

## **ORDINANCE NO. 1741**

**AN ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF BONNEY LAKE, PIERCE COUNTY, WASHINGTON, RELATING TO WATERCRAFT REGULATIONS; SPECIFYING EXCEPTIONS TO ADOPTED PIERCE COUNTY CODE CHAPTER 8.88; ESTABLISHING LOCAL REGULATIONS FOR SPEED LIMITS, PERSONAL WATERCRAFT OPERATION, AND REGULATORY BUOYS; PROVIDING FOR SEVERABILITY AND CORRECTIONS; AND ESTABLISHING AN EFFECTIVE DATE.**

**WHEREAS**, on July 9, 1991, the City Council adopted Ordinance 636, approving the incorporation of the Pierce County Watercraft Regulations by reference and creating Bonney Lake Municipal Code (BLMC) § 16.16 entitled “Watercraft Regulations”; and

**WHEREAS**, on June 23, 2023, the City Council adopted Ordinance 1701, recodifying the Bonney Lake Municipal Code in its entirety and renumbering Chapter 16.16 as Chapter 10.22; and

**WHEREAS**, under BLMC § 10.22.005, the City of Bonney Lake exercises authority over the waters lying within its corporate limits, including portions of Lake Tapps; and

**WHEREAS**, Pierce County Code (PCC) Chapter 8.88 establishes uniform watercraft regulations applicable throughout Pierce County, that the City has historically adopted by reference to promote consistency in enforcement; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council finds that certain provisions of PCC Chapter 8.88 should be modified or replaced to better reflect local conditions within Lake Tapps, including the Inlet Island and Interlake Island Channel, where narrow channels and dense recreational use create unique safety and environmental considerations; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council further finds that local amendments are necessary to clarify definitions of “wake” and “white water,” establish speed limits and no-wake zones, regulate personal watercraft operations, and authorize the placement of marker buoys within City waters; and

**WHEREAS**, the City desires to maintain consistency with applicable state statutes and administrative codes governing recreational vessels, including RCW Chapters 79A.60 and 88.02 and WAC Titles 352 and 308, while ensuring enforceability by the Bonney Lake Police Department under Chapter 7.80 RCW; and

**WHEREAS**, the City Council held a duly noticed public hearing on this ordinance, received public comment, and determined that the proposed amendments will promote public safety, protect property, and preserve the enjoyment of Lake Tapps for all users.

**NOW, THEREFORE, THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BONNEY LAKE, WASHINGTON, DOES HEREBY ORDAIN AS FOLLOWS:**

City of Bonney Lake, Washington  
**City Council Agenda Bill (AB)**

|                                                  |                                                                                         |                                                              |
|--------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Agenda Item Type:</b><br>Ordinance            | <b>Agenda Bill Number &amp; Ordinance/Resolution/Motion Number:</b><br>AB25-77 & D25-77 |                                                              |
| <b>Department/Division Submitting:</b><br>Police | <b>Presenter:</b><br>Chief Berry                                                        | <b>City Strategic Goal Category:</b><br>Public Safety Vision |

**Agenda Subject:** Lake Tapps No Wake Zone.

**Full Title/Motion:** An Ordinance Of The City Of Bonney Lake, Pierce County, Washington, Relating To Watercraft Regulations; Specifying Exceptions To Adopted Pierce County Code Chapter 8.88; Establishing Local Regulations For Speed Limits, Personal Watercraft Operation, And Regulatory Buoys; Providing For Severability And Corrections; And Establishing An Effective Date.

**Administrative Recommendation:** Approve

**Short Background Summary (Use a memo to write a full history):** In 1991, The City Of Bonney Lake Council Adopted (By Reference) The Pierce County Watercraft Regulations (BLMC.10.22; PCC.8.88.150). The Current Code States That Watercraft Traveling Within 200' Of Any Shore, Dock, Bridge Or Public Swimming Area Must Maintain A Speed Of Five Miles Per Hour (5 MPH) Or Less. For Years The City Council And Public Safety Committee Members Have Heard Public Comments About Unsafe Boating Activities On Lake Tapps. The Bonney Lake Police Department Marine Services Unit In Collaboration With Several Lake Tapps Residents Identified Several Changes To The Existing Ordinances Which Would Provide For Safer Watercraft Operation Within The Bonney Lake Portions Of Lake Tapps While Increasing Enforceability Of Those Ordinances. In Response, The Public Safety Committee Proposed Amending The City's Current Watercraft Regulations Of Several 5 Mph Zones To No Wake Zones, Identify The Channel Between Inlet Island And Interlake Island As A "No Wake Zone," And Provide For The Police Chief To Authorize Placement Of Buoys To Designate Other Areas Of Lake Tapps As "No Wake" Areas.

**Attachments:** Ordinance D25-77.

**BUDGET INFORMATION**

|                         |                         |                                   |                                     |
|-------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Budgeted Amount:</b> | <b>Current Balance:</b> | <b>Expenditure Amount Needed:</b> | <b>Budgeted Balance Difference:</b> |
|                         |                         | <b>\$34,000</b>                   |                                     |

**Budget Explanation:** This Expenditure Is Not Currently Funded And Would Be A New Budget Line. This Is Specifically For 6 New No Wake Zone Buoys, Relacing Existing Buoys That Are Failing, And No Wake Zone Buoy Graphics.

**COMMITTEE, BOARD & COMMISSION REVIEW**

|                             |                                                                 |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Public Hearing Date:</b> | <b>Name Of Committee/Commission Public Hearing Was Done At:</b> |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------|

| <b>Date &amp; Name Of Committee/ Commission Meeting</b> | <b>Return To Committee/ Commission/Board</b> | <b>Council Workshop Discussion</b>      | <b>Consent Agenda</b>        | <b>Council Full Issues</b>              |
|---------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Date: 10/14/2025<br>Name: Public Safety Committee       | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes            |
| Date: 10/21/25<br>Name: City Council Workshop           | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes            |
| Date: 10/28/25<br>Name: City Council Meeting            | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes            | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes |

**Hearing Examiner Review:**

|                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Preparer sent affected Department Director(s) copy of AB</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> Administrative Services <input type="checkbox"/> Court <input type="checkbox"/> Executive<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Finance <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Police <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Services |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

**COUNCIL ACTION**

|                              |                                  |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Workshop Date(s): 10/21/2025 | Public Hearing Date(s): 7/8/2025 |
| Meeting Date(s): 10/28/2025  | Tabled To:                       |

**APPROVALS**

|                                            |                               |                                                        |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Department Director:</b><br>Chief Berry | <b>Mayor:</b><br>Terry Carter | <b>Date Reviewed By City Attorney (if applicable):</b> |
|--------------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|

**Section 1. Amendment.** BLMC Chapter 10.22, entitled “Watercraft Regulations,” is hereby amended to read as set forth below, including amendments to §§ 10.22.010 through 10.22.080.

**§ 10.22.010 County regulations adopted by reference.**

The Pierce County watercraft regulations as set forth in PCC Chapter 8.88 and any amendments and additions hereto PCC are hereby adopted by reference to the extent those regulations are not inconsistent with RCW Chapters 79A.60 and 88.02 RCW, WAC Title 352, and Chapter 308-93 WAC; ~~provided, that PCC 8.88.070 is amended and replaced by BLMC § 16.16.025 and with~~ the exemption that all references to “Department” or “Sheriff” shall be enforced as the Bonney Lake Police Department, RCW 7.80.120 shall be applied to all references to infraction classifications of 1 through 4 as adopted by the Bonney Lake Municipal Code, and specified provisions of the PCC Chapter 8.88 are explicitly not adopted and further defined by BLMC 10.22.015 . No person shall operate on any waters of the city, nor launch onto any waters of the city any vessel not in compliance with said vessel regulations.

**§ 10.22.015 Pierce County Watercraft Regulations Not Adopted – Replacement Sections.**

The following provisions of Pierce County Code (PCC) Chapter 8.88, as referenced in BLMC 10.22.010, are not adopted by the City of Bonney Lake and shall have no force or effect within the corporate limits of the City:

PCC 8.88.150 Speed Limits — Fresh Water

PCC 8.88.360 Personal Watercraft

PCC 8.88.430 Marker and Regulatory Buoys

These sections are hereby replaced in their entirety by the following Bonney Lake Municipal Code provisions, which shall apply exclusively within the City:

**§10.22.060 Speed Limits – Fresh Water.**

**§10.22.070 Personal Watercraft.**

**§10.22.080 Marker and Regulatory Buoys.**

**§ 10.22.020 State statutes adopted by reference.**

The following statutes and regulatory provisions of the state of Washington are hereby adopted by reference as if set forth in full herein: RCW Chapter 79A.60 RCW and WAC Title 352 regarding regulation of recreational vessels and RCW Chapter 88.02 RCW and Chapter 308-93 WAC relating to registration of vessels; ~~provided that RCW 79A.60.130 is amended by BLMC § 16.16.025~~ 10.22.025. No person shall operate on any waters of the city, nor launch onto any waters of the city any vessel not in compliance with said vessel regulations.

§ 10.22.025 [Unchanged]

§ 10.22.030 **Violation – Penalty.**

Violation of this chapter is a misdemeanor, except (A) as otherwise specified, ~~BLMC § 16.16.025,~~ or (B) where the state statute or regulation adopted has been classified as a gross misdemeanor or an infraction, in which case the state classification shall control. ~~The bail schedule for infractions specified in BLMC § 16.16.020 shall be as required by the Washington State Supreme Court in IRLJ 6.2 as currently enacted and as may later be amended.~~

§ 10.22.040 [Unchanged]

**§10.22.050 Supplemental Definitions.**

A. “Wake,” for purposes of this chapter, means any visible trail of turbulence that produces white water at the bow or stern and is left in the water by a vessel.

B. “White Water” is frothy, aerated water produced when wave break of propeller wash mixes with air.

C. “Inlet Island/Interlake Island Channel” means the body of water located between Inlet Island and Interlake Island, bounded by the four points described below and shown in Figure 1. The area enclosed by the lines connecting these four points constitutes the Inlet Island/Interlake Island Channel for purposes of this chapter.



Figure 1 – Channel between Inlet Island and Interlake Island, courtesy of U.S. Geological Survey.

1. A point located 200 feet due north of the northernmost point of Inlet Island;
2. The dock on the east side of the parcel located at 4932 197th Avenue East, Bonney Lake, Washington, on Interlake Island;
3. A point located 200 feet south of the southernmost point of Interlake Island; and
4. The dock on the west side of the parcel located at 4621 North Island Drive East, Bonney Lake, Washington.

**§10.22.060 Speed Limits – Fresh Water.**

A. It is unlawful to operate a vessel at a rate of speed greater than will permit the operator in the exercise of reasonable care to bring the vessel to a stop within the assured clear distance ahead.

B. It is further unlawful to operate vessels at a speed creating a wake, within 200 feet of any shore, dock, bridge or public swimming area, or within 300 feet of any public boat launch.

C. It shall be unlawful to operate a vessel in excess of five (5) miles per hour within 100 feet of swimmers or any vessel.

D. After legal sunset, it is unlawful to operate vessels in excess of five (5) miles per hour on waters not otherwise regulated by the no wake speed limit.

E. It is unlawful to operate a motor-powered vessel in a manner that produces a wake as defined in this section, within the area located east of the eastern Interlake Island and west of Inlet Island, commonly known as the Inlet Island and Interlake Island Channel, except for the purpose of taking off and landing water-skiers from the property along the Inlet Island and Interlake Island Channel (see Figure 1 in §10.22.050).

F. Vessels shall, keep the vessel on the right half of the Inlet Island and Interlake Island Channel and:

1. Keep the skier directly behind the vessel;
2. Maintain a distance of at least 200 feet behind all other vessels traveling in the same direction;
3. Not pass another vessel in the Channel traveling in the same direction; and
4. Come to a full stop and bring the skier aboard in the event that the Channel is obstructed or unsafe or unlawful to proceed.

G. A violation of this Section constitutes a class 1 civil infraction pursuant to RCW 7.80 and shall be a monetary penalty of \$250 plus costs and assessments.

**§10.22.070 Personal Watercraft.**

A. A person shall not operate a personal watercraft unless each person aboard that personal watercraft is wearing a personal flotation device approved by the State of Washington.

B. A person operating a personal watercraft equipped by the manufacturer with a lanyard-type engine cutoff switch shall attach the lanyard to his or her person, clothing, or personal flotation device as appropriate for the specific vessel.

C. It is unlawful for any person to remove or disable a cutoff switch that was installed by the manufacturer.

D. A person shall not operate a personal watercraft during darkness.

E. A person under the age of 16 shall not operate a personal watercraft on the waters of Pierce County unless they are under direct supervision of a parent or legal guardian who is on board that vessel.

F. A person shall not operate a personal watercraft in a reckless manner, including recklessly weaving through congested vessel traffic, recklessly jumping the wake of another vessel within 100 yards of the vessel or when visibility around the vessel is obstructed, or recklessly swerving at the last possible moment to avoid collision.

G. A person shall not lease, hire, or rent a personal watercraft to a person under the age of 16.

H. A personal watercraft operator shall obey BLMC 10.22.060 Speed Limits – Fresh Water and, in addition:

1. Shall not operate at a speed in a manner that produces wake within 200 feet of shoreline.

2. Shall operate at a speed not exceeding five (5) miles per hour or in a manner that produces wake within 100 feet of any vessel moored or underway.

3. Shall operate at a speed not exceeding five (5) miles per hour or in a manner that produces wakes within 100 feet of swimmers.

4. Shall not operate at a speed in a manner that produces wake within 200 feet of a dock.

5. A personal watercraft operator shall not create a wake, perform repetitive turning maneuvers (including donuts) within three hundred (300) feet of any boat launch.

I. Subsections A. through H. of this Section shall not apply to a performer engaged in a professional exhibition or participation in any regatta, race, marine parade, tournament, or other exhibition, provided that such event has been expressly authorized or otherwise permitted by the appropriate agency having jurisdiction and authority over such events.

J. Violations of subsections A. and G. of this Section constitute a Class 1 civil infraction.

#### **§10.22.080 Marker and Regulatory Buoys.**

A. Marker buoys, approved by the Bonney Lake Police Department, may be placed as authorized, indicating the area of waters of the City within which it shall be unlawful to operate a vessel at speeds creating a wake. The Bonney Lake Police Department or authorized persons

may place, move, remove, or replace marker buoys when deemed necessary by the Chief of Police.

B. It shall be unlawful for any unauthorized person to deliberately damage, place, move, or remove any marker or regulatory buoy or distinguishing device.

C. It shall be unlawful to moor any vessel or tie any object up to any regulatory buoy.

**Section 2. Severability.** If any section, sentence clause, or phrase of this Ordinance should be held to be unconstitutional by a court of competent jurisdiction, such invalidity or unconstitutionality shall not affect the validity or unconstitutionality of any other section, sentence, clause or phrase of this Ordinance.

**Section 3. Publication.** This Ordinance shall be published by an approved summary consisting of the title.

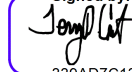
**Section 4. Corrections.** Upon the approval of the city attorney, and/or the city clerk, the code publisher is authorized to make any necessary technical corrections to this ordinance, including but not limited to the correction of scrivener's/clerical errors, references, ordinance number, section/subsection, and any reference thereto. Provided, however, that nothing in this section allows the city attorney, the city clerk, and/or the code publisher to change the intent of this Ordinance.

**Section 5. Effective Date.** This Ordinance shall be effective five days after publication as provided by law.

**ADOPTED** by the City Council of the City of Bonney Lake and attested by the City Clerk in authentication of such passage on this 28th day of October 2025.

**APPROVED** by the Mayor this 28th day of October 2025.

Signed by:



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Terry Carter, Mayor

**ATTEST/AUTHENTICATED:**

Signed by:

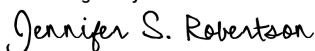


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Sadie A. Schaneman, MMC, City Clerk

**APPROVED AS TO FORM:**

DocuSigned by:



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Jennifer S. Robertson, City Attorney

AB 25-77

Passed: 10/28/2025

Valid: 11/2/2025

Published: 11/6/2025

Effective Date: 11/2/2025

This Ordinance totals 6 page(s)

# Classified Proof

|                |                                             |               |                             |             |         |
|----------------|---------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------|-------------|---------|
|                |                                             |               |                             |             |         |
| Client         | 3100013000 - City of Bonney Lake- LEGAL ADS | Phone         | (253) 862-8602              |             |         |
| Address        | 9002 Main St E, Suite 300                   | E-Mail        | BesawK@bonneylake.gov       |             |         |
|                | Bonney Lake, WA, 98391                      | Fax           |                             |             |         |
|                |                                             |               |                             |             |         |
| Order#         | 1021995                                     | Requested By  | KANDICE BESAW               | Order Price | \$27.13 |
| Classification | 3030 - Legal Notices                        | PO #          | ORD 1741                    | Tax 1       | \$0.00  |
| Start Date     | 11/05/2025                                  | Created By    | 0917                        | Tax 2       | \$0.00  |
| End Date       | 11/05/2025                                  | Creation Date | 10/29/2025, 11:01:15 am     | Total Net   | \$27.13 |
| Run Dates      | 1                                           |               |                             | Payment     | \$0.00  |
| Publication(s) | Enumclaw Courier Herald                     |               |                             |             |         |
|                |                                             |               |                             |             |         |
| Sales Rep      | 9470 - Jennifer Tribbett                    | Phone         | (360) 802-8212              |             |         |
|                |                                             | E-Mail        | jtribbett@courierherald.com |             |         |
|                |                                             | Fax           |                             |             |         |



**City of Bonney Lake  
Ordinances adopted**

**10/28/2025:**

**AB25-77 - Ordinance  
1741 [D25-77]**

An Ordinance Of The City Of Bonney Lake, Pierce County, Washington, Relating To Watercraft Regulations; Specifying Exceptions To Adopted Pierce County Code Chapter 8.88; Establishing Local Regulations For Speed Limits, Personal Watercraft Operation, And Regulatory Buoys; Providing For Severability And Corrections; And Establishing An Effective Date.  
ECH1021995  
11/5/25