

WONDER LAKE RECREATION VEHICLE REGULATIONS AND SAFETY RECOMMENDATIONS

2026 EDITION

The Master Property Owners Association welcomes you to another year of recreation and enjoyment on Wonder Lake. Wonder Lake is a private lake owned by the MPOA (Master Property Owners Association). Property owners with deeded lake rights may place equipment and accessories in / on the MPOA property provided that the MPOA regulations are followed.

The lake bottom is located within the Village of Wonder Lake. Enforcement of these regulations will be conducted by the Wonder Lake Police Department - Marine Patrol and Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

Boating on Wonder Lake is regulated by the Illinois Boating and Safety Act. All vehicles operated on Wonder Lake must conform to these regulations. These regulations require all vehicles operated on waters in the State of Illinois to be registered with a state and to display a valid state registration decal. Vehicles must also display a current MPOA Decal or Guest Pass. Annual MPOA decals must be permanently affixed to the watercraft.

Copies of the Wonder Lake Recreation Vehicle Regulations and Safety Recommendations are available in the MPOA office, and online at www.wlmpoa.org

PURPOSE OF VEHICLE DECAL REGISTRATION

To clearly identify those vehicles registered to MPOA property owners and residents, which will assist in keeping Wonder Lake private for the use of MPOA members and their guests. Property owners may request keys to subdivision lake launches by contacting their respective subdivision.

VEHICLE REGISTRATION REGULATIONS

In accordance with Article XI, Section 2C of the MPOA bylaws, **all** Vehicles operated on the waters of Wonder Lake must display a current MPOA vehicle decal. This includes all boats, canoes, kayaks, and personal watercraft. Decals are valid from April 1st of the current year to March 31st of the following year.

REGISTRATION FOR DECALS

Registration materials will be emailed / mailed to owners and residents of record from the previous year by the end of March. Registration applications may be emailed / mailed back with copies of the required documentation and fees.

Decals may now be purchased with credit cards online or returned in person to the MPOA office. Registrants can purchase decals anytime at the MPOA office during posted business hours.

PLEASE SAVE US POSTAGE! If you can pick up your decals, please note that when you send your registration back and they'll be waiting for you at the MPOA office.

2026 DECAL FEES*

Decal fees for water vehicles are determined by the horsepower of the vehicle:

ALL NON-MOTORIZED WATERCRAFT	\$ 20.00
ALL WATERCRAFT 1-39 HP	\$ 35.00
ALL WATERCRAFT 40-99 HP	\$ 55.00
ALL WATERCRAFT 100-249 HP	\$ 75.00
ALL WATERCRAFT 250 HP OR MORE	\$ 105.00
ALL PERSONAL WATERCRAFT (JET SKI's)	\$ 55.00
WINTER DECALS (SNOWMOBILES, ATV's, etc.)	\$ 15.00
*\$5.00 per decal discount for cash or check payments	

You must have the following information on record to purchase vehicle decals:

- Current proof of property ownership or residence, i.e. copy of current subdivision dues receipt, tax bill, deed, drivers' license or other acceptable proof of ownership or lease.
- Copy of current state registration for the vehicle to be registered by the property owner or resident. If the vehicle has been recently purchased, a copy of the temporary state registration is acceptable for a Decal.

The property owner or resident will be responsible for updating all information (such as a purchase or transfer of ownership, or receipt of permanent vehicle registration) with the MPOA in a timely manner.

DECAL DISPLAY – RIGHT SIDE

Decals shall be positioned on the right side of the windshield. If there is no windshield, the Decal should be placed on the right side of the hull near the front, but not adjacent to the IDNR Registration. In the case of snowmobiles and ATV's, the Decal should be displayed on the right side of the vehicle.

MPOA GUEST PASSES

A Guest Pass can be issued to an MPOA property owner who wishes to sponsor a non-resident guest and their vehicle. **The sponsoring property owner is responsible for the actions of their guest.** Owners who allow renters and or guests to use the lake must certify to the MPOA that they will assume responsibility for any damages caused by any guests or renters while they use the lake.

The 72-hour guest pass becomes valid as of the date and time **stated on the guest pass** by the MPOA office and expires 72 hours later. Pass must be kept with the vehicle at all times. Guest passes are available at the MPOA office during normal office hours for \$55.00 (\$5.00 discount for cash or check payments).

DECAL VIOLATION PROPERTY OWNERS / NON - RESIDENTS

The penalty for operating a vehicle on Wonder Lake without a valid MPOA Decal and violates any provision of this ordinance shall be fined not less than \$50 or more than \$500, plus costs. All watercraft on Wonder Lake, including vehicles on boat lifts must display a valid MPOA decal or are in violation of this regulation. The Wonder Lake Police Department – Marine Patrol enforces all applicable regulations.

NON-PROPERTY OWNERS / NON - RESIDENTS

Non-property owners and non-residents operating a vehicle on Wonder Lake without a valid MPOA Decal or Guest Pass shall be prosecuted.

SAFETY REMINDERS

1. An effort is made to identify hazardous areas of Wonder Lake with MPOA buoys. Please notify the MPOA office if you notice damaged buoys or buoys that have moved from their original placed position. **MPOA: (815) 653-1000**
2. It is recommended that all powered watercrafts should move in a counterclockwise direction around the lake.
3. Vehicle operators are reminded to respect other vehicles and their operators, and all shoreline property.
4. Illinois state law requires that when towing a water skier, or anyone on a flotation device, at least two competent persons must be in the boat AND display a bright ORANGE flag not less than 12" x 12".
5. All people in a watercraft under the age of 13 must be wearing a flotation device. Anyone operating or riding a PWC must wear a life jacket.
6. **In case of emergency, call 911.** For non-emergency assistance, call the Village of Wonder Lake Police Department at (815) 728-0535.
7. The MPOA by-laws prohibit the operation of all automobiles, trucks and SUVs from the bed or surface of Wonder Lake at any time.
8. Lake users should always be aware of the potential of floating debris, and particularly after heavy rainfall events. If in-lake debris is observed call **815-653-1000** or Email wlmppoa@wlmppoa.org.
9. Heavy rainfall can also result in swimming beach advisories or closures, as determined by the McHenry County Department of Health. Heavy rainfall and runoff events will also cause lake levels to rise, increasing the potential for dock and shoreline damage from boat wakes, and making it likely that the lake will be subject to a "No-Wake" or "Lake Closure" condition until water levels recede.
10. Good judgement should be used when installing your docks so that they are not underwater during high water.

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