

**Policy statement**

Leduc County supports the ability for residents to place temporary seasonal docks and boat lifts along our lakeshore reserves where appropriate. This policy acts as a guide to assist individuals classified as back lot landowners in obtaining permission from Leduc County. Permission is required in order to apply to Alberta Environment and Parks (AEP) for authorizations to place their docks/lifts/platforms.

**Definitions**

*Back lot landowners* means those who do not share a property boundary with a waterway or a municipal reserve and thus do not fall under the definitions of waterfront or semi-waterfront holder.

*Dock* means any pier, wharf or other structure constructed or maintained in a water body, whether floating or not, used for the purposes of mooring a vessel and includes any walkway, terminal platform, or anchor if an anchor is used.

*Lakeshore Reserves* 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.

*Municipal waterfront holder* means a municipality that is the owner of land directly adjoining the bank of a water body. These would include our lakeshore reserves.

*Semi-waterfront holders* are person(s) whose property directly adjoins a reserve where the reserve directly adjoins the bank of a water body.

*Temporary seasonal dock/boat lift* means a dock or boat lift structure that is constructed and installed in a way so that it can be removed from the bed and shore of a waterbody before the end of the open water part of the year without causing disturbance to the bed and shore.

*Waterfront holders* are person(s) whose property directly adjoins the bank of a water body.

**Policy authority**

*Legislative implications:*

- *Alberta Government Disturbance Standard for Temporary Seasonal Docks and other Mooring Structures for Personal Recreational Purposes (April 2021) (Public Lands Act, RSA 2000)*

*Bylaw implications:*

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

*Policy implications:*

- *MR-02 Lakeshore Reserve Management Policy*

**Policy standards**

Alberta Environment and Parks has established a “disturbance standard” under section 3 of the *Public Lands Administration Regulation*. The disturbance standard establishes clear rules for temporary seasonal mooring structures to safely and fairly accommodate recreational use of Alberta’s lakes and rivers, while streamlining the authorization process for temporary mooring structures.

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The disturbance standard applies to seasonal mooring structures for waterfront, semi-waterfront and municipal waterfront property owners. It does not however apply to back lot property owners. Back lot property owners require written consent of the waterfront or municipal waterfront landowner before placing or using a mooring structure.

1. Options for back lot owners
  - a. Co-owning a dock with a waterfront or semi-waterfront landowner.
  - b. Establishing a shared-use agreement with a waterfront or semi-waterfront landowner.
  - c. Becoming an approved user of an authorized community dock owned by the local municipality or association.
  - d. Obtaining a separate authorization from Alberta Environment and Parks.
  
2. Option d: Requiring municipal consent for dock, boat lift and platform authorization
  - a. Back lot property owners who want to place a dock in a waterbody from our lakeshore reserves must have formal consent from Leduc County when applying for an authorization from the province. Residents will need to submit an application and approvals will be considered for residents of Leduc County that meet the following conditions:
    - Resides within the subdivision of which they are attempting to secure access adjacent to a municipal reserve.
    - Location within the subdivision does not create disputes or is an area of common interest.
    - Does not impede community access or public areas
    - Verifies compliance with the disturbance standard.
  
3. Lakeshore use
  - a. Approved dock authorizations will comply with the requirements outlined in policy MR-02 Lakeshore reserve Management Policy.
  
4. Approved authorizations are for the applicant’s access to their seasonal dock, boat lifts and swim platforms. Authorization does NOT give unrestricted access to the lands for the applicants, nor does it restrict access to others. Reserve lands are for public use and enjoyment.

**Policy responsibilities**

*Council responsibilities:*

- Council will,
- Approve the Temporary Seasonal Dock Authorization 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 administrative procedures in reference to Leduc County dock, boat lift and platform authorizations.

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**Monitoring and updating**

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

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