

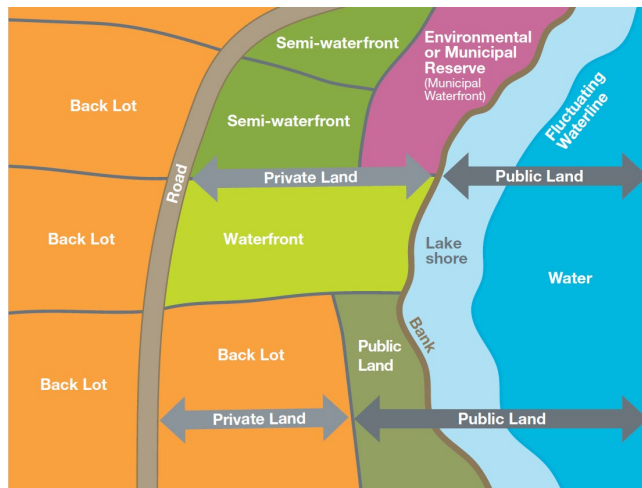
Mooring in Alberta

Back Lot Holders and General Public Fact Sheet

The placement of mooring structures (i.e. seasonal docks, associated structures including boat lifts, mooring anchors and buoys) and mooring facilities (i.e., mooring fields, marinas, open water moorage, etc.) onto the bed and shores of a Crown-owned body of water for personal, community, municipal, or commercial use, is regulated under the *Public Lands Act* and the Public Lands Administration Regulation.

In 2021, a Disturbance Standard was created to allow waterfront, semi-waterfront and municipal waterfront holders to place temporary seasonal mooring structures, such as docks and boat lifts, into a body of water without requiring a separate authorization provided they meet all the requirements of the Disturbance Standard.

The Disturbance Standard does not apply to back lot holders or the general public. As a result, an authorization, approval or formal disposition will be required for a back lot holder or the general public to install their own mooring structure.



A **waterfront** property is a land parcel directly adjoining the bank of a body of water.

A **semi-waterfront** property is a land parcel directly adjoining a municipal or environmental reserve that directly adjoins the bank of a body of water.

A **back lot** property is a parcel of land that is neither waterfront nor semi-waterfront but is within a subdivision directly adjacent to a body of water.

Options for Back Lot Holders and the General Public

- **Launch your boat at a local boat launch.** Lakes have a number of boat launches available for public use. Consider launching your boat from one of these public boat launches.
- **Become a user of a public use mooring facility.** Seek out mooring opportunities at your local community, municipal or commercial mooring facility, such as marina, mooring field, or community dock. This may be the best mooring option for many back lot holders and the general public.
- **Share a dock with waterfront or semi-waterfront holders.** This would allow the waterfront or semi-waterfront holders to share their mooring structure while still adhering to the standards (e.g. mooring structures may only cover 50% of the lot width). Responsibility for shared mooring structures rests with the waterfront or semi-waterfront holder.
- **Obtaining a separate authorization from Forestry and Parks.** In general, there should be no expectation for back lot holders or the general public to place individual mooring structures in a body of water. There is a finite amount of shoreline available for dock use in Alberta's recreational bodies of water. It is presumed that waterfront and semi-waterfront mooring areas will already be taken up by waterfront or semi-waterfront holders. This limits the availability for additional dock placement by others, such as back lot holders or the general public. Instead of individual mooring structures, publicly available mooring spaces such as commercial marinas, or municipal or community provided multi-user mooring options, may be the best option available for back lot holders and the general public. Back lot holders and the general public should contact their local municipality, community group or private commercial operator about the availability of publicly available mooring spaces before they consider submitting an application for an individual dock. Please visit [Alberta.ca](https://alberta.ca) for more information.

[Disturbance standard for temporary seasonal docks and other mooring structures for personal recreational purposes - Open Government \(alberta.ca\)](#)