

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

INTRODUCTION OF RULES AND REGULATIONS

Welcome to the Sherwood Forest Lake District (SFLD).

The SFLD was created under a Special Act of the Massachusetts General Court, and is governed by a seven member Prudential Committee, elected by the proprietors (property owners) within the district.

Proprietors are those individuals who have deeded rights to the lakes, beaches and dams and by statute are subject to taxes, assessments, and the rules and regulations of the SFLD and as a lot owner are granted the privilege of using the communities beaches, lakes, and dams accordingly to rules and regulations which have been promulgated by the district.

The operational controls empowering the committee to establish rules are delineated within the powers implicit in the enabling legislation and are subject to the General Laws of the Commonwealth. The controls are formulated in order that everyone may enjoy the area. It must be clearly understood that this is a private residential community whose proprietors have private property rights that are to be recognized, respected, and enforced. Therefore, proprietors should be respectful of their neighbors' rights at all times. Conduct that is unacceptable in a residential community will not be tolerated within the boundaries of the property (dams, lakes and beaches) that is under the jurisdiction of the SFLD.

The SFLD, and the proprietors of Sherwood Forest using the common areas of lakes, beaches, ramps, and dams are subject to the laws of the Commonwealth which are enforced by the Becket Police Department and Board of Health. Proprietors and their guests are encouraged to monitor activities within the area, and to report infractions of the rules to the appropriate authorities. Serious complaints should be reported directly to the police while other minor infractions should be filed with the SFLD by phone, email or in writing noting the location, description, time and date of the incident.

Rules and Regulations as adopted by SFLD are legal and enforceable. Any infraction representing a violation of the rules by a proprietor or their guest will be documented and reported to the appropriate authorities.

Each proprietor is responsible for informing their guest of the rules, and will be held accountable for their guest's actions. It is advisable that the proprietors read and adhere to the rules, regulations and policies listed below. It is our desire to have a community that can be enjoyed by all the residents and property owners.

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Sherwood Forest Lake District Prudential Committee

P.O. Box 663, Becket, MA 01223



Rule 1. Domestic animals & pets

For health and safety reasons domestic animals and pets are not allowed on community beaches, or in the adjacent lakes and waterways.

The water at every community beach under SFLD jurisdiction is required to be tested biweekly. If the presence of harmful microbial contamination is detected the affected beach must be closed until the water quality falls within acceptable criteria.

Therefore, no person shall be permitted to take any domestic animal or pet of any kind, onto any community beach, adjacent lake or waterway under the jurisdiction of the SFLD at any time whether on leash, in arms or caged. For example, although dogs under the Town of Becket By-Laws are allowed to be leashed outside the confines of the property of their owner or keeper, they are not allowed on a community beach, adjacent lake or waterway in Sherwood Forest. The provisions of this section shall not apply to the use of a registered service animal, which means any dog guide or other animal individually trained to work or perform tasks for an individual with a disability or police K-9 units.

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Health Risks Possibly Associated with Pet Waste

Pet waste can contain bacteria and parasites, causing infections such as the following:

Campylobacteriosis: A bacterial infection that causes diarrhea in humans.

Giardiasis: A protozoan infection of the small intestine that can cause diarrhea, cramping, fatigue, and weight loss.

Salmonellosis: Symptoms include fever, muscle aches, headache, vomiting, and diarrhea.

Toxocariasis: An animal to human infection that is caused by roundworms found in the intestines of dogs. The parasite can cause vision loss, rash, fever or cough, and is a particular threat to children exposed to parasite eggs in sand and soil.

Scientific studies have shown that the impact of pets when combined with wildlife within a watershed can be significant when it comes to water quality and human health.

For More Information

Bureau of Environmental Health
MA Department of Public Health
250 Washington Street, 7th fl
Boston, MA 02108

MA Bathing Beaches Project
Website: www.mass.gov/dph/beaches
Phone: 617-624-5757
Fax: 617-624-5777

COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS

GUIDE DOGS

MA MGL Guide dogs

CHAPTER 272

CRIMES AGAINST CHASTITY, MORALITY, DECENCY AND GOOD ORDER

Section 98A

Physically handicapped persons with dog guides; public places or conveyances; charges or fares; penalties

Section 98A. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any blind person, or deaf or hearing handicapped person, or other physically handicapped person accompanied by a dog guide, shall be entitled to any and all accommodations, advantages, facilities and privileges of all public conveyances, public amusements and places of public accommodation, within the commonwealth, to which persons not accompanied by dogs are entitled, subject only to the conditions and limitations applicable to all persons not accompanied by dogs, and no such blind person, or deaf or hearing handicapped, or other physically handicapped person shall be required to pay any charge or fare for or on account of the transportation on any public conveyance for himself and such dog so accompanying him in addition to the charge or fare lawfully chargeable for his own transportation. Whoever deprives any blind person, or deaf or hearing handicapped person, or other physically handicapped person of any right conferred by this section shall be punished by a fine of not more than three hundred dollars and shall be liable to any person aggrieved thereby for such damages as are set forth in section five of chapter one hundred and fifty-one B; provided, however, that such civic forfeiture shall be of an amount not less than one hundred dollars.

US CODE § 3103. Admission of guide dogs or other service animals accompanying individuals with disabilities

- (a) **In General.**— Guide dogs or other service animals accompanying individuals with disabilities and especially trained and educated for that purpose shall be admitted to any building or other property owned or controlled by the Federal Government on the same terms and conditions, and subject to the same regulations, as generally govern the admission of the public to the property. The animals are not permitted to run free or roam in a building or on the property and must be in guiding harness or on leash and under the control of the individual at all times while in a building or on the property.
- (b) **Regulations.**— The head of each department or other agency of the Government may prescribe regulations the individual considers necessary in the public interest to carry out this section as it applies to any building or other property subject to the individual's jurisdiction.

