

Lake Elizabeth Expanded Wake Hours Proposal

Proposal Background And Survey Results | April 13, 2025

What Is Being Proposed?

A group of water skiers/riders on Lake Elizabeth have asked the Village of Twin Lakes to modify the Slow-No-Wake (SNW) rule for 2025 to allow boats to make wakes starting at 7 a.m. on WEEKDAYS ONLY in lieu of the current 9 a.m. Current SNW rules would remain at 9 a.m. on weekends and holidays.

The proposal is to implement this change on a trial basis for 2025 only and then evaluate a permanent change using actual data and feedback gathered via a follow-up survey in the fall.

Why Is This Being Proposed?

- *Calm Conditions:* Early mornings are the best opportunity for water skiers/riders to enjoy optimal conditions for their sport. Based on National Weather Service data, average wind speeds double between the hours of 7 a.m. and 9 a.m. during summer months, which causes rougher waters.
- *Construction/Landscape Noise:* Some nearby lakes allow boat wakes as early as sunrise. We are proposing 7 a.m. to correspond to the hours that the Village allows construction/landscape noise to begin.
- *No Weekend/Holiday Impact:* There will be no impact to weekend/holiday lake use.
- *Minimal Expected Impact:* We don't anticipate large numbers of boats during these proposed weekday hours; therefore fishermen and paddlers will still be able to enjoy early morning use of the lakes.

Survey Overview & Results

- A brief survey was mailed to 276 Lake Elizabeth lakefront property owners in March 2025 to gauge support for a specific proposal. Exact wording below from survey below:

The proposal is to change Slow No Wake rules on Lake Elizabeth as follows:

- *Change Slow No Wake rule on weekdays from 9 a.m. to 7 a.m.*
- *Change would apply to WEEKDAYS ONLY (weekends/holidays would remain 9 a.m.)*
- *Change would be on a trial basis for 2025 only – will revisit after obtaining feedback in the fall*

Please select one of the following options:

- *I support proposal*
 - *I oppose proposal*
 - *I have no opinion on proposal*
- **Response Rate:** 165 parcels (60%) responded to the survey (82% online, 18% by paper).
- **Overall Results:** 26% of Lake Elizabeth lakefront property owners (71 parcels) supported the proposal. 41% (115 parcels) did not respond or had no opinion and 33% (90 parcels) were opposed.

Considerations

- The survey was sent at the request of the Village to understand the level of support from lakefront property owners. It was not a referendum (i.e. a decision-making vote).
- Each water sport/activity has its unique optimal conditions. These include cooler temps and morning/evening hours for fishing, light to moderate winds for sailing, and calm water for water skiing. While other activities currently have access to their ideal sport conditions, this proposal seeks to do the same for water skiers.
- Recent Village investments/initiatives have passed to meet the needs of special interest groups (e.g. the August 2024 ATV ordinance) that did not survey the general public and likely would not have received majority support in a survey.
- **Ultimately, 71 lakefront property owners and lake users do support the proposal for an expanded wake hours pilot. Is there a path forward that we can consider to meet the interests of this group while maintaining the safety and enjoyment of all lake users?**