Enjoy the outdoors with kids!

The Forest Preserves of Cook County offers family events and fishing derbies throughout the year to introduce children to the joys of fishing. Visit fpdcc.com/events to learn about all of our events.

Take a Kid Fishing!

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources also provides information about kids and family fishing. Visit dnr.illinois.gov and lfsillinois.org
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Guide to Fishing in The Forest Preserves of Cook County

This guide lists lakes and waters open to public fishing in the Forest Preserves of Cook County. Fishing at lakes not listed in this book is prohibited. Individual maps show the location and depths of each lake, and list principal fish species.

Accessible fishing areas are located at Busse Reservoir—Main Pool, Busse Reservoir—South Pool, Flatfoot Lake, Maple Lake, Saganashkee Slough, Skokie Lagoons, Tampier Lake, and Pogie Lake. See individual lake maps for more details.

As part of the mission to preserve and protect natural lands for the education, pleasure and recreation of the public, the FPCC provides a variety of fishing opportunities for families and individuals of all ages and abilities. Some fishing waters are natural, some have been created by damming streams, and others were dug during highway construction. Sale of fishing licenses and federal taxes on fishing equipment have provided funding for District fishing programs.

The District works with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to provide quality fishing. All state laws and rules apply to District waters, with some additional restrictions: bow and arrow fishing is not permitted in District preserves, and all forest preserve waters are designated fish preserves, each fisherman is limited to two lines with no more than two hooks per line, and no trolley lines. This includes ice fishing.

Over 2,000 acres of fishing water, in over 40 areas, are now available. The District conducts an ongoing program of fisheries management, stocking, shoreline improvement, nuisance aquatic vegetation control, and other projects to enhance fishing enjoyment. Individual lakes may be closed at times for stocking, or other management activities.

Management focuses on providing the best possible shoreline fishing, while offering boating on designated lakes. Limited nuisance vegetation control improves aesthetic values and makes shoreline fishing easier. Other management activities include periodic sampling to determine populations, reproduction and growth, and species relationships, and stocking. You, the angler, can help by obeying size and creel limits, and other regulations that contribute to good fishing for all. Please pick up all bait containers and other litter, and remember that discarded line and hooks are a serious hazard to wildlife and other people.

REGULATIONS

A valid Illinois hook and line fishing license is required except for persons under age 16, disabled, or blind. A State Inland Trout Stamp is required with each license, when fishing for trout in Forest Preserves’ trout lakes. Fishing and boating regulations are subject to change.

Check fpdcc.com for current rules and regulations.

The Forest Preserves of Cook County would like to acknowledge and thank the following agencies for their help in the creation, design and content of this publication: Cook County Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Bureau of Technology, and the Cook County Department of Public Affairs and Communications, Office of the President, Cook County Board.
Size and creel limits pertaining to District Waters:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>SPECIES</th>
<th>LIMIT PER DAY</th>
<th>MINIMUM LENGTH</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Largemouth &amp; Smallmouth Bass</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td>Channel Catfish</td>
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TROUT FISHING is closed from March 15 to the first Saturday in April, and from October 1 to the third Saturday in October.

ICE FISHING is permitted on designated District lakes on a FISH AT YOUR OWN RISK basis. Ice conditions are not monitored by the District. A minimum of 4 inches of solid ice over the entire lake is recommended for safety. Two-pole limit.

Illegal Actions

It is unlawful to release any fish, including minnows and goldfish, in any Forest Preserves of Cook County waters, except in the waters from which they were taken. It is illegal to abandon, deposit or throw any wire, can, bottle, glass, paper, trash, rubbish, cardboard boxes, wood cartons, trees, parts of trees, brush or other insoluble material, including animal or vegetable material, into the waters or on the ice of any waters of Cook County, or in any place on the banks of waters in the County, where it shall be liable to be washed into the waters by storms, floods or other causes. Tournament fishing is prohibited. The use of a minnow seine is not allowed, except for bait collecting in the Des Plaines River.

It is unlawful to enter the water for any reason, including wading or swimming, unless authorized by administrative order of the general superintendent.

Acceptable Watercraft

OUTBOARD MOTORS ALLOWED

Des Plaines River: All watercraft.
One ramp: Plank Road Meadow, Ogden Avenue and First Avenue, Lyons.
Carry-in launch ramps: Allison Woods, Prospect Heights; Story Ford, Lyons; Columbia Woods, Willow Springs; Lemont Landing, Lemont; Irving Park Road, Canoe Landing, Schiller Park; Maywood Grove, Maywood; Dam #2, Mt. Prospect; Northwest Woods, Des Plaines
Salt Creek:
Carry-in launch ramps: Bemis Woods North, Westchester; 26th Street Woods West, LaGrange Park
Chicago River:
Carry-in launch ramp: Linne Woods, Morton Grove
Little Calumet River: All watercraft.
Two ramps: Little Calumet Boat Launch north of Jackson St, east of Ashland, Riverdale; Beaubien Woods Boat Launch south of 130th St, west of Bishop Ford Expressway, Chicago.
Carry-in launch ramp: Kickapoo Woods, Riverdale

Boating

GENERAL REGULATIONS: Permitted on designated water bodies: non-gasoline powered watercraft of either traditional construction, or multi-chambered inflatables with a factory installed floor and hull identification number, including sailboats, rowboats, canoes and kayaks. Radio controlled boats, and floatplanes on designated lakes only.

MOTORBOATS RESTRICTED: No person shall, at any time, bring any gasoline or other fuel powered boat or outboards into or upon any waters under exclusive control of the Board of Commissioners. Electric or battery powered trolling motors shall not be used in or upon waters except at such place or places as may be provided or designated for such purpose by administrative order of the General Superintendent of the Forest Preserve District.

All such watercraft must be registered and titled with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

Acceptable watercraft is permitted on District waters overnight.

ICE FISHING is permitted on designated District lakes on a FISH AT YOUR OWN RISK basis. Ice conditions are not monitored by the District. A minimum of 4 inches of solid ice over the entire lake is recommended for safety. Two-pole limit.

Accessibility

Please see page 32 to learn more accessibility options.
Map Index of the Designated Fishing Lakes
Forest Preserves of Cook County

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<th>LOCATION</th>
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<td>Des Plaines; East River Rd, south of Golf Rd</td>
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<td>9</td>
<td>BODE LAKE</td>
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<td>BUSSE RESERVOIR</td>
<td>Elk Grove Village; Higgins Rd, east of RT 53-I-290</td>
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<td>HORSETAIL LAKE</td>
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<td>IDA LAKE</td>
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<td>JOE’S POND</td>
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<td>20</td>
<td>MCGINTY SLOUGH</td>
<td>Lemont; north of 131st St, west of Will Cook Rd</td>
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<td>21</td>
<td>MIDLOTHIAN RESERVOIR</td>
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<td>22</td>
<td>O’MALLEY PONDS</td>
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<td>POWDERHORN LAKE</td>
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<td>ROLLING KNOLLS POND</td>
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<td>Lemont; Route-B3 and Archer Ave., at 111th St</td>
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<td>SAUK LAKE</td>
<td>Chicago Heights; north of Sauk Trail Rd., west of Euclid Ave., and south of 26th St</td>
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<td>SCHILLER POND</td>
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<td>33</td>
<td>SKokie LAGOONS</td>
<td>Glencoe/Winnieka; Forestway Dr. b/w Willow &amp; Dunree Rds, E of Edens Exp. (I-94)</td>
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<td>TAMPIER LAKE</td>
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<td>WAMPUM LAKE</td>
<td>Thornton; Thornton-Lansing Rd., 1 1/2 mile west of Torrence Ave</td>
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* No Contour Map

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**Arrowhead Lake**

- Water depth contour interval: 1 ft.
- 5’ Index Contour
- 1’ Intermediate Contour
- Depression Contour
- Spot Bath Fl

Shoreline elevation = 627.3 feet
Lake size = 13 acres
**Axehead Lake**

Water depth contour interval: 1 ft.
- 5 ft. Index Contour
- 1 ft. Intermediate Contour
- Depression Contour
- Spot Depth (ft.)

- Shoreline elevation = 624.7 feet
- Lake size = 17 acres

Spring and Fall Inland Trout Program - Opens 1st Saturday in April and 3rd Saturday in October

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**Barrington Road Pond**

Water depth contour interval: 1 ft.
- 5 ft. Index Contour
- 1 ft. Intermediate Contour
- Depression Contour
- Spot Depth (ft.)

- Shoreline elevation = 781.4 feet
- Lake size = 2 acres
Belly Deep Slough

Water depth contour interval: 1 ft.
- 1 ft. Intermediate Contour
- Depression Contour
- Spot Depth (ft)
Shoreline elevation = 662.4 foot
Lake size = 17 acres

Beverly Lake

Water depth contour interval: 1 ft.
- 1 ft. Index Contour
- 1 ft. Intermediate Contour
- Depression Contour
Spot Depth (ft)
Shoreline elevation = 80.36 feet
Lake size = 16 acres
Big Bend Lake

Water depth contour interval: 1 ft.
- 5 ft. Index Contour
- 1 ft. Intermediate Contour
- Depression Contour
- Spot Depth (X)

Shoreline elevation = 634.3 feet
Lake size = 27 Acres

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Bode Lake North

Water depth contour interval: 1 ft.
- 5 ft. Index Contour
- 1 ft. Intermediate Contour
- Depression Contour
- Spot Depth (X)

Shoreline elevation = 773.1 feet
Lake size = 46 Acres
To reserve a campsite, visit fpdcc.com/camping or call 1-855-YES-CAMP.
Accessibility features for this water body include accessible parking, a paved surface pathway to the shoreline, a hard surface along the shoreline, and railings along portions, or all of the hard surfaced shoreline.
Accessibility features for this water body include accessible parking, a paved surface pathway to the shoreline, a hard surface along the shoreline, and railings along portions, or all of the hard surfaced shoreline.
Accessibility features for this water body include accessible parking, an (asphalt) paved surface pathway to the shoreline, and a (wooden) pier with (metal) railings, off of the shoreline.

Fall Inland Trout Program Opens 3rd Saturday in October
Spring and Fall Inland Trout Program Opens 1st Saturday in April and 3rd Saturday in October

Green Lake
Water depth contour interval: 1 ft
- 1 ft. Index Contour
- 2 ft. Intermediate Contour
- Depression Contour
- Spot Depth (ft)
Shoreline elevation = 550.5 feet
Lake size = 5 acres

1:1,400

Horsetail Lake
Water depth contour interval: 1 ft
- 0.8 Index Contour
- 1 ft. Intermediate Contour
- Depression Contour
- Spot Depth (ft)
Shoreline elevation = 721.0 feet
Lake size = 1.2 acres

1:1,600
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<th>Shoreline in Feet</th>
<th>Maximum Depth</th>
<th>Wheelchair Accessible</th>
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<th>Ice Fishing</th>
<th>IC Model Boats</th>
<th>Kayaks</th>
<th>Sailboats</th>
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*Entry into any Forest Preserves lake, pond, stream, river or slough is prohibited, except in permitted watercraft on designated waters.*
Maple Lake

Water depth contour interval: 1 ft.
- 5 ft. Index Contour
- 1 ft. Intermediate Contour
- Depression Contour

Water depth contour interval: 1 ft.

Shoreline elevation = 722.2 feet
Lake size = 38 acres

Accessibility features for this water body include accessible parking, a paved surface pathway to the shoreline, and a (cement) pier coming off of the shoreline with edge protection along the length of the pier.

McGinty Slough

Water depth contour interval: 1 ft.
- 5 ft. Index Contour
- 1 ft. Intermediate Contour
- Depression Contour

Shoreline elevation = 722.2 feet
Lake size = 34 acres

Walk-in Access Only

Accessibility features for this water body include accessible parking, a paved surface pathway to the shoreline, and a (cement) pier coming off of the shoreline with edge protection along the length of the pier.
Midlothian Reservoir
Water depth contour interval: 1 ft.

- 5 ft. Index Contour
- 1 ft. Intermediate Contour
- Depression Contour
- Spot Depth (ft.)

West Pond shoreline elevation = 646.3 feet, size = 15 acres
East Pond shoreline elevation = 646.2 feet, size = 16 acres

East Pond shoreline elevation = 7 ft.
West Pond shoreline elevation = 5 ft.

Water depth contour interval: 1 ft.

- 5 ft. Index Contour
- 1 ft. Intermediate Contour
- Depression Contour
- Spot Depth (ft.)

North Pond shoreline elevation = 622.5 ft., size = 9 acres
Central Pond shoreline elevation = 624.7 ft., size = 7 acres
South Pond shoreline elevation = 624.7 ft., size = 5 acres

O’Malley Ponds
Water depth contour interval: 1 ft.

- 5 ft. Index Contour
- 1 ft. Intermediate Contour
- Depression Contour
- Spot Depth (ft.)

North Pond shoreline elevation = 622.5 ft., size = 9 acres
Central Pond shoreline elevation = 624.7 ft., size = 7 acres
South Pond shoreline elevation = 624.7 ft., size = 5 acres
Spring and Fall Inland Trout Program
Opens 1st Saturday in April and 3rd Saturday in October

Sag Quarry West
Water depth contour interval: 1 ft.
- 5 ft. Indent Contour
- 10 ft. Intermediate Contour
- Depression Contour

- Spot Depth (ft)
- Shoreline elevation = 598.9 feet
- Lake size = 14 acres

Sag Quarry East
Water depth contour interval: 1 ft.
- 5 ft. Indent Contour
- 10 ft. Intermediate Contour
- Depression Contour

- Spot Depth (ft)
- Shoreline elevation = 599 feet
- Lake size = 15 acres
Saganashkee Slough

Water depth contour interval: 1 ft.
- 1 ft. Index Contour
- 1 ft. Intermediate Contour
- Depression Contour

Spot Depth (ft.)
Shoreline elevation = 594.1 feet
Lake size = 377 acres

Accessibility features for this water body include accessible parking, a paved surface pathway to the shoreline, a hard surface along the shoreline, and railings along portions, or all of the hard surfaced shoreline.

Subject to Seasonal Closing for all Watercraft to Protect Migratory Waterfowl.
Sauk Lake
Water depth contour interval: 1 ft.
- 5 ft. Index Contour
- 1 ft. Intermediate Contour
- Depression Contour
- Spot Depth (ft.)
Shoreline elevation = 674 feet
Lake size = 29 acres

Schiller Pond
Water depth contour interval: 1 ft.
- 5 ft. Index Contour
- 1 ft. Intermediate Contour
- Depression Contour
- Spot Depth (ft.)
Shoreline elevation = 625.1 feet
Lake size = 6 acres

Fall Inland Trout Program Opens 3rd Saturday in October
Accessibility features for this water body include accessible parking, a paved surface pathway to the shoreline, a hard surface along the shoreline, and railings along portions, or all of the hard surfaced shoreline.
Accessibility features for this water body include accessible parking, a paved surface pathway to the shoreline, a hard surface along the shoreline, and railings along portions, or all of the hard surfaced shoreline.

Skokie Lagoons - South
Water depth contour interval: 1 ft.
- 5 ft. Index Contour
- 1 ft. Intermediate Contour
- Depression Contour
- Spot Depth (ft.)
Shoreline elevation Lagoons 1 - 2 = 618.9 feet
Shoreline elevation Lagoon 3 = 620.3 feet
Skokie Lagoons 1-7 total size = 242 acres

Tryner's Pond
Water depth contour interval: 1 ft.
- 5 ft. Index Contour
- 1 ft. Intermediate Contour
- Depression Contour
- Spot Depth (ft.)
Shoreline elevation = 699.9 feet
Lake size = 12 acres
Accessibility features for this water body include accessible parking, a paved surface pathway to the shoreline, a hard surface along the shoreline, and railings along portions, or all of the hard surfaced shoreline.
Tuma Lake
Water depth contour interval: 1 ft.
- 5 ft. Index Contour
- 1 ft. Intermediate Contour
- Depression Contour
- Spot Depth (ft.)
Shoreline elevation = 671.1 foot
Lake size = 5 acres
Walk-in Access from Parking Lot off of 104th Avenue/Willow Springs Road

Turtlehead Lake
Water depth contour interval: 1 ft.
- 5 ft. Index Contour
- 1 ft. Intermediate Contour
- Depression Contour
- Spot Depth (ft.)
Turtlehead and West Pond - shoreline elevation = 670.6 foot
Turtlehead Lake shoreline elevation = 664.4 foot
Total lake size = 18 acres
Shoreline elevation = 614.3 feet
Lake size = 35 acres

Fishing Line Can Harm or Kill Wildlife

Thousands of birds and mammals are maimed or killed yearly by the improper use and disposal of fishing line.

What Can Be Done

Please place fishing line in receptacles around the lakes. Fishing line collected will be recycled and made into fish habitat or properly disposed of. Remove all hooks, swivels, sinkers and other trash and place in a trash can. To reduce the chance of line breaking, use the appropriate test line for the fish you are trying to catch, and replace your line yearly. Place only fishing line in the receptacles. Help protect wildlife and keep your Forest Preserve lakes clean by picking-up discarded line for recycling or proper disposal. Together we can make our lakes cleaner and safer for both wildlife and fishermen.
Common Fishes of Cook County

Fish images courtesy of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.
Illinois Advisory on Fish Consumption

The Forest Preserves of Cook County works closely with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, and the Illinois Department of Public Health to monitor the level of contamination such as methyl mercury, chlordane and PCB’s.

For a full list of advisories and additional information about Fish Advisories in Illinois visit the Illinois Department of Natural Resources website at: ifishillinois.org/regulations/consumption.html

Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia

Viral Hemorrhagic Septicemia (VHS) is a disease of fish that is caused by a virus that was previously unidentified in the Midwest. While it does not affect humans, VHS can kill large numbers of fish and has been spreading throughout the Great Lakes. In order to slow the spread of VHS, the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) has implemented new and immediate rules that affect both anglers and boaters.

THE NEW REGULATIONS IMPLEMENTED BY THE IDNR INCLUDE:

• Eliminate natural water from all equipment when leaving a body of water.

• Do not remove live VHS-susceptible species from any waters. Anglers may catch and keep VHS susceptible species, but may not transport those fish live from the waters where caught.

• Use of wild-trapped fishes from within the state as bait will be restricted to the waters where legally captured.

While VHS is not known to be a threat to human health, anglers are advised to wash their hands after handling fish and to thoroughly cook any fish they plan to eat.

Visit the Illinois Department of Natural Resources website at dnr.illinois.gov

For More Information…

On ANS: contact Illinois-Indiana Sea Grant at (217) 333-6444 or visit www.iiseagrant.org


On recognizing and identifying Hydrilla: www.iiseagrant.org/speciesinfo/hydrillawatch.pdf

Help Protect Your Fishing!

Many, aquatic nuisance species (ANS), such as zebra mussels and Asian carp, have invaded lakes and rivers in Illinois. These non-native species can negatively impact fishing and other types of water recreation.

Effective January 1, 2013, the Illinois Boat Registration and Safety Act has been amended to prevent the spread of invasive aquatic plants and animals by boats, trailers and vehicles. It is now illegal to enter bass boats, trailers and vehicles. It is now illegal to enter waterbody with aquatic plants and animals attached to your boat or trailer. Travel on Illinois highways with aquatic plants or animals attached is also prohibited. Always remove, drain, and dry to comply with the new law.

For a full list of advisories and additional information about Fish Advisories in Illinois visit the Illinois Department of Natural Resources website at ifishillinois.org/regulations/consumption.html

AQUATIC NUISANCE SPECIES

Fight the Spread of Aquatic Invaders

Remove plants, animals and mud from all equipment. Drain all water from your boat and gear. Dry everything thoroughly with a towel.

For More Information…


On recognizing and identifying Hydrilla: www.iiseagrant.org/speciesinfo/hydrillawatch.pdf
Bighead and Silver Carp WATCH

Bighead and silver cap (Asian carp) are invasive fish spreading within the Mississippi River and Great Lakes regions causing harm to humans, native fish and wildlife. Both species have low-set eyes and a large, upturned mouth, and may grow to be more than 60 lbs. and 4 ft.

Juvenile Asian carp may be difficult to distinguish from local baitfish species such as gizzard shad.

You can help!
- Harvest bait only from uninfested waters.
- Dispose of bait in the trash.
- Know the rules—release of live Asian carp is prohibited in Illinois.
- Catch and eat these tasty fish to help reduce their numbers.

Hydrilla WATCH

Hydrilla is a non-native plant invading and causing harm to waters in nearby states. It forms thick, submersed mats that hinder fishing and boating, and harm fish and wildlife. Hydrilla looks similar to native elodea, which is found in many Illinois lakes and rivers. However, Hydrilla has whorls of 4 or more spear-shaped leaves around the stem (native=2–3), leaves with coarse teeth along the edges (native=no teeth), and bulb-like tubers in the soil (native=no tubers).

You can help!

Important Numbers

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<tr>
<td>General Headquarters</td>
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<td>TDD</td>
<td>708-771-1190</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fisheries Field Office</td>
<td>708-403-6951</td>
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<td>Resource Management</td>
<td>708-771-1335</td>
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<td>773-631-1790</td>
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<td>708-771-1000</td>
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Boat Concessions

Boat Concessions are available at Tampier Lake, Maple Lake, Skokie Lagoons, Saganashke Slough and Busse Reservoir. Contact the Fisheries Field Office at 708-403-6951 for info.

Illinois Department of Natural Resources

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<td>TIP (Target Illinois Poachers)</td>
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For current events, maps and other information, visit fpdcc.com
Established one hundred years ago, the Forest Preserves of Cook County is one of the oldest forest preserve systems in the nation, maintaining nearly 70,000 acres of open land for the education, pleasure and recreation of the public. We strive to protect and restore the county’s diverse ecosystems, so all our unique native plants and animals can live and thrive. Each year, millions of people use these lands and facilities to enjoy or study nature, bicycle, hike, fish, cross-country ski, picnic, golf, canoe or simply relax in a large preserve that leaves urban life behind.