

Rules and Regulations for Boating on Crystal Lake



Cronin's Cove Crystal Lake 1888 (photo from Jackson Homestead)

Use of Crystal Lake for boating and fishing is permitted year-round from dawn to dusk subject to the following rules and regulations:

RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR BOATING ON CRYSTAL LAKE

(As amended by the Newton Parks & Recreation Commission, December 18, 2005)

Use of Crystal Lake for boating and fishing is permitted year round from dawn to dusk subject to the following rules and regulations:

1. **TYPES OF BOATS:**

- a. The following boats are permitted:
Car top boats, including canoes, kayaks, rowboats, wind surfers and inflatable boats that have sides, oar locks and a rated carrying capacity of at least 300lbs.

2. **TYPES OF MOTORS:**

- a. Electric motors not exceeding 3 horsepower or 30lbs of thrust.
- b. All persons using the above permitted boats must wear a coast guard approved personal flotation device at all times. (see rule 7a below)

3. **THE FOLLOWING ARE PROHIBITED:**

- a. Jet skis, crew sculls, water skis, snowmobiles, skimobiles, all terrain vehicles (ATV's) and hovercrafts. (exception – emergency vehicles)
- b. Internal combustion engines on or in the water. (exception – emergency vehicles)

4. **ACCESS POINT:**

- a. All boats must be put into the water by hand carry at the designated area in Cronin's Cove on Lake Avenue. Boats may not be put in the lake from any other site, except boats belonging to owners of property abutting the lake, which may then be launched from the abutter's property.

5. **LAUNCHING AND LANDING:**

- a. Boaters are prohibited from landing their boats on private property along the lake, except that the foregoing restriction shall not apply to private abutters landing boats on their own property.
- b. No person shall moor a boat in the water and no person shall beach a boat within the boundary of the access point or upon any other public land surrounding the lake (a) after dusk, or (b) in a manner that interferes with the reasonable use and enjoyment of the access point and other public land by others entitled thereto.
- c. No person shall dig up, cut, break, remove, deface, defile or ill-use any fence, sign, stairway, bush, plant, turf, rock, or any other thing belonging to the City of Newton, or have possession of any part thereof.

6. **PARKING:**

- a. Subject to an amendment to City parking ordinances, boaters may park in the designated spot on Lake Avenue at Cronin Cove for five (5) minutes while loading and unloading boats. At all other times, boaters' cars must be legally parked in appropriate spaces.
- b. The maximum number of boats permitted on the lake in active use at any one time is limited to twenty (20) boats on a first-come/first-served basis.

7. **SAFETY:**

- a. All boats must be equipped with one Coast Guard approved personal flotation device, in good and serviceable condition, for each person on board, which must be worn at all times by each such person on board (M.G.L. c.90B, sec.5A).
- b. Boaters are required to read and obey State boating regulations, which appear on the Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and Environmental Law Enforcement sign posted at Cronin Cove.
- c. No person shall operate a boat or other craft that exceeds the recommended carrying capacity or recommended number of persons on board. Any person operating a boat in the aforesaid manner shall be ordered to remove such boat from the lake.
- d. No person under age 12 shall operate a boat on the lake, unless accompanied by another person (in the same boat) who is at least 12 years of age.
- e. Boating is not permitted inside the buoyed swimming area, the buoyed area surrounding the high voltage aerator or within one hundred fifty (150) feet of the bathing beach. Boaters should be mindful of swimmers who may stray outside of the swimming area.
- f. Swimming from boats is prohibited (boaters are not permitted to jump into the water or swim from their boats).
- g. All boaters use the lake at their own risks.

8. FISHING:

- a. All persons who fish from boats on Crystal Lake must have a valid fishing license as required.
- b. Scuba fishing and spear fishing are prohibited.
- c. Ice fishing or any other activity on the lake is prohibited at any time when the ice is determined by the City of Newton Safety Officer and Parks and Recreation Department to be unsafe for skating and is prohibited at all times in the area planned for skating.

9. MISCELLANEOUS:

- a. No person shall throw, drop or place any waste paper, rubbish or refuse in or on Crystal Lake or upon any public land bordering thereon.
- b. No person shall throw any stone or any other missile, or have possession of or discharge any destructive weapon, firearm, firecracker, torpedo or firework in or on Crystal Lake or upon any public or private land bordering thereon.
- c. No person shall, in or on Crystal Lake or upon any public land bordering thereon, engage in disorderly conduct, gambling, use of illegal drugs, or use of obscene or indecent language.
- d. No person shall, in or on Crystal Lake or upon any public land bordering thereon, have possession of or drink any alcoholic beverage.
- e. No person shall throw or place a lighted match, cigar, cigarette or other burning substance in or on Crystal Lake or upon any public land bordering thereon, nor shall any person make a fire upon the ground or in a grill upon any public land bordering Crystal Lake, nor shall any person make a fire in a grill on a boat.

10. ENFORCEMENT:

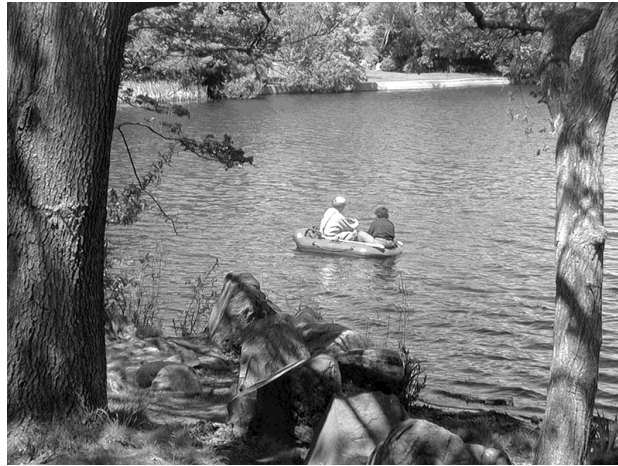
- a. No person shall refuse or neglect to obey any of these rules when directed to do so by any official authorized to enforce these rules as specified in Rule 9b.
- b. The City of Newton Police and Newton Parks and Recreation Officials shall enforce these rules and regulations. Violations are subject to a \$50 fine to be paid to the City of Newton (M.G.L. c.90b, sec.12.14).
- c. The Director of the Division of Law Enforcement of the Department of fisheries, Wildlife and Environmental Law Enforcement: Environmental Police Officers and State Police are authorized to enforce applicable state laws, which may also include \$50 fine for violations (M.G.L. c.90b, sec.12.14).
- d. These rules have been established taking into account the population density of the City and close proximity of Crystal Lake to major thoroughfares and Newton Center. These rules also reflect the desire of the City to deal equitably with abutters and non-abutters and to preserve the ecological balance of Crystal Lake by preventing the over-utilization of this cherished natural resource. These rules will be reviewed annually in April at a formal Parks and Recreation meeting, and as deemed necessary by the Parks and Recreation Commission.

11. PRIOR RULES:

Rule 15, “Boating” and Rule 16 “Fishing” of the “Rules and Regulations for the Government and the Use of Crystal Lake” (City of Newton Playground Commission – 1929), to the extent they are inconsistent with the foregoing, are hereby amended and superseded by these rules. Except as specifically set forth herein, these rules are not intended to displace or supplant existing law.

These rules and regulations were proposed by the Newton Parks & Recreation Commission on October 9, 1990, and accepted by the Commonwealth of Massachusetts Department of Fisheries, Wildlife and Environmental Law Enforcement on May 8, 1991, in accordance with M.G.L. c131, sec 45 and 323 CMR5.0. Also see City of Newton Traffic ordinance T-112, approved 10/15/90.

The December 18, 2005 amendments were submitted for review and approval by the Department of Fisheries & Wildlife but were determined not to require the approval of the Department via email of December 27, 2005, James J. Hanlon, Director, Massachusetts Environmental Police.



Fishing at Crystal Lake

Provision for Overriding Written Policies and Procedures:

At least a two-thirds majority vote of the Commission is required to set aside an existing, written policy or procedure of the Commission. (Approved January 25, 1999)