

**Policy statement**

Leduc County establishes the acceptable uses of our lakeshore reserves in order to maintain the environmental integrity and natural state of the lands while still providing public access where necessary and appropriate.

**Definitions**

*Development* means an excavation or stockpile, construction, renovation or repairs to a building, a change in the use of land or intensity in the use of land.

*Director* means the Director of Community Services for Leduc County.

*Lakeshore Reserve lands* means lands that are owned by Leduc County and located adjacent to a waterbody. These could include various types of reserves as defined under the *Municipal Government Act* such as Municipal Reserve, Environmental Reserve, or Conservation Reserve.

*Structure* means a building or other entity erected or placed in, on, over or under land, whether or not it is so affixed to the land as to become transferred without special mention by a transfer or sale of the land (ie. decks, sheds, platforms, stairs, etc.)

*Vegetation* means plants in general and includes trees, shrubs, grasses, flowers, etc.

**Policy authority**

*Legislative implications:*

- *Municipal Government Act (MGA), section 671*

*Bylaw implications:*

- Bylaw No. 28-19 Parks and Open Spaces Bylaw

**Policy standards**

1. Lakeshore Reserve Use
  - a. County owned lakeshore reserve lands are to be used for designated purposes only or left in their natural state.
  - b. Where additional detail is required to address specific community’s needs or conditions, lakeshore land use guidelines will be developed by administration with the affected stakeholders.
2. Public Access
  - a. When necessary, Leduc County will provide residents and the general public with designated public access areas to the water front through reserves.
3. Structures on Lakeshore Reserves
  - a. Leduc County **will not** permit privately owned structures to be constructed within or placed on lakeshore reserves.
  - b. Unauthorized structures found on reserves may be subject to a fine, penalty and removal.

<i>Approval date</i>	<i>April 11, 2023</i>	<i>Motion number</i>	<i>93-23</i>	<i>Page 1 of 3</i>
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- c. Structures can include but are not limited to the following:
  - i. sheds
  - ii. decks
  - iii. boat houses
  - iv. stairs
  - v. fire-pits
  - vi. retaining walls or other erosion control structures
- d. If the builder of the unauthorized structure refuses to remove the development, Leduc County may remove it, and the costs for doing so will be charged to the owner of the unauthorized structure and be collected as monies owed to the County.
- e. *Grandfathering Clause:* Leduc County, with input from local community representatives, may allow certain structures to remain in place for public use. Minor maintenance of existing structures (i.e. no structural modifications) is acceptable to maintain the safety of the structure. If any structure falls into disrepair or is deemed unsafe to remain, Leduc County will remove the structure and reclaim the site to a natural state.

4. Temporary piers and boat lifts

- a. Leduc County recommends the use of easily dismantled structures to ensure ease of removal at the end of the summer, and to facilitate easy storage on private property.
- b. *Summer Storage of Temporary Piers, Boat Lifts or other Structures:* Temporary piers, boat lifts or other structures left on reserves lands for storage (non- use) purposes between June 15th and August 31st, will be considered by Leduc County as "abandoned" and all such structures will be disposed of by the County.
- c. *Winter Storage of Temporary Piers and Boat Lifts:* All temporary piers and boat lifts are to be removed from the lake at the end of the season and stored on the owner’s private property unless permission is granted through a set of lakeshore land-use guidelines or by the Director.
  - i. Where authorized structures are left over winter on reserves, Leduc County will not ensure their safety and will retain their right to have them removed for safety purposes.
  - ii. They must also abide by the following:
    - a. no storage on Crown owned bed and shore
    - b. no storage within 33 feet from the center of the road
    - c. no vegetation removal will be allowed to accommodate storage
    - d. authorized structures are to be clearly flagged for safety reasons
    - e. authorized structures are to be clearly labeled with the owner’s lot number
    - f. access by local residents and the general public (e.g. fishermen, snowmobilers) to and along the shore is not to be obstructed.

5. Vegetation removal

- a. Removal of trees, underbrush or any other vegetation for reasons of aesthetics, fire wood, parking, personal access to the lakeshore or otherwise, is prohibited unless specifically authorized by the County.
- b. Where vegetation is removed without authorization by a known proponent, the County will require that proponent to revegetate the area within one growing season. The costs for doing so will be borne by the proponent.
- c. Large dead or mature dying trees will be removed by the County if the trees pose a safety threat by wind fall.
- d. Manicured grass (lawn) areas within reserves will be minimized and only maintained where there is a clearly defined need to have public grass-only areas. Where the County deems appropriate, residents will be allowed to maintain manicured grass lawns.
- e. Weed control is the responsibility of the County and is subject to inspection by a County Weed Inspector. Weed control on lakeshore reserves shall occur in accordance with the relevant provincial acts and regulations.

**Policy responsibilities**

*Council responsibilities:*

- Council will,
- Approve the Lakeshore Reserve Management Policy

*Administration responsibilities:*

- Administration will,
- Review this policy as required to ensure that the policy complies with all current, relevant legislation and municipal policies.
  - Implement policy and administrative procedures in reference to Leduc County reserves.

**Monitoring and updating**

- This policy will be posted on Leduc County’s website.
- This policy will be reviewed at least once every four years.

<i>Approval date</i>	<i>April 11, 2023</i>	<i>Motion number</i>	<i>93-23</i>	<i>Page 3 of 3</i>
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