



1 **Negligent operation.** Any person who shall negligently operate  
2 any watercraft in a manner so as to endanger or be likely to  
3 endanger any person or property or at a rate of speed greater  
4 than will permit him in the exercise of reasonable care to  
5 bring the watercraft to a stop within the assured clear  
6 distance ahead, shall be guilty of negligent operation, ~~((and~~  
7 ~~a)) which shall be classified as ((violation under this~~  
8 ~~chapter)) a misdemeanor.~~

9 SECTION 3. Resolution 28232, Section 5 and K.C.C.

10 12.44.050 are hereby amended to read as follows:

11 **Reckless operation.** Any person who shall operate any  
12 watercraft or vessel in a reckless manner so as to endanger  
13 life or limb, or damage the property of any person, shall be  
14 guilty of reckless operation, ~~((and a violation of this~~  
15 ~~chapter)) which shall be classified as a misdemeanor.~~

16 SECTION 4. Resolution 28232, Section 10 and K.C.C.

17 12.44.130 are hereby amended to read as follows:

18 **Intoxication.** A. It is unlawful for any person who is under  
19 the influence of intoxicating liquor or narcotic or habit-  
20 forming drugs to operate or be in actual physical control of  
21 any vessel or watercraft. A person is considered under the  
22 influence of intoxicating liquor or any drug if he or she is  
23 under the influence, affected, under the combined influence  
24 or has alcohol either by weight or by breath as specified in  
25 RCW 88.12.025, as it currently reads or is subsequently  
26 amended.

27 B. It is unlawful for the owner of any vessel or watercraft  
28 or any person having such in charge or in control to  
29 authorize or knowingly permit the same to be operated by any

1 person who is under the influence of intoxicating liquor,  
2 narcotic or habit forming drugs.

3 C. Whenever it appears reasonably certain to any police  
4 officer that any person that any person under the influence  
5 of, or affected by the use of, intoxicating liquor or any  
6 narcotic drug is about to operate a watercraft or vessel in  
7 violation of subdivision A. of this section, said officer may  
8 take reasonable measures to prevent any such person from so  
9 doing.

10 D. Any violation of or failure to comply with the provisions  
11 of this section shall constitute a misdemeanor.

12 SECTION 5. Ordinance 3304, Section 1 and K.C.C.  
13 12.44.260 are hereby amended to read as follows:

14 **Lake Sawyer restrictions.** A. The following rules and  
15 regulations shall be adopted for use of motor-operated  
16 watercraft on Lake Sawyer:

17 1. It is unlawful to use or operate any watercraft  
18 powered by an internal combustion engine on Lake Sawyer,  
19 except that the following engines will be permitted:

20 a. Water-cooled outboard engines of stock manufacture  
21 or stock manufactured inboard engines with outboard drive  
22 units which vent all exhaust gases through the lower drive  
23 unit in conjunction with cooling water and/or vent at a point  
24 on the drive unit which is under water at all times; provided,  
25 that the department of public safety, having promulgated  
26 standards and procedures in accordance with Chapter 2.98 prior  
27 to enforcement, is authorized to issue and/or revoke  
28 conditional use permits to the owners for those watercraft  
29 that comply with specified standards of operation but whose

1 engine drive unit and/or exhaust does not strictly adhere to  
2 requirements of mechanical operation.

3 b. Air-cooled outboard or inboard engines of stock  
4 manufacture rated by the manufacturer at ten horsepower or  
5 less and equipped with mufflers to suppress exhaust noises;

6 The operation of watercraft powered by engines which are  
7 worn, damaged or modified in such a manner as to permit the  
8 noise level of exhaust gases or air intake devices to be  
9 increased above that designed by the manufacturer is  
10 prohibited.

11 2. Except as otherwise specifically provided for in  
12 this chapter, it is unlawful for any person to operate a  
13 motor-powered watercraft on Lake Sawyer in excess of eight  
14 miles per hour.

15 3. Watercraft will be permitted to operate at speeds  
16 not to exceed thirty miles per hour during the hours of two  
17 p.m. to seven p.m. on Mondays through Fridays and from eleven  
18 a.m. to three p.m. on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays;  
19 provided, watercraft operating in excess of eight miles per  
20 hour with or without skier in tow shall remain at least two  
21 hundred feet from any and all shorelines and one hundred feet  
22 from other watercraft and persons; provided further,  
23 watercraft operating in excess of eight miles per hour shall  
24 proceed around the lake in a counterclockwise direction.

25 B. Water skiing on Lake Sawyer shall be regulated as  
26 follows:

27 1. No watercraft which has in tow a person on water  
28 skis, aquaplane, surfboard or similar contrivance shall be  
29 operated or propelled unless such watercraft is occupied by at  
30 least two competent persons.

1           2. All water skiers shall take off and return to  
2 designated floats placed on the lake. Buoys shall be placed  
3 two hundred feet from shore around the lake. Floats and buoys  
4 are to be provided and maintained by water skiers, under the  
5 supervision of the Lake Sawyer community club.

6           3. No operator of a watercraft shall have in tow a  
7 person on water skis, aquaplane, surfboard or similar  
8 contrivance after sunset.

9           4. All persons being towed by watercraft shall wear an  
10 adequate flotation life belt or vest.

11           C. Any person who negligently operates any watercraft in  
12 a manner so as to endanger or be likely to endanger any person  
13 or property, or at a rate of speed greater than will permit  
14 him in the exercise of reasonable care to bring the watercraft  
15 to a stop within assured clear distance ahead, is guilty of  
16 negligent operation and a violation of this chapter.

17           D. Any person who operates any watercraft in a reckless  
18 manner so as to endanger the life or limb or damage the  
19 property of any person is guilty of the crime of reckless  
20 operation and a violation of this chapter.

21           E. It is unlawful for any person who is under the  
22 influence of intoxicating liquor or narcotic or habit-forming  
23 drugs to operate or be in physical control of any watercraft;  
24 further, it is unlawful for the owner of any watercraft or any  
25 person having such in charge or in control to authorize or  
26 knowingly permit the same to be operated by any person who is  
27 under the influence of intoxicating liquor, narcotic or  
28 habit-forming drugs.

29           F. Unless specifically provided for in this chapter, all  
30 provisions of the King County boating code as now exists or

1 hereafter is amended will apply to all watercraft operating on  
2 Lake Sawyer.

3 G. Any violation of this chapter (~~constitutes a~~  
4 ~~misdemeanor, and such violation shall be punished as provided~~  
5 ~~by the statutes of the state of Washington for the commission~~  
6 ~~of a misdemeanor.)) shall be administered in a manner  
7 consistent with K.C.C. 12.44.570, as it currently reads or is  
8 revised.~~

9 H. The director of the King County department of public  
10 safety shall cause to be posted at all public and commercial  
11 access areas to Lake Sawyer a complete copy or reproduction of  
12 this section.

13 SECTION 6. Ordinance 10024, Section 1 and K.C.C.  
14 12.44.270 are hereby amended to read as follows:

15 **Lake Meridian restrictions.** The following rules and  
16 regulations are adopted for the use of motor-operated  
17 watercraft on Lake Meridian:

18 A. It is unlawful to use or operate any watercraft  
19 powered by an internal combustion engine on Lake Meridian,  
20 except that the following engines will be permitted:

21 1. Water-cooled outboard engines of stock manufacture  
22 or stock manufactured inboard engines with outboard drive  
23 units which vent all exhaust gases through the lower drive  
24 unit in conjunction with cooling water and/or vent at a point  
25 on the drive unit which is under water at all times; or  
26 watercooled direct drive inboard engines equipped with a  
27 muffler or silencer of sufficient size and capacity, to  
28 effectively muffle and reduce noise as referenced in K.C.C.  
29 12.87.170, 12.91.020 and WAC 173-70-040, as amended.

1           2.    Air-cooled outboard or inboard engines of stock  
2 manufacture rated by the manufacturer at ten horsepower or  
3 less.

4           The operation of watercraft powered by engines which are  
5 worn, damaged or modified in such a manner as to permit the  
6 noise level of exhaust gases or air intake devices to be  
7 increased above seventy-four decibels on the dB(A) scale is  
8 prohibited.    Waterskiers are prohibited from starting or  
9 stopping within 200 feet of the county-owned shoreline of Lake  
10 Meridian Park which includes the swimming beach and boat  
11 launching areas of the park.

12           B.    Water skiing will be limited to the hours of nine  
13 a.m. to six p.m.

14           C.    No watercraft shall operate in excess of eight miles  
15 per hour after six p.m. until the hour of nine a.m. and not in  
16 excess of thirty-five miles per hour from nine a.m. to six  
17 p.m.

18           D.    Watercraft exceeding speeds of eight miles per hour  
19 shall remain at least two hundred feet from the shoreline and  
20 one hundred feet from other watercraft and swimmers and shall  
21 proceed around the lake in a counterclockwise direction.

22           E.    Craft towing water skiers shall carry a competent  
23 observer in addition to the driver or operator.

24           F.    All water skiers will wear a United States Coast  
25 Guard approved personal flotation device.

26           G.    All boats operating on Lake Meridian shall carry a  
27 United States Coast Guard approved life preserver or throwable  
28 cushion in good condition for each person in the craft.

29           H.    All persons in watercraft towing skiers will remain  
30 seated at all times.

1 I. Motor-operated watercraft operating after sundown  
2 shall be equipped and have lit proper running lights.

3 J. Reckless operation as specified in K.C.C. 12.44.050,  
4 as amended. All watercraft shall be operated in a proper  
5 manner and there shall be no stunting, burning doughnuts or  
6 squirreling allowed in order that the lives and property of  
7 others be protected.

8 K. Negligent operation as specified in K.C.C. 12.44.040  
9 as amended.

10 L. The anchorage or moorage of unoccupied watercraft is  
11 prohibited except when tied to a pier with the permission of  
12 the pier owner.

13 M. No remote controlled watercraft powered by internal  
14 combustion engines shall operate before 9:00 a.m. or after  
15 6:00 p.m.

16 ~~((Any violation of this section constitutes a~~  
17 ~~misdemeanor, and such violation shall be punished as provided~~  
18 ~~by the statutes of the state of Washington for the commission~~  
19 ~~of a misdemeanor.)) Any violation of this section shall be  
20 administered in a manner consistent with K.C.C. 12.44.570, as  
21 it currently reads or is revised.~~



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SECTION 5. There is added to K.C.C 12.44 a new section to read as follows:

**Operation of personal watercraft.** Personal watercraft as defined by RCW 88.12.010 shall for the purposes of K.C.C 12.44 comply with all provisions of the law as watercraft and vessels defined under K.C.C. 12.44.020.

INTRODUCED AND READ for the first time this 20<sup>th</sup> day of March, 1995.

PASSED by a vote of 13-0 this 17<sup>th</sup> day of April, 1995.

KING COUNTY COUNCIL  
KING COUNTY, WASHINGTON

Kent Pullen  
Chair

ATTEST:

Gerald A. Peterson  
Clerk of the Council

APPROVED this 26<sup>th</sup> day of April, 1995.

Ray Loder  
King County Executive

Attachments: None