

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Q: Why are you updating the breakwater guidelines?

A: The guidelines were last updated in 2017 and since that time we have seen both an increase in boat traffic of the lake and damage to boat docks from wave action. Since there appears to be a growing interest in breakwaters, we believed it was appropriate to update our guidelines.

Q: What changes are you making?

A: Breakwater permits will now have a specified term of ten (10) years. Permits can be renewed but applicants will need to submit an inspection report and certification from a professional engineer that the breakwater is structurally sound, anchored in its authorized location and contains proper navigational lighting.

Q: I already have a permit. Do I need a new one?

A: You will need to apply for a renewal in about ten (10) years, prior to 2031.

Q: My dock is in the back of a cove. Can I get a breakwater?

A: No. Breakwaters are restricted to areas near the main channel(s).

Q: Why do I need to hire an engineer to submit an application?

A: Breakwaters need to be designed to withstand wave action, which can differ from location to location across the lake. Because they can be expensive to install and maintain, specialized expertise is needed. You can always call the Shoreline Management Office before you contact an engineer so that we can discuss the process and requirements.
