

Illinois Water Trails WaterLog Report Form

Help create the first paddler-written paddling guide to Illinois Water Trails. Fill out this “WaterLog” report form and then enter the information into the interactive WaterLog posted on Openlands’ website (www.openlands.org) to add your paddling experience!

By submitting your WaterLog you help to produce a reliable source of current information on Water Trail conditions made available on Openlands’ Water Trails website for paddlers planning their trips.

Instructions

Download and print a copy of this form to take along with you to collect information on a stretch of any Illinois Water Trail, any time.

You may fill out one report for each trip. Multiple reports on the same reach by different paddlers are encouraged.

Water Trail Reporter Information

1. Name _____
2. E-mail address _____
3. Age _____
4. Years paddling: _____
5. Number of paddlers _____
6. Names of other paddlers on the trip (if they would like to be noted):

Water Trail Stretch Logged

1. Waterway _____
put-in at: _____ time _____
take-out at: _____ time _____
approximate distance _____
Date of trip _____

Launching Experience

- how easy was it to launch? Circle one (easy, moderately difficult, very difficult)
- If launching was not easy, what was the nature of the difficulty?

-
- please note any improvements that are needed or problems noted at the launch site, including signage needs or signage that appears to be missing
-

If the launch site you used is not on the list of NE IL Water Trail Access Sites that appears on page 5 of this form, please use the put-in detail section to at appears on page 6 to collect information about it.

2. The Stretch

- briefly describe paddling conditions
 - weather_____
 - How would you describe the water level (circle one): very low low medium high very high
 - How did the water level affect paddling conditions (circle one): too shallow ideal current too fast
 - If you checked the USGS Stream Gage, please list the name of the gage and report the Gage reading(s)

Gage Name_____

Gage Height (feet)_____cfs_____

- did you encounter any of the following obstacles?
 - logjams Y N
 - If yes, please explain how extensive the jam is and the approximate location (please use gps, landmarks such as nearby bridges, or other identifying location features to be as specific as you can

- other dangerous areas (please describe and note whether the hazard had warning signs)

- how many dams did you encounter during the trip? _____

Please list the names of the dams (or just number them in the order you encountered them) and state whether you saw warning signs or buoys for each and what the portage route was like for each.

3. The Take-Out

- was it easy or difficult to identify from the river? _____
- ease or difficulty landing Circle one: (easy, moderately difficult, very difficult)

If not easy, what was the nature of the difficulty and what improvements would you like to see?

If the take-out site you used is not on the list of NE IL Water Trail Access Sites that appears on page 5 of this form, please use the take-out detail section to at appears on page 6 to collect information about it.

5. Your Trip

How many other canoeists or kayakers did you see on the water during your trip? (this information helps us effectively advocate for water trail improvements) ____

What wildlife did you see on this trip?

- Did you spend any money associated with this trip, such as for gas or food or other supplies? If so, please state approximately how much (this

information helps us understand the economic impact of paddling and helps us advocate for water trails)_____

- Below please describe any nearby points of interest (nature center, museums, restaurants, bars, etc)

4. Please describe the car shuttle you did for this trip:_____

Please describe your trip, including what you liked best (and least) about the stretch. Please also state any advice you have for other paddlers on planning, shuttle and/or paddling on this stretch

If you engaged in activities on the river such as a clean up or water quality testing, please indicate what the activities were and any notable information about them:

- would you recommend this stretch to (check all that apply)
 - beginners ____
 - intermediate paddlers ____
 - expert paddlers ____
 - families with children ____

Please take photos to upload along with your trip description

THANK YOU

LIST OF NE IL WATER TRAIL ACCESS SITES

Calumet Area Rivers

River Front Park
Gouwens Park
Little Calumet Boat Ramp
Fay's Point
Beaubien Woods Boat Ramp
Alsip Boat Ramp

Chicago River

Tower Road Boat Launch
(Skokie Lagoons)
Blue Star Memorial Woods
Linne Woods Forest Preserve
Bunker Hill
LaBagh Woods
River Park
Clark Park
Lathrop Homes
Weed Street
Lawrence Fisheries
S. Western Ave Boat Launch
Oakton Street (North Shore Channel)
Lincoln Village Launch (North Shore Channel)

Des Plaines River

Russel Road Canoe Launch
Wadsworth Road Canoe Launch
Gowe Park Canoe Launch
Route 60 Canoe Launch
Rivershire Park Boat Launch
Dam 1
Allison Woods Canoe Ramp
Dam 2
Dempster Street Dam
Irving Park Road Picnic Area
Chicago Avenue
Plank Road Meadow
Stoney Ford Canoe Ramp
Columbia Woods Forest Preserve
Knollwood Boat Launch
Lemont Road
Isle a la Cache Museum

DuPage River

Lions Park (West Branch)
Blackwell Forest Preserve (Mack Road) (West Branch)
McDowell Grove Forest Preserve (West Branch)
Pioneer Park (West Branch)
Weigand Riverfront Park (West Branch)

Knoch Knolls Park (West Branch)
Lisle Community Park (East Branch)
DuPage River
Greenway (East Branch)
Hidden Lakes
Historic Trout Farm (East Branch)
DuPage River Park (East Branch)
Riverview
Farmstead
Eaton Preserve
Riverview Park
Electric Park
Riverside Parkway
Canoe Access
Hammel Woods Preserve
Chanoooka
Channahon Dam
McKinley Woods
Kerry Sheridan Grove

Fox River

Chain O'Lakes
State Park—North
Chain O'Lakes
State Park—Main
Ramp
Chapel Hill Road
Fee Ramp
Weber Park
South Riverfront Park
Fox River Forest Preserve
Fee Ramp
Riverfront Park
Buffalo Park
Fox River Shores
Carpentersville Dam
Voyageurs Landing
Trout Park
Slade Avenue
Jon J. Duerr Forest Preserve
Ferson Creek Park
Geneva Dam—Old Mill Park
Fabyan West Forest Preserve
Laurelwood Park Boat Launch

Batavia Riverwalk Ramp
Glenwood Park
Forest Preserve
North Aurora Dam
Illinois Ave Boat Launch
South River Street Park
Montgomery Dam
Violet Patch Park
Hudson Crossing Park
Saw Wee Kee Park
Yorkville Canoe Launch
Silver Springs State Park
Shuh Shuh Gah Forest Preserve

Kankakee River

Kankakee River Boat Launch
Wilmington Dam
Area 9 Boat Launch
Chippewa Boat Launch

Kishwaukee River

County Line Road
Redhorse Bend
Burgess Street Access
Hickory Bill's Island
Distillery Road
Baumann Park
Espenscheid Forest Preserve
Kishwaukee Forest Preserve
Atwood Park
Hinchliff

Lake Michigan

North Point Marina
IL Beach State Park-Sailing Beach
Hosah Park and Beach (Landing only)
IL Beach State Park – South Unit
Waukegan Municipal Beach

Waukegan Harbor—North Harbor
Foss Park Beach
Great Lakes Naval Training Center Marina
Sunrise Park (Landing only)
Forest Park Boat Ramp and Sailing Beach
Fort Sheridan S. Beach at Walker Avenue (Landing only)
Park Avenue Boating Beach
Ravine Beach
Rosewood Beach and Park
Lakefront Beach and Park
Tower Road Beach and Park
Lloyd Park Boat Ramp and Beach
Elder Lane Park (Landing only)
Gillson Park
Church Street Boat Ramp
Dempster Sailing Beach
Touhy Avenue (Leone Beach)
Wilson Ramp
Montrose Beach
Montrose Harbor
Diversy Harbor North
Diversy Harbor Boat Ramp
12th Street Beach
63rd Street Beach
Jackson Park Inner Harbor
Rainbow Beach
Calumet Park Boat Ramp

Nippersink Creek

Keystone Landing
Glacial Park North Campground (Landing only)
Pioneer Road
Lyle Thomas Park
Canoe Base, Route 12

Salt Creek

Busse Reservoir
Busse Reservoir Dam
Salt Creek Park Forest Preserve
Cricket Creek Forest Preserve
Eldridge Park
Hunter Drive
Graue Mill and Dam
Dean Nature Sanctuary
Bemis Woods
26th Street Woods West
Brookfield Canoe Landing
Plank Road Meadow

1. The Put-In Detail Section (fill out if your put-in is not listed on page 5 of this form)

- did signage easily identify the launch site? Y N
- how would you describe the parking
 - please estimate the number of cars the lot could hold_____
 - parking meters or fees? Y N
- did you feel security was adequate at the put-in
 - for yourself? Y N
 - for your gear? Y N
 - for your vehicle? Y N
- what amenities are present at the put-in?
 - toilets Y N
 - picnic tables Y N
 - other_____
- please describe the launch site
 - concrete ramp Y N
 - beach Y N
 - dock Y N
 - dirt shoreline Y N
 - other, please describe_____
- Are Water Trail maps present? Y N

2. The Take-Out Detail Section (fill in if your take-out is not listed on page 5 of this form)

- was it easy or difficult to identify from the river? _____
- ease or difficulty landing (easy, moderately difficult, very difficult)_____
- signage (is the site easily identified as a canoe launch?) Y N
- how would you describe the parking
 - please estimate the number of cars the lot could hold_____
 - parking meters or fees? Y N
- did you feel security was adequate at the take-out
 - for yourself? Y N
 - for your gear? Y N
 - for your vehicle? Y N
- what amenities are present at the take-out?
 - toilets Y N
 - picnic tables Y N
 - other_____
- please describe the take-out site
 - concrete ramp Y N
 - beach Y N
 - dock Y N
 - dirt shoreline Y N
 - other, please describe_____
- are Water Trail maps present? Y N