

Alison Middleton

From: Michelle Crocker
Sent: Friday, June 9, 2023 11:02 PM
To: Board of Commissioners
Cc: Clerk
Subject: Fwd: Problems on National Lakeshore

Please see email below.
Michelle

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: memc@ieee.org
Date: June 9, 2023 at 11:43:23 AM EDT
To: Michelle Crocker <mcrocker@leelanau.gov>
Subject: Problems on National Lakeshore

Ms. Crocker,

I am hoping some suggestions might be brought in front of the County Commissioners and Executive Committee.

My family has been coming to the Sleeping Bear Dunes and Little Glen Lake for nearly seventy years, and the many generations value this treasure. My parents – WWII generation – retired and lived here for almost 30 years. We have all seen it grow and change, but even the youngest great, great grandchild loves it today as much as I did as a child. And we are very thankful that the National designation preserves it.

But in the last few years there have been changes within and adjacent to the Lakeshore that have not benefited the locals, the visitors or the park and natural beauty itself. I have a couple of observations on the changes, and some suggestions for what the County could put in place immediately and easily to remediate. I include some precedents in other areas. I would love it if my email letter could be provided to the Commissioners and/or read at the next regular and Executive sessions.

Here are observations and suggestions:

1. On Little Glen Lake the number of boats that launch is becoming unmanageable both at the launch itself, parking along Day Forest Road, and the swarms on the lake. It is utter chaos at the launch, with inexperienced boaters clogging up the launch and the good-hearted volunteers frequently ignored. People will pull their boats into the slip, then try to figure out how to get their car to the launch. In addition, there are just too many boats anchored on the Big Glen side of the Narrows, drinking, playing really loud music that conflicts with one another, and defecating. My kids were snorkeling and it was quite disgusting.

1. **Suggestion:** Restrict the number of boats that can be launched. One very easy way to do this is to not allow any parking of cars and cars with trailers along Day Forest Road or M-22 or M-109. And if people park, give them a \$250 ticket, disconnect their boat and

tow their car. If people have friends, let them park on their property. If people go to the trouble of buying some parking somewhere and getting back to their boat, good for them. But ultimately, they will probably pick a different lake to use.

1. **Precedent:** Lake Beulah in Wisconsin, north of Chicago, has this setup. After about 25 boats are launched, that's it. People who don't want to get there early, just end up going over to Lake Geneva and the chain of lakes, and Lake Beulah is safe and pristine. Also, include a parking fee for those boats and trailers that are able to get a spot at the public launch – Lake Beulah does.

2. The vehicle noise is terrible and speed limits are ignored frequently. It has become popular for people with Chargers and other 'hot' cars as well as ridiculously noisy motor cycles to crank up the non-muffled vehicle noise as well as radios, and speed around. The Narrows is terrible. I feel so sorry for Sunset Glen and Pat Alonzi.

1. **Suggestion:** Institute a noise ordinance for all vehicles and motorcycles, and enforce it heavily. Look into restricting motorcycles from the Lakeshore area or at least require them to have mufflers. Reduce all the speed limits to 25 MPH in the summer and ticket, ticket, ticket. You wouldn't be able to do this for all of Leelanau County, but you could for the any roads bordering the National Lakeshore.

1. **Precedent:** In Chicago, all of DuSable Lake Shore Drive along the lake from Hollywood through to the South Side, does not allow trucks of any kind. Not even pickups. The speed limit is low, and Chicago PD enforces it. There is also a noise ordinance that the people who live along the lake and all the residents who enjoy the beaches love. Here is a link to an article that describes the installation of noise monitors and the Aldermen supporting it. Again, ticketing is the key. It may be manual for a little while up North, but word will get out to the noise makers. You might consider a fund-raiser for solar-based cameras and automatic ticketing. Lots of people who love the Lakeshore would contribute I am sure. <https://news.wttw.com/2020/01/09/city-install-noise-monitors-along-lake-shore-drive>

So I hope this is able to be communicated to the Commissioners. I imagine this is not news to anybody up there, so I hope also that the precedents for acting now are evident. It would be amazing to see these concepts in effect this Summer.

Most sincerely,

Mary Eileen McLaughlin.

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