

the Lake Breeze

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Photos by Helen Ogar and Jeff Jackson



President's Letter

Happy Spring to all our LBA members!

We have been so excited to finally see the water level in the lake increase, as well as to see many of our LBA members return to the lake. Winter at the lake is always so quiet, but we welcome the gradual escalation of activity around us. One of our favorite spring rituals is being able to watch the great white pelicans, loons, and a variety of migrating ducks as they visit the lake. We hope you have also been able to enjoy the nature that surrounds us.

Your LBA board has been working hard planning and preparing for the upcoming events that will be happening at the lake. One of the first of these events is our annual spring dinner on Thursday, May 8th. The RSVP deadline has already passed, but we wanted to remind you that it will be held this year at the Lexington Community Building, 207 W. Main St. in Lexington. There will be chlorine tablets for your septic system available to purchase while you are at the spring dinner. Also coming up is a Parkland's Moon Preserve work morning on May 6th from 8:30-10:30 AM, with additional dates following. See the following article for further details. And of course, there are many plans that we are working on for our big Fourth of July celebration. The fireworks contract is being negotiated, and you will want to make sure that you are planning your pontoon costumes for the parade. The winner takes home a cash prize of \$100.00, but most importantly the coveted Ranney traveling trophy for the year with bragging rights that last forever! It is never too early to start working on this fun event!

We would love to continue our extremely fun dock concerts this summer! The concerts have proven to be such a great time to enjoy our lake with music, dancing, and neighborly fun. We do know of a few concerts that are already



scheduled thanks to the Ranney family on June 21 st to help them celebrate their 50 th wedding anniversary, and also Marshall and Marianne Kaisner hosting Lisa G. and the Good Reasons on July 5 th . If you happen to be planning a dock concert this summer, please let us know so that we can help spread the word and add to the fun at our lake!

Finally, a friendly reminder to send in your annual LBA dues if you have not done so already. Your modest annual dues go toward helping support all of our LBA social activities, as well as the many initiatives in our strategic plan designed to beautify, preserve and improve our incredible lake community. We would also thank you in advance for any and all donations toward our annual 4 th of July fireworks and other lake improvement projects, which you can submit along with your annual dues payment. Like everything else, the cost of our fireworks show will increase significantly this year, so your generosity will allow us to continue to provide a quality entertainment event to celebrate our nation's founding here at our beautiful lake. Your prompt attention to this would be greatly appreciated.

Traci & Bob Freitag

LBA Co-presidents

AN OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

Join us at Parkland's Moon Preserve **Tuesday, beginning May 6 from 8:30-10:30 A.M.** Scheduled work mornings are every other Tuesday—May 6 and 20, June 3 and 17 and July 1 and 15.

We will be removing invasive plant species, such as honeysuckle that crowd out and take over native wildflowers and grasses. Honeysuckle is considered to be one of the biggest threats to Illinois ecosystems. In the spring, it is one of the first plants to leaf out, giving it a competitive advantage.

The Moon Preserve is a restored prairie, with native plants and grasses, much like our ancestors encountered when they settled here. We continue to restore and protect this wonderful habitat that is teeming with biodiversity.

Come, volunteer with your neighbors and friends of Parklands. No experience necessary and all are welcome. We will find something for you to help with! It's a fun couple of hours in a wonderful place we have in our back yards!

For questions or to volunteer, call or email Janet Wiser
309-532-4652
jlpwiser@yahoo.com

Dear Residents,

Welcome to Spring! It won't be long before we are out and fully enjoying beautiful Lake Bloomington!

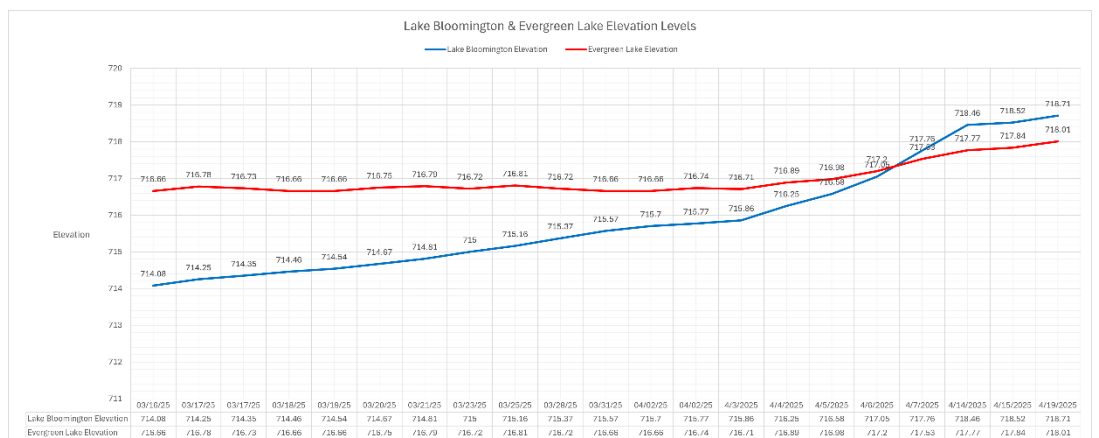
I thought I would take this opportunity to talk about the efforts we have undertaken to improve the taste and odor of our finished water as well as improving the water quality within our two reservoirs.

During the fall of each year, as the lake begins to turnover and the water temperature decreases, the algae that is naturally within the water column of our two reservoirs began to decompose. When algae decomposes, it creates two compounds that are harmless to consume but do affect the taste and odor of the water. These two compounds are called 2-Methylisoborneol (MIB) and Geosmin. Geosmin and MIB cause the water to taste earthy or musty. Geosmin is what people smell after a rain. Human beings are very sensitive to these compounds and can begin to detect them when levels reach five parts per billion. That is the equivalent of having a human drop five drops of either compound in 36.5 olympic-sized swimming pools and being able to detect them. Humans are more sensitive to these compounds than sharks are to smelling blood in the ocean.

The Water Department is capable of testing for these compounds and quantifies the amount per billion with a contracted lab in South Bend, Indiana. These test results take about a week to be sent to us; thus the Department is operating on week old data. The Department recently purchased our own gas chromatograph machine that will allow the Water Department's laboratory to run these tests ourselves and will give managers results within an hour, allowing for better management of our water supply. During this taste and odor event, the levels of MIB and Geosmin reached record breaking levels. Evergreen Lake reached 1,200 parts per billion in January of 2025. Our filtering processes at the Water Treatment Plant uses Granulated Activated Carbon (GAC) and sand that is very good at the removal of these compounds. However, when the levels are as high as they were, our GAC cannot filter the elevated levels that we were experiencing.

The Water Department had planned for Fiscal Year 2026 (starting May 1, 2025), to install a permanent Powdered Activated Carbon system in addition to our GAC filtering system to help reduce these taste and odor compounds. However, when the Department continued to see elevated levels, the City Council authorized the Department to move forward with contracting for the permanent PAC system now since there is a 14-month lead time for delivery. In the meantime, staff reconfigured an old system that is no longer is use to manually feed PAC into our filtering process and by doing that, the Department has achieved a 95% reduction in the two compounds.

The causes for the taste and odor issue were a confluence of several factors. We experienced a much warmer fall and winter with precipitation levels being well below our average levels. With the City pumping 11.5 million gallons of water a day, the levels of the lakes decreased



froze over in January, the lack of snow allowed the sun to heat the ice, which created a greenhouse effect that allowed the algae to continue with photosynthesis, thus creating an increase in MIB and Geosmin. This resulted in a concentrated algae bloom with a slight increase in a cyanotoxin called Microcystin. The Illinois Environmental Protection Agency and the Water Department laboratories conducted water sampling that confirmed the level of microcystin to be very low in the raw waters of our reservoirs. The laboratories did not detect any microcystin within the finished tap water that is consumed.

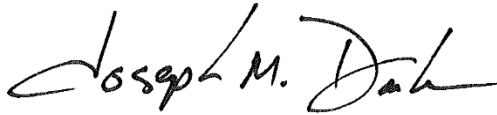
To combat the cyanotoxin and the MIB and Geosmin, the IEPA approved an algaecide treatment for both reservoirs. The City contracted with Northwater Consulting, our long-term watershed and water quality partner, and Aquatic Controls to treat both reservoirs. Subsequent sampling by the IEPA has confirmed that the levels of MIB and Geosmin, as well as Microcystin, were greatly reduced.

The City is working to publish our testing results in real-time, along with lake levels and other water quality information to a website that has yet to be determined. Once we work out the kinks, I will let everyone know so that you can see what conditions are present at the Water Treatment Plant.

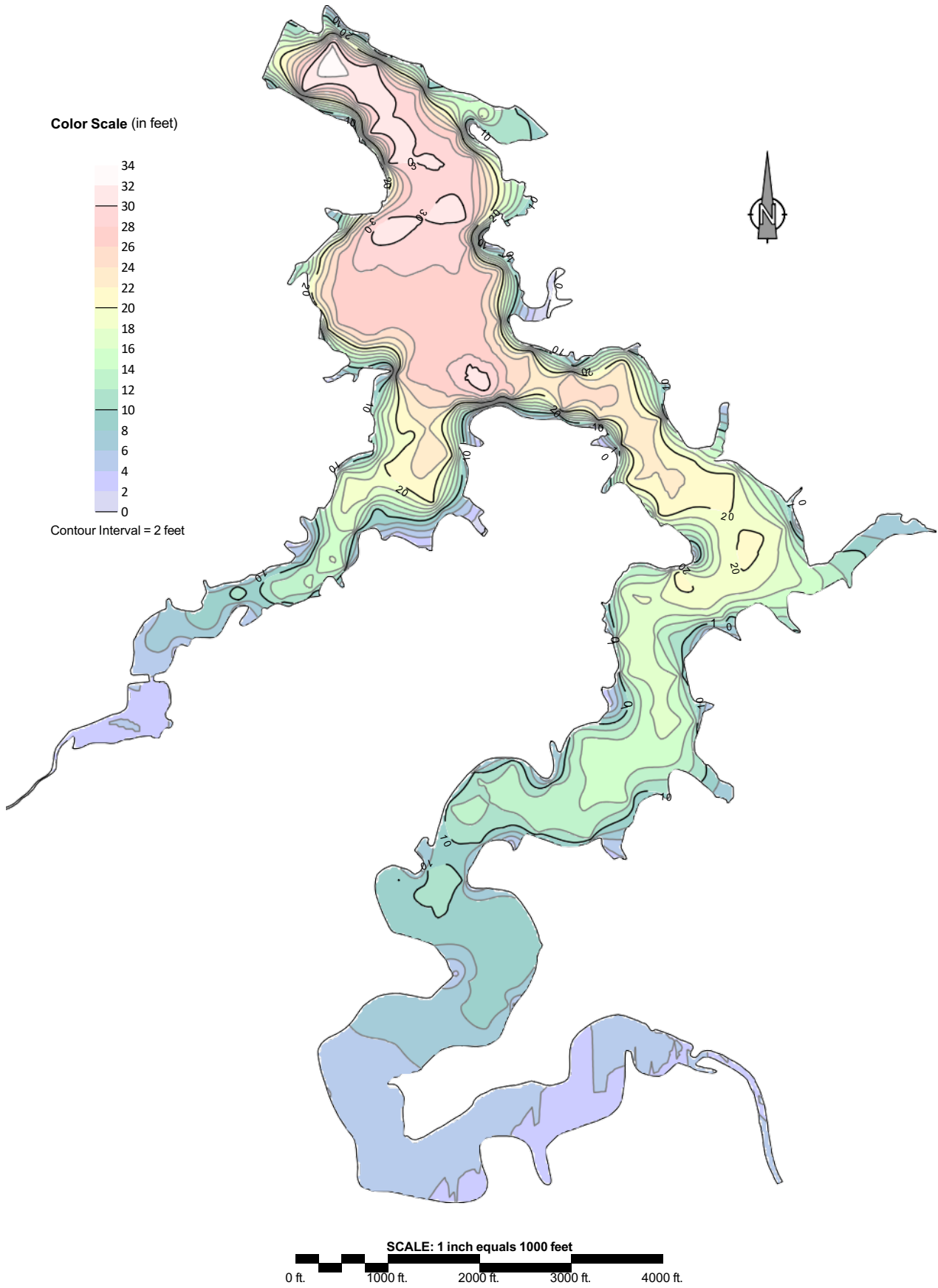
I don't have a lot of space left but wanted to let everyone know that we are currently working on big projects that will help position the City of Bloomington attract new manufacturers and to do that, we are working on several projects that will position both reservoirs for the next 100 years. Part of these projects has been to create a new bathymetric map of both reservoirs. These new maps are attached to this letter. These maps show the depth of each reservoir when they are full.

As always, please contact me directly should you have any questions.

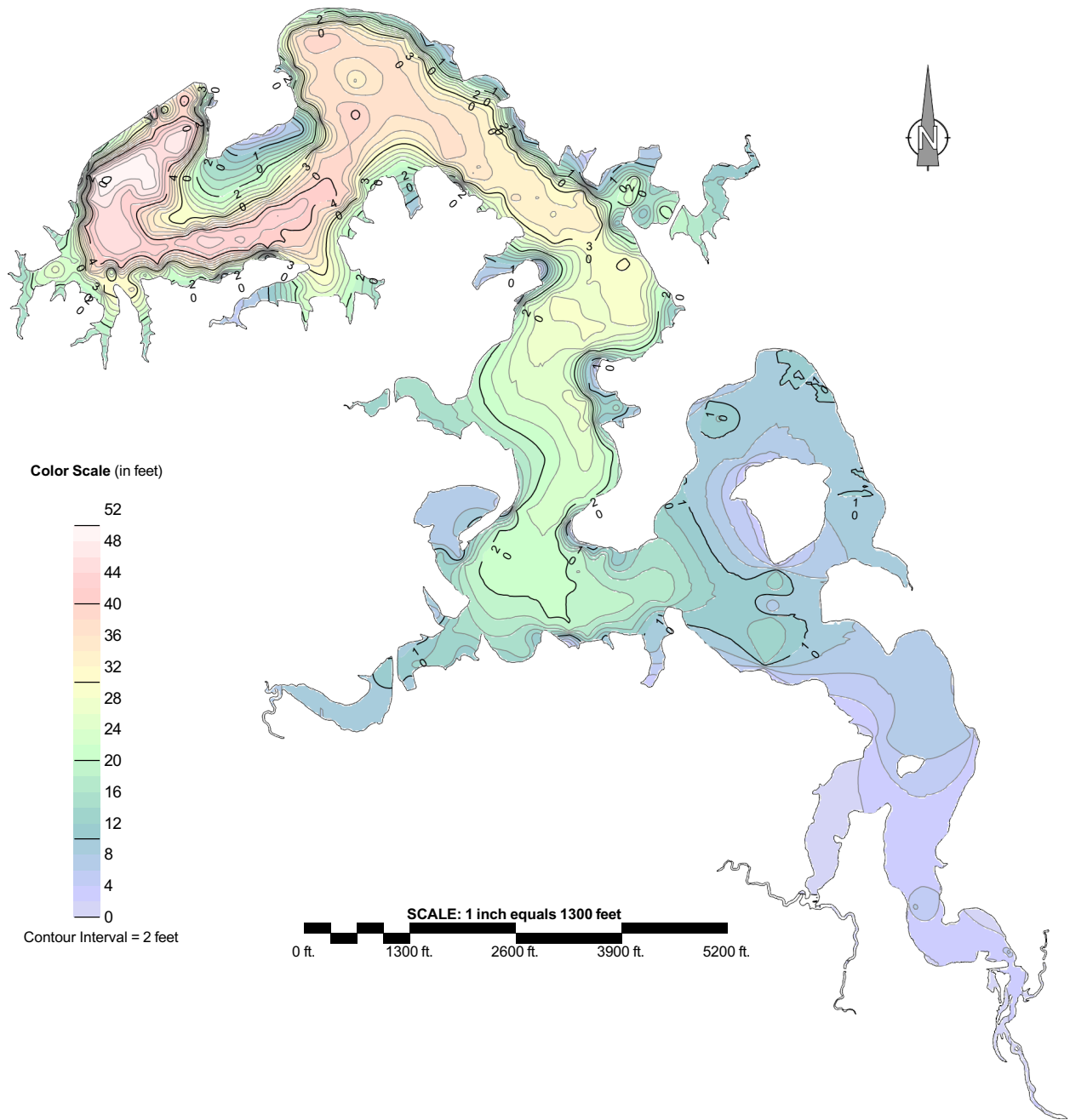
Sincerely,



Joseph M. Darter
Property Manager
City of Bloomington | Water Department
25515 Waterside Way | Hudson, IL 61748
Office: (309) 434-2431 | Cell: (309) 275-8087
Fax: (309) 434-2915 | Email: jdarter@cityblm.org



Lake Bloomington Depth Map



Evergreen Lake Depth Map

Lake Bloomington

Rules and Regulations



More information at: www.bloomingtonil.gov/lakebloomington

Lake Bloomington is a 635-acre reservoir with 18.5 miles of shoreline that was built in 1929 to serve as a source of potable water for the City of Bloomington and several nearby communities. Lake Bloomington also has public parks, youth camps, and over 220 residences. Boating, skiing, and fishing are allowed on the lake. The City of Bloomington's Water Department manages Lake Bloomington and has established rules and regulations for the lake and its facilities so that the various activities coexist as safely and with as little conflict as possible.

To get to Lake Bloomington from Interstate 39, take Exit 8 and drive east on E 2500 North Road for 3.6 miles to PJ Keller Highway. Then, either go straight at the four-way stop (look for the blue Lake Bloomington sign) or turn left and go 0.5 miles to Park View Lane and turn right (look for the blue Lake Bloomington sign and stone/iron gate).

Fishing

Walleye, Largemouth Bass, Smallmouth Bass, Hybrid Striped Bass, Northern Pike, Crappie, Bluegill, and Catfish can be caught at Lake Bloomington. Fishing is open to the public year-round. Ice fishing can be dangerous. Please use caution. The City of Bloomington is not responsible for any accidents or injury that may occur. When fishing Lake Bloomington anglers must comply with the following rules and regulations:

1. Anyone 16 years of age or older must have a valid Illinois Fishing License.
2. Two-pole and line fishing only. No Jugs or Trot lines.
3. Fishing from a boat around a private dock is prohibited when someone is on it or swimming near it. Fishing from a boat is also prohibited between sunset and sunrise.
4. No littering.

For current fishing regulations, please visit the Illinois Department of Natural Resources website at www.ifishillinois.org. Size and creel limits are also posted at the Lake Bloomington Parks Office.



Friends of EverBloom provides a free fishing pole rental program available to all ages. For more information, stop at the office or call 309-434-2161.

Parks

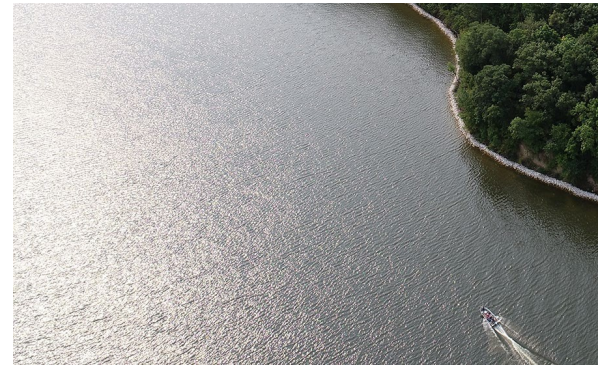
The City of Bloomington maintains several park areas in various locations around Lake Bloomington for general day use. Picnic tables, shelters, grills, and playground equipment are all available on a first come, first served basis. Park areas are open from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. daily. When using any of the Public Use Areas at Lake Bloomington, the following rules apply:

1. No swimming or wading.
2. Fires are permitted in grills only. No open fires.
3. Alcoholic beverages are prohibited.
4. No overnight camping.
5. No vehicles allowed off roadway.
6. No littering.

Boating

Recreational boating is permitted at Lake Bloomington. The boat ramp is located in Hubbard Park and can be reached by taking County Road 1750 East to Park View Lane. Turn East on Park View which will take you directly to the boat ramp and parking. Boaters must comply with the following provisions:

1. All boats must have a current State Boating License and City of Bloomington Boat Permit. To obtain a City of Bloomington Boat Permit, all applicants are required to show proof of watercraft liability insurance, in the amount of at least \$100,000.00, and evidence of current State Registration. Additional information and instructions on how to complete the form and submit payment and proof of liability insurance are provided on the Lake Bloomington Boat Permit Application.
2. Boats operating on the Lake must carry all State required equipment. (Personal flotation devices, fire extinguisher, whistle or horn, etc.) And obey all State of Illinois regulations.
3. Maximum 40 horsepower limit.
4. Maximum speed limit of 25 mph.
5. All boats must obey all posted "NO WAKE" areas. The entire Lake is "NO WAKE" from ½ hour after sunset until 7:00 am.
6. Racing is prohibited.
7. During Skiing hours (noon - 7:00pm) all boats operating in the area open to skiing shall operate in a counterclockwise pattern and shall make all turns counterclockwise. (see skiing)
8. All motorized boats must yield to any sail-powered or muscle-powered craft.
9. All passengers must be properly seated when underway.
10. All passengers under age 13 must wear an approved personal flotation device while the boat is underway.
11. Operating a boat while **UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF ALCOHOL OR DRUGS IS PROHIBITED.**
12. Careless or reckless operation of any type will not be tolerated.
13. No jet skis, jet-propelled, or air driven craft of any type are allowed.
14. Swimming from boats is prohibited.



Skiing

Recreational skiing is permitted at Lake Bloomington. This includes tubing or related activities. Skiers must comply with the following provisions:

1. Skiing is allowed from noon to 7:00pm only.
2. Skiers must wear approved jacket type personal flotation device.
3. At least 2 people qualified to operate the boat must be aboard while pulling a skier. One to act as an observer.
4. Skiing within 100 ft of any dock, shore, raft, buoy, or other watercraft is prohibited.
5. Boats may pull only 1 person at a time.
6. Skiers must start from the water and not from the shore or docks.
7. Only the person actually skiing or preparing to ski shall be in the water at any time.

Lake Bloomington Contact Information

25466 Davis Lodge Road, Hudson, Illinois 61748

Office Phone: 309-434-2431

Emergencies: 9-1-1

For more information on Lake Bloomington, visit www.bloomingtonil.gov/lakebloomington, email publicworks@cityblm.org, or call 309-434-2225 during regular business hours, which are between 7:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday. For urgent calls after hours, call the Bloomington Police Department at 309-820-8888.

2025 Lake Bloomington Association Membership Form

Please print

Name(s) in membership: (1) _____ (2) _____

Mailing Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Home Phone # _____ Cell # (1) _____ Cell #(2) _____

Lake 911 Address (if different from above): _____

Lake Phone#: _____ Do you live at lake full time? Yes ___ No ___

Email Address: (1) _____

(2) _____

Please include your Email address if you want to be informed of LBA events and receive the LBA Newsletter.

Special notes or comments: _____

Annual Dues: \$ 25.00

Fireworks Donation: \$ _____

Amount Enclosed: \$ _____

Please send the above form along with your payment to:

Lake Bloomington Association
P.O. Box 223
Hudson, IL 61748

Note: Each family or individual in a multi-ownership property should sign up for their own membership if they wish to receive their own Lake Breeze & Directory.

Please make checks payable to: **Lake Bloomington Association**

The \$ 25.00 annual Lake Bloomington Association (LBA) membership dues are used to further the primary objective of the LBA, which is the improvement of Lake Bloomington and the surrounding community. Your dues pay for:

- Lake Breeze Newsletter Subscription
- 4th of July fireworks and festivities
- Lake Bloomington landscaping care and maintenance
- Various service and beautification projects
- Social events
- LBA Membership Directory

– Annual Membership Dues payment is requested in January of each year –

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Bloomington, Normal, Danvers and Surrounding Communities



The Lake Bloomington Association is made up of residents and anyone else who enjoys the Lake and works to improve the lake and surrounding community. Anyone can join the LBA; you don't have to live at the Lake. It's a great way to meet new people who also enjoy Lake Bloomington. If you are interested in joining the LBA, or have questions or comments, please email us at lakebloomingtonassociation@gmail.com.