

Bois d'Arc Lake Shoreline Management Plan



The Simple Facts



NORTH
TEXAS
MUNICIPAL
WATER
DISTRICT



BOIS
D'ARC
LAKE

The Purpose of a Shoreline Management Plan

The primary purpose of Bois d'Arc Lake is to provide a safe, reliable drinking water supply to about 80 North Texas communities. The Shoreline Management Plan (SMP) protects the lake's water quality and safeguards the environment while also allowing for safe recreational uses.

The SMP regulates uses of the shoreline (boat docks, events, etc.) by current and future private property owners with land next to the lake.

NTMWD developed the plan by drawing on a technical analysis of the lake and its shoreline, local zoning laws, the Fannin County Bois d'Arc Lake Comprehensive Plan and input from stakeholders considered during the comprehensive plan's development.

Having regulations will protect the lake as a key water source and recreational amenity for years to come.

The Shoreline Management Plan...

- Offers a shared vision for the lake and its proper use;
- Creates shoreline classifications to help NTMWD properly consider and balance different factors affecting the lake and shoreline;
- Provides direction for local property owners on approved uses of the shoreline, including how to request a permit for boat docks; and
- Promotes appropriate and safe recreational uses of the lake.

The goals of the Bois d'Arc Lake SMP are:



Protect the water quality



Safeguard wildlife and environmentally sensitive areas



Minimize shoreline erosion



Promote public safety



Encourage safe public recreation



Allow for private docks, other lakefront uses and lake access

Shoreline Classifications

NTMWD owns the property from the lake up to the 541-foot MSL (mean sea level), which includes the 100-year flood level, and will manage uses of this land according to the SMP.

The lake's 172 miles of shoreline falls into five different classifications. The Shoreline Management Plan allows for the development of structures and activities based on the classification of the area where they will be located.

See the official lake shoreline classifications map on BoisdArcLake.org/construction/bois-darc-lake-shoreline-management-plan.

The five shoreline classifications are:

LIMITED DEVELOPMENT

1

No boat dock development allowed; vegetation modification allowed

DOCK CAPABLE SHORELINE

2

Potentially suitable for boating access and dock development (site visits confirm eligibility)

RESTRICTED

3

Shoreline closed to public access for operational security and safety

ENVIRONMENTALLY SENSITIVE

4

Shoreline closed to public access for protection of environmental resources (e.g. littoral wetlands)

PUBLIC LAKE ACCESS/LIMITED COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT

5

Three public boat ramp locations, potential commercial development

Recreational Uses

While the SMP is not intended to prohibit or regulate use of the Lake surface for recreational boating, fishing or hunting, it does provide some useful information on activities that will be allowed on/near the lake.



Boating: What's allowed on the water and where?

Boating and other associated recreation activities are allowed on Bois d'Arc Lake. Boaters can access the lake at three areas which include a total of seven boat ramps:

- East of FM 897 near the Lake Operations Center
- North side of the lake off of FM 1396
- South side of the lake off of FM 1396

Boats on the lake must be properly registered, and the registration must be displayed in accordance with the requirements of the Texas Water Safety Act.

There are some designated areas on the lake where boats are not allowed or where there are restrictions to protect public safety and the environment.

Boating-restricted and environmentally sensitive areas:

- Some locations are closed because their proximity to the lake's dam or other structures (including underwater hazards) make the areas unsafe for recreational use. These restricted areas are marked with buoys to prevent access.
- Several areas fall into the "no wake" category, where boaters are requested to use lower speeds to protect environmentally sensitive shoreline areas and prevent disturbance at recreational water access areas. These are marked with "No Wake" buoys.
- The remainder of the lake will be open to year-round boating.

Fishing, Nature Viewing and Hunting

Fishing is allowed on the lake by boat, on NTMWD property for adjacent property owners and on the shore at publicly accessible dock areas.

The SMP does not prohibit the lawful use of the lake surface for hunting. The Fannin County Sheriff and Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) game wardens are responsible for enforcing safe boating and recreational, water safety, and hunting and fishing laws. Temporary floating duck blinds may be allowed in accordance with state laws. Learn more about Texas fish and game laws at tpwd.texas.gov/regulations/outdoor-annual.



Property Owner Information

Shoreline Uses: What's allowed on the shore and where?

Owners of property next to the lake may request permission to build amenities on or near the lake or use the shore for certain activities. These requests must be approved and permitted by NTMWD and may require a fee. Applicants can submit and receive a permit through NTMWD's permitting process, once that process is established and adopted by the NTMWD Board.

Some areas of the Bois d'Arc Lake shoreline will be capable of supporting boat docks. However, a site visit will be required to confirm each location's viability. Fixed and floating pole docks are allowed by the SMP and must be approved by NTMWD.

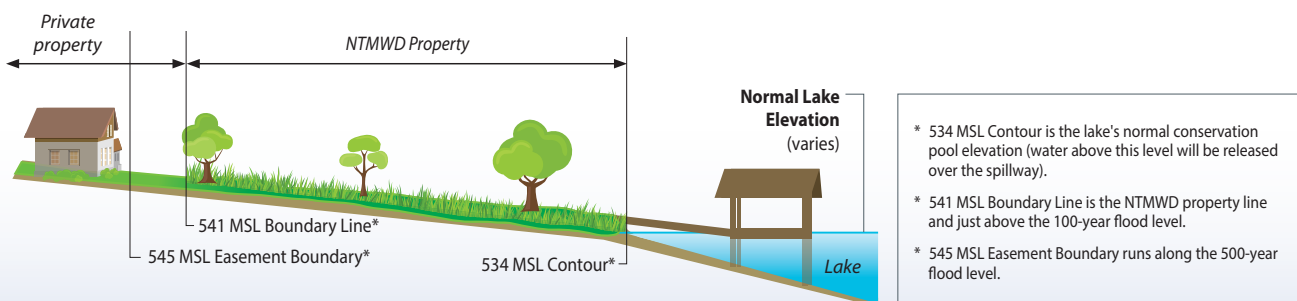
More on dock and other requirements can be found in the full Shoreline Management Plan at BoisdArcLake.org.

The Permitting Process: How to obtain a shoreline use agreement?

NTMWD staff are currently developing the processes required for obtaining a Shoreline Use and Lease Agreement. Once finalized, private property owners with land adjacent to the shoreline can request permission to build authorized structures including boat docks or use the shoreline through the developed process. Shoreline Use and Lease Agreements may require a fee. Some agreements will have annual fees and approved activities and improvements will be inspected regularly to ensure compliance. Building on or using the shore without permission is prohibited. Noncompliance with the terms of an approved Shoreline Use and Lease Agreement will result in fines.

General Steps to Obtain a Shoreline Lease and Use Agreement:

1. Applicant contacts the NTMWD Lake Manager to schedule a pre-application meeting about the use or structure they would like approved by NTMWD.
2. Applicant submits the request for using or building on the lake shoreline in writing to the NTMWD Lake Manager [By submitting a form online — instructions at BoisdArcLake.org]
3. NTMWD reviews available data to determine whether the proposed location is suitable for the activity or structure. Docks must meet spacing, density and construction requirements, including construction by an authorized builder.
4. A NTMWD representative visits the site before approving the request.
5. If the request is approved, the applicant must conduct a boundary survey marking, complete and submit an application for a Shoreline Lease and Use Agreement and pay the associated one-time or yearly fixed fee. Fees are listed by types of agreement in the full SMP.
6. NTMWD sends the Shoreline Lease and Use Agreement with conditions to the applicant to sign.
7. The NTMWD Lake Manager countersigns the agreement and issues two (usually five-year) shoreline use tags to the applicant for display on the dock or other structure.
8. NTMWD conducts periodic inspections throughout the agreement term.



If approved, allowed structures include:

- Boat docks
- Fishing piers
- Access paths
- Picnic tables and gazebos
- Decks and patios
- BBQ pits

- Mobility assistance vehicles (like electric wheelchairs)
- Duck blinds (possible, per TPWD and in accordance with TX state laws)
- Vegetation maintenance/adjustments (such as tree removal or weed control)

Special Event/ Temporary Uses

Special Event/Temporary Use Agreements are intended for short-term uses that do not involve the construction or installation of permanent facilities. This type of agreement authorizes temporary events (less than 2 weeks in duration) involving 25 or more persons or vessels, or other short-term temporary uses of NTMWD land and/or water. Examples include fireworks displays, water skiing demonstrations, or fishing tournaments. The event sponsor is responsible for submitting an application to NTMWD at least 60 days before the event. Applications will be available online at BoisdArcLake.org.



For More Information

This brochure is for general informational purposes only. The full Shoreline Management Plan is the final authority on shoreline-related questions. It can be viewed at BoisdArcLake.org and will be updated periodically.

Send any specific questions about recreation or shoreline use and permitting to BoisdArcLake.org, or call at 972-442-5405.



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