By practicing the Tread Lightly! principles, you not only care for the environment and reduce conflicts among recreationists, you help protect access to recreational areas for years to come.

Tread Lightly!® is a national nonprofit organization with a mission to promote responsible recreation through ethics education and stewardship. It is considered the nation's signature ethics message for outdoor enthusiasts that use motorized vehicles while enjoying trails and waterways. Tread Lightly! offers unique training and restoration programs strategically designed to instill an ethic of responsibility in a wide variety of outdoor enthusiasts and the industries that serve them.

RESPECTED IS OPEN ACCESS
respectedaccess.org

TRAVEL RESPONSIBLY

RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS

EDUCATE YOURSELF

AVOID SENSITIVE AREAS

DO YOUR PART

tread lightly!® ON LAND AND WATER

To learn more, contact Tread Lightly! at
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Email: treadlightly@treadlightly.org
Or visit us on the web at www.treadlightly.org

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MOTORIZED BOATING

TREAD LIGHTLY!'S
RESPONSIBLE RECREATION TIPS

TRAVEL RESPONSIBLY

Travel responsibly on designated waterways and launch your watercraft in designated areas.

- Travel only in areas open to your type of boat.
- Carry a Coast Guard approved life vest (PFD) for each person on board.
- Always operate your boat at a safe speed.
- Always have a designated lookout to keep an eye out for other boaters, objects, and swimmers.
- Never jump a wake.
- If crossing a wake, cross at low speeds and keep a close lookout for skiers and towables.
- Comply with all signs and respect barriers. This includes speed limits, no-wake zones, and underwater obstructions, etc.
- Make every effort to always go boating with a partner.
- Make certain your trailer is in proper working order and that your lights work and your boat is secure on the trailer before you travel to your destination.
- When trailering your boat, balance your load including items stowed inside your boat.
- Don't mix boating with alcohol or drugs.

RESPECT THE RIGHTS OF OTHERS

Respect the rights of others, including anglers, swimmers, skiers, boaters, divers and others so they can enjoy their recreational activities undisturbed.

- Show consideration to all recreationists on and around the waters.
- Be courteous to other boaters while in boat ramp areas. Launch and retrieve your boat as quickly as possible.
- Keep the noise down—especially around shore.
- If crossing private property, be sure to ask permission from the landowner(s).

EDUCATE YOURSELF

Educate yourself prior to a trip by learning rules and regulations, planning for your trip, taking recreation skills classes, and knowing how to operate your equipment safely.

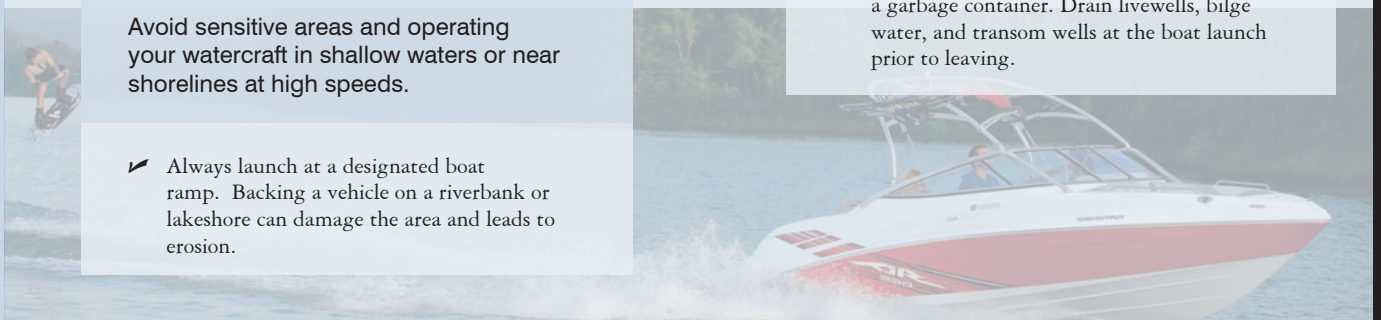
- Obtain charts of your destination and determine which areas are open to your type of boat.
- Make a realistic plan and stick to it. Always tell someone of your travel plans and file a float plan.
- Contact the land manager for area restrictions, closures, and permit requirements.
- Check the weather forecast for your destination. Plan clothing, equipment, and supplies accordingly.
- Make sure you have enough fuel and oil for the entire trip.
- Make sure your owner's manual and registration are on board in waterproof containers.
- Always carry a Coast Guard approved working fire extinguisher and warning flares.
- Prepare for the unexpected by packing necessary emergency items.
- Carry a Global Positioning System (GPS) and know how to use it.
- Know distress signals and warning symbols.
- Know your limitations. Apply sunscreen, drink lots of water, and watch your energy level.
- Take a boater education course to learn more about navigating waterways and safe and enjoyable boating.
- Make sure your boat is mechanically up to task. Be prepared with tools, supplies, and a spill kit.

AVOID SENSITIVE AREAS

Avoid sensitive areas and operating your watercraft in shallow waters or near shorelines at high speeds.

- Always launch at a designated boat ramp. Backing a vehicle on a riverbank or lakeshore can damage the area and leads to erosion.
- Always travel slowly in shallow waters and avoid boating in water less than 2½ feet deep. High speeds near shorelines lead to large wakes which cause shoreline erosion.
- Sensitive areas to avoid include seasonal nesting or breeding areas.
- Do not disturb historical, archeological, or paleontological sites.
- Avoid "spooking" wildlife you encounter and keep your distance.
- Motorized and mechanized vehicles are not allowed in designated Wilderness Areas.

DO YOUR PART

Do your part by modeling appropriate behavior, leaving the area better than you found it, properly disposing of fuel, oil and waste, avoiding the spread of invasive species, and restoring degraded areas.

- Pack out what you pack in.
- Carry a trash bag and pick up litter left by others.
- When fueling your boat take every precaution not to spill fuel into the water.
- Be prepared, carry a spill kit which includes absorbent pads, socks, and booms.
- Use a fuel collar or bib when fueling to catch drips and overflow and prevent backsplash.
- Observe proper sanitary waste disposal or pack your waste out.
- Before and after a trip, wash your gear, watercraft and support vehicle to reduce the spread of invasive species. Remove all plant material from watercraft, motor, trailer, and other gear and dispose on dry land in a garbage container. Drain livewells, bilge water, and transom wells at the boat launch prior to leaving.