LAKE THOM-A-LEX
RULES AND REGULATIONS

Effective May 4, 2016

Sec. 1-1. Operation and Control

A. The Cities of Lexington and Thomasville in conjunction with Davidson County shall designate the official custodians of the lake and surrounding property owned by the Cities to the Lake Thom-A-Lex Authority (Lake TAL Authority). It shall be the duty of the Lake TAL Authority to enforce and amend all rules and regulations and enforce ordinances adopted by all governing entities and the Lake TAL Authority, as well as all applicable State and Federal laws and regulations.

B. The Lake Warden, or designee as authorized by Davidson County, shall be responsible for collecting, processing and accounting for all permits and fees as well as enforcing all Lake TAL rules and regulations approved by the Lake TAL Authority, as well as all applicable State and Federal laws and regulations.

C. Admission shall be denied to any person having intoxicating beverages or drugs in his possession or who shows evidence of being under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

D. All activities on or around the lake must fully comply with the North Carolina State Board of Health and local governing entities' regulations, including those approved by the Lake TAL Authority, to protect the public water supply.

E. Visitors of Lake TAL shall not carry or discharge guns, spring guns, fireworks, bows and arrows, slings, slingshots, paintball guns, rocks, or other weapons not designated, unless duly authorized by City officials or as permissible by state law in accordance with NCGS 14-415.23, Statewide uniformity.

F. The Lake TAL Authority shall adopt a schedule of days and hours of operation and said schedule shall be posted at the lake at all times.

G. A copy of these rules and regulations shall be posted at the lake at all times.

Sec. 1-2. Permits

A. All persons, excluding senior citizens (65 and older) and children (16 and under), are required to obtain and properly execute a permit before fishing in or boating on Lake TAL. Permits are available at the Lake Warden's office located at the park on Yokley Road. Failure to obtain and execute said permit shall constitute a trespassing violation and may be prosecuted as a misdemeanor.

B. A permit shall be valid only when used by the executing person(s) for whom it was obtained. Daily permits are valid only on the day obtained. Annual permits shall be only for the year issued.

C. Every permit shall be issued subject to revocation or cancellation if the holder violates any of the rules and regulations governing the use of the lake and its activities as agreed upon in the executed permit.

D. A copy of the fee schedule shall be posted at the lake at all times.

Sec. 1-3. General

A. No person shall fish, launch a boat, or have any contact whatsoever with Lake Thom-A-Lex except at designated entry points. It shall be unlawful for anyone to wade or swim in the lake unless incidental to launching a boat.

B. Any action or conduct on the lake that endangers life or property shall be deemed inappropriate and shall be cause for immediate expulsion from the lake or legal prosecution and could be subject to trespassing violations.

C. All activities on the lake, at the park or on property owned by the Cities surrounding the lake after posted hours are not allowed.

D. The Lake TAL Authority, City of Lexington or City of Thomasville, shall have the authority to close the lake when it has been determined that further activities shall be detrimental to water quality or public safety. Any use at that time shall not be allowed.

E. No person shall be allowed to picnic or cook foods in an area not designated as a picnic area. Lighting fires outside of areas designated as picnic areas is not allowed.

F. Felling trees into the water or dumping brush or other materials into the lake in order to create fish habitat is not allowed by the public.

G. Any activity on the dam or spillway shall be treated as trespassing and prosecuted accordingly.

H. No person is allowed to disturb, compromise or disregard any buoy or sign.

I. No person shall be allowed to dump trash, garbage, refuse, offal, dead animals, or scrap fishing lines into Lake Thom-A-Lex or at the surrounding park and City-owned properties. Anyone found in violation of this provision can have permissions revoked to the property.

Sec. 1-4. Boating

A. Launching of boats shall be restricted to points designated by the Lake TAL Authority. Boats may be launched only during days and hours when the lake is open to the public.

B. Outside of the posted no wake zones, ALL boats shall not exceed a speed of thirty-five (35) mph at any time. All boaters shall abide by appropriate signage posted at the lake regarding horsepower maximum limits. Boats may be inspected at any time by the designated custodians of Lake TAL. Boats not in compliance with a standardized checklist used by the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary or exceeding the posted horsepower limit will not be allowed to launch or remain on the lake. Inspection is not a certification or guarantee of boat safety and the Lake TAL Authority or governing entities shall not be held responsible in case of an accident.

C. Every boat placed on the lake must be supplied with at least one Coast Guard Approved life jacket per occupant. For boats 16 feet and longer, all occupants must have a life jacket and one throwable cushion on the boat.

D. No boat shall be allowed <u>within 50 feet</u> of the City of Thomasville's intake structure or beyond the spillway cable at the south end of Lake TAL near the City of Lexington's intake structure. Furthermore, no boat shall be allowed to anchor on or <u>within 50 feet</u> of the City of Lexington's aeration lines.

E. Only boats powered by electric trolling motors and canoes/kayaks are allowed south of the restricted area.

F. No boat shall be allowed to tie up to buoys or the buoy line. No fishing devices may be attached to buoys or the buoy line.

G. No one will be allowed to enter or leave a boat except at designated launch areas.

H. All power boats shall be subject to the following no wake zones: within 500 feet of the designated launch areas, at the Yokley Road bridge as designated, when operating within 100 feet from shore, and when operating in less than 3 feet of water. All boat operators are responsible for damages created by their boat wakes.

I. No person 16 years of age and under shall be permitted to operate a powerboat without parental supervision in the boat.

J. Water skiing, operation of jet skis, personal watercraft and similar activities are not compatible with water quality needs and are not permitted.

K. Canoes and kayaks not equipped with suitable buoyancy devices are not permitted.

L. Windsurfers and rubber and canvas rafts are not allowed.

M. No boats are allowed to remain on the lake overnight.

N. All boats must be off the water fifteen (15) minutes before closing time. Boat launching is not permitted one hour prior to closing.

O. No boat equipped with a direct sewage system shall be allowed on the lake.

P. No horseback riding is allowed on lake property.

Q. No motorized vehicles shall be operated in areas not designated for their use. This provision shall not apply to motorized wheelchairs for the handicapped and disabled.

Sec. 1-5. Fishing

A. The regulations of the NC Wildlife Resources Commission regarding licenses, the kinds and sizes of fish, number of fish to be taken, seasons when fishing is allowed and methods of catching fish shall apply.

B. At the request of the Lake Warden, or his designee approved by Davidson County, each person's catch must be submitted for inspection.

C. Bank fishing is not permitted in the following areas: Within 50 feet of the City of Thomasville's raw water intake structure; on or below the dam and spillway while on the property of the Cities; or from the bridge on Yokley Road.

D. No trolling south of the restricted area buoys.

E. Use of bait cast nets are prohibited south of the restricted area buoys.

F. Fishing is restricted to pole fishing with mono-filament/light test fishing line south of the restricted area buoys.

Sec. 1-6. Canoes and Kayaks

A. The minimum age for canoe/kayak rental or private launch is 16 years of age.

B. Children 13-15 years of age may canoe/kayak with a parent or legal guardian who has executed the legal guardian statement on the daily recreational permit.

C. Children 12 years of age or younger must be in a tandem canoe or kayak with a parent or legal guardian and cannot operate a solo kayak unless they have completed a Youth Kayak Skills Verification.

D. Children 13 years of age or younger MUST wear a life preserver and be supervised by an adult at all times when on the water.

E. A child should be of walking age to be allowed in any canoe/kayak.

F. Canoes/Kayaks MUST launch only at designated launch areas.

G. Canoes/Kayaks and equipment rentals MUST be returned to original location.

H. Canoes/Kayaks and equipment rentals are not allowed on the water past dark or during late night hours (excluding guided programs).

I. Canoes/Kayaks and equipment rentals are available on a first-come, first-serve basis. There are no reservations required or accepted.

Sec. 1-7. Hunting

Hunting is prohibited on the lake or on publicly-owned property surrounding the lake.

Sec. 1-8. Exemptions

Designated representatives of the governmental bodies involved in the operation and upkeep of the lake, park, water intakes and surrounding property of the Cities are exempt from these rules and regulations while performing assigned duties. Other agencies may be declared exempt on a case-by-case basis by appropriate representatives of the Lake TAL Authority or governing entities.

Sec. 1-9. Enforcement

Violation of this ordinance shall result in the following fines/citations:

1st offense: Warning citation issued by Lake Warden or designee as authorized by Davidson County;
2nd offense: $50.00 fine as established by violation of ordinance punishable in accordance with N.C. General Statute 14-4(a);
3rd offense: Termination of all rights to Lake Thom-A-Lex property for one full calendar year from the date of the violation citation.

(Adopted by Lake Thom-A-Lex Advisory Board under LTAL-02-2016 on May 4, 2016.)