

## Message to VRBO, Airbnb, and Short-Term Rental Property Owners:

**PLEASE READ IF THIS APPLIES TO YOU:** *This message is intended for property owners who rent out their Little Sand Lake home as an investment/income property. Because we are not sure who on the lake rents out their properties, we are sending this message to all Little Sand Lake property owners.*

We want to welcome your guests to Little Sand Lake and make sure they fully enjoy their time here. We have had a few rare, but disturbing incidents on the lake involving renters, and we believe this is likely because they are not aware that their behaviors are infringing on neighboring residents and, in some cases, are infractions of DNR guidelines which are subject to fines. Although these incidents are infrequent, when they happen, your lake friends take the issue seriously. Examples of cases include:

- Loud partying and disturbing the peace of neighbors
- Running over a baby loon and killing it  
*(This occurred a few years ago and was reported to the DNR; the violator was fined.)*
- Shampooing or bathing in the lake  
*(Soaps break the surface tension of the water. Lower surface tension reduces the oxygen level in the water, causing harm to fish and other aquatic wildlife. Surfactants in soaps are toxic to lake life, particularly tiny invertebrates. While biodegradable products are somewhat better, they still cause suds that affect the surface tension.)*
- Leaving garbage on the lake after ice fishing.  
*(Coffee cups, beer/pop cans, broken glass, and even a razor have been found. **From the MN DNR: Keep it clean.** It is unlawful to improperly dispose of garbage on the ice. Please clean up around your shack. What stays on the ice stays in the lake. It is illegal to leave an ice fishing shack or pieces of it on the ice anywhere in Minnesota. Check with local refuse providers or landfills for ice shelter disposal information.)*

Informing your guests of appropriate lake etiquette and DNR guidelines should help alleviate these uncomfortable situations and lessen the concerns of your lake neighbors. To help you inform your renters, we have created three documents:

1. **Guidelines for you, as property owner, to include in your ad and Rental Guidelines Book regarding lake etiquette.** We would like for you to include this information in your ads with VRBO, Airbnb, or any other site or method you use to book guests. This should be included in your rental contract whether you are working with a rental site or renting on your own.
2. **Guidelines to include in your Rental Guideline Book.** (This presumes you have a binder of information you provide at your rental property.)
3. **“Welcome to Little Sand Lake” Refrigerator Poster.** This is a laminated sheet that indicates the Little Sand Lake Association welcomes them to the lake and wants to make sure they enjoy their stay. If this will stick to your refrigerator, post it there; otherwise, post it in a highly visible area. It also serves as a “quick reference” guide regarding key issues for them to be aware of. *(To get one of these, please contact our email coordinator.)*

The above documents are provided on the following pages.

## 1. Guidelines to include in your ad regarding lake etiquette.

We would like for you to include this information in your ads with VRBO, Airbnb, or any other site or method you use to book guests. This should be included in your rental contract whether you are working with a rental site or renting on your own. (We presume for many of you, this is already included.)

Respect our lake neighbors and wildlife.

No partying or events.

No fireworks.

No harassing of loons, ducks, geese, or any other wildlife on the lake.

No bathing in the lake (no soaps or shampoos allowed)

No garbage thrown into the lake or left on the ice

Boats/Watercraft: If you will be launching your boat or personal watercraft onto the lake, please use the public boat launch, and make sure your watercraft is free of aquatic invasive species. Hubbard County is stringent regarding "CLEAN, DRAIN, DRY" guidelines.

### **Complimentary Watercraft Decontamination Station – Keeping aquatic hitch hikers out of Little Sand Lake!**

If your watercraft of any type (boat, kayak, pontoon, jet ski) has been in another lake within the seven days, we ask that you have your watercraft cleaned at the Park Rapids Decontamination Station.

Call ahead for a convenient appointment when moving your boat / personal watercraft from one water body to another. Open mid-May through mid-Sept. Call 218-252-6738 Location: 812 Henrietta Ave. S., Park Rapids, MN 56470 By the South Transfer Station; Just 1 mile from Walmart Provided by the Hubbard County Aquatic Invasive Species (AIS) Program. Help prevent the spread of AIS in Your MN lakes!

## 2. Guidelines to include in your Rental Guideline Book.

(This presumes you have a binder of information you provide at your rental property.)

**SIDE 1**

### A Note from the Little Sand Lake Association

***Welcome to our lake! We want you enjoy everything there is to experience here – clean lake waters, beautiful scenery, and abundant wildlife!***

Little Sand Lake residents are immensely proud of our lake; this lake is among the most pristine in Minnesota. We are stewards in every regard – from establishing loon platforms and “loving our loons” to paying for launch inspections to help prevent the entry of invasive species to monitoring water quality on a regular basis to making sure our shorelines are maintained to keep pollutants out of the water.

With that, we ask our guests to be equally considerate of our lake and your neighbors and have listed a few guidelines here for you regarding lake etiquette. Some of common sense; some involve legal rules from the Department of Natural Resources (DNR).

### Lake Etiquette

#### ***Launching your Boat or Personal Watercraft onto Little Sand Lake***

If you will be launching your personal watercraft onto the lake, please use the public boat launch, and make sure your watercraft is free of aquatic invasive species (AIS). Hubbard County is stringent regarding “CLEAN, DRAIN, DRY” guidelines. Please see the next page for additional information regarding AIS.

#### ***Noise and Music***

Respect your neighbors. Per your landlord’s House Rules, partying and events are not allowed. Water is a great carrier of sound; so, any noise made, including conversations, can be heard from a distance. Remember, not everyone shares your taste in music and some folks seek peace and tranquility. Kindly please keep the volume down when playing your tunes.

#### ***Wildlife***

Little Sand residents consider the wildlife in, on, and around our lake our friends and pets. Do not harass them; let them enjoy the lake as you do.

#### ***Garbage or litter***

Dispose of your garbage and recycling properly. Do not throw garbage into the lake or leave on the ice. Finding garbage in our lakes or roadside ditches is heartbreaking. It can lead to ground and water contamination and disease or death for our local wildlife. **Putting garbage in the lake or on the ice is illegal.**

#### ***Soapy products***

Bathing, shampooing, or laundering in our lakes contributes to the degradation of water quality by adding phosphates and other unwanted contaminants. Keep personal hygiene and laundering habits indoors with biodegradable products that are drained into the septic.

#### ***Safe boating***

Please keep your speed down when near shore as the large wake created damages personal property and accelerates erosion of the shoreline. Loons and other birds that nest along the shore can negatively be impacted.

#### ***Jet Skis/Personal Watercraft***

If you are using a jet ski/personal watercraft, MN DNR rules require travel at a slow wake speed (5 mph) within 150 ft. of shore. Also, jet skis may be only be operated between 9:00a.m. and an hour before sunset.

#### ***No Peeing in the Lake***

Just kidding – but don’t make the habit excessive! 😊 *As for other bodily functions, well, we just won’t go there!*

***Now, go have fun!!***

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## 2.Guidelines to include in your Rental Guideline Book (cont'd.)

**SIDE 2**

### ***Please Keep Aquatic Invasive Species out of Little Sand Lake***

Aquatic hitch hikers such as Eurasian Milfoil and Zebra Mussels can enter the lake not only through your watercraft, they can get into lakes from water toys such as paddle boards, kayaks, paddles, water skis, and tubes. They can even be hitch hiking in your water shoes or life jackets. If you have used any of these in another lake within the last seven days, please inspect and clean them carefully before entering the lake.

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### 3. “Welcome to Little Sand Lake” Refrigerator Poster

Below is the content of the poster. Place this on your refrigerator or in another prominent location in your rental unit. LSLAA will provide these to you. Please contact our Email Coordinator, Christine Hobrough, and we will get one to you. Thanks.



## Welcome to Little Sand Lake!

This is a note from the Little Sand Lake Association. We hope you enjoy your time here and will love our lake as much as we do. Following are lake etiquette guidelines to keep in mind.

#### *Prevent AIS –Launching your Personal Watercraft onto Little Sand Lake*

If you will be launching your personal watercraft onto the lake, please use the public boat launch, and make sure your watercraft is free of aquatic invasive species (AIS). Hubbard County is stringent regarding “CLEAN, DRAIN, DRY” guidelines.

#### *Prevent AIS – Check before you enter*

Aquatic hitch hikers can also get into lakes via water toys (e.g., paddle boards, kayaks, water skis, and tubes). They can even be hitch hiking in your water shoes or life jackets. If you have used any of these in another lake within the last seven days, please inspect and clean them carefully before entering the lake.

#### *Noise and Music*

Respect your neighbors. Water is a great carrier of sound; so, any noise made, including conversations, can be heard from a distance. Remember, not everyone shares your taste in music and some folks seek peace and tranquility.

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