

City of Rockingham

Regulations Covering In-Lake Activities and Use of Hinson Lake Facilities

I. Purpose

The purpose of these regulations is to set forth the conditions to regulate activities and recreational uses of Hinson Lake and Rotary Lodge by the general public and organized groups and to protect the public, property, wildlife, habitat and water quality of Nona Lee "Pitt" Hinson Cohen Wildlife Conservation Area.

II. Facility Operating Schedule

- A.** Any person using any facility or recreational use during the hours in which the premises are officially open to the public is deemed to be a visitor to the premises subject to established regulations and applicable law, and shall in no event be deemed an invitee.
- B.** Hinson Lake facilities will be open only during daylight hours from one half hour before sunrise to one half hour after sunset. At the discretion of the City of Rockingham, the facilities may be closed for public use during inclement weather or maintenance activities.
- C.** Rotary Lodge will be open to the public on a schedule as set by the City of Rockingham. Rotary Lodge information and rental office will be operated by the City of Rockingham's Department of Parks and Recreation.
- D.** Hinson Lake facilities will be open on holidays at the discretion of the City of Rockingham.

III. Fees and Rates for Use of Facilities

- A.** Rates and fees for boat rentals, Rotary Lodge, picnic shelters or other activities will be established by the City of Rockingham and shall be posted at the Rotary Lodge Office at Hinson Lake.
- B.** Fees for use of the facilities and boat rentals will be collected and recorded as provided for in accordance with policy posted and available at Rotary Lodge office.

IV. Enforcement of Regulations

- A.** A copy of these regulations shall be posted at the Rotary Lodge office and shall be available for every person to read before using the premises.
- B.** The City of Rockingham shall be the official custodian in charge of Hinson Lake facilities. The City of Rockingham shall maintain and enforce all regulations and policies which have been sanctioned by the City of Rockingham.
- C.** Appropriate State and Local law enforcement authorities will be called upon for assistance as required.
- D.** Permission for the use of the premises may be denied or voided for any person, group, or activity which is considered in anyway threatening to the security and safety of any person or damaging to the facilities, equipment, habitat or water quality.
- E.** The City of Rockingham, its duly authorized agent(s), state and local law enforcement are authorized to direct persons whose presence and/or use of the facilities are in violation of law or regulations to leave Hinson Lake premises and facilities.

V. Activities and Uses

- A. Public boating shall be permitted only for fishing, sailing, paddling and/or rowing. Boating shall be restricted as to locations designated by the City of Rockingham but in no case within 75 feet of the dam or upper portion of Hinson Lake above the Leath Footbridge.
- B. The City of Rockingham reserves the right to limit the number of boats on Hinson Lake should safe capacity be deemed exceeded.
- C. Persons may not enter or leave boat at any place except from the dock or other designated location by the City of Rockingham. Each user shall observe safety rules and boating courtesy.
- D. Users shall confine activities to those areas which are designated for public use.
- E. Swimming is strictly prohibited. Any user observed swimming, rolling a kayak/canoe, or in other way showing disregard for any of the stated regulations or otherwise contributing to degradation of water quality, and/or habitat or abuse of Hinson Lake facilities may be restricted from using premises for a period of time as determined by the City of Rockingham.
- F. Picnicking will be available in designated areas.
- G. Hunting or trapping of wildlife will not be permitted.
- H. Regulations of the North Carolina Wildlife Resources Commission shall apply for fishing and boating activities. Users are subject to citations for unlawful activities while on the premises.
- I. Acts of degradation to water quality, or desecration of trees or plant life is prohibited.
- J. Use of alcohol or drugs is prohibited.
- K. Discourteous, abusive language, acts of violence or intimidation will not be tolerated.
- L. All dogs must be on a lease. Owners are responsible for the removal and appropriate disposal of feces.

VI. Watercraft Standard

- A. Private gasoline motors shall not be allowed for use on Hinson Lake.
- B. Electric trolling motors are allowed. Batteries must be harnessed in battery boxes tightly secured to the boat.
- C. Boats, including sail boats shall not exceed 16 feet in length and should be constructed to United States Coast Guard Standards.
- D. Rental boats are to be returned in clean condition. All trash and debris shall be placed in trash receptacles located at boat dock.

VII. User Safety

- A. To ensure safety, each person boating with a personal watercraft on Hinson Lake should sign the register at the Rotary Lodge office.
- B. Boat occupancy must not exceed maximum allowed occupancy as directed by watercraft manufacturer.

- C. It is strongly recommended that all persons wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved personal floatation device (PFD) while on the lake. Persons renting watercraft from the City of Rockingham are required to wear PFDs at all times while on the lake.

VIII. Sanitation

- A. Adequate sanitary sewage facilities are available at Hinson Lake.
- B. Sufficient containers are provided by the City of Rockingham at convenient locations for disposal of refuse and garbage. In no instance shall trash or refuse of any kind be thrown into the water or premises.