

Boating/Fishing Rules for The Nature Conservancy's Emiquon Preserve

(9 April 2009 revision)



1. Any and all individuals boating and/or fishing on the Preserve must have a valid Boating/Fishing Permit Application and Liability Waiver on file with the Conservancy and must carry a valid Conservancy BOATING/FISHING PERMIT. No other access is allowed without a Conservancy SPECIAL USE PERMIT, WATERFOWL HUNTING PERMIT, or RESEARCH PERMIT.
2. BOATING/FISHING PERMITS are available from 8:30 am to 4:30 pm at Dickson Mounds Museum, 10956 N Dickson Mounds Rd, Lewistown, IL 61542.
3. Organized activities of more than 25 people require a SPECIAL USE PERMIT.
4. SPECIAL USE PERMITS, WATERFOWL HUNTING PERMITS, and RESEARCH PERMITS are available only from the Conservancy. SPECIAL USE and RESEARCH PERMITS should be requested from the Conservancy at the Emiquon Preserve Office, 11304 N. Prairie Road, Lewistown, IL, 61542 a minimum of 30 days before any proposed activities. WATERFOWL HUNTING PERMITS are available Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays during waterfowl hunting season. For more details, contact the Conservancy office (phone 309.547.2730).
5. Hours are sunrise to sunset. No trespassing sunset to sunrise.
6. Minors must be accompanied by an adult 18 years of age or older, authorized by the minor's parent or legal guardian.
7. No boating or fishing access before 1:00 pm on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays during waterfowl hunting.
8. Harvest of fish must be for personal use only and not for sale.
9. The following are prohibited:

| | | |
|-------------------|------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Bank fishing | Live bait except worms | Bow fishing |
| Tournaments | Swimming | Wading |
| Belly boats | Fish cleaning | Gas motors (not even on the boat) |
| Open fires | Camping | Alcohol |
| Littering | Pets | Dumping |
| Biking | Fireworks | Weapons |
| Off-road vehicles | Digging | |
10. Collecting and/or removing the following is prohibited:

| | | |
|--------|-----------------|-----------|
| Rocks | Fossils | Animals |
| Plants | Plant materials | Artifacts |
11. Violation of any rules invalidates your permit and constitutes trespassing.
12. These rules and regulations are subject to change without notice.
13. Fishing and boating are allowed only on the west half of Thompson Lake. All watercraft must remain west of the orange buoys that demarcate the approximate middle of Thompson Lake.
14. Only pole and line fishing allowed with a maximum of two (2) poles per person.
15. Only registered watercraft are allowed on the lake.
16. All gear must be removed daily.
17. All state licensing requirements and regulations apply.
18. Fish harvest limits are:

| <u>Species</u> | <u>Minimum length</u> | <u>Daily limit</u> |
|--------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Largemouth Bass | 18" | 1 |
| Crappie | 9" | 25 |
| Channel Catfish | | 6 |
| Bluegill (Lepomis) | | 25 |
| Walleye/Sauger | 14" | 6 |
19. All Visitors must complete and sign a Boating/Fishing Permit Application and Liability Waiver in which they agree to the following:
 - A. I will use the Preserve solely for the following Activities: boating and/or fishing.
 - B. The term of this Permit shall begin when signed and shall terminate December 31, 2009, unless earlier terminated by the Conservancy for any reason.

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- C. I understand minors under the age of 18 are permitted access to the Preserve only when in possession of a valid BOATING/FISHING PERMIT and under the direct supervision of an adult parent, legal guardian, or an authorized designee of the parent or guardian. I agree to take full responsibility for all minors listed above and accompanying me, to keep them within sight and reach, and to directly supervise them at all times. No other person may accompany me to the Preserve without a permit from the Conservancy.
- D. I agree I am engaging in these Activities at my own risk and acknowledge that the Conservancy makes no warranties or representations, express or implied, regarding my engaging in the Activities at the Preserve. I understand the nature of the terrain and the possible dangers that might be involved in the type of Activities in which I will be participating. I am aware of no physical problem or condition that could endanger myself or others if I were to participate in the Activities.
- E. I, for myself and my heirs, hereby waive and release the Conservancy and its officers, directors, and employees from any and all claims, liabilities, losses, damages, and expenses resulting from any injury to me and any accompanying minor child(ren), or damage to my property arising out of my activity at the Preserve. I, for myself and my heirs, further agree to indemnify and hold the Conservancy harmless from any and all claims, liabilities, losses, damages, and expenses incurred in connection with the foregoing.
- F. I have read, reviewed, and agree to abide by all the rules and regulations pertaining to visitor use at the Preserve. I agree to abide by any and all restrictions placed on the location, timing, duration, or other aspects of my Activities by Conservancy staff. I further agree to comply with all local state, and federal laws and ordinances governing the Activities, including obtaining any and all appropriate government licenses or permits. I am aware of the property boundaries and agree to avoid trespassing on private property adjacent to the Preserve.
- G. By signing (Visitor Signature), I acknowledge I am at least 18 years of age, or if not, the signature of a parent or legal guardian is provided below. I acknowledge the statements I have made in this document are true. I understand the use of this Preserve is a privilege granted to me and that this privilege may be revoked at any time.



**The Nature Conservancy's
Emiquon
Preserve**

