

with the designated areas in which swimming activities take place.

#### **Hazards on the Lake:**

**-Excessive Weeds & Muck** are abundant on the north, east & southeast shores of the lake. They pose a serious threat to any swimmer.

Not only can weeds & muck trap and drown swimmers, but they can also trap sharp objects, poisonous gases, and bugs that cause "swimmers itch", etc.

**-Steep Drop offs** exist mostly on the west side of the lake and pose a serious unexpected threat to swimmers.

**-Excessive waterfowl** produce large volumes of feces into the lake, on the shorelines and beaches that contain high levels of dangerous ecoli bacteria. Because of the potential threat from large numbers of waterfowl, the IDNR allows residents to "shoo away" but not physically harm these animals.

**-Aerators** used in the winter prevent the lake from naturally freezing over. This poses a serious threat to individuals walking, skating, sledding or skiing across the ice during the winter. Be aware that a winter aerator has been used in the past on the northwest section of the lake.

**-Trespassing.** Most of the perimeter of the lake is privately owned. WLCCA recommends that residents around the lake respect each others' private properties, beaches, etc and not to trespass.

**-Littering.** WLCCA insists that users of the lake abide by State and local laws regarding not littering in and around the lake. Please refrain from using glass products on or near the lake.

#### **Some Facts about Wooster Lake**

Wooster Lake is a glacial lake created 10,000 years ago when the glaciers receded. The lake is approximately 99 acres with a shoreline of 2 miles! The lake depth averages 16 feet with its deepest point being 28 feet. Wooster Lake is part of the Fish Lake drainage of the Fox River Watershed. Wooster Lake is listed as an advanced identification wetland by the US Environmental Protection Agency, which means that the lake and its environment have the potential for high quality aquatic resources.

Many plant species can be found in and around Wooster Lake and its shores that help to make it an attractive habitat for many bird species and fish. 41 species of birds and 15 species of fish, some of them endangered. Among those endangered fish species are the Black Shiner, Iowa Darter, Blacknose Shiner, Starhead Topminnow. An endangered bird species often seen around the lake is the Sandhill Crane.

The good water quality of Wooster Lake is largely attributed to the lakes depth. Proper aquatic plant population in the lake also helps by stabilizing lake bottom sediment and competes with algae for nutrients, thereby reducing the amount of algae.

This Users Guide has been assembled by the Wooster Lake Conservation and Control Association (WLCCA).

The information contained here is intended to be used in conjunction with current IDNR regulations for Boating and Fishing.

**Illinois Conservation Police  
Region II  
847/608-3100**

**Lake County Health Dept  
Lakes Management Div.  
847/377-8002**

**IDNR Statutes & Regulations  
[www.ilga.gov](http://www.ilga.gov)**

## **Welcome to Our Lake!**

Please help keep it Clean & Safe  
by  
Respecting the Lake & its Users!

## **WOOSTER LAKE**

This information is intended to be a Users Guide providing guidelines to help preserve the lakes natural beauty while providing a safe environment for its users.

This guide brings together many of the regulations and guidelines currently enforced by State and Local agencies, such as the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR).

Most importantly, users of the lake must understand that in order to make these guidelines effective, we must respect the natural environment, as well as rights of other users and residents who have legal access to the lake.

9/29/05

## **Boating**

### **Wake Hours:**

In order to make activities on the lake as safe as possible, it is suggested that all users become aware of the schedule below, for wake-producing boats in order to minimize activities in areas where boating may be present.

<b>Mon &amp; Fri</b>	<b>noon - 8pm</b>
<b>*Tue, Wed, Thur</b>	<b>please, no wake</b>
<b>Sat</b>	<b>noon - 6pm</b>
<b>Sun</b>	<b>noon - 4pm</b>

\*If July 4<sup>th</sup> falls on Tues, Wed, or Thur, the wake hours will default to Saturday hours (noon - 6 pm).

-During these hours, it is suggested that passive boats stay within 150' from shore if wake producing boats are present, to minimize dangerous encounters between watercraft.

-A "wake" is defined by any displacement of water produced by & behind any motorized boat.

### **Registration:**

-All boats must adhere to existing IDNR regulations covered by the Illinois Boat Registration and Safety Act. (See accompanying IDNR brochure.)

### **Boating Safety:**

-It is recommended that all boaters receive the Safety Training course offered by the Fox Waterway Agency.

### **Enforcement:**

IDNR agents may board & inspect any watercraft at any time for the purpose of determining compliance with the above Act.

### **Operators of a power driven vessel must give way to:**

-Any vessel, not under command, such as an anchored or disabled vessel.

-Any vessel restricted in its ability to maneuver.

-Any vessel engaged in fishing.

-Any sailing vessel unless it is overtaking your vessel.

### **Operators of a sailing vessel must give way to:**

-Any vessel not under command.

-Any vessel restricted in its ability to maneuver.

-Any vessel engaged in fishing.

### **Additionally, it is suggested that power driven vessels maneuver at "no wake" speeds when the vessel is within 150\* feet of any of the following:**

-Open water swimmers.

-Divers displaying diver's flag.

-"No Wake" areas.

-Fishing vessels.

-Passive vessels such as canoes, kayaks, & row boats.

-Shoreline all the way around the lake.

\*Swimming areas are limited to 100 feet from shoreline unless Permit is secured from Lake County.

### **Prevent spread of invasive plants**

IDNR suggests boaters clean their boats and trailers whenever removing and transporting their watercraft to prevent spread of coontail, milfoil, etc.

### **Personal Flotation Device (PFD)**

PFDs must be available for every passenger in a boat. Children under 12 yrs must wear a PFD at all times while the watercraft they are in is underway.

For more information: [www.dnr.state.il.us](http://www.dnr.state.il.us)

## **Fishing**

### **Registration:**

-Fishermen on the lake must have a valid Fishing License issued by the Illinois Dept of Natural Resources (IDNR), winter and summer.

### **Enforcement:**

-License requirements are monitored by the IDNR.

### **Suggestions of the IDNR:**

-IDNR suggests the practice of "catch and release" for all fish caught.

-Do not release unused bait into the lake. (This could cause over-population of unwanted fish species.)

-Do not take Largemouth or Smallmouth Bass between 12 and 15 inches. (These fish are mature fish, producing the largest number of eggs.)

-Fishermen in boats should abide by boating guidelines outlined in this brochure.

For more information:

[www.ifishillinois.org](http://www.ifishillinois.org)

IDNR Division of Fisheries: 217/782-6424

## **Swimming**

-For your safety, please swim in protected areas. Swimmers outside designated areas can be endangered by boaters, especially if not swimming near their own, idle watercraft.

-Never swim alone.

-Children under 12 should be accompanied by an adult when swimming.

-Poor swimmers should wear a Personal Flotation Device (PFD).

\*Buoyed swimming areas are encouraged but are limited to 100' from shore unless a permit is secured from Lake County. Swimmers and parents of swimmers should become familiar.