

***LAKE BONHAM RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR PUBLIC
RECREATION AND WATER ACTIVITIES: BOATING, FISHING,
SWIMMING, CAMPING, AND PICNIC AREAS***

The following Rules and Regulations were adopted by the Bonham City Commission to provide safe, peaceful, and sanitary surroundings for public recreation and water activities, including boating, fishing, swimming, camping, and picnic areas on Lake Bonham. These areas are designated as public places and shall be used in accordance with all applicable City, State, and Federal laws pertaining to public places and public waterways. Violations of these rules and regulations will subject the violator to a fine or imprisonment, or both.

**ARTICLE I
HUNTING AND FISHING REGULATIONS**

Section 1. All laws of the State of Texas and of the United States Government relating to fishing shall be in effect at all times.

Section 2. No hunting or trapping shall be allowed.

Section 3. Seining, netting, or trapping for any fish other than minnows or shad for bait is prohibited. No person shall have in his/her possession any seine, net, or trapping devices other than a minnow seine or throw nets.

Section 4. No trotlines, jug lines, floating containers or similar devices are permitted on the main body, north and south boat ramp coves, and the designated swimming area of the Lake at any time; however, they are permitted in the coves and tributaries of the Lake, provided they are marked, identified legally, and removed in a timely manner as required by Law. Metal post or other stakes are prohibited from being inserted into the lake to attach trotlines or similar devices. The City or the Game Warden will remove all illegally placed lines without compensation to the owner.

Section 5. No person shall buy or sell, offer to buy or sell, or possess fish from Lake Bonham for commercial purposes.

Section 6. No game fish, gold fish, cannibal minnows, nor Mexican minnows shall be used as bait in Lake Bonham.

Section 7. No fishing, swimming, nor diving shall be allowed from the spillway or from the bridges crossing Lake Bonham.

Section 8. Tournament fishing is allowed on Lake Bonham, provided the tournament is registered with the City beforehand, and provided that all tournament boats display a launching permit from the City.

**ARTICLE II
BOATS ON LAKE BONHAM**

Section 1. All boats and recreational type vessels that require registration with the State of Texas, must have a launching permit from the City to operate on the Lake. Permits are available at the Lake Bonham Recreation Area Concession Stand (903/583-8001), or at B & R Bait Shop on FM 273 (903/583-8332).

Section 2. All boats and recreational vessels operated on Lake Bonham waters shall abide by all the rules and regulations set by the Texas Water Safety Act, *Texas Parks and Wildlife Code, Chapter 31*.

Section 3. Only private boats used for recreation, except those owned and operated by approved concessionaires shall be permitted on the waters of Lake Bonham.

Section 4. Except when operated by approved concessionaires, no person, firm, or corporation may operate boats, barges, rafts, docks, or other similar devices for commercial purposes on the waters of Lake Bonham.

Section 5. Drag boats, racing boats, and airboats are prohibited from operating on the Lake.

Section 6. No ski jumps are allowed on the Lake. All skiers shall wear Coast Guard approved life preservers.

Section 7. The State of Texas Game Wardens, the City of Bonham Peace Officers, and other law enforcement officers having jurisdiction shall enforce rules and laws on the lake.

**ARTICLE III
PUBLIC RECREATION, CAMPSITES, AND PICNIC AREAS**

Section 1. Permits for camping, golf, and boat launching can be obtained from the Park Attendant at the Recreational Area Concession Stand or at a place designated upon entrance to the park.

Section 2. It shall be unlawful to use camping or other public facilities without paying the user fee. Any such unauthorized use will be considered criminal trespassing.

Section 3. Camping shall be allowed only in designated camping areas. Campers, including but not limited to those in tents and Recreational Vehicles (RV), are only allowed to stay in the campground area for no more than two weeks at a time in any three-month period.

Section 4. No more than one RV is allowed on each campsite lot.

Section 5. Permanent or temporary structures are prohibited on any campsite lot in the recreational or campsite areas.

Section 6. Sewer holding tanks that are not part of an RV are prohibited in the recreational and camping areas, except those portable tanks used for transporting sewage from the campsite areas to the designated dump station. All portable tanks shall not exceed 30 gallons, due to dump station capacities.

Section 7. Dumping sanitary sewage or gray water on the ground or on any lot is prohibited. All sewage must be collected on site and disposed of in a legal manner.

Section 8. It shall be unlawful for any person to possess weapons including firearms, bow and arrows, gas weapons, or any other devices capable of injuring or killing any person or animal or destroying property, into a public place, except as directed by law enforcement personnel. (Texas Penal Code, Title 10, Chapter 46),

Section 9. The Park will be closed at 10:00 p.m. to ALL TRAFFIC, except camping, fishing, and special events sponsored or permitted by the City. Violators of this section will be considered criminal trespassers.

Section 10. Failure of any person to vacate the park when so requested by a Peace Officer or the Park Attendant shall constitute a violation of these regulations.

Section 11. Violations of any law, especially including disturbing the peace and/or creating a nuisance are prohibited at all times.

Section 12. Persons using the facilities are responsible for picking up all trash resulting from their use and depositing such trash in the receptacles provided for that purpose.

Section 13. All vehicles are prohibited from being on the Dam.

Section 14. All motor vehicles are to adhere to Texas State traffic laws, rules and regulations.

Section 15. Off-road four-wheelers and go-carts are prohibited. Golf carts are allowed; however, any person driving golf carts on the roadways must hold a valid driver's license.

Section 16. Fireworks are prohibited except as authorized for officially sanctioned displays.

Section 17. It shall be unlawful to post bills, advertisements, or inscriptions, except as designated by the Park Attendant.

Section 18. It shall be unlawful to consume alcoholic beverages in posted swimming areas, playground areas, concession areas, roadways, or in parking lots.

Section 19. All pets, except seeing-eye dogs, are prohibited in public buildings, restrooms, concession areas, and swimming areas. Dogs must be on a leash at all times. Any pet exhibiting vicious or disturbing tendencies shall be prohibited anywhere in the Park.

Section 20. In case of emergency call 9-1-1.