

LAKE ACCESS PERMIT AND LIABILITY WAIVER

for The Nature Conservancy’s Emiquon Preserve



The Emiquon Preserve in Fulton County, Illinois (the “Preserve”) is private property owned and managed by the Illinois Chapter of The Nature Conservancy (the “Conservancy”), a non-profit corporation of the District of Columbia. The Conservancy is issuing Lake Access Permits for the Preserve to allow limited access to the public for the enjoyment of Thompson Lake (the “Lake”) for designated Activities.

In consideration of the Conservancy permitting “me” the “Visitor” to enter onto the Lake, Visitor states and agrees as follows:

- A. I will use the Lake solely for the following: boating, pole-and-line fishing (maximum of 2 poles per person), ice fishing, skating, paddling, hiking, and cross country skiing (the “Activities”).
- B. Use of the Lake for the Activities may begin when this waiver is signed and shall terminate on December 31, 2026 unless earlier terminated by the Conservancy for any reason.
- C. I understand minors under the age of 18 are allowed access to the Lake only under the direct supervision of an adult parent, legal guardian, or an adult designee of the parent or guardian. I agree to take full responsibility for all minors listed below and accompanying me, to keep them within sight and reach, and to directly supervise them at all times. No person may accompany me to the Lake without a valid Emiquon Preserve Waiver Identification Card.
- 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 Lake. 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 Activities 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 the Lake Access Rules for The Nature Conservancy’s Emiquon Preserve listed on this Permit and Waiver, and any other rules and regulations pertaining to Activities at the Lake. 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 Lake.
- G. I give permission for my name and contact information to be shared with researchers conducting research relating to the Lake. I understand that such researchers may contact me, and that I may decline to participate in such research.
- H. I grant the Conservancy permission to take photographs and video and audio representations of me while at the Lake. I hereby irrevocably consent to and authorize the royalty free use and reproduction by the Conservancy, or anyone duly authorized by the Conservancy, of any and all such photographs (including negatives) and video/audio representations for any legitimate purposes, including but not limited to advertising, trade and editorial purposes, at any time in the future in all media now known or hereafter developed, throughout the world. I also consent to the use of my name in connection with such photographs, video and audio representations and writings under the same terms. I hereby release, indemnify and hold harmless the Conservancy and its officers, directors, agents, and employees from any and all claims which may result at any time by reason of the use of my image, video and audio representations, writings and name, including, without limitation, claims of privacy. My heirs, executors, administrators, and assigns shall be bound by this consent and release.
- I. By signing, I acknowledge I am at least 18 years of age, or if not, the signature of my parent, legal guardian, or adult designee of my parent or legal guardian is provided. 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.

LAKE ACCESS RULES FOR THE NATURE CONSERVANCY’S EMIQUON PRESERVE

- 1. Any and all individuals using Thompson Lake (the “Lake”) at Emiquon Preserve must have a valid **Liability Waiver** on file with the Conservancy and must carry a valid **Waiver Identification Card**. No other public access is allowed on the Preserve without Conservancy permission except for access to Observatories and associated walking trail.
- 2. Currently the Conservancy does not charge a fee for Lake Access. Becoming a member of the Conservancy is encouraged.
- 3. Organized Lake Access activities of more than 25 people require a separate Special Use Permit.
- 4. Hours are sunrise to sunset. No entry allowed sunset to sunrise. The Conservancy reserves the right to close the Lake to any or all visitors on certain days or times by posting.
- 5. Minors must be accompanied by an adult, 18 years of age or older, and their Liability Waiver and Waiver Identification Card must be signed by the minor’s parent, legal guardian, or adult designee of the parent or guardian.
- 6. **No Lake Access before 12:00 pm during waterfowl hunting season.** Lake users should be aware hunting may occur on the Lake at other times as well.
- 7. Harvest of fish must be for personal use only and not for sale.
- 8. The use of Other Power Driven Mobility Devices (OPDMs), including utility vehicles, ATVs, Segways, golf carts, etc. on this property has been assessed in accordance with the Americans With Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations. OPDMs are prohibited.
- 9. Permitted Lake Access activities are limited to: boating, pole-and-line fishing (maximum of 2 poles per person), ice fishing, skating, hiking and cross country skiing.
- 10. **The following are prohibited:** bank fishing, bow fishing, gas motors (not even on the boat) including ice augers, live bait except worms, fish cleaning, alcohol, pets, camping, tournaments, littering, open fires, fireworks, digging, dumping, weapons, swimming, and wading.
- 11. **Collecting and/or removing the following are prohibited:** rocks, plants, fossils, plant materials, animals (other than legally taken fish) and artifacts.
- 12. The public is allowed only on Thompson Lake. In some locations buoys or signs maybe used to mark NO ACCESS zones. Access is NOT PERMITTED in those zones.
- 13. All gear must be removed from the Lake each day.
- 14. All state licensing, watercraft registration and regulations apply.
- 15. **These rules and regulations are subject to change without notice.**
- 16. **Violations of laws or failing to abide by written rules or instructions from Conservancy staff or designees constitutes trespassing and may cause Lake Access privileges to be revoked and/or trespass charges.**
- 17. **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 Species)		25
Walleye/Sauger	14"	6