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Winnebago County Sheriff's Department



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
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ROCK RIVER HOLIDAY BOATING RESTRICTIONS

The Winnebago County Sheriff's Office is reminding boaters and those planning to enjoy the Rock River this Independence Day to be aware of temporary river restrictions and to make safety a top priority throughout the holiday weekend.

To provide a safe environment during the City of Rockford's Fourth of July fireworks display, a No Wake restriction will be in effect on the Rock River from the Auburn Street Bridge south to the dam on Saturday, July 4, 2026, from 7:30 p.m. until midnight.

Additionally, beginning at 8:00 p.m., no boats will be permitted south of the Lombardi Club toward the dam due to the fireworks safety zone established near the Jefferson Street Bridge.

Boaters who are already south of the Lombardi Club prior to 8:00 p.m. will be directed to travel north until they are safely outside the restricted area.

The Winnebago County Sheriff's Office will have an increased patrol presence on the Rock River throughout the holiday weekend to help ensure the safety of everyone enjoying our waterways.

Sheriff Gary Caruana encourages all boaters to make responsible decisions while on the water. "The Fourth of July is one of the busiest weekends on our river. We want everyone to enjoy the holiday, but we also want everyone to make it home safely. Wear a life jacket, designate a sober operator, obey the no wake zones and temporary restrictions, and always be courteous to others on the river. A safe day on the water starts with good decisions."

The Winnebago County Sheriff's Office appreciates the public's cooperation and wishes everyone a safe and enjoyable Fourth of July weekend.

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