



# Boating and Fishing on Norfolk's Reservoirs

City of Norfolk  
Department of Utilities

## CHAPTER 46.1 – WATER SUPPLY

### Sec. 46.1-2. Definitions

*Director* means the director of the Norfolk department of utilities or his designee

*Person* means any individual, firm, owner, sole proprietorship, partnership, corporation, unincorporated association, governmental body, municipal corporation, executor, administrator, trustee, guardian, agent, occupant or other legal entity.

*Reservoir* means any body of water owned by the city of Norfolk and used for drinking as listed: Lake Wright, Lake Whitehurst (Little Creek Reservoir West), Little Creek Reservoir (Little Creek Reservoir East), Lake Smith, Lake Lawson, Lake Taylor, Lake Prince, Lake Burnt Mills, and Western Branch Reservoir.

*Watershed* means that land area that surrounds the Norfolk lakes and reservoirs and that acts as a drainage basin into the lakes and reservoirs.

*Water system of the City of Norfolk* includes lakes and reservoirs, conjunctive use wells, water treatment facilities, intake, storage, pumping, transmission, distribution and related equipment and appurtenances.

### Sec. 46.1-3. Violations of chapter.

Any person who violates any of the provisions of this chapter, notwithstanding any other provision to the contrary, shall be guilty of a Class 1 misdemeanor. Each day's continuance of such violation shall constitute a separate offense.

#### Sec. 46.1-3.1 Enforcement.

Any law enforcement officer, duly designated sworn police officer, the director of public health, or the fire marshal or any of his assistants, is authorized and shall have authority to enforce all provisions of this Chapter.

## ARTICLE IV. POLLUTION OF WATER SUPPLY GENERALLY; PROTECTION OF WATERSHED

### Sec. 46.1-46. Protection of watershed.

- (a) It shall be unlawful for any person to pollute, threaten, jeopardize or render impure, turbid or offensive, the water supply of the City of Norfolk.
- (b) No person shall put any filth, animal or vegetable matter, chips, compost, construction debris, shavings or any other substance or pollutant, whether solid or liquid, and whether buried or not, within the City of Norfolk's watershed property or place or dispose of any such substance in an area which drains into the watershed property or the lakes and reservoirs of the City of Norfolk.

- (c) It shall be unlawful for any person to construct any sewer, privy vault, cesspool, septic tank or facility for the containment or treatment of domestic and household waste on any part of the watersheds surrounding the water supply of the city, without first securing a permit from the director of utilities and the director of health.
- (d) The director of utilities shall have the right to develop and enforce policies and procedures for the protection of the city's water system lakes and reservoirs, including the Norfolk watershed property.

**ARTICLE V. REGULATIONS APPLICABLE TO CITY-OWNED  
LAKES AND ADJOINING LAND**

Sec. 46.1-47. Compliance with state fishing and boating laws.

Any person fishing in any of the reservoirs owned by the city shall comply with the regulations set by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries as well as the following City of Norfolk regulations.

Sec. 46.1-48. Permit required for boating on city-owned lakes.

No person shall be extended the privilege of boating, including canoeing on any of the city-owned reservoirs unless a boating permit is obtained for the boat or canoe and the following fees are paid therefor:

- (1) Annual permits for privately owned boats beginning January 1, shall be issued for the period January first to December thirty-first of each year at the following charges:

Nonresidents .....	\$40.00
Norfolk residents .....	\$20.00
Sixty-two (62) years of age or over .....	\$10.00
City of Norfolk employees .....	\$10.00

- (2) Daily permits shall be issued for a 24 hours period at a cost of \$5.00.

- (b) The permit is nontransferable.
- (c) The director has the right to issue boat permits for law enforcement, special events, contractors and other situations as deemed appropriate.
- (d) The city treasurer may establish substations in convenient locations and appoint agents for the issuance of boat permits and may require surety bonds from said agents for the faithful performance of their duties. Appointed agents shall be entitled to a One Dollar (\$1.00) handling fee per permit to be deducted from the cost of the fee imposed by section 46.1-48 in accordance with procedures established by the city treasurer.

Sec. 46.1-49. Boat identification tag.

- (a) A boat identification tag will be issued with each permit at no extra cost. The identification tag shall be securely attached to the left bow of the boat in plain view and easily recognizable. The number on the identification tag shall be stamped on the boat permit. Should an identification tag become mutilated so that its numbers cannot be read easily, it is to be removed and a new identification tag will be issued for a fee of one dollar (\$1.00). The boat owner will report a lost or stolen tag to the location where purchased.
- (b) Proof of legal ownership must be presented before an impounded boat will be released to any person claiming ownership.

Sec. 46.1-50. Regulations applicable to city lakes and city-owned land adjoining city lakes.

Every permit issued pursuant to section 46.1-48, shall be subject to the following regulations which are hereby established for the use of all city reservoirs and city owned land adjoining such reservoirs:

- (1) All city reservoirs and adjacent city-owned property shall be open during hours designated by the director and posted at major entry points. No person shall go on any city reservoir or adjacent watershed property outside of posted hours unless he is a warden, law enforcement officer, member of a reserve unit or other authorized personnel.
- (2) No person shall use water skis, jet skis, surfboards, open bottom paddle boats, houseboats, tubes, rafts, inflatable boats or similar devices on any city reservoirs except as allowed by the director for non-recreational use.
- (3) Sailing is not permitted on any portion of the city reservoirs.
- (4) No person shall permit stagnant water to accumulate in such person's private boat on any city reservoirs.
- (5) No person shall carry or set off any firecrackers or other fireworks from any boat on any city reservoirs or from any city-owned land adjoining any city reservoirs.
- (6) No person shall swim in any city reservoirs without the permission of the director of utilities.
- (7) No person shall fish from any city-owned land adjoining any city reservoir, except on property designated therefor at the fishing stations unless otherwise authorized in writing by the director.
- (8) All boating and fishing shall be in compliance with the regulations set by local, state, and federal agencies having jurisdiction.
- (9) No person shall take any fish from any city reservoir except with rod, line and hooks baited with natural or artificial bait unless authorized by the director.
- (10) No person under the age of twelve (12) years shall operate any boat unless accompanied by an adult on any city reservoir.

- (11) No person shall use any boat having an operational outboard motor exceeding twelve (12) horsepower on any city reservoir. The director may grant exceptions for city departments, agencies and contractors.
- (12) Boats shall be launched only from designated launching areas on city reservoirs and at any other launching areas designated by the director of utilities.
- (13) All permits issued pursuant to this section must be produced for inspection when requested by any patrol officers or person of properly constituted authority.
- (14) Except as otherwise provided by law no person shall bring, possess, or drink any alcoholic beverage on the city reservoirs or on any city-owned land adjoining any city reservoir.
- (15) No person shall cause the disturbance of others through the use any sound amplification equipment or radio on the city reservoirs on any city-owned land adjoining any city reservoir.

Sec. 46.1-52. Permit Revocation.

In the event of the violation of any of the foregoing regulations by any person holding a permit issued pursuant to this chapter, the director shall have the right, in addition to any other remedies herein provided or otherwise allowed by law, to revoke such permit and to deny such person access to the city reservoir and city-owned land adjoining any city reservoir for a period deemed appropriate.