



City of Austin

Austin Parks and Recreation Department
200 South Lamar Boulevard, Austin, Texas 78704

Guidelines for Use of Walsh Boat Landing

These guidelines supersede and replace any prior guidelines regarding use of the docks, ramps, public recreation area, public parking areas, park roads, park trails, and park sidewalks at Walsh Boat Landing.

These guidelines are posted at <http://www.austintexas.gov/department/walsh-boat-landing>.

The Director of the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department (PARD) makes the following findings and issues the following guidelines:

FINDINGS

1. The PARD Director may establish written guidelines for the Walsh Boat Landing docks, ramps, public recreation area, public parking areas, and park roads, trails, and sidewalks pursuant to City Code Section 8-1-3; and
2. Walsh Boat Landing is one of two public boat launches on Lake Austin that serve recreational users in the greater Austin metropolitan area; and
3. Walsh Boat Landing, as indicated in the map, includes four boat docks, two in the northern part of the public recreation area (the “North Docks”) and two in the southern part (the “South Docks”). The North Docks are separated by a concrete ramp (the “North Ramp”), as are the South Docks (the “South Ramp”); and
4. Beginning in September 2019, PARD undertook a construction project to repair and renovate Walsh Boat Landing. During construction, the four docks, two concrete ramps, and public recreation area were closed to the public; and
5. As part of the construction project, the existing South Docks, which were significantly deteriorated, were removed and two new docks were installed. In accordance with the design specifications, watercraft that are no longer than 20 feet in length can tie up to the new South Docks; and
6. The conditions of and demands on Walsh Boat Landing require PARD to manage the area in a manner that prioritizes public, non-commercial recreational access and that:
 - a. Minimizes traffic, staging, and parking conflicts inherent to a facility of limited size;
 - b. Protects public safety by reducing traffic in an area of heavy pedestrian use;
 - c. Reduces public impacts to adjacent residents and park patrons from noise, amplified sound, and trash;
 - d. Protects the environment; and



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- e. Protects the existing and improved facilities from accelerated deterioration; and
- f. Limits tie ups to the South Docks to watercraft that are no longer than 20 feet in length, in accordance with the design specifications.

GUIDELINES

Effective August 15, 2020, the following guidelines apply to commercial use of Walsh Boat Landing, including the docks, ramps, public recreation area, public parking areas, park roads, park trails, and park sidewalks; non-commercial use of the South Docks; and commercial use of the North Ramp.

Walsh Boat Landing

Walsh Boat Landing is closed to all commercial activity that boards or disembarks individuals from the North Docks, South Docks, North Ramp, South Ramp, public recreation area, public parking areas, park roads, park trails, or park sidewalks.

South Docks

In addition to being closed to commercial activity as described above, the South Docks may not be used for tie up by non-commercial watercraft that are more than 20 feet in length.

North Ramp

1. Commercial users may apply for a permit for use of the North Ramp and the park roads for a watercraft to enter or exit the water, provided that, except in the event of an emergency, the commercial use does not include boarding or disembarking individuals from any of the docks or ramps, the public recreation area, public parking areas, park roads, park trails, or park sidewalks.
2. In order to manage the impacts on non-commercial users and on the public facilities, the PARD Director may establish limits on the hours, uses, and number of permits issued for commercial use of the North Ramp.
3. A commercial user seeking a permit for use of the North Ramp must complete an application and pay the required fee(s). The application and fee information are available at: <http://www.austintexas.gov/department/walsh-boat-landing>

Kimberly McNeeley, CPRP, Director
Austin Parks and Recreation Department