



**Dempster St. Launch Facility
Information, Policies, & Application Packet
2026**



City of
Evanston™
Parks, Recreation &
Community Services

Dempster St. Launch Facility General Information:

The Dempster St. Launch Facility is for the launching, retrieval, and storage of non-motorized vessels, small sailboats (Sunfish, Laser, etc.), catamarans, windsurfing boards, canoes, stand-up paddle boards, and kayaks. Only approved and permitted vessels may launch at this facility. It is unlawful to launch any vessel at any swimming beach or other public right of way within the borders of the City of Evanston. Swimming and wading are not permitted at this location.

Season Information:

- Facility operating dates are May 9, 2026, through October 20, 2026
- Facility Hours are 9:00 am to Dusk
- Vessels must be in storage racks by June 14, 2026
- The facility will be staffed during the following times:
 - May 24 - June 6: 11 am to 6pm
 - June 7 - August 1: 10:30 am to 8pm
 - August 2 - August 30: 10:30 am to 7:30pm
 - August 31- September 7: 10:30 am -6:30pm

2026 Storage Fees:

Storage & Launch Rates	Resident	Non-Resident
Single Hull Launch Pass & Storage Permit* (w/locker): Includes launch, storage rack, parking and locker	\$414	\$538.78
Double Hull Launch Pass & Storage Permit (w/locker): Includes launch, storage spot, parking and locker	\$540	\$702.76
Windsurfer Launch Pass (w/locker): Includes launch, storage rack, parking, and locker	\$414	\$538.78
Paddle Vessel Launch Pass (no locker): includes launch, storage rack, and parking	\$350	\$455.50
Season Launch Only	\$231	\$300.63
Season Locker Only	\$64	\$83.29

Additional Seasonal Fees	
Storage of one additional vessel (on storage racks or under Hobie)*	\$105
Cooler/beach chair storage (up to 5 items total)**	\$53

**No double stacking of additional sailboats, or in vertical paddleboard storage racks. Additional vessels may be no longer than 15 ft in length.*

***Items are only allowed to be stored on or under vessels. Please make sure your items do not impede on your neighbors' racks.*

Combined Season Launch Pass & Storage Permits:

Season pass holders are assigned a numbered spot or rack to store and launch their vessel, which includes a season launch pass, parking hang tag, and vessel permit sticker. Passes are not transferable and permit stickers must be permanently attached to the vessel on the starboard bow (front right).

For the permit sticker to adhere, it should be attached at least 24 hours before launching. If you have an additional vessel you plan to double stack in your storage spot at Dempster St Beach, additional permit stickers will be included with the double stack fee. The assigned spot/rack number corresponds to the number on the launch pass and permit sticker.

Storage permits for sailboats, windsurfing boards, and catamarans (double hull vessels) also include a storage locker (same number as the boat spot/rack) for storing masts, rudders, sails, PFDs, etc. Permits for kayaks, canoes, and stand-up paddleboards do not include a storage locker.

In addition, we require a copy of your photo ID to be uploaded with your application. The name on the state-issued ID must match the name on file for your storage space. Remember that storage spaces are not transferable.

Picking up your storage/launch pass, vessel sticker(s) and parking pass:

Launch passes, vessel stickers and parking passes will be available for pick-up at the Chandler-Newberger Community Center on weekdays starting Monday, April 27 through Friday, May 8 from 9 AM-4:30 PM. On Saturday, May 9, passes will be available for pick up at the Dempster St Beach Office between 11 AM-5:30 PM.

Waitlists

All vessel storage is currently in use and waitlists are available. Anyone wanting to be added to the waitlist for summer storage can email boatlaunch@cityofevanston.org or register through the Parks & Recreation registration website (Amilia SmartRec). If emailing, specify which waitlist you would like to be added to. Note that the wait times for some storage racks may be multiple years.

Once you register for the appropriate waitlist, you will move up on the list as boaters ahead of you receive storage permits. Staff will assign open spots to boaters in order of the waitlist. You will be contacted once by email and phone and **will have up to 3 days after the first attempt of contact** has been made to respond before you are removed from the waitlist and the next person is contacted. It is your responsibility to make sure your phone number and email address on your City of Evanston Recreation account are up to date. If patrons do not respond or accept an available spot when they are pulled from the waitlist, their name will be removed from the waitlist. Patrons can be added back to the bottom of the waitlist upon request.

Season Launch-only Passes

Season launch only passes can be purchased in person at the Dempster St Beach Office. These passes allow launching daily, throughout the season and include a parking pass, launch pass, and vessel permit sticker. The season launch pass must be presented upon entry to the beach and permits the launch of only one vessel. The permit stickers are not transferable and must be permanently attached to the craft's starboard bow (front right), for that reason one launch pass is required for each vessel. For the permit to adhere, it should be attached at least 24 hours before launching.

Fee Assistance

Sliding Scale discounts will be available for launch passes, storage spaces, equipment rentals, camps, and programs at the lakefront. To apply for fee assistance, you must live in Evanston (60201 & 60202), provide supporting documentation, and meet the financial requirements below. To apply, fill out the application on the City of Evanston Parks & Recreation website under "Fee Assistance". Fee assistance is valid for one year, after which you must reapply.

% off	Family Size			
	One	Two	Three	Four
75%	\$18,954	\$25,636	\$32,318	\$39,000
50%	\$26,973	\$36,482	\$45,991	\$55,500
25%	\$36,450	\$49,300	\$62,150	\$75,000
10%	\$43,740	\$59,160	\$74,580	\$90,000

Dempster St. Beach Launch Facility Rules & Policies:

The Dempster St. Launch Facility is governed by regulations set by the Evanston Parks and Recreation Board and by City of Evanston ordinances and is only for the launching, retrieval, and storage of non-motorized vessels. To notify the Dempster St. Beach Office of a problem or emergency, call 847-866-4167.

1. General Information & Safety

- a. All vessels using this facility must have either a season pass or a daily pass. A pass is required for each vessel.
- b. It is the responsibility of the season pass holder to make sure their email and phone number are up to date on their City of Evanston Recreation Account.
- c. All recreational vessels must carry 1 properly-fitting, wearable life jacket for each person on board. Any boat 16' and longer, except canoes and kayaks, must also carry 1 throwable "type IV" device.
- d. All individuals, regardless of age or swimming ability, are required to wear a Type III or higher U.S. Coast Guard-approved life jacket when launching from the Dempster St. Beach Launch Facility and while the vessel is in motion.

- e. Swimming, including wading and swimming from a vessel, is expressly prohibited along the entire Dempster St. Beach and within 150 yards east of all buoys, to maintain safety as boats launch and return to shore. If you wish to swim or sit at the shoreline, you must do so at one of the designated swimming beaches - you will need a current season beach pass or a daily pass.
- f. Sunbathing or congregating is not allowed within 5 yards of the shoreline, in the launch area marked by orange cones, the south end ramp area, or within 15 yards of any storage rack.
- g. Boating, windsurfing, or boarding is not permitted inside the buoys marking the swimming beach areas.
- h. Alcohol and glass containers are not allowed.
- i. No pets, except for service dogs, are allowed on the beach.

2. Vessel-Specific Information

- a. Sailboats and windsurfing boards may not be used without their sails.
- b. Stand-up paddleboards are intended to be used by only one paddler at a time. That paddler must wear a leash which is also attached to their board. If a paddler wants to allow another person onto their board, that person must wear a USCG-approved life jacket and remain in a seated position while on the water. No more than two persons are allowed on any stand-up paddle board at the same time.
- c. If a stand-up paddler is unable to paddle and remain on the board, they may be asked to leave the water or facility.
- d. Surfing is permitted, but only in designated areas. Surfers must have an actual surfboard, with an attached leash, and must possess a launch permit.
- e. Boogie-boarding, skim-boarding, and kite-boarding are not permitted.
- f. Inflatable canoes, kayaks, and stand-up paddleboards are allowed only if they have a durable construction and are subject to inspection by lakefront management staff. All other inflatable vessels, floaties, or water toys are not allowed.

3. Launching From & Returning To Shore

- a. Children under 12 years of age will not be allowed to launch a craft without a parent or legal guardian being present on Dempster St. Beach during the entire time.
- b. Many types of craft share the same shoreline at the Dempster St. Launch Facility. Many could be departing from and returning to shore at the same time traveling in different directions. In addition, lake and wind conditions can create unique challenges for navigating safely near the shoreline. To help avoid possible collisions and injuries:
 - i. Always be aware of nearby or oncoming vessels, especially sailboats which cannot stop and need clearance to return to the shore.
 - ii. Always give craft returning to shore the right-of-way over craft departing from shore.
 - iii. Avoid congregating in large groups and obstructing the path of oncoming vessels.
- c. Sailboat dollies and Cat Trax are available on the beach to assist in moving boats from racks to the water.
- d. Boaters bringing their boats on a trailer or on top of their cars may use the ramp, located on the south end of the facility. This cement ramp does not go all the way to the edge of the water, so be careful driving on the sandy area, since vehicles may get stuck. The city is not responsible for any damages or fees that may occur if you get your vehicle stuck in the sand.

- e. Sailboarders/windsurfers are encouraged to use the grassy area northwest of the parking lot for rigging and then walk their board and sail onto the beach, via the gate on the north end of the facility.
- 4. Driving your vehicle on the beach is both dangerous and illegal and, subsequently, strictly prohibited.

5. Storage

- a. Only one storage rack/spot per household will be permitted. An ID with the name of the rack holder must be submitted with your storage application. The names of the storage rack holder on file and the name on the ID must match.
- b. Each vessel is required to have an assigned launch pass and permit sticker. Permit stickers must be adhered to the vessel's starboard bow (front right).
- c. Only one approved vessel may be stored per rack/spot for the cost of a storage rack. Each designated storage space is intended for a specific type of vessel. You may only store a vessel in a designated storage spot if it is the exact type of vessel for which the space was intended. For example, if your storage space is for a double-hull sailboat, only a double-hull sailboat may be stored in that space.
- d. Rack renters may store up to ONE additional vessel (either a paddleboard or kayak - any other type of vessel is not permitted) in their storage rack/space by paying a double-stacking fee. The additional vessel must fit on top of your first vessel unless you have a double-hull storage spot in which case the additional vessel may be stored underneath. You will receive an additional storage sticker for your second vessel.
 - i. Double stacking of sailboats will not be permitted.
 - ii. Double stacking is not permitted in vertical storage racks due to space constraints.
 - iii. If more than two vessels are found in your spot, you will be asked to remove them. If unauthorized vessels are not removed within seven days, they will be removed by staff and the rack holder will be charged an additional double stacking fee.
- e. All vessels need to be placed in their assigned storage racks/spot within 35 days of the Dempster St Beach Office opening for the season. If no vessel is stored by that time, the rack holder will relinquish their slip and the next person on the waiting list will be contacted and offered the storage slip. There will be no refund issued.
- f. Rack holders are responsible for securing their vessels to the racks. If a longer chain is needed in your space to accommodate your vessel(s), please let the beach staff know. The city is not responsible for lost or stolen property.
- g. Boats that are stored on storage racks may be no longer than 15 feet in length. Any boats that are longer than 15 feet and had a 2022 launch and storage pass will be grandfathered in. Any new boats being stored starting in 2023 must adhere to the size limit.
- h. Those who wish to store coolers or beach chairs in their storage space may store up to 5 items either on top of or under their vessel. There will be an annual fee for storing beach-going items. Please secure and lock these items to your vessel, and not the storage rack.
- i. Store your vessel bow forward (towards the water), wrap cable across the entire craft, and secure the locks on the opposite side.

- j. Rack holders may not make any major modifications to the racks and cannot chain craft, wheels, or other vessels to the racks.
- k. All vessels must be stored on their proper racks overnight. Vessels may not be left on the sand overnight.
- l. Use only your assigned rack/space and locker. Vessels stored in the incorrect space will be removed.
- m. Boat covers must be secured neatly and may not infringe, hang down, etc. onto other boats or into other racks.
- n. Storage spots are non-transferable.
- o. Any type of motorized vessel, including hydrofoils (also known as e-foils or e-bikes) may not be stored at Dempster St Beach.

6. Waitlist

- a. It is the responsibility of patrons to make sure their email and phone number are up to date on their City of Evanston Recreation Account so that they can be contacted when a storage spot becomes available.
- b. Patrons will be contacted twice by both email and phone and will have up to 5 calendar days after the first attempt of contact to respond before they are removed from the waitlist and the next person is contacted.
- c. If a patron is contacted regarding an available storage space and does not want to accept the available space, and instead wants to remain on the waitlist, they will be moved to the bottom of the waitlist.
- d. If a patron accepts an available space they must place their vessel in their spot within 3 calendar days.
- e. Residents on the waitlist will be given priority to available storage racks. Once staff have exhausted the resident waitlist, non-residents will be selected for available storage racks in order they appear on the waitlist.

7. Beach Access

- a. When you purchase a season permit, your permit number allows admittance for you and up to 6 guests to the Dempster St Launch Facility.
- b. Your physical launch pass(es) must be presented to beach staff/attendants to access the Dempster St. Beach.
- c. When an attendant is present, you must stop and sign yourself and your guests in. The gate attendant's sole job is to check in and check out permit holders and keep out non-permit holders.

8. Parking

- a. There are two entrances to the parking lot. One entrance north off of Dempster St., and the other south off of Greenwood Ave. The parking lot is divided into two sections. It is not possible to drive through the lot from one entrance to the other.
- b. The parking hang tag that comes with your season pass/permit entitles you to park in the off-street parking lot, located west of Dempster St. Launch Facility, on a first-come, first-serve basis.
- c. *Please park facing west (away from the lake) and hang the tag from the vehicle's rearview mirror, with the text facing forward toward the windshield.*

- d. Cars with improperly displayed hang tags will be issued parking tickets. If you receive an unwarranted parking ticket, do not give it to a lakefront employee. All parking tickets must be resolved through the court system.
- e. Trailers are not allowed in the parking lot.
- f. Your parking hang tag does not permit you to park along the Dempster St. Beach Office driveway.
- g. If the parking lot is full, other parking options are as follows:
 - On-street parking around Dempster St. Launch Facility: Please make sure to look for parking restrictions posted on the streets around the facility. Those who pay the Evanston wheel Tax do not have to pay metered parking rates along the lakefront.
 - Northwestern University South Campus Parking Garage (1841 Sheridan Rd.): Free on weekdays after 4:00 p.m. and all day on weekends.
 - Church St. Self Park Garage (Enter from Church or Clark east of Chicago Ave): Prices start at \$1 for the first hour and go up to \$12 for 12 hours; free on Sundays,

9. Launch Pass Renewal

- a. Storage rack holders in good standing will have the opportunity to renew their rack annually. If a rack holder fails to renew by the deadline, their storage spot will be forfeited. Details for renewal will be communicated via a mailed letter and email in February. It is the rack holder's responsibility to ensure their correct email and mailing address are on file with the city.
- b. Launch-only passes must be renewed annually.

10. Vessel/Trailer/Equipment Removal and Pass Revocation

- a. The City of Evanston reserves the right to revoke your season launch pass and/or storage permit due to failure to comply with the above written rules & policies, or with the instructions of the lakefront staff, without a refund.
- b. The City of Evanston reserves the right to remove and relocate your vessel/equipment due to, but not limited to, the following:
 - i. The vessel lacks a proper launch pass and/or storage pass.
 - ii. The vessel is being stored in the incorrect storage space/locker and an attempt has been made to contact the owner without success.
 - iii. The vessel is unauthorized and not approved to be in the assigned storage space/locker and an attempt has been made to contact the owner without success.
 - iv. The vessel is considered lost, abandoned, or reported stolen.
 - v. The vessel has remained in storage space for more than 7 days after the Dempster Street Beach season close date and previous arrangements have not been made with or approved by City of Evanston lakefront staff.
 - vi. The City will make reasonable attempts to contact the owner if the owner's contact information is on file.
- c. The City of Evanston is not responsible for damage caused due to the removal or relocation of vessels. Vessel owners will be responsible for retrieving their vessels once they have been relocated.
- d. Trailers and vessels may be towed to North Shore Towing Company. Towing and storage fees are the responsibility of the trailer/vessel owner.

2026 Storage and Launch Pass Agreement:

I understand that all recreational vessels must carry 1 properly-fitting, wearable life jacket for each person on board. Any boat 16' and longer, except canoes and kayaks, must also carry 1 throwable "type IV" device. Life jackets should be worn at all times when the vessel is underway.

I understand that I must present my launch pass to staff to enter and use the Dempster St Launch facility.

I understand that on a vessel underway, all individuals on the vessel must wear a Type I, II or III lifejacket regardless of age or swim capability.

I understand that I must use the rack assigned to myself and my vessel. I understand the use of other racks without the proper permit is prohibited and that passes and permits are non-transferable.

I understand that craft returning to shore maintain the right-of-way over craft launching off from shore.

I understand that alcohol is not allowed in any City park, beach, or ramp area.

I understand that by City Ordinance, I must keep my craft 150 yards east of ALL buoys and swimming off my craft is NOT allowed within 200 yards of the public shoreline.

I understand that sunbathing is not allowed within 5 yards of the shoreline, in the launch area marked by the orange cones, or within 15 yards of any storage rack.

I understand that repeated failure to comply with the written rules & policies, or with the instructions of the lakefront staff, may result in loss of my launch pass and storage permit, without refund.

I understand that repeated failure to comply with the written rules & policies may result in the removal or relocation of my vessel.

I attest that all information I entered on this application is true and accurate and if I am found to be falsifying any information, all my permits will be revoked.

Anti-Discrimination Clause: The undersigned hereby submits assurance that any individual attending the City of Evanston Parks & Recreation Department program, activity, or rental space for which this agreement/contract is in place will not discriminate or deny equal access to service and treatment to any individual regardless of race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, veteran status, sexual orientation, age, marital status, familial status, housing status, disability, gender identity, or gender expression.

Hold Harmless

The City of Evanston and its Parks, Recreation & Community Services Department assume no liability for personal injury or damage to said boat or board, or any personal property of the permit owner or others while using lakefront facilities or while the boat or board is stored at a facility. Permit owner agrees to

abide by the regulations promulgated by the Parks, Recreation; Community Services Department and the Evanston Playground; Recreation Board and to faithfully observe and comply with the provisions of the Code of the City of Evanston, laws of the State of Illinois and the laws and regulations promulgated by the United States Government. Failure to abide by said rules, regulations and laws shall constitute cause for revocation of their permit(s). The permit owner accepts all the conditions herein imposed, and shall be responsible for any person occupying his/her boat/board. This permit is not transferable and shall be void in the event ownership of the boat/board described herein is transferred by the permit owner.

I recognize that there are certain risks of physical injury and I agree to assume the full risk of any injuries, including death, damage or loss which I may sustain as a result of participating in any and all activities connected with or associated with the activities. I do hereby fully release and discharge the City of Evanston, their officers, agents, servants, and employees from any and all claims from injuries, including death, damages, or loss, which I may have or which may accrue to me on account of my participation in these activities. I further agree to indemnify and hold harmless and defend the City of Evanston, their officers, agents, servants, and employees from any and all claims resulting from injuries, including death, damages and losses sustained by me and arising out of, connected with, or in any way associated with the activity.

Updated 3/3/2026 - Rules & policies are subject to change