



TRAVIS COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

Travis County Park Rules

General

- **Soliciting** - No soliciting is allowed. No one may rent or sell any item or service except under an approved concession contract.
- **Noise Limit** - Visitors will not create excessive noise, excessive being a level which disturbs other visitors or adjacent residents. All generators and/or amplified music must be turned off between the hours of 10:00 pm and 7:00 am.
- **Minors** - Adults are responsible for their minor children's actions.
- **Public Consumption** – Public display of the consumption of alcoholic beverages is prohibited. Sale of alcoholic beverages is prohibited in any park. Intoxicated persons will not be allowed in the parks. Visitors who become intoxicated will be removed from the parks. **Note:** Alcoholic beverages are prohibited at youth events.
- **Metal Detectors** – Metal Detectors are prohibited in any park.

Health and Safety

- All pets must be kept under the owner's direct control and attached to a person or fixed object at all times by a leash not to exceed six feet in length, and shall not be left unattended or constitute a nuisance. Noisy, vicious, or dangerous animals are not permitted, as determined on site by park staff. Exception: Pets are not allowed in Hamilton Pool Preserve, Pogue Springs Preserve, Wild Basin Preserve, Hippie Hollow Park, Tom Hughes Park, or on the Point at Bob Wentz Park.
- Horses are allowed only at Pace Bend Park and Webberville Park only with coggins papers. Northeast Metropolitan Park Equestrian Areas are for special use groups only. Coggins papers and prior approval is required.
- Other pets/animals, such as barnyard animals, exotics, llamas, mules, donkeys, goats and what would be considered a wild animal will not be allowed to be brought into any park.
- **Weapons, Firearms, and Fireworks** - No person shall possess or discharge weapons, firearms, or fireworks in any county park.
- **Glass Containers** - No person shall bring into or use glass containers in any area of or within any Travis County Park.
- **Swimming** - All swimming is at your own risk. **No lifeguards are provided.** Exception: Swimming and other water contact are not allowed at Hamilton Pool Preserve when bacteria levels exceed safe standards, and when signs are posted.

Resource Protection

- **Animals** - Visitors are prohibited from disturbing, feeding, harming, collecting, or releasing animals in the parks.
- **Natural Materials** - No person shall destroy, disturb, or remove from county parkland any timber, shrubs, other vegetations, rock, sand, gravel, caliche, or other similar substance, material, or geologic feature. Plants may not be brought into the parks. The cutting and/or gathering of firewood is prohibited.
- **Archaeological, Paleontological, and Historic Features** - Archaeological, paleontological, and/or historical features of any character located in, on, or under county parkland may not be disturbed.
- **Property** - Visitors are prohibited from carving, painting, or otherwise marking any tree, fence, rock, building, etc. Visitors are prohibited from altering any barrier, fence, traffic control device, or other county property.
- **Solid Waste** - No garbage or other solid waste may be dumped or littered in the parks. Garbage associated with park use must be deposited in containers provided.
- **Fires** - Fires are permitted in camp stoves, grills, or fireplaces. Ground fires are permitted in designated areas only and must be maintained in a safe and controlled manner at all times. Visitors must furnish proof of adequate firewood in order to receive a (free) campfire permit. Visitors without the proper permit will not be allowed to have a campfire. Fires may be prohibited during hazardous conditions. **Exception:** No fires, stoves, or cooking of any kind are permitted in Hamilton Pool Preserve or Wild Basin Preserve. No ground fires are allowed in any day use park.
- **Vehicles** - Motorized vehicles are confined to designated roadways and parking areas. Vehicles which are not licensed for street use are prohibited. Only two vehicles are allowed per designated campsite. All vehicles and boat trailers in the improved campsite areas of Pace Bend Park and Bob Wentz Park must park in designated areas only and are also limited to two vehicles per site.
- **Boat Launching** - All trailered or motorized watercraft must be launched at designated boat ramps or boat launch areas only.
- **Abandoned Vehicles** - Any vehicle, boat, trailer, or other property abandoned in a county park is in violation of state laws and/or county rules and may be removed and stored at the owner's expense.

Violations

Any violation of park rules may result in the confiscation of park permit(s) and removal from the park for a period not less than 48 hours.



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Vessel Equipment Requirements

Lifesaving Devices

- All Personal Flotation Devices (PFDs) must be U.S. Coast Guard approved, in serviceable condition, readily accessible, and of the appropriate size for intended user.
- All children under 13 years of age in or on vessels under 26 feet in length must wear a U.S. Coast Guard approved wearable PFD while underway. Underway means not at anchor, made fast to the shore, or aground.
- All vessels, including canoes and kayaks, must be equipped with one Type I, II, III or V wearable PFD for each person on board. A Type V PFD is acceptable only if used in accordance with the specific instructions on the label of the device.
- Vessels 16 feet and longer, excluding canoes and kayaks, are required to be equipped with one Type IV throwable PFD in addition to the Type I, II, III, or V PFD required for each person on board.
- Inflatable PFDs are authorized only when used in accordance with requirements as presented on U.S. Coast Guard approval labels. Inflatable PFDs are not approved for use on personal watercraft, waterskiing, or other high speed activity.

Sound Producing Devices

- Any vessel less than 12 meters in length (39.4 ft.) is required to carry a whistle or horn, or some other means to make an efficient sound to signal intentions and position in periods of reduced visibility.
- Vessels 12 meters or more in length are required to carry a whistle or horn, and a bell.

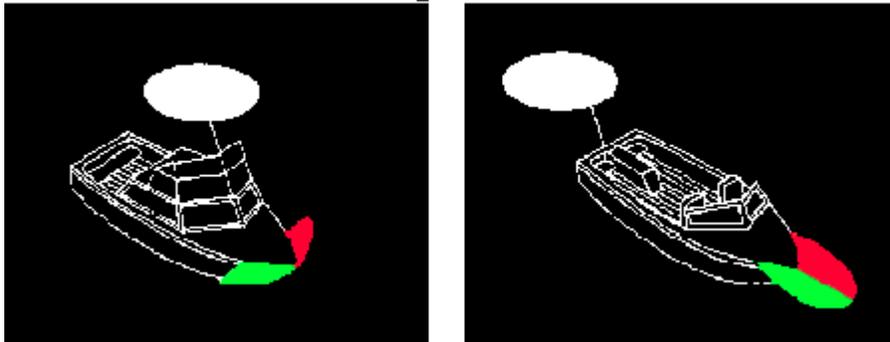
Lights Required

All vessels including motorboats, sailboats, canoes, kayaks, punts, rowboats, rubber rafts, or other vessels when not at dock must have and exhibit at least one bright light, lantern or flashlight visible all around the horizon from sunset to sunrise in all weather and during restricted visibility.

Navigation Lights

Power Driven Vessels Underway: Power driven vessels of less than 20 meters (65.6 ft.) but more than 12 meters (39.4 ft.) shall exhibit navigation lights similar as shown in Figure 2.

Figure 2



Mirrors Required

Every motorboat towing a person must have an observer, other than the operator, 13 years of age or older OR be equipped with a rearview mirror of a size no less than four inches (4") in measurement from bottom to top and across from one side to the other.

Fire Extinguishers Required

Outboard motorboats less than 26 feet in length, of open construction, not carrying passengers for hire, are not required to carry fire extinguishers; however, a fire extinguisher **is required** if one or more of the following conditions exist: (1) Closed compartment under thwarts and seats wherein portable fuel tanks may be stored. (2) Double bottoms not sealed to the hull or which are not completely filled with flotation material. (3) Closed living spaces. (4) Closed storage compartments in which combustible or flammable materials are stored. (5) Permanently installed fuel tanks. (6) Inboard engines.

NOTE: All fire extinguishers must be readily accessible and in condition for immediate and effective use at all times.

Classification (type-size)	Foam (minimum gallons)	Dry CO2 (minimum pounds)	Dry Chemical (minimum pounds)	Halon (minimum pounds)
B-I	1¼	4	2	2½
B-II	2½	15	10	10

The number of approved extinguishers required depends upon the class of the motorboat. When the engine compartment of the motorboat is equipped with a fixed (built-in) extinguishing system of an approved type, one less B-I extinguisher is required.

Vessel length	Without fixed system in machinery space	With fixed system in machinery space
less than 26'	1 B-I	None
26' to less than 40'	2 B-I or 1 B-II	1 B-I
40' to 65'	3 B-I or 1 B-II and 1 B-I	2 B-I or 1 B-II

Exhaust Water Manifold, Muffler

A motorboat must have an exhaust water manifold or a factory-type muffler installed on the engine.

Personal Watercraft

- A Personal Watercraft (PWC) is defined as a type of motorboat which is specifically designed to be operated by a person or persons sitting, standing, or kneeling ON the vessel rather than INSIDE the vessel. Includes jet skis, wet bikes, wave runners, etc. Any person being towed by a PWC is considered an occupant of the PWC and is also required to wear a life jacket.
- All equipment requirements for regular motorboats also apply to PWC.
- In addition to those requirements:
- Each occupant must wear a life jacket.
- If the PWC is equipped with a cut-off or kill switch, it must be attached to the operator or operator's clothing.
- Inflatable life jackets are NOT approved for use on PWC.

Operation of Your Personal Watercraft

NOTE: Children under 13 are specifically prohibited from operating a PWC unless accompanied on board by a person at least 18 years of age who can lawfully operate the PWC.

- All operational rules for regular motorboats also apply to PWC.
- In addition to those requirements, it is unlawful for any person to:
- operate PWC at night (sunset until sunrise);
- operate PWC within 50 feet of another PWC, motorboat, vessel, platform, person, object, or shore except at headway speed (Headway speed-Slow, idle speed, or speed only fast enough to maintain steerage) without creating a swell or wake; and
- operate a PWC and jump the wake of another vessel recklessly or unnecessarily close.

Sailboats

- Sailboats are considered motorboats when operated under power, and must include the same safety equipment listed above.
- Sailors must also follow motorboat navigational rules when operating under power.

Canoes and Kayaks

Paddling at night: Remember that you must carry one bright white light that can be exhibited in time to prevent a collision. It is recommended that you carry a lantern, flashlight, or other attached white light that will be visible from 360 degrees. Regulations state that canoes, kayaks, and all other manually driven vessels shall exhibit sidelights and a sternlight, and shall exhibit at least one bright light, lantern, or flashlight from sunset to sunrise when not at dock.