

Horseshoe Lake – Turtle Lake, WI



Protecting Our Shoreline Is Everyone's Responsibility

Horseshoe Lake is a treasured space for all of us — whether we're tubing, skiing, fishing, surfing, cruising, or just enjoying the peace from a dock. But with more lake activity comes more wake, and that wake takes a toll. This guidance is intended to preserve access for all recreational users and help avoid future restrictions.

Shoreline erosion, dock damage, and stirred sediment are real and growing issues. These impacts are not limited to wakeboats — any vessel that throws a wake contributes to the problem.

That includes personal watercraft (PWCs) like Jet Skis. PWCs are fast and maneuverable, and when operated repeatedly close to shore can create significant cumulative wake impacts. Riders should keep clear of docks, fishing boats, swimmers, and shoreline vegetation, especially at higher speeds.

Protecting our shoreline is everyone's responsibility — from wakeboats to pontoons, from Jet Skis to ski boats. Every operator on Horseshoe Lake plays a part in preserving the health and beauty of the lake we love.

How You Can Help

- Share this guide with guests before they arrive.
- Politely remind other boaters of lake guidelines when appropriate.
- Model responsible boating behavior for others.

Guiding Principles for Responsible Boating

- All boats practice **no wake (slow idle, minimal disturbance)** within **100 ft. of shoreline and docks**, and **200 ft. for PWCs**.
- Wakesurfing should occur at least 400 ft. from shore, in the areas shown on the map, and only when the Lake Level Stage is NORMAL. See additional suggestions on page 2.
- Avoid repeated wake-producing passes along the same stretch of shoreline.
- When creating a wake (tubing, skiing, wakeboarding, and especially wakesurfing), avoid shallow or congested bays — stay in deeper, open water.
- Drive a predictable path when towing or creating a wake, and idle through your turns.
- Be aware of how your wake affects others — kayaks, paddleboards, swimmers, anchored boats.
- Keep music to a reasonable level — sound carries far over water.
- Lead by example — educate guests and family members on responsible boating.

Lake Level Stages and Wake Restrictions

The following **Lake Level Stages and Wake Restrictions** were approved at the **August 16, 2025 Annual Meeting and apply to all watercraft when posted**. When lake levels reach a defined stage, signs will be posted at the boat landing and flags will be placed on buoys around the lake to indicate the current wake guidance.

- **NORMAL:** Standard WI DNR restrictions – No Wake within 100 feet of dock/shore (200 ft for PWC)
- **CAUTION:** No wake within 400 ft. of shore when level reaches 1313.75 ft above sea level
- **CRITICAL:** No Wake on entire lake when level reaches 1314.25 ft above sea level (*6" above Caution*)



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Wake Sports Require Extra Responsibility

Wakesurfing and Wakeboarding are some of the most fun — and most powerful — activities on the lake. But large wakes can cause shoreline erosion, stir up sediment, and affect other lake users.

Across Wisconsin and Minnesota, several lakes have restricted or, in some cases, prohibited Wakesurfing. Horseshoe Lake is already part of that conversation.

Let's protect the privilege to ride here by being proactive and respectful.

Wake Sport Best Practices

- **Only Wakesurf or Wakeboard in suggested areas on the map below** - Stick to the deep-water zones marked on the map to reduce shoreline impact and avoid conflicts.
- Maintain at least 400 ft. from shore, docks, and other lake users - Always give the maximum possible distance from other boats, kayaks, paddleboards, and swimmers.
- Wakesurf only in water 20 ft. deep or more - Shallow water increases damage — deeper zones disperse wave energy more safely. In water less than 20 feet deep, wave energy disturbs the bottom and concentrates at shorelines rather than dispersing.
- Power down when turning or picking up riders - Idle through turns and pickups to reduce wake impact.
- Keep music to a respectable level - Sound carries. Be courteous — not everyone enjoys your playlist.

