

## Willow Lake Use Plan

The State of Alaska, Department of Transportation & Public Facilities (DOTPF) manages Willow Lake as a designated State float plane base. Willow Lake is open to the public for recreational uses including boating and fishing. Property owners with land bordering the Lake have riparian rights. These rights are subject to regulation and may not be used in a manner adverse to the rights of the community. Recognizing the aviation and recreational uses of Willow Lake, and in the interest of preventing conflict between aviation and recreational users, DOTPF has adopted the following plan governing the summer use of Willow Lake.

### I. GENERAL INFORMATION

DOTPF may plan, regulate, and enforce rules and procedures for the use of Willow Lake.

- A. It is the Lake user's responsibility to follow "good neighbor" safety practices, to be courteous and to avoid conflict.
- B. To avoid inadvertent but dangerous conflict between float planes and highly maneuverable, fast personal water craft (PWC), DOTPF reminds all Lake users that float planes are not highly maneuverable. Caution should be exercised by both float planes and PWCs operating near one another.
- C. Prior to each succeeding summer season, the State may publish notice in a local newspaper and/or hold a public information meeting (if necessary) to inform Lake users of this Lake Use Plan.

### II. WILLOW LAKE RECREATIONAL USE

- A. Recreational users are encouraged to familiarize themselves with the *Alaska Boater's Handbook*, available at [dnr.Alaska.gov/boating/publications](http://dnr.Alaska.gov/boating/publications).
- B. Immediately prior to and during the summer season, DOTPF will install and maintain a copy of the WLUP, a list of Frequently Asked Questions, and a map showing buoy locations on an informational kiosk at the Community Center Lake access ramp. DOTPF will make additional copies available at the Community Center.
- C. Immediately prior to and during the summer season, DOTPF will install and maintain informational signs at the Community Center boat access ramp and at other Lake access points. These informational signs will remind users of the existence of the WLUP and will state where the WLUP

can found on DOTPF's web-site.

- D. Immediately prior to and during the summer season, DOTPF, in consultation with the State Boating Law Administrator, will install and maintain a buoy approximately 100<sup>i</sup> feet from the point located at the southeast side of the Lake. The buoy will keep taxiing aircraft from coming too close to the shore. Recreational users are advised to familiarize themselves with the buoy and its purpose.
- E. Immediately prior and to and during the summer season, DOTPF, in consultation with the State Boating Law Administrator, will place buoys to delineate a "boats keep out" area at the northeast end of the Lake. The "boats keep out" area shall be for aircraft use in engine warm up, "run up" and similar operational activities. It is unsafe for users other than aircraft to be present in this restricted area at any time.
- F. Recreational users on the Lake or leaving the shoreline are reminded to be watchful for aircraft taxiing, landing, or taking off. Upon noting an aircraft taxiing, taking off, or landing in a location or direction that may result in potential conflict, recreational users must move towards the closest shore away from the path of the aircraft until the danger of conflict has passed.
- G. It is recommended that no swimming, rafting, floating, fishing, etc. take place where aircraft take off and land.

### III. WILLOW LAKE AIRCRAFT PROCEDURES

- A. Pilots are reminded to review the Alaska Supplement for current operational guidelines for use of Willow Lake. Pilots are reminded to operate in compliance with 17 AAC 45.030, to be aware of recreational use activities, and to use their best judgment and "good neighbor" safe practices. Prior to landing, visual inspection is recommended.
- B. While on the Lake, aircraft shall not operate on the land side of the buoy located at the southeast side of the Lake. When outside the "boats keep out" area, or when operating away from the point at the southeast point of the Lake, aircraft may not operate within 100 feet of the shoreline unless taxiing to or from the shore, or unless safety concerns dictate otherwise.
- C. The departure route for aircraft that use the Lake will be in a generally northerly or southerly direction, using the center of the Lake for operations. No east/west take-offs or landings are allowed except when weather or safety dictate otherwise.

- D. All aircraft warm-up prior to take off shall be in the “boats keep out” area in the northeast section of the Lake.
- E. It is recommended that all aircraft take-off towards the south, weather conditions permitting.
- F. Pilots are encouraged to announce on the local CTAF their departure from and approach to Willow Lake.

IV. PERSONAL DOCKS

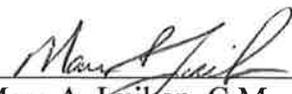
All lakeside landowners who have a dock on the Lake, or contemplate placing a dock on the Lake, must ensure that activities associated with the dock (mooring, swimming, boating) do not interfere with aviation operations and the activities of other recreational users. To avoid interference, docks must be of a reasonable width and length.

V. ENFORCEMENT

DOTPF’s regulatory and enforcement powers include, but are not limited to, those stated in 17 AAC 45.020 and 17 AAC 45.030. Lake users are encouraged to familiarize themselves with AS 02.15.230, AS 02.15.240, and 17 AAC 45.020 (j) and (k).

The Willow Lake Use Plan is effective upon the date of signature below. This plan supersedes all prior plans.

By authority of the Department of Transportation & Public Facilities  
 AS 02.15.020; AS 02.15.060; AS 02.15.090  
 17 AAC 45.010; 17 AAC 45.015; 17 AAC 45.020; 17 AAC 45.030  
 17 AAC 45.080; 17 AAC 45.127; 17 AAC 45.205

  
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 Marc A. Luijken, C.M.  
 Commissioner, Department of Transportation  
 & Public Facilities

23 Nov 2016  
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 Date

<sup>1</sup> Placement of the buoy at 100’ for the 2017 summer season is on a trial basis.