

Anne Arundel County – Maynadier Creek Controlled Water Ski Area



What is the current regulation for the area?

There is a current Controlled Water Ski regulation outlined as follows:

.01 Controlled Water Ski Areas.

A. The Department may designate a controlled water ski area within the waters of the State.

B. The controlled water ski area may contain ski slalom course(s) that must meet the ski slalom requirements set by the American Water Ski Association (AWSA).

C. Permits and use restrictions:

(1) A valid U.S. Army Corps permit for the area shall be obtained and be on file with the U.S. Army Corps and Maryland DNR.

(a) The U.S. Army Corps permit holder shall have the responsibility to mark the course in accordance with their U.S. Army Corps permit.

(b) The U.S. Army Corps permit holder has the responsibility to maintain U.S. Coast Guard approval for all markings on the course.

(2) A controlled water ski course may be used for practice. Other uses may require separate approval from the federal, State, or local agencies.

(3) The course shall only be used as a ski slalom course by vessels which display a DNR Ski Sticker as described in 08.04.16.02.

(4) A person shall not operate or give permission to operate a vessel for the purpose of towing a water skier on the slalom ski course on Saturdays, Sundays and State Holidays between 12 noon and sunset during the months of June, July or August.

(5) A person may not place or give permission to place a mooring buoy near the ski slalom course when the arc of the swing is closer than 200 feet to the ski slalom course as approved location in the U.S. Army Corps permit.

(6) Only vessels displaying the DNR Ski Sticker and actively participating in water skiing on the controlled water ski course may exceed the regulated speed limit for the area.

(7) A person may not operate or give permission to operate a vessel across or within the permitted course, when the course is in use by a vessel which displays the required sticker and is towing a skier or assisting a fallen skier on the course.

D. A violation of the U.S. Army Corps permit or these regulations may result in enforcement of speed limit regulations and removal of the course by the State.

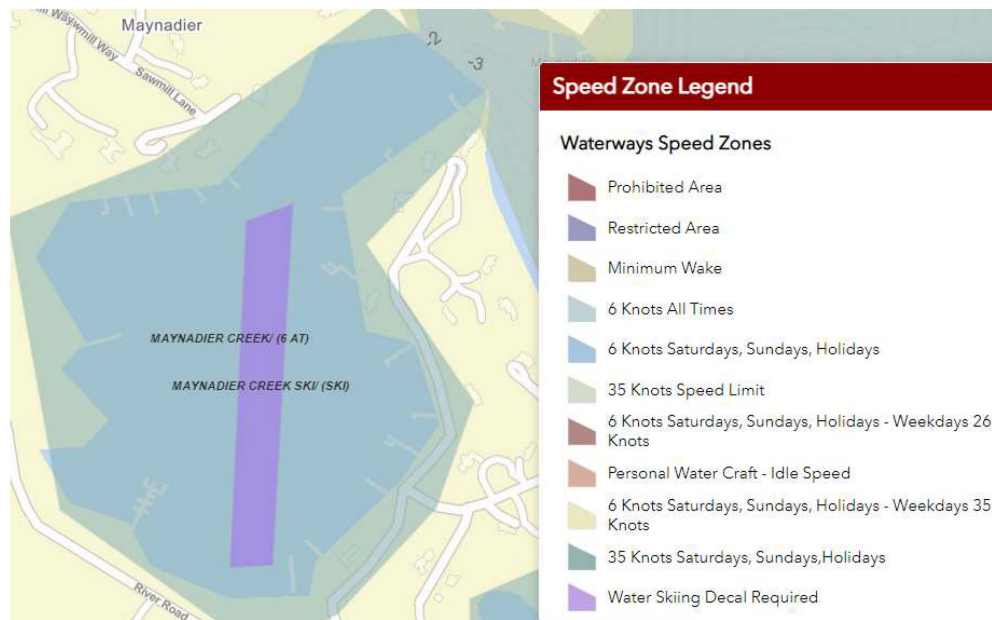
Additionally, the following speed limits currently exist:

[08.18.24.02\(P\)](#)

.02 Severn River South Shore — Speed Limits.

The Severn River south shore areas, with their corresponding speed limits, are set forth below:

P. Maynadier Creek. This encompasses the area upstream of a line beginning at a point at or near Lat. 39° 2.139' N., Long. 76° 34.230' W., then running 260° (True) to a point, at or near Lat. 39° 2.122' N., Long. 76° 34.349' W. Except as otherwise restricted, the speed limit for this area is 6 knots. This area may have a controlled ski course as set forth in COMAR 08.04.16.



*Please Note: Maynadier Creek Controlled Ski Area is also addressed in NR Article §8–725.1 As follows:

IN EFFECT // EFFECTIVE UNTIL MAY 31, 2023 PER CHAPTER 747 OF 2019 //

(a) In this section, “controlled water ski area” means an area that:

- (1) Is marked by the Department;
- (2) Encompasses a slalom ski course that is permitted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers; and
- (3) Is designed, constructed, and intended for controlled water ski practice.

(b) This section applies to a controlled water ski area located in Maynadier Creek.

(c) (1) Subject to paragraph (2) of this subsection, a person may operate or give permission to operate a vessel for the purpose of towing a water skier in a slalom ski course located in a controlled water ski area only on:

- (i) Mondays and Thursdays between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.;
- (ii) Tuesdays and Wednesdays between 8:00 a.m. and sunset;
- (iii) Fridays between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.; or
- (iv) Sundays between 8:00 a.m. and noon.

(2) A person may not operate or give permission to operate a vessel for the purpose of towing a water skier in a slalom ski course located in a controlled water ski area on:

- (i) Saturdays; or
- (ii) State holidays.

What was requested?

The Department received a request to change the existing or to create a new controlled ski area (slalom course, ski jump course, or rowing course) in Maynadier Creek.

Why was this change requested?

The requestor stated:

“For 26 years, from 1990 to 2015, the hours of operation of the slalom ski course in Maynadier Creek were from Monday to Thursday, from noon to sunset. These hours reflected the need for balance between water skiers, other water enthusiasts (boaters, kayakers, fishermen, crabbers, etc.), and the surrounding residential community. This represented roughly 34 hours of ski time per week. In the early 90s, the ski club petitioned the DNR to expand the hours. DNR rejected

the request as the hours represented compromise in putting the course in the cove in the first place.

In 2014, the skiers got the configuration of the ski course changed through the Army Corp of Engineers so that it is much longer and the starting and stopping point is in the narrowest parts of the creek. The reconfiguration of the course layout has the effect of denying access to the cove portion of the creek by other users when the skiers are skiing the course. Though the surrounding neighborhood wrote the Army Corp. of Engineers about the change and requested a public hearing, no hearing on the reconfiguration was provided.

In 2016, without directly consulting the surrounding communities, the DNR changed the slalom ski course hours from 34 to 85 hours per week. 85 hours per week represents roughly 83% of all daylight hours over the summer months. This does not make sense for a 6 knots per hour creek. The recommendation for change came from the Boating Advisory Act Committee (BAAC), chaired by a water skier and stacked with water skiers. The effects of the 2016 hours increase correspondingly decreased the usage of the creek by the rest of the boating community. In addition, the community complains of excessive noise, especially disruptive in the early morning. Finally, the wakes in the creek have increased.

As a result, the three communities surrounding Maynadier Creek met with then-Senator Ed Reilly to see if a legislative fix could occur. After a couple of years of trying, Sen. Reilly passed Senate Bill 93: Anne Arundel County - Controlled Water Ski Area in Maynadier Creek - Operation of Vessel - Hours of Operation in 2019 (Chapter 747). The bill codified the following 56 hours on Maynadier Creek, including Fridays, Sundays, and morning Hour:

- Mondays and Thursdays between 8:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m.;
- Tuesdays and Wednesdays between 8:00 a.m. and sunset;
- Fridays between 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m.;
- Sundays between 8:00 a.m. and noon.

The hours under the bill sunset this May and will return to the hours in COMAR. Specifically, COMAR 08.04.16.01, states, “ A person shall not operate or give permission to operate a vessel for the purpose of towing a water skier on the slalom ski course on Saturdays, Sundays and State Holidays between 12 noon and sunset during the months of June, July or August.”

In reference to Chapter 747 of the Acts of 2019, the Department of Natural Resources’s (DNR) report, MSAR 12190, dated September 26, 2022, states that “[s]ince the new law went into effect, Maryland Natural Resources Police (NRP) has experienced minimal enforcement issues.” Consistent with the DNR report and the facts shared above, we ask DNR to revisit COMAR 08.04.16.01 as it pertains to Maynadier Creek's controlled water skiing area and codify through regulation the hours of operation that will extinguish this May.”

AND

“Maynadier Creek's controlled water skiing area is unlike the other two controlled water skiing areas as it is tucked in a cove that has three surrounding residential communities. The Creek used

to be home to kayakers, fishermen, clam diggers, campers, and happy hour meetings. Because of the controlled water skiing course, those uses have plummeted as the disturbances in both wake and noise is unbearable and untenable.

The hours that we saw under the legislation passed by the Maryland General Assembly brought some harmony back to the creek. Us petitioners simply want a shared use of the creek and a structure to the the hours of course operation that match the setting of this course. Even with more limited hours on Maynadier Creek, water skiers still have two additional controlled ski areas located nearby with unlimited hours of use: 1. Sunrise Beach on the Severn River and 2.the upper South River.”

Who will this affect?

- Pleasure boats, Personal watercraft (motorized vessels), Shoreline property owners, Paddle and kayak type vessels, water skiers.

Maps of the Area

