



# 2023 Navigation Guide to Lake Wisconsin

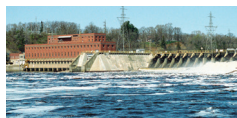
**ELEVATION:** 774 FEET ABOVE SEA LEVEL  
**SURFACE AREA:** 7,000 ACRES, 53 MILES OF SHORELINE

This free map is provided by The Grade Boat Club, Inc. and Alliant Energy to promote boating safety on Lake Wisconsin and the adjacent Wisconsin River.

Keep in mind that Lake Wisconsin is part of the Wisconsin River system and its currents will cause sandbars to shift and will carry floating debris. Be careful to avoid areas with tree stumps, many of which are indicated on this map. It is highly recommended that boaters stay inside the buoy line and follow all boating safety regulations.

## Boating near the Prairie du Sac Hydroelectric Dam

To prevent accidents and/or potential fatalities, it is important that recreational boaters and fishing enthusiasts use common sense around a dam and understand the dangers to be found near them.



- Never anchor boats below a dam because water levels can change rapidly.
- Obey all warning signs, barriers, flashing lights, horns and sirens.
- Always wear a life jacket/personal flotation device.
- Leave boat motors running to provide maneuvering power.
- Stay clear of spillways – changing currents and “boiling” waves can make boat control difficult near dams.
- Watch for reverse currents below dams – they can pull a boat back toward the dam into the spillway and potentially capsize it.

### LEGEND

	Gas		Main Buoy Line (yellow)
	Boat Launch		Local Buoy Line (pink)
	Loan-a-Vest		No-Sport-Tow Buoy line (red)
	Landmarks/Features		Major Stump Area
			Services locations (see other side for details)

## Buoy identification



This buoy designates Slow-No-Wake



This buoy designates the most navigable route of safe passage and should be passed closely on either side.



This buoy warns of rocks, cables and other hazards.

## Heavy boat traffic area

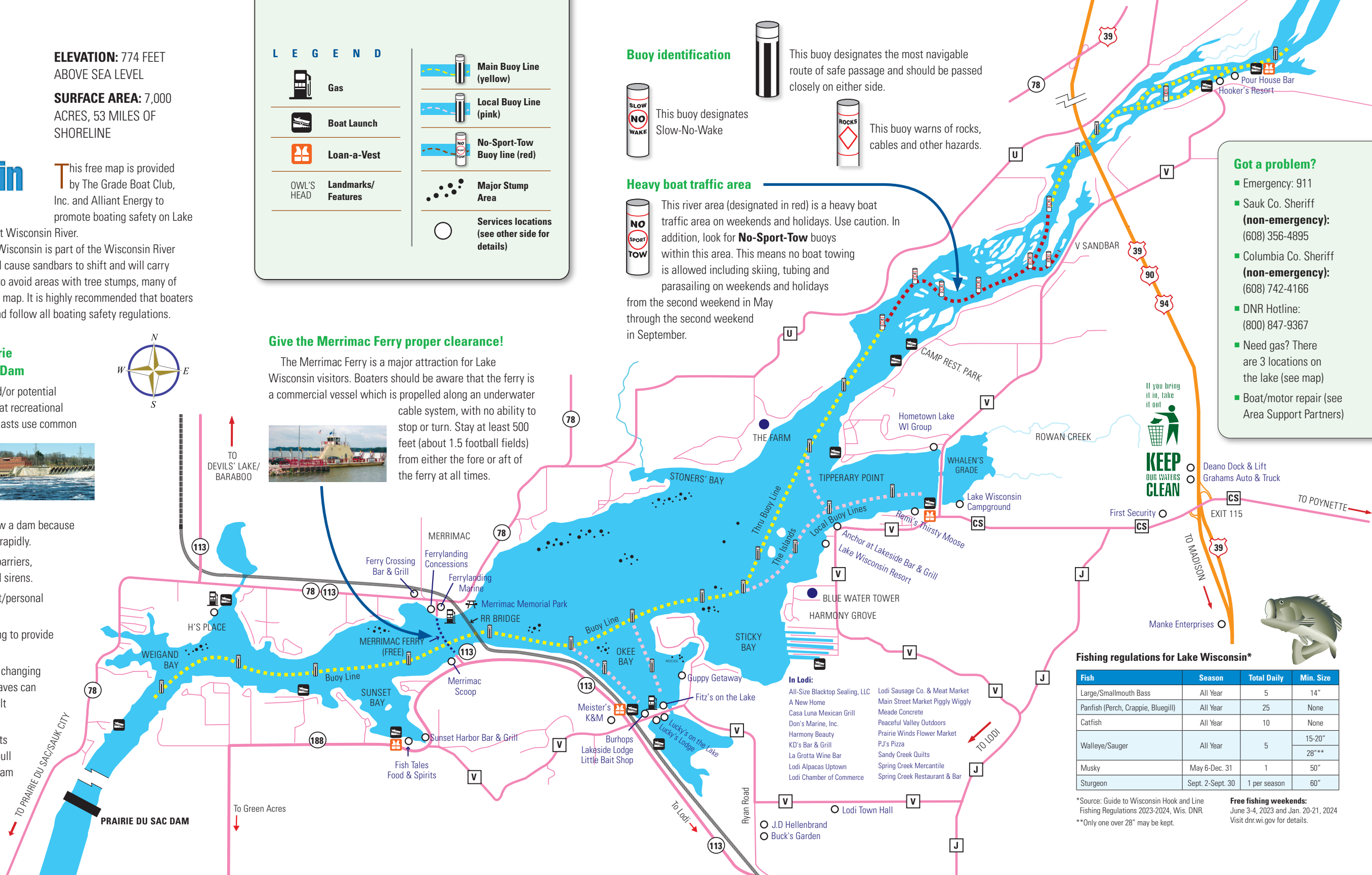


This river area (designated in red) is a heavy boat traffic area on weekends and holidays. Use caution. In addition, look for No-Sport-Tow buoys within this area. This means no boat towing is allowed including skiing, tubing and parasailing on weekends and holidays

from the second weekend in May through the second weekend in September.

## Give the Merrimac Ferry proper clearance!

The Merrimac Ferry is a major attraction for Lake Wisconsin visitors. Boaters should be aware that the ferry is a commercial vessel which is propelled along an underwater cable system, with no ability to stop or turn. Stay at least 500 feet (about 1.5 football fields) from either the fore or aft of the ferry at all times.



## Got a problem?

- Emergency: 911
- Sauk Co. Sheriff (non-emergency): (608) 356-4895
- Columbia Co. Sheriff (non-emergency): (608) 742-4166
- DNR Hotline: (800) 847-9367
- Need gas? There are 3 locations on the lake (see map)
- Boat/motor repair (see Area Support Partners)



If you bring it in, take it out

## Fishing regulations for Lake Wisconsin\*

Fish	Season	Total Daily	Min. Size
Large/Smallmouth Bass	All Year	5	14"
Panfish (Perch, Crappie, Bluegill)	All Year	25	None
Catfish	All Year	10	None
Walleye/Sauger	All Year	5	15-20" 28"***
Musky	May 6-Dec. 31	1	50"
Sturgeon	Sept. 2-Sept. 30	1 per season	60"

\*Source: Guide to Wisconsin Hook and Line Fishing Regulations 2023-2024, WVis. DNR.  
 \*\*Only one over 28" may be kept.  
**Free fishing weekends:** June 3-4, 2023 and Jan. 20-21, 2024  
 Visit [dnr.wi.gov](http://dnr.wi.gov) for details.