

All Applications for a private swim area are reviewed in collaboration with the CT DEEP Boating Division and FirstLight. We review each application based on the specific evidence presented.

We understand that the lake can get busy, especially on hot weekend afternoons. Waves can be big and boats may come closer to the shoreline than you would like, even if the operator is operating within the laws of the State of CT. For some, that can still be unsettling, and we understand wanting to keep swimmers and shorelines safe. However, all swim areas on the lake (and all buoys) must be permitted through the CT DEEP (mooring buoys and swim platforms must be permitted through the owners of the lake, FirstLight). Requests for swim areas and buoys first come through the CLA, before being reviewed by the State DEEP, so we wanted to provide you with our swim area guidelines to create understanding and set expectations.

While we understand the desire of homeowners, we also remind everyone that nearly the entire immediate shoreline of Candlewood Lake is owned by FirstLight Power. The waters of the lake are open to the public and the lake is managed and fostered for all users. We work to find solutions to recreational conflict between homeowners and recreational users, with the understanding that homeowners live along the lake which is also an area of recreation that is open to the general public.

Boaters are required to obey the boating laws of the State of CT, and the CLA Marine Patrol and CT DEEP EnCon Police work hard to ensure those laws are followed. The Marine Patrol also works hard to ensure that boaters respect the fact that they are in a homeowner's "backyard" and that they use the lake with courtesy. Creating this balance between the needs of users and homeowners is a challenging task, and one that we take seriously. We also understand that because of the wishes of the different users of the lake, it is impossible to make all sides happy at all times.

**Below is some information we wish to share with you.**

- Candlewood Lake is a public body of water, open to the general public for swimming, fishing, boating and other forms of recreation.
- Living on Candlewood Lake comes with the understanding that there will often be people "in your backyard" and sometimes they will be closer than you would like.
- Homeowners do not have an exclusive right to the water along their shoreline.
- Swim areas are exclusion zones which prevent the public from using the public waters of the lake for things such as fishing and boating.
- Swim areas on Candlewood Lake are generally reserved for municipalities and lake communities offering swimming to the public and where a higher density of swimmers can be found.
- Private swim areas would convert the public waters of Candlewood Lake into private waters and as such are extremely rare on Candlewood Lake.
- Private swim areas, should they in extremely rare cases be granted, would only extend as far as is necessary to allow for swimming and would not extend beyond the end of a typical dock.

**Some recommendations to swim more safely when the lake is busy.**

- If your home is part of one of Candlewood Lake's 60+ lake communities, and your community has a swim area, you may swim there.
- During busy periods, if you are concerned about boating traffic do not swim beyond the end of your dock, save that for periods when the lake is quiet.

**Other tips.**

Boats must go slow no wake within 100' of shore, docks etc., according to State of CT law. While that is not very far, if you witness a violation you can call the CT DEEP 24/7 Dispatch Line at 860-424-3333 and they can dispatch CLA Marine Patrol or DEEP EnCon Police. Be prepared to give the dispatcher as much information about the boat as possible (color, direction of travel, a registration number of the boat if possible).