

## **RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR RECREATIONAL USE OF WATER SUPPLY CITY OF FINDLAY**

In cooperation with the Division of Wildlife, and Ohio Department of Natural Resources  
March 2010

### **UNDER REVISED CODE 1533.181: EXEMPTION FROM LIABILITY TO RECREATIONAL USERS, THE CITY OF FINDLAY:**

- A) Owes no duty to a recreational user to keep the premise safe for entry or use;
- B) Extends no assurance, by giving permission, that premises are safe for entry or use;
- C) Assumes no responsibility for, or incurs no liability for, any loss or injury to person or property caused by any act of recreational user.

### **PURPOSE OF REGULATIONS**

First, to protect the public water supply against harmful acts of those who would deliberately, or without awareness, engage in activities detrimental to the public good. Second, to make possible the fullest enjoyment of those who choose to make use of the Reservoirs for Recreational Activities which in no way interfere with their operation as part of the public water supply, nor endanger the safety and well-being of the general user.

### **RESERVOIR AUTHORITY**

The Service Director of the City of Findlay, Ohio, is ultimately in charge of the Findlay Reservoirs and adjacent City- owned property in Marion Township. Findlay Police, Hancock County Sheriff, and others so designated shall exercise police powers over property, according to these rules and regulations, City of Findlay Codified Ordinances and statutes of the Ohio Revised code.

### **SECTION 1: (HPD 7.0) OBEDIENCE TO OFFICERS**

It shall be unlawful for any person to refuse or fail to comply with any lawful order, sign or direction of Findlay Police, Hancock County Sheriff Officer, City of Findlay Water Personnel, or other so designated. No person shall interfere with or in any way abuse such officers in the performance of their assigned duties.

### **SECTION 2: LICENSES AND PERMITS**

It shall be unlawful for any person to operate any boat on the Findlay Reservoirs without a valid certification number issued by the Chief of Watercraft of the State Of Ohio. It shall be unlawful to operate an outboard motor on the Findlay Reservoirs with out a valid license issued by the Chief of Watercraft of the State of Ohio. It shall be unlawful for any person to operate a private dock, moor a boat, store a boat, or maintain a mooring stake or dock without a valid permit issued by the Findlay Service Director.

### **SECTION 3: (HPD 1.0) RESEERVOIR PROPERTY**

1. **Buildings and Other Property (HPD 1.1, 1.2, 5.11):**
  - a) **Disfiguration** - No person shall willfully mark, deface, injure, tamper with, displace, or remove any building, table docks, mooring stakes, benches, landings, railings, paving, water lines, or other public utilities, appurtenance, signs, notices, whether temporary or permanent, monuments, stakes, post, or other markers or structures, equipment, facilities or City property whatsoever, either real or perceived.
  - b) **Removal** - No person, or persons, shall displace or remove any stone rip-rap from the inside dikes of Findlay Reservoirs.
  - c) **Erection of Structures** - No person, or persons, shall construct or erect any building or structure whether permanent or temporary, or run or string any service utility into, upon, or across any Reservoir property, except by permit from the Service Director.
2. **Trees, Shrubbery, and Lawns (HPD 1.0)** - No person, or persons, shall damage, cut, carve, transplant or remove any tree or plant or injure the bark, or pick the flowers or seeds, of any tree or

plant: attach any rope, wire or contrivance to any tree or plant; nor dig in, or otherwise disturb grass areas or in any other way injure or impair the natural beauty or usefulness of any area.

#### SECTION 4: (HPD 2.0) SANITATION

1. Pollution of Waters - No person shall dispose of any object in the water of Findlay Reservoirs, especially that which will or may result in the contamination, littering, or pollution of the Reservoir waters.
2. Refuse Garbage and Trash - No person shall dispose of paper, beverage cans or bottles, empty bait containers, bits of uneaten food or any other form of garbage or refuse by throwing on the ground, in water or on the stone rip-rap inside the dikes. All such materials may be disposed of by depositing them in refuse containers provided.

#### SECTION 5: (HPD 18.0-18.25) TRAFFIC

1. Motor Vehicle Laws Apply - No person shall fail to comply with all applicable provisions of the Ohio Motor Vehicle Code in regard to equipment and operation of vehicles, together with other regulations for Recreational Use of Findlay Reservoirs.
2. Roadways and Parking - No person shall operate any motor driven vehicle of any design whatsoever, any place on Reservoir property other on roadways designated for public use leading to parking, observation or designated boat launching and landing areas. Motor vehicles must follow the instructions of any traffic control device, light, or sign. Parking is allowed in designated parking areas only.
3. Tops of Dikes - No person shall operate any motorized vehicle of any design whatsoever, including but not limited to motor bikes, mopeds, scooters, snowmobiles, or ATV's, on the tops of any reservoir dikes, or on the grassy slopes on the outer banks of any dike or reservoir dike.

#### SECTION 6: ( HPD 12.0-15.0 ) RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES

1. Public Swimming and Bathing is Prohibited.
2. Boating.
  - a) No person shall leave any boat or boat trailer upon Reservoir property or adjacent City- owned land. Failure to remove any boat or trailer will result in there impoundment, to be considered as abandoned by owner.
  - b) Watercraft Requirements - No person shall operate any boat other than sail craft, canoes, kayak, row boats and fishing boats. The use of any other type of boat shall be unlawful. Inflatable watercraft are allowed, if U.S. Coast Guard approved and in compliance with all other Reservoir Rules. All other types of boats prohibited.
  - c) Power
    - i) Reservoir #1 - No Person shall operate any boat other than those powered by sail, paddle, oars or an electric motor. All gas powered outboards or any motors, which emit carbon emissions, are prohibited on the surface waters of # 1 Reservoir. Exceptions to this rule; any boat authorized by ODNR or the Findlay Service Director.
    - ii) Reservoir #2 - No person shall operate any boat other than those powered by sail, paddle, oars or an outboard motor not exceeding 10.0 horsepower.
  - d) Size of Craft - It is unlawful to operate a single hull craft less than (10) feet in length or more than (20) feet in length, or to operate a multiple hull craft less than (09) feet in length or more than 20 feet in length. All licensed Kayaks allowed.
  - e) Seaworthiness - No person shall operate any unseaworthy boat which fails to meet Ohio Division of Water Craft and U.S. Coast Guard standards. All boats are subject to inspection and shall be removed from the water should they be found unsafe or fail to comply with said standards.
  - f) Unauthorized Use of Moorings and Buoys - No person shall use moorings or marker buoys unless authorized to do so by the Service Director. Boats may not be moored to floating docks designated for fish only.
  - g) Capacity of Boats. No person shall operate any boat which exceeds the recommendations of the manufacturers or designer as to maximum capacity for that boat.
  - h) Launching and Safe Operation.
    - i) All boats must be numbered and licensed according to watercraft laws of the State of Ohio.

- ii) All watercraft shall be launched and/or landed at the boat ramp except in emergencies, where boat ramp is provided. When a boat is launched from and automobile-drawn trailer, only the driver may occupy the automobile during the launching operation, where boat ramp is provided. Where boat ramps are not provided, all boats shall be launched and/or landed and occupants must embark and disembark in clearly mark areas set aside for such purposes.
  - iii) Boating will be permitted twenty-four (24) hours a day, seven (7) days a week.
  - iv) All sail boats shall be operated in a prudent manner so as to avoid capsizing and, in the event of capsizing; the operator shall right the craft as soon as possible and return to the interior of the craft immediately. If it is apparent that a boat is purposefully capsized to provide a pretext for swimming, the operator will be ordered off the Reservoir and cited for violating these regulations.
  - v) Upon receiving a command or request from any law officer, the operator or occupants of any watercraft shall immediately comply with such command or request.
  - vi) All boats must be navigated with due regard to the safety of passengers, other boat, and fisherman on Reservoirs embankments.
  - vii) Operators of a boat must be 18 years of age or possess a valid Ohio driver's license.
  - i) Ohio Watercraft Laws. All watercraft on the Findlay Reservoirs shall be subject to, and comply with all watercraft laws.
  - j) Restricted Areas. No person shall operate or anchor any watercraft in any restricted area on the Reservoir waters where clearly posted.
  - k) Watercraft for Hire. No person shall rent or lease boats on the Findlay Reservoirs unless authorized to do so by the Findlay Service Director.
3. Fishing (HPD 12.0) Recreational fishing is permitted twenty-four (24) hours a day seven (7) days a week from the dikes of all Findlay Reservoirs, from approved types of properly licensed boats, and from the fishing docks provided at both Reservoirs.
- a) Fishing at all Reservoirs is subject to Ohio Wildlife Laws governing the same.
  - b) Fishing license must be carried on one's person while fishing and exhibited to any person upon request.
  - c) Fishing is not permitted from the boat launching dock or the boat moorings.
  - d) Bow Fishing – Bow fishing shall be permitted from water craft only. All arrows must be attached to a line for proper retrieval. All arrows shall be fired directly into the water only. Bow fishing from shore is prohibited.
  - e) Removal of Fish - All fish taken by any method of angling shall be returned to the water alive or removed from the reservoir property for consumption or disposal.
  - f) Cleaning of Fish – Cleaning of fish is prohibited on Reservoir property.
4. Hunting
- a) No person shall hunt waterfowl on Reservoir property without a permit issued by the City of Findlay Water Treatment Plant.
  - b) No person may have, carry, or use any firearm or dangerous ordinance on Reservoir property except while engaged in lawful hunting of waterfowl.
  - c) Bow hunting and shooting of arrows are prohibited.
  - d) Hunting is not permitted of birds or upland game with the exception of lawful hunting of migratory waterfowl under State Law and Federal Laws.
  - e) No person shall discharge any firearm from any areas designated as closed to hunting, or from grassy slope of any outer reservoir dikes designated as closed to hunting.
  - f) Where public road is located directly at the base of the Northwest, North and Northeast Reservoir dikes, these dikes shall be closed to the hunting of waterfowl.
  - g) No person shall discharge any firearm into, across, over, or into the direction of the lands adjacent to Reservoir dikes, or while walking in, across, or through said flatlands.
  - h) No person shall discharge any firearm within 500 feet of any boat, dock, boat access, fishing dock or parking area.
5. Winter Sports (HPD 19.0)

- a) Sledding - Sledding is permitted on Reservoir embankments away from the water when snow conditions are favorable.
  - b) Skiing - Cross country or down hill skiing is permitted on all Reservoir property away from the water (ice).
  - c) Snowmobiles – Snowmobiles are permitted on the flat areas adjacent to Reservoir embankments when there is not less than six (6) inches of snow covering, and not less than two (2) inches of frozen earth. Snowmobiles are prohibited on the tops, or on the grassy outer slopes of any Reservoir dike.
  - d) ATVs - ATVs are prohibited anywhere on reservoir property or adjacent city owned land.
  - e) Ice Skating – Ice skating is prohibited on all reservoir waters (ice).
  - f) Ice fishing Rules - Ice fishing is permitted on Reservoir #1 and #2. Ice fish at own risk.
    - i) Ice fishing is permitted on #1 and #2 Reservoirs. Fish at own Risk.
    - ii) Ice fisherman must be eighteen (18) years old or accompanied by an adult.
    - iii) Fishing license is required, and all Ohio ice fishing regulations are in effect.
    - iv) Alcoholic beverages are prohibited.
    - v) Shelters are permitted, but must be removed when leaving the ice.
6. Going onto ice - No person shall venture onto the ice for any purpose other than for ice fishing.
7. Camping (HPD 8.0) - No camping or overnight stay is permitted anywhere on reservoir property or adjacent City owned land. Primitive camping is available at Riverbend Park.
8. Picnicking (HPD 2.0, 10.0)
- a) Picnicking is permitted on first come first served basis.
  - b) No person shall use any areas or facilities to the exclusion of others persons.
  - c) Picnic areas shall be left free of trash and in good condition. If trash cans are full or not available, refuse must be carried out and disposed of.
9. Horseback Riding (HPD 14.0)
- a) Horse or any other riding animals are not permitted during wet conditions
  - b) Horseback riding is permitted on flat areas adjacent to Reservoirs.
  - c) Horse or any other riding animals must be kept under control by the rider and are not permitted on the grassy slopes or on top of Reservoir dikes.

## SECTION 7 BEHAVOIR

1. Intoxicating Beverages (HPD 6.6)
- a) No person shall have in his possession, consume, or be under the influence of any intoxicating liquor or alcoholic beverage on Reservoir property.
  - b) No person shall sell or offer for sale any intoxicating liquor or alcoholic beverage on Reservoir Property.
2. Fireworks and Explosives (HPD 3.0-3.2) - No person shall have in their possession or shall set off any fireworks or explosives unless authorized for a special event by the Findlay Service Director, and operated by professional services.
3. Domestic Animals (HPD 13.0, 14.0)
- a) No person shall allow any dog(s) to run at large.
  - b) No person shall fail to control their domestic animal(s), nor fail to keep such animals restrained on adequate leashes, except trained hunting dogs involved in legal hunting.
  - c) No person shall allow any dog or any domestic animal or pet to enter the water in the Findlay Reservoirs.
4. Loitering and Boisterous Behavior (HPD 5.0) - No loitering is permitted on Reservoir property or the adjacent City-owned lands. No person shall use any loud, threatening, abusive, insulting, or indecent language or engage in any disorderly conduct or behavior tending to breach public peace.

5. Appropriate Dress (HPD 14.1) - No person shall willfully make any indecent exposure of their person so as to offend or annoy any other person thereby.
6. Alms (HPD 5.3) - No person shall solicit alms or contributions for any purpose, whether public or private.
7. Fires (HPD 10.0) - No Person shall build or attempt to build or maintain any fire except in such areas and under such regulation as may be designated. No person shall hold a fire on the banks of the Reservoir, or drop, throw or otherwise scatter lighted matches, burning cigars, or cigarettes, tobacco paper or other inflammable material in any area or on any highway.
8. Games of Chance (HPD 5.5) - No person shall gamble, or participate in or abet any game of chance.
9. Exhibit Permits (HPD 9.1) - No person shall fail to produce and exhibit any permit for use at or on the Reservoir which they claim to have, upon request of any authorized person who shall desire to inspect the same for the purpose of enforcing compliance with these or other rules.
10. Interference with Permittees (HPD 5.1) – No person shall disturb or interfere with any person or group occupying any area, or participating in any activity, when activities are under authority of permit.

#### SECTION 8 (HPD 6.0) MERCHANDISING, ADVERTISING AND SIGNS

1. Vending and Peddling – No person shall expose, announce, call to the public’s attention, or offer for sale any article or thing, nor shall they place any stand, cart or vehicle for transportation, sale or display of any such article or thing. Exception is here made as to any regular licensed concessionaire acting by and under the authority of the Service Director.
2. Advertising and Signs – No person shall expose, distribute, or place any sign, advertisement circular, notice, or statement, or display any banner, emblem, or design within or on the Reservoir property without the permission from the Service Director.

#### SECTION 9 RESERVOIR OPERATING POLICIES

1. Hours – The Findlay Reservoir and adjacent City- owned lands shall be open to the public for Recreational Use from ½ hour before sunrise until ½ hour after sunset, except for fishing.
2. Closed Areas – Any section or part of any Reservoir property , may be declared closed to the public by the Service Director at any time and for any interval of time, either temporarily or at regular stated intervals (daily or Otherwise) and either entirely or merely to certain uses, as the Service Director shall find to be reasonably necessary.
3. Lost and Found Articles – Lost and found articles may be reported to any of the Reservoir authorities, Findlay Police, Hancock County Sheriff Department, or may be turned in at Riverbend ranger station.
4. Uses for Which a Special Permit is Required – A special permit shall be obtained from the Findlay Service Director’s office before participating in the following:
  - a) Use of Reservoir and/or property during closed season.
  - b) Use of Reservoir and/or property during closed hours of the day.
  - c) Use of Reservoir and/or property for group gatherings.
  - d) Use of Reservoir and/or property determined and marked as closed or restricted area.
  - e) Use of private docks and boat moorings on Reservoirs.
  - f) Operating boats and other facilities for hire on Reservoirs and/or property.
  - g) Alteration or erection of structures on Reservoir property.
5. Application for a special Permit

- a) Application - A person seeking issuance of a Special Permit shall file a written letter of application with the Findlay Service Director. The application shall state:
  - i) The name and address of applicant.
  - ii) The name and address of the person, persons, or group of sponsoring the activity.
  - iii) The day, date and hours for which the permit is desired.
  - iv) An estimate of the anticipated attendance.
  - v) The reservoir or portion thereof for which the permit is desired.
  - vi) Any other information which the Findlay Service Director shall find reasonably necessary to fair determination as to whether to issue the permit.
- b) Standards for Issuance – The Service Director may issue a Special Permit when:
  - i) The proposed activity will not unreasonably interfere with or distract from the general public's enjoyment of the Reservoirs and adjacent property.
  - ii) The proposed activity will not unreasonably interfere with or detract from the promotion of public health, welfare, safety and recreation.
  - iii) The proposed activity is not reasonably anticipated to incite violence, crime, or disorderly conduct.
  - iv) The proposed activity will not entail unusual, extraordinary or burdensome expense or police operation by the City Of Findlay.
  - v) The facilities desired have not been reserved for other use at the same date and time as requested in the application.
- c) Appeal – Within ten (10) days after receipt of application, the Service Director shall apprise an applicant in writing of his reasons for refusing a Special Permit request. Any aggrieved person shall have the right to appeal in writing within ten (10) days to Findlay City Council, which will consider the application under the standards set forth above and sustain or overrule the decision of the Service Director within ten (10) days. The decision of Findlay City Council shall be final.
- d) Effect of Special Event – A special Permittee shall be bound by all Reservoir Rules and Regulations and all applicable ordinances fully as though the same were inserted on said Special Permit.
- e) Liability and Special Permittee – The person or persons to whom a Special Permit is issued shall be liable for any loss, damage, or injury sustained by any person whatever by reason of the negligence of the person or persons to whom such Special Permit shall have been issued.
- f) Revocation – The Service Director and other authorities so designated shall have the authority to revoke a Special Permit upon a finding of violation or any rule or ordinance, or upon good cause being shown.
- g) Enforcement – Violations of Reservoir Rules and Regulations may result in arrest and citation to Municipal Court. Penalties for violation range from fines of not less than \$25.00 to maximum of \$500.00. Reservoir authorities have the responsibility of enforcing these Rules and Regulations to make the Reservoir areas a safe, usable recreation area for all residents of Findlay and Hancock County.
- h) Public Responsibility – Users of the Reservoirs are urged to help protect the area for everyone's continued use and enjoyment by reporting violations, helping with litter cleanup and cooperating with Reservoir authorities.
- i) Penalty – The Codified Ordinances of the City of Findlay provide fines and jail sentences for violation of these Rules and Regulations, varying from \$25.00 to \$500.00 and up to ten (10) days imprisonment.

RULES AND REGULATION  
GOVERNING THE RECREATIONAL USE OF THE  
CITY OF FINDLAY  
WATER SUPPLY RESERVOIRS

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>SECTION</b>	<b>PAGE</b>
<b>OBEDIENCE TO OFFICERS-</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>LICENSES AND PERMITS</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>RESERVOIR PROPERTY</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>SANITATION</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>TRAFFIC</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>2</b>
Swimming      Winter Sports	
Boating      Camping	
Fishing      Picnicking	
Hunting      Horseback Riding	
<b>BEHAVIOR</b>	<b>4</b>
Alcohol      Fireworks	
Pets      Fires	
<b>MERCHANDISING AND SIGNS</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>OPERATING POLICY</b>	<b>5</b>
Hours      Special Permits	
Closed Areas	

