City of Newport News
Department of Public Utilities

2008 Diascund Reservoir Rules & Regulations

The Reservoir is open to the general public for boating access and fishing. The following rules and regulations have been established by the Newport News Department of Public Utilities in accordance with Chapter 29, Art. III, of the Code of Ordinances for the City of Newport News:

1. The City of Newport News in cooperation with the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries and James City County is providing access for water-based recreational activities at the Reservoir. All regulations appropriate to enforce local and state inland fish and boat laws will be enforced.
2. The public boat landing hours of operation will be from one hour before sunrise to one hour after sunset. All boating will be limited to these hours.
3. Property owners immediately abutting the Reservoir are encouraged to use the public boat landing.
4. Bank fishing by the general public will be permitted in designated areas immediately adjacent to the public boat ramp.
5. Public fishing is *prohibited* from the banks, roads, bridges, dam and spillway. The exception to this is in Rule No. 4. Property owners abutting the reservoir have the right to fish from City-owned marginal lands adjacent to their property. Their guests are also excepted.
6. Anyone fishing in the Reservoir, either bank or from boat, must have in their possession the necessary freshwater fishing license as required by the State of Virginia.
7. All boats with motors must be state registered. The use of internal combustion engines is <u>prohibited</u> on the reservoir. Electric trolling motors are the only motors permitted on the Reservoir. Outboard motors may be kept on the boat under the following conditions:
   a. Motor must be kept out of the water at all times.
   b. Portable fuel tanks must be removed from the boat.
   c. Built-in fuel lines must have the shut-off valve in the closed position.
8. Restricted areas – public boat launching, landing, and disembarking are permitted only at the public boat ramp. The exception to this rule is for property owners who own land abutting the Reservoir (see Rule 3).
9. No hunting, trapping or swimming is allowed. The Reservoir may not be used for baiting of waterfowl or game.
10. All boats are limited to the capacity as prescribed by the boat's particular manufacturer. Every boat on the Reservoir must observe U.S. Coast Guard regulations regarding approved personal flotation devices (PFD).
    - Sailboards, floating platforms, personal watercraft (such as jet skis) and non-enclosed watercraft are *prohibited* on the Reservoir. Canoes, kayaks and small sailboats are considered to be enclosed watercraft as long as they have freeboard between the water and the occupant.

- The construction of blinds, wharves, piers, docks, ladders or any other structure on the Reservoir, or on City-owned lands surrounding the Reservoir, is *strictly prohibited*.
- *No disturbance* to the earth or vegetation to include rutting or soil erosion will be allowed on City-owned marginal lands (defined as the land between the Reservoir and the 30-foot contour) without a permit.
- No private boat ramps will be allowed on City-owned lands.
- No ropes or other swinging devices will be allowed on City-owned lands around the Reservoir.
- Boats with trailers or in trucks will be permitted to launch only at the public boat ramp.
- No motor vehicles or trailers will be allowed in the Reservoir or on City-owned lands around the Reservoir, except at the public boat ramp.
- Property owners abutting the Reservoir may store one boat *between the 30-foot contour property line and the Reservoir*. Boat racks will not be permitted. Only boats in usable condition will be allowed.
- No debris, brush, dead trees of any kind will be placed in the Reservoir.
- The possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages is expressly *prohibited* on the Reservoir and City-owned marginal lands.
- Removal, destruction, alteration or defacing of plants, animals or historical artifacts is strictly prohibited.

For questions or comments pertaining to these rules or regulations, please contact.

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