

# Boat Landing Fee Frequently Asked Questions

We get asked often, “Where does my boat landing fee go?” Below are some frequently asked questions regarding the six County-owned boat landings and their associated fees. The six boat landings in question are Elkhart Lake, Little Elkhart Lake, Gerber Lakes, Jetzers Lake, Crystal Lake and the Sheboygan Marsh.

- 1) **Where do the fees go?** The fees collected go into a non-lapsing account that funds activities at the 6 county-owned boat landings, **only** (i.e. they can't pay for a new squad car, etc.). These activities encompass paying the electric bill, pumping the toilets, plowing the lots, paving the lots, pier maintenance, buying new piers, mowing, etc.
- 2) **Why did the County start charging a fee?** At two different occasions the County studied the over 200 programs and services it is responsible for. Programs and services were rated and ranked. Those that are mandated by the State or Feds scored highest and those that were discretionary obviously rated lower. Boat landings rated near or at the bottom. Discretionary programs and services with low ratings were asked to look for additional revenue sources to help offset their costs to all taxpayers. With levy limits in place, fees are essentially the only additional revenue source the County can capture for boat landings. As such, the fees are paid by the stakeholders using the resource.
- 3) **Are we the only County charging a fee?** Absolutely not. In fact, ours are some of the lowest fees being charged. Washington County charges \$80 for a yearly pass, Calumet County charges \$35, Fond du Lac County charges \$27 and Winnebago County charges \$25. There are plenty of other examples as well. Sheboygan County charges a modest \$16 for residents and \$24 for non-residents and provides 2 stickers assuming a family has two vehicles. Every other entity we are aware of only provides 1 sticker.
- 4) **How much of the revenue is generated by non-Sheboygan County residents who do not pay taxes in Sheboygan County?** Usually over 35%.
- 5) **If I'm merely fishing from a pier or shore do I need a sticker?** No. This was one of the compromises made when the fee was enacted in 2011. This allows grandpa to take little Jimmy fishing without having to pay for anything but the rod and bait.
- 6) **If I forget to pay and get a citation can I purchase a pass and get the citation voided?** Yes. We want compliance, not to issue citations.
- 7) **Can I park overnight in the boat landing lot?** No. If you do, you risk being cited and/or towed.
- 8) **If I am jumping on a friend's boat, do I need the sticker?** If you are parked in the lot, you need a sticker unless you are fishing from shore or the pier (see #5).
- 9) **If I am going ice fishing do I need to pay?** Yes, if you are parked in the lot.
- 10) **What if I am not launching a craft with a trailer?** If you are parked in the lot even if you are using kayaks, SUPs, etc., you still need a sticker.

Call the Planning & Conservation Department if you have further questions. 920-459-3060.