

Town of Nashville, Forest County, Wisconsin

Ordinance No. 2025-05

An Ordinance Prohibiting Wake-Enhancing Watercraft Activities on All Waters Within the Town

Section I – Purpose and Intent

The Town Board of the Town of Nashville finds that wake-enhancing activities, including wakesurfing and wakeboarding behind boats designed or operated to create large wakes, pose significant risks to the safety of boaters, swimmers, and shorelines; contribute to shoreline erosion; and disrupt the peaceful enjoyment of local waters. This ordinance is adopted to protect public health, safety, and welfare under the authority of Wis. Stat. § 30.77 and in cooperation with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

Section II – Applicability and Enforcement

This ordinance applies to all navigable waters wholly or partially located within the jurisdiction of the Town of Nashville, Forest County, Wisconsin, including but not limited to Roberts Lake and any other lakes, rivers, or ponds.

Enforcement shall be the responsibility of any authorized law enforcement officer or DNR warden.

Section III – Definitions

- Wake Boat: Any vessel equipped with ballast tanks, wedges, plates, or other devices specifically designed to increase the size of the boat's wake for activities such as wakeboarding or wakesurfing.
- Wake-Enhancing Activities: Any activity where a person surfs, rides, or otherwise maneuvers behind a vessel without being directly attached to it, and where the vessel is operated to produce an artificially enhanced wake.
- Plowing or Power Turn: Operating a boat in a manner that causes the bow to rise significantly above the waterline, often producing large wakes or turbulence.
- Slow-No-Wake: As defined by Wis. Stat. § 30.50(12), the slowest possible speed at which a motorboat can be operated while still maintaining steerage control.

Section IV – Prohibited Activities

1. Wake-Enhancing Vessel Operation Prohibited:

No person shall operate a wake boat or any motorboat using ballast tanks, mechanical wedges, or other devices intended to enhance the size of the vessel's wake on any waters

within the Town of Nashville.

2. Wakesurfing and Wakeboarding Prohibited:

No person shall engage in wakesurfing or wakeboarding activities behind any motorized vessel unless the rider is towed by a rope and the vessel is operated at a speed and in a manner that does not create an artificially enhanced wake.

3. Plowing or Power Turns Restricted:

No person shall operate any vessel in a manner that causes excessive wake or turbulence due to plowing or power turning, except when necessary to avoid imminent danger.

Section V – Exemptions

This ordinance shall not apply to:

- Emergency vessels operated by public safety agencies.
- Duly authorized governmental or research activities with prior written permission.
- Tournaments or exhibitions approved by the Wisconsin DNR and the Town of Nashville under Wis. Stat. § 30.77(3).

Section VI – Penalties

Violation of this ordinance is subject to a forfeiture of \$250 per occurrence for a first offense and \$500 for each subsequent offense, plus court costs and any restitution ordered by the court. Each separate operation or activity constitutes a new violation.

Section VII – Severability

If any section, clause, provision, or portion of this ordinance is found unconstitutional or otherwise invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder shall not be affected and shall remain in full force and effect.

Section VIII – Effective Date

This ordinance shall take effect upon passage and posting as provided by law and upon filing with the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources under § 30.77(3)(c), Wis. Stats.

Adopted this ___ day of _____, 2025.

Town Board of the Town of Nashville
Forest County, Wisconsin

Nashville Town Chair _____

Town Clerk _____