civil restitution of all costs of removal, storage and disposal from a responsible party, the owner of the property, or the registered or titled owner of the property. Any person seeking to recover abandoned or unclaimed property removed from LCRA Land or LCRA Water must pay all costs incurred by LCRA, including but not limited to, costs of towing, storage and removal.

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.

5. BUOYS

No persons other than LCRA employees performing their duties shall place any buoy or marker on LCRA Water except as authorized by the LCRA Buoy Permit Guide.

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, including but not limited to, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Fort Worth or Galveston districts) regulations and permits, LCRA's Highland Lakes Dredge and Fill Ordinance, 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, BOW FISHING, HUNTING AND TRAPPING

- a. Hunting is prohibited under Chapter 62 of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Code.
- b. No person shall hunt or shoot a firearm, bow or crossbow on or over LCRA Water, except for bow fishing as noted below. This restriction shall not apply north of Falls Creek on Lake Buchanan.
- c. 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 or 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.
- d. No person shall place poisons, salt blocks, feed, or mechanical devices such as traps and snares 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 regulation if it complies with all of the following conditions:
 - I. It is registered with LCRA within six months after notification by LCRA staff;
 - II. It is not relocated, replaced, expanded or modified, other than as required for necessary maintenance; and
 - III. It complies 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 for any group activity.

12. MOTOR VEHICLES

- a. All motor vehicles operating on LCRA Land shall be confined to designated roads and parking areas, except in designated special-use areas. All motor vehicles operated on LCRA Land shall be licensed for street use and operated by persons with valid driver's licenses.
- b. LCRA may issue a permit to allow the operation of utility terrain vehicles (UTV), all-terrain vehicles (ATV), recreational off-highway vehicles (ROV) and golf carts on designated LCRA Land. Permitted vehicles shall be operated by persons with a valid driver's license.
- c. All motor vehicles shall be operated in a reasonable and prudent manner not to exceed the posted speed limit.

13. OBSTRUCTION OF NAVIGATION AND WATER FLOW

- a. No person shall anchor, construct or maintain any Watercraft or 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 that changes the normal movement of water and/or wind currents or otherwise interferes 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. No person shall enter or remain in parks operated by LCRA or use LCRA services or equipment without paying applicable fees.
- b. Camping is allowed only in designated areas on LCRA Land.
- c. No person shall camp on LCRA Land for more than five consecutive days or on multiple LCRA Lands for more than 10 days within any calendar month without reservations.
- d. No person shall litter or contaminate any area of LCRA Land or LCRA Water. Park visitors may dispose of garbage and waste only in trash receptacles provided by LCRA. In areas where there are no trash receptacles provided, visitors shall collect and remove their waste from LCRA Land for lawful disposal.
- e. Campfires are allowed only in designated fire rings or barbecue pits. LCRA enforces burn bans declared by local counties. In addition, the General Manager may declare a ban on all fires on LCRA Land during extreme fire hazard conditions. No person shall build or maintain a fire on LCRA Land when a burn ban declaration is in effect. No person shall at any time burn garbage, brush or other refuse on LCRA Land.
- f. All pets must be kept on leash 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.
- g. No horses shall be allowed in designated camping or picnicking areas unless dedicated equine facilities are available at the park.

- h. 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 camping equipment. No person shall install or construct an electric, water, wastewater or other utility line or service on, over or under 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. Persons who are intoxicated or are causing a nuisance, annoyance or alarm are not allowed on LCRA Land.

15. PROTECTION OF LCRA PROPERTY AND NATURAL AND CULTURAL RESOURCES

- a. Archaeological and historical features 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 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 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.

16. RESTRICTED AREAS

- a. Access to all LCRA critical infrastructure, including dams, power plants, substations and natural gas facilities, and the LCRA Land surrounding them, is restricted to authorized personnel only. Public use of such critical infrastructure for recreational purposes and fishing would interfere with the proper conduct of LCRA business and the lawful use of LCRA's critical infrastructure.
- b. The General Manager is authorized to close areas of LCRA Land to the public and to restrict activities in certain areas to help ensure the safety and health of the public and to secure and preserve property and improvements. Areas that are restricted will be clearly designated.
- c. The General Manager is authorized to designate certain areas of LCRA Water as restricted to fishing, swimming or other activities. Such areas will be marked by buoys or signs.
- d. No person shall enter into such prohibited areas or engage in any activity that violates a posted prohibition, restriction, sign or buoy.
- e. The use of unmanned aircraft systems (UAS) or surveillance equipment is strictly prohibited at or near LCRA's critical infrastructure such as dams, power plants, substations, natural gas facilities, power lines and other designated areas. Any use that interferes with LCRA operations, causes damage or injury, creates a public safety hazard, or is in violation of Law is strictly prohibited. The takeoff, landing or control of UAS at, on or over LCRA infrastructure is prohibited.

- f. Commercial filming on LCRA Land, including the use of UAS, is prohibited without a film permit from LCRA.
- g. This regulation shall not apply to LCRA-authorized operations, maintenance, patrol or rescue activities.

17. SANITATION

- a. 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.
- b. No person shall discharge wastewater, sewage or effluent from holding tanks, sinks, toilets or other plumbing fixtures on LCRA Land or into LCRA Water.

18. SOLICITATION OF BUSINESS

- a. No person shall engage in or solicit any business on LCRA Land.
- b. No person shall solicit any business on LCRA Water. The sale of food, beverages or merchandise on LCRA Water is prohibited.
 - l. For the purpose of this regulation, merchandise does not include goods sold incidental to services rendered in support of public safety, navigation, or shoreline, dock or marina maintenance.

19. SWIMMING

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

20. 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 Texas 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 on LCRA Water shall immediately report the accident to an LCRA Ranger or other law enforcement official.
- d. Any Watercraft operated on LCRA Water 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 Motorboat on LCRA Water 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 shall anchor or otherwise leave any Watercraft unattended on LCRA Land unless authorized by LCRA.
- g. No person shall anchor or otherwise leave any Watercraft unattended on LCRA Water except when authorized at a dock or marina.

21. WILD AND FERAL ANIMALS; LIVESTOCK

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

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. 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 of these regulations shall not be affected.

24. VARIANCE BETWEEN REGULATIONS

In addition to these regulations, LCRA may enact regulations specifically for certain LCRA Lands and 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 more specific regulations and these general use regulations, the specific regulations shall govern.

25. 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 the 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 was in compliance with the conditions of the permit.

ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

- [Highland Lakes Dredge and Fill Ordinance](#)
- [Highland Lakes Marina Ordinance](#)
- [Highland Lakes Watershed Ordinance](#)
- [LCRA Buoy Permit Guide](#)
- [Information and state requirements on preventing the spread of zebra mussels](#)
- [Texas Water Safety Act](#)

To submit questions: [Contact LCRA](#).

