

Lake Redstone Property Owners Association

**BASIC INFORMATION ABOUT
THE LAKE, LAWS, GOVERNMENT,
AND ORGANIZATIONS**

Presentation at the LRPOA New Member Welcome Meeting: June 22, 2024

Basic Information About the LRPOA

- <https://www.lakeredstonepoa.com>
- Founded in 1969 when lake was three years old
- Mission: Social, Communication, and Safety
- Unlike many HOA's: no mandatory membership and not involved with laws/ordinances such as architecture or building codes
- Nine volunteer, elected board members. Consider running some day. New faces and ideas always welcome.
- NOT to be confused with the **Lake Redstone Protection District (LRPD)**
<https://www.lakeredstonepd.org>
- **LRPD** is a local government organization with elected and compensated board members. Established in 1976 per state law, with mission to "protect and rehabilitate water quality." Your property tax bill contains a small amount for the LRPD.
 - LRPD monitors and addresses water quality and aquatic plant issues, monitors and addresses sediment/runoff issues, operates a Clean Boats/Clean Waters Program with boat inspections at two boat landings, performs Education and Outreach, and obtains grants to offset costs

LRPOA Value to Members

- **Social!***
 - Numerous social events each year
 - Seven clubs (Biking, Kayaking, Sewing, Mahjong, Fitness, Photography, Garden)
- **Communications!**
 - Two printed newsletters (January, May)
 - Weekly informational emails during summer, bi-weekly other three seasons
- **Safety!**
 - Emergency communications via email E.g. lake-wide slow/no wake
 - Reminders of basic safety rules on and around the lake
- **Clubhouse Rental available to members**

* Other lake clubs not affiliated with LRPOA include: **Fishing** (Tom Walters (815) 245-2801, join at North End Restaurant); **Wednesday Golf** (Bill Martin 239-699-8787); and **Sauk Ridge Runners ATV Club** (Jackie Mok 773-580-1939)

Basic Government Information

- Town of La Valle provides services for road maintenance, trash/dump, the Section 11 and Fox Court boat landings, snowplowing, post office, some police work including on the lake, and voting
 - <https://townoflavallo.us>
- Local ordinances
 - Short term leases: less than six days not allowed; 7-29 days require a permit from the Town of La Valle, with a \$500 fee
 - Noise: quiet hours are 11pm-7am
 - UTV/ATVs must have headlights and taillights on when operating. UTV/ATV hours: 7am-9pm.
- Sauk County provides almost everything else, from Human Services, to land use (e.g. permits), most parks, legal, and many other services (e.g. septic system inspection notices). Your real estate tax bill comes from Sauk County.
- Town of La Valle vs. Village of La Valle: The Village is basically the downtown, whereas the Town is the surrounding area including Lake Redstone. The population sign when you come into La Valle (388 people) is the population of the Village of La Valle not the Town of La Valle. Town has 1484 people (2023).

Lake Redstone General Information

- The lake is 635 acres, 15 feet average depth, 40 feet max depth near dam, 17.5 miles of shoreline, 1.5 miles max width, 4 miles max length
- Three public boat landings
- Fascinating history. It was built by Ike Issacson in 1964-1966, having convinced 24 farmers to sell their property. It was dedicated by the governor in June 1966. Two books have been written about it, as well as a 75 minute professionally made video documentary available to stream and DVD.
- 1000+ owners of 1400+ lots
- Per a 2022 LRPD survey, 60% of respondents use their property as a vacation home and 40% use their property as their primary residence.
- Excellent fishing and recreational use. No history of toxic algal blooms. The green tint is due to microscopic algae that feed on phosphorus.
- Be aware and be safe! Eleven people have died in/on Lake Redstone since 1966: seven drownings, including 4 from snowmobiles going thru the ice; 1 run over by a water skier; 2 in a house fire; 1 unclear-last year.
- No businesses are allowed on the lake

Lake Things to Know

- Most important rules per DNR's "The Handbook of Wisconsin Boating Laws and Responsibilities": <https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Boat>. *Violations that are most likely to irritate your fellow lake users are in **bold**.*
 - Can't operate boats within 100 feet from shoreline/docks unless the boat is going slow/no wake. PWCs/jet skis must be 200 ft from shoreline and 100 ft from boats.
 - Boat lights must be on after dusk
 - Must have a workable fire extinguisher on board
 - Passengers can't sit on bow, deck, or gunwale
 - **Jet skis can't weave back and forth across a wake within a 100 feet of a boat, and should never follow tubers or skiers**
 - **Slow/no wake buoys are there for a reason and must be obeyed.** Placed by Town of La Valle per specified GPS coordinates that are guided by DNR rules.
 - **Town of La Valle law: Wake boats must be a minimum of 200 feet from shoreline when in "displacement mode"**. Widespread discussions on-going at state and local levels regarding wake boats.
 - See last page of this doc for rules regarding boat operating ages and life vests
 - Town of La Valle responsible for enforcement of lake laws, as is DNR and Sauk County Sheriff. DNR enforces fishing laws. To report a violation call the Town of La Valle at 608-985-7695. To report a DNR related violation call 1-800-TIP-WDNR (1-800-847-9367).

Lake Things to Know

- Protecting your lake, your property value, and adding to your pocketbook!
 - Dredging of 24 bays performed in 2019 at a cost of \$3.5 million with most of the money coming from property owners in their property tax. Loan will be paid off in 2028. Previously dredged in 1983 (just 17 years after the lake was created).
 - Farmers in the watershed are doing their part to improve water quality. Typically, little sediment and phosphorus flows into the lake from the farmers, due to modern farming practices.
 - Property owners on the lake contribute a major portion of phosphorus and sediment going in to the lake. These properties contribute to need for dredging and adds to the green tint of the water. Grass going all the way up to the shoreline/rip-rap does little to slow runoff!
 - Government reimbursement (3 sources) for your runoff control projects can be \$5500 or more! See LRPD website/shoreline protection. <https://www.lakeredstonepd.org>
 - No phosphorus fertilizer can be sold by retailers (state law). Use castile soap in outdoor shower.
 - No grass clippings in lake. Harvested lake weeds should be taken away from the lake, per state law.
 - Trees and shrubs help anchor the soil and are aesthetically pleasing. You can't remove more than 35% of the trees within 35 ft of the shoreline, per Sauk County ordinance.

Miscellaneous

- Booklets are in clubhouse for ATV use and boating laws
- ATVs cannot operate on numbered roads (e.g. highways 58 and 33) per state law, except within the Village of La Valle limits. Can operate on lettered roads (e.g. V and F), per local law.
- Local dock companies for placement and removal:
 - Mittelstaedt Sports 608-985-7118
 - Brando Enterprises 608-963-5219
 - Patriot 608-448-1752
 - Docking Solutions 608-562-6666
- Boat repair and storage: Mittelstaedt Sports, Countryside Marina 608) 985-8155
- Most people take their trash to the La Valle dump. Some use Town & Country Sanitation 608-375-5856 for pickup.
- Many people use the lake in the winter for fishing, snowmobiling, snowshoeing, skating. BE CAREFUL, there are springs where people have gone through.
- Help keep roadsides clean. Watch for things flying out of your trailer/truck bed. Pick up things when out for a walk. Twenty-one people are part of an "Adopt a Road Program" for the roads around Lake Redstone.

Other Important Lake Rules

- Per DNR's "The Handbook of Wisconsin Boating Laws and Responsibilities":
<https://dnr.wisconsin.gov/topic/Boat>
- Who can operate a boat is complex
 - Persons born after January 1, 1989 must be Boater Safety Certified unless accompanied by an older adult or certified person
 - Under 10 can't operate a boat
 - Ages 10-11 can operate a boat if accompanied by an adult/certified person
 - 12-15 can operate a boat without an adult if they completed a boating safety course or accompanied by a parent or guardian who is certified
 - 16-18 is same as rule for 12-15 except the adult accompanying them doesn't need to be a parent or guardian
- Life jackets
 - Each boat, including kayaks, canoes, and paddleboarders, must have an approved wearable life jacket for each person on board
 - All boats 16 ft and over must have a readily accessible, throwable floatation device
 - PWC driver and passengers must wear a life jacket
 - Even when life jackets are not required to be worn, they are highly recommended

Please support our sponsors and advertisers and let them know you are an LRPOA member! Their approx. \$12,000 to us per year is 1/3 of our total budget which keeps our membership fee low!

The information in this document was compiled by Jill Messmer, Brad Horner, and Barb Trodahl. It was reviewed by 20 people including from DNR, Sauk County, Town of La Valle, LRPD, and LRPOA.