

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

1. Now that I've met the area ranger at my lot, can I put my dock, powerline, walkway in?

No. You need to wait until we send you a copy of the signed permit.

2. How long will it take to get my permit?

Normally it takes 6 to 8 weeks to process a permit due to the volume of paperwork and permits we have to handle. This is after you have provided us with all the required documents and fees. We send out permits, along with reissues, reminders, corrections and deficiency notices once a month. However, processing may take longer if we need to perform additional recreation patrol in the summer.

3. Why hasn't my check cleared the bank?

After we record your payment, we send your check to Millington, Tennessee, where our finance offices are located. The office in Millington then forwards the check to your bank for payment.

4. I sent in the application and the money. Why was it returned?

We need to have all the requested documents sent to us at the same time. We cannot keep partial applications because they cannot be processed. We cannot hold checks without having the complete package, due to regulations.

5. Well, what do I need to send in?

The letter we have sent you contains specific guidelines on what to send in. Please read it carefully, and call us if you have any questions.

6. Can I bring my application to the office?

You can drop off your paperwork from 8 am to 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday. Again, be sure you have all required documents with you. If you have questions for someone in Shoreline you will need to come in Tuesday through Thursday 8 am to 4:00 pm.

7. Can I pay by cash or credit card?

At this time our system only allows us to accept checks or money orders.

8. Why do you need my e-mail addresses?

We are increasing our contact information options with plans to initiate on-line reissue of permits in the future. We are also able to e-mail some information now, such as handouts.

9. I have a boat dock and an electric line, but my permit says I have three structures. Why is this?

The computer treats every line item as a separate structure. For example, the software describes the dock walkway as a structure, even though it is part of the dock.

10. Why are Shoreline Management Plans revised? I thought everything was fine.

Shoreline plans do not necessarily need revision, but we are required by law to review them periodically. Revisions are made primarily to address situations that the previous plans were not prepared to cope with, such as jet ski ports and solar power systems. Whenever major revisions are made, we will invite public comments and hold public meetings before it is published.

11. I know my permit is up for renewal soon, but I never received anything from you.

Please keep us updated when you change addresses. Our rangers spend a lot of time tracking down people who have moved or changed phone numbers. Keeping us informed will also help reduce the number of letters we have to send out.

12. What is this extra administrative fee for getting a dock permit? I thought the dock permit was only \$35.00.

The administrative fee is a charge allowed by Congress to help defray some of the costs of administering the shoreline management program.

13. My realtor told me it was ok to change my dock and put in electric and water. Why does the Corps want me to make changes now?

A real estate agent's job is to help people buy and sell property. Buyer be ware! A realtor has no authority to make any recommendations or grant any approvals relating to permits on Lake Sidney Lanier. Only the Lake Lanier Corps of Engineers Office performs this function. If you have made changes to public lands and waters or changes to your shoreline permit facilities without our approval, you could be in violation of the shoreline plan. Additionally, if a realtor or the seller has made changes without permission, you may be required to make corrections. Contact your area ranger concerning *any* shoreline questions.

14. Who decides how much the permits cost and why do they last five years?

Congress set the five-year term for permits, the fees for floating facilities, and the administrative charges. These fees are the same nationwide. Fees for land based items such as utilities and improved walkways are set by the District Real Estate Offices, and vary from region to region. They can range from a nominal charge to fair market value.

15. I don't understand why I have to remove certain items from my dock. Everyone else has one.

The Corps of Engineers only grants permission for certain items to be stored or placed on public lands and waters. If items are not specifically authorized under the Shoreline Management Plan or Title 36 Code of Federal Regulations, you cannot leave them behind or install them on the shoreline or boat docks. The others that may have one will be required to remove it as we get to it. With limited staff we deal with issues as we find them.

16. My neighbors say I have to do certain things with my dock. Do I need to do what they say?

Your dock is your private property, for which the Corps gave you permission to place on Lake Lanier. Always check with your area ranger to see if there are any requirements you are not meeting or may not be aware of.

17. I have a problem with people whom I don't know who are getting onto my dock. Can you help me out?

Sorry, but we cannot help you resolve this issue. Since docks are the private property of the permit holder, he or she must contact the local authorities and pursue trespassing charges if necessary. We can only address issues that directly affect or occur on public lands and waters.

18. My dock needs a permit tag.

Let the area ranger know. We will get a tag posted when we can. Normally, we place one tag on a tree or post next to the dock, and the second on the dock itself.

19. Can I get a permit for grass mowing?

No new permits for grass mowing are being issued. Most of the existing ones came about in areas that were historically open fields and farmland. If the area has regrown with shrubs or trees, this permission is removed from the shoreline permit.

20. What is a grandfathered item?

A "grandfathered" facility or activity is one that we no longer issue permits for. Section 15.7 of the 2004 Shoreline Management Plan addresses this on our website.

21. I have trees that have died/are leaning towards my house/dock.

Contact us before you cut trees. We want to find out what the situation is at your location. There may be something that we need to assess, such as pine beetle activity or sudden oak decline. In many cases we will be able to mark the trees and then give you a Specified Acts Permit to cut them. When we locate an area where trees were cut and removed without permission we may require the area to be replanted at the violator's expense. We may also issue a citation and require restitution for the damage that was done.

22. I am thinking about buying a property on the lake that has a dock. How can I find out if the permit is in "Good Standing"?

We do not use this term. There is no such thing as a permit in "good standing". Permits are either active or expired. You may call the Lake Lanier Shoreline Help Desk or your area

ranger at 770-945-9531 for general information about a dock. NOTE: we are limited in the information that we can give out to the public due to privacy issues.

23. What exactly is a permit?

A Shoreline Use Permit and License are legal instruments owned by the Corps of Engineers that allows a private individual or association the permission to place facilities or perform certain activities on Lake Lanier, *provided* they meet a specific set of requirements.