



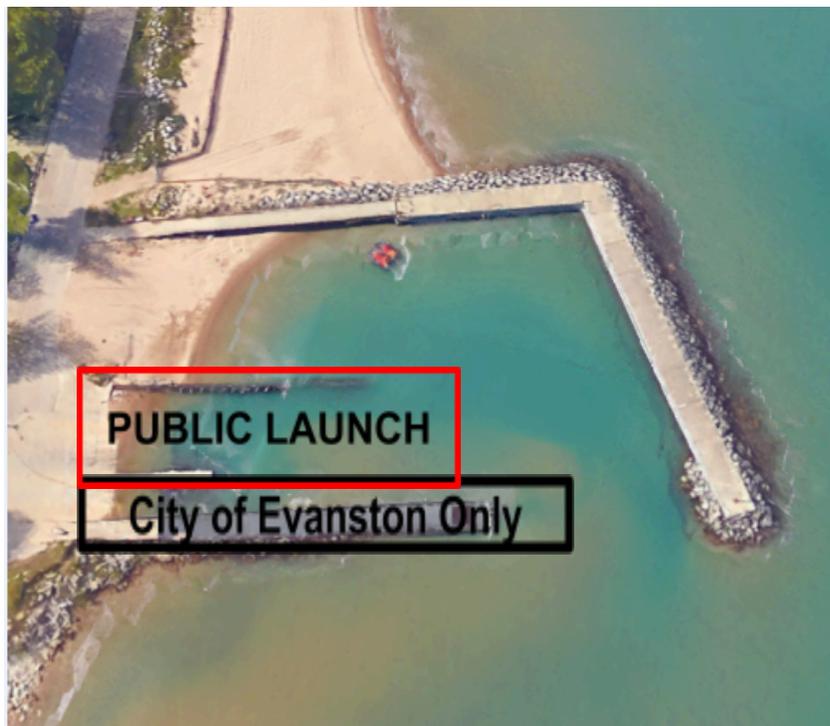
**Church St. Power Boat Launch Permit
Information, Policies, & Application Packet
2026**



Church St. Power Boat Ramp General Information:

The Church St. Power Boat Ramp is for the launching of power boats, personal watercraft (jet skis), and large sailboats, that require a trailer to launch. Boats that are 28' or longer, or have a running draft of 36" or deeper, may find it difficult to launch at the ramp. The ramp is located in Evanston, at Clark Street and Sheridan Road (south of the Northwestern University campus). The facility is sheltered on 2 ½ sides by cement breakwaters.

The boat ramp opens in mid-May and closes at the end of October, depending on the weather, repairs, and dredging requirements. The City of Evanston reserves the right to close the ramp due to unsafe launching conditions. Ramp hours are from 5:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. If you are using the boat ramp before 7:00 a.m. or after 8:00 p.m., please be considerate of the neighbors. Owners of a permitted vessel can launch their boat daily, and then park their vehicle and trailer in the parking lot to the north of the ramp.



Daily Launch Permit:

There are no daily launch permits offered for the Church Street Power Boat Ramp.

Ramp Gate:

- When you purchase a season permit, you will be issued one RFID windshield tag to operate the gate. The tag should be affixed to your front windshield either in the lower left corner (driver's side), lower right corner (passenger's side), or behind the rearview mirror (center). There is a \$50 replacement fee for replacement RFID windshield tags.
- When approaching the gate, the sensor will detect your RFID tag, turn green and open. When leaving, the gate will automatically open.
- If the sensor cannot read the RFID tag, the light will turn red. If this occurs, please try the following:
 - Ensure there are no other transponders or other RFID tags nearby such as for tolls or garage doors that could be interfering with the signal.
 - Call the Dempster St. Beach Office at 847-866-4167 (10:30 am to 7:45 pm, May 10 – September 1)

- Call the Evanston 311 Center at 847-448-4311
- City staff have the right to restrict access and/or revoke launch passes if pass holders are found to be in violation of the Church St Launch rules.

Ramp Traffic Directions:

- When approaching the ramp, please use the far EAST LANE of the driveway before the ramp.
- The EAST LANE should also be used for the rigging of boats.
- When exiting the ramp, please use the far WEST LANE of the driveway.
- The WEST LANE is also to be used for removing plants, animals, and mud from all equipment, draining all water from your boat and gear, and drying everything thoroughly before leaving the ramp.
- The CENTER LANE is for passing only.
- When launching or retrieving your boat, leave your boat tied up to the **north pier or the breakwall to the north and east of the ramp**, in the spot furthest from shore, while you park/retrieve your vehicle.

Launching:

- Vessel launch stickers must be affixed to your vessel when launching. Staff have the right to ask to see your physical pass, and it is to be presented to launch staff when prompted.
- The south pier will be exclusively for the use of Evanston Fire Department and Parks & Recreation safety vessels and will be off-limits for public use. Church St. Pass holders will be able to launch from the north ramp (area defined by the red box in the picture above) and moor their vessels along the L-shaped breakwall or north pier while parking.

Parking:

- The parking hang tag that comes with your season permit entitles you to park in the lot on a first-come, first-serve basis. The parking lot for the Church St. Power Boat Ramp is located north of the ramp.
- Parking permits must be hung from the rearview mirror so it is visible to staff and police.
- After launching, proceed to the north end and turn your vehicle around. Angle-park your car between the painted lines, facing southeast, or park parallel to the rip-rap on the east side of the lot.
- All tri-axle trailers must park parallel to the rockline (east side of the parking area).
- Cars with an improperly displayed parking hang tag, parked illegally or not in a designated spot may be issued a parking ticket. All parking tickets must be contested through the city website portal. City staff cannot void any tickets.

- There will be restrictions on the use of the ramp parking lot on July 4th and during other special events in the lakefront parks around the boat ramp.
- There is no overnight parking in the Church St Boat Launch parking lot between the hours of 11pm and 5am.

Parking Map:



Church St. Power Boat Ramp Rules & Policies:

The Church St. Boat Power Ramp is governed by the Evanston City Code and regulations set by the City of Evanston Parks and Recreation Department. By purchasing the Church St. Boat Launch permit, you agree to obey all rules and regulations of the City of Evanston, the State of Illinois, and the Federal Government, which govern the use of this facility and Lake Michigan. Failure to comply with regulations may result in loss of launching privileges, without refund, and/or legal prosecution.

- You will receive a parking pass, launch pass sticker (one per vessel), and an RFID windshield tag to

open the gate. Vessel launch stickers must be permanently affixed to your vessel on the front port (left) side.

- If an attendant is present, you must stop and check with the attendant before launching your vessel. You will be asked to provide proof of a valid permit.
- Do not tie up for more than fifteen (15) minutes at the Church St. Boat Ramp.
- Do not tie up or launch from the south pier. The southernmost pier will not be accessible to the public for the use of launching/retrieving vessels.
- No overnight docking is permitted at the Church St. Boat Ramp.
- No overnight parking is permitted in the Church St Launch parking lot.
- Powerboats or Personal Watercraft shall not cause a wake when entering or leaving the launching area (Ordinance 7-11-7 D) and the channel. The channel is marked by the red and green buoys.
- Vessels must stay at least one hundred fifty feet (150') east of the line of buoys designating the no-wake zone, special use zone, swimming beaches, and shoreline except for when launching and retrieving motorized watercraft. Passengers may not be picked up or dropped off at any beach or from the break walls adjacent to the beach.
- 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.
- Tubing or skiing is not allowed in the channel or boat ramp area; operators may not tow anything into the ramp unless they are towing another vessel that is in distress.
- Swimming within 200 yards of the swimming beaches, shoreline, and any marked buoy is prohibited.
- All watercraft must follow posted "NO WAKE" signs.
- Persons under the age of 10 may not operate any motorized vessel, including personal watercraft (PWC).
- Persons at least 10 years old but less than 12 years old may operate a motorized vessel with more than 10 hp, including a PWC, only if they are accompanied by and under the direct control of a parent, a guardian, or a person at least 18 years old designated by the parent or guardian.
- Persons at least 12 years old but less than 18 years old may operate a motorized vessel with more than 10 hp, including a PWC, only if:
 - They complete a boating safety course and possess a Boating Safety Certificate accepted by the DNR or
 - They are accompanied by and under the direct control of a parent, a guardian, or a person at least 18 years old designated by the parent or guardian.
- Beware of scuba divers exploring the wreck of *The Morley*, just southeast of the ramp. Stay away from "diver down" flags (a red flag with a white diagonal stripe indicates that people are scuba

diving or snorkeling underwater in the vicinity of the flag).

- To notify the Dempster St. Beach Office of a problem or emergency, call 847-866-4167 or call 911.

Cooperation between boaters is essential to ensure the safety and enjoyment of all!

2026 Season Fees:

- \$395/permit Evanston Residents (60201 & 60202 zip codes)*
- \$600/permit for non-residents
- All season permits will be half-price on and after August 1 through the end of the season

*To receive Evanston resident rates, you must have a valid ID with a 60201 or 60202 zip code or other proof of residency.

How to purchase and receive a Church Street Power Boat Launch permit:

Step 1: Apply for a launch pass online. Proof of Residency and current boat registration will be required to upload.

[Evanston Resident Church St Launch Pass](#)

[Non-Resident Church St Launch Pass](#)

Step 2: Pick up your launch permit at Dempster St Beach starting May 9, 2026. Hours can be found [here](#).

Acknowledgment of Rules & Regulations

I understand that I must comply at all times with all verbal and written instructions of any City of Evanston staff member.

I understand that I must permanently affix my season vessel sticker to the front port (left) of my craft, and that the permit is not transferable and non-refundable.

I understand that a season pass may not be used to launch more than one craft, and should I wish to launch more than one craft, I will have to purchase another season permit.

I understand that State Law requires me to register my craft with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources.

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 feet east of ALL buoys and swimming off my craft is NOT allowed within 200 yards of swimming beaches or public shoreline.

I understand that by City Ordinance, the City has designated "NO WAKE ZONES" and that I must not cause a wake when my craft is in this area.

I understand that this information packet does not include all the rules, regulations and laws of proper boat operation and it is my responsibility to be knowledgeable and compliant with all applicable local, state and federal regulations. Illinois boating rules and regulations can be found [here](#).

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

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 3/2/2026 - Rules & Policies are subject to change