

Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge
8588 Route 148
Marion, IL 62959
618/997 3344

Hearing impaired persons may contact Crab Orchard through the Federal Relay Number at 1 800/877 8339.

<http://midwest.fws.gov/craborchard>

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
1 800/344 WILD
<http://www.fws.gov/>

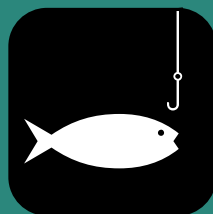


U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Crab Orchard

National Wildlife Refuge

Fishing Regulations



Established in 1947, Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge represents a unique combination of wildlife conservation, recreation, agriculture and industry. Approximately 44,000 acres of woodlands, wetlands, and grasslands provide habitat for wildlife and recreation opportunities for people.

Fishing is one of the more popular visitor pastimes at Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge. More than 9,000 acres of water are impounded by three man-made reservoirs and several small impoundments. The three larger lakes, Crab Orchard, Little Grassy, and Devils Kitchen, are available for fishing from a boat on a year-round basis with one exception. The eastern portion of Crab Orchard Lake is restricted from October 1 to March 14 to provide resting area for migrating waterfowl.

There are several areas developed around the waters edge with accessible fishing piers, walkways and fish attractors that provide excellent opportunities for bank fishing. For bank fishing opportunities see the map within this brochure.

To ensure your safety and enjoyment while visiting Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge, please take the time to become familiar with the following regulations. These regulations are designed to protect the sportsman as well as wildlife populations. The regulations below govern fishing on National Wildlife Refuges as set forth in Title 50, Code of Federal Regulation.

Sport fishing is permitted in accordance with all applicable State regulations and subject to the following special conditions:

All Refuge Waters

- All refuge waters, except as noted below, have a daily creel limit of 6 with a minimum 15” length limit for Largemouth Bass.
- All refuge ponds have a daily creel limit of 6 channel catfish.
- Organizers of all fishing events must possess a refuge issued permit. To obtain permit call (618) 997-3344 ext. 334.
- Anglers may not fish within 250 yards of an occupied waterfowl hunting blind.
- Anglers may not submerge any pole or similar object to take fish.
- Anglers may not use more than 2 poles and each pole may not have more than two hooks or lures attached while fishing. (Except Crab Orchard Lake anglers may use trotlines or jugs)
- The use of underwater breathing apparatus to take fish is prohibited.
- Motorboats are restricted to a “no wake” within 150 feet on any shoreline, swimming area, marina, boat ramp, or causeway tunnel. (See Lake Zoning Map)

Crab Orchard Lake

West of Wolf Creek Road

- Fishing from boats is permitted day and night year-round.
- Trot lines/jugs must be removed from legal sunrise until legal sunset from the Friday immediately prior to Memorial Day through Labor Day.

East of Wolf Creek Road

- Fishing from boats is permitted only from March 15 through September 30.
- Fishing from the bank is permitted year-round, only at the Wolf Creek and Route 148 causeways.

Entire Lake

- The daily creel limit for Large or Smallmouth bass is 3 with a minimum 16” length limit.
- The daily creel limit for Striped bass, white bass, and their hybrids, is 10, of which, not more than 3 can be 17” or longer.
- Trotlines/jugs must be checked daily, and must be removed on the last day they are used.
- All trotlines and jugs must be tagged with angler’s name and address.
- The use of stakes to anchor trotlines is prohibited.
- All trotlines must have a buoy device attached that is visible on the water’s surface.
- Using jugs for flotation devices that have previously contained any petroleum based or toxic substances is prohibited.

Little Grassy and Devils Kitchen Lakes

- Devils Kitchen has no size limit on Largemouth bass.
- Trot lines/jugs are prohibited. use of boat motors of more than 10h.p. is prohibited.
- A trout stamp is required to possess trout.
- Gas motors are prohibited in the southeastern section of Devils Kitchen Lake. (See Lake Zoning Map)

Designated Ponds within the Restricted Area

- Fishing is only permitted at A-41, Bluegill, Managers, Honkers Corner and Visitors Ponds within the Restricted Area of the Refuge.
- These ponds are open from sunrise to sunset March 15 through September 30.
- No boats or floatation devices are allowed.

Practice Conservation

A good angler respects our natural resources and wants to conserve them for others to enjoy. Always carry out what you brought in – never leave behind plastic containers or packaging. Fishing line is very dangerous to birds and other wildlife, tangling around legs or the mouth. Place old or tangled fishing line in one of the refuge’s recycling bins.

Species

A great variety of fish abound in the waters within Crab Orchard National Wildlife Refuge. Largemouth bass, bluegill, black and white crappie, channel catfish, and striped bass are the most sought after fish on the refuge. Other species caught include: rainbow trout, sunfish, white and yellow bass, yellow perch, bullhead, carp, bowfin, flathead catfish, warmouth and spotted sucker.

Catch and Release

Fish should never be wasted. If you catch a fish that is under the legal or minimum size or that you do not want to keep, release it quickly. If possible, keep the fish in the water and handle it carefully, pushing the hook back through the lip. If the fish has swallowed the hook, do not tear the hook out. Simply cut the line as close to the mouth as possible. You can revive a fish by gently moving it back and forth in the water so that water runs through its gills. When it begins to struggle and can swim normally, let it go.

Safety First!

- Fish with a companion who can offer help in an emergency.
- Always handle fishing tackle responsibly.
- Don’t cast near other people, and always look around before making a cast.
- Wear a Cost Guard approved personal flotation device or life vest when wading or in a boat.
- Always dress for the weather and be prepared for sudden changes.

Take a Kid Fishing

National Fishing Week is celebrated annually at the refuge with a Kids Fishing Derby on a Saturday in early June. For details, call 618/997-3344.

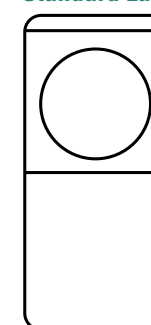
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service manages the National Wildlife Refuge System to help protect America’s fish and wildlife heritage. Established in 1903 by President Theodore Roosevelt, the National Wildlife Refuge System now consists of more than 540 refuges encompassing nearly 100 million acres of lands and waters in all 50 states and most United States territories. The Refuge System also includes thousands of waterfowl production areas, many scattered throughout the upper Midwest and all vital breeding grounds for migratory birds.

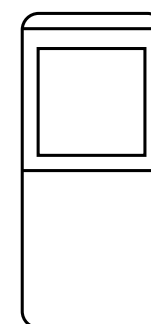
Special conditions for organized fishing events.

- All fish caught will be returned to the lake.
- Aerated live wells are required for all boats.
- Recreational User Fee decals are required.
- No more than 20 boats per fish-off.
- All events are required to have a fish-off permit.
- No monetary exchange for the purpose of profit.

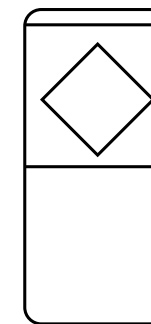
Standard Lake Markers



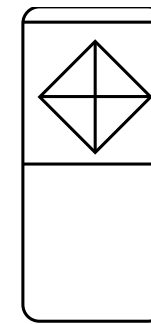
Circle:
Controlled Area
(explanation within circle)



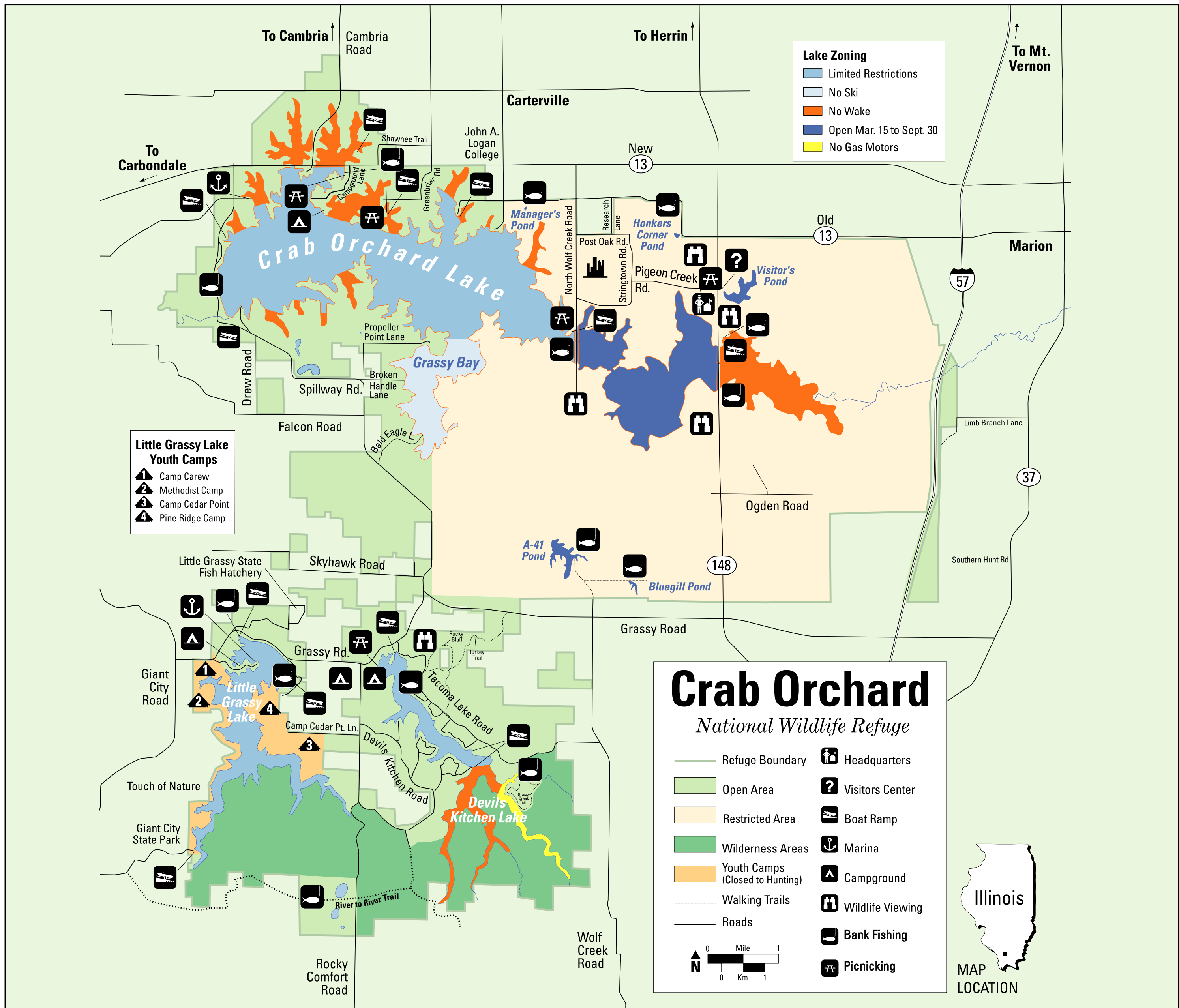
Square or Rectangle:
Gives Information



Diamond:
Danger



Diamond with Cross:
Boats Keep Out!



FEE SCHEDULE

Entrance Fees	
Vehicle (1 day)	\$2.00 per vehicle (covers all passengers)
Vehicle (7-days)	\$5.00 per vehicle (covers all passengers)
Vehicle (annual pass)	\$15.00 first vehicle (July - June)
Federal Duck Stamp (annual pass) (July - June)	\$15.00 first vehicle (covers all passengers)
Interagency Senior Pass	\$10.00 US residents (62 or older, lifetime)
Interagency Annual Pass	\$80.00 valid for one year from month purchased.
Interagency Access Pass	Free - medically determined to be permanently disabled, lifetime

For a family purchasing an annual entrance pass (excluding the Golden Age and Access Passports) additional annual passes for immediate family members at the same address will be \$ 5.00.

Lake Use Fees

All vessels/boats using the refuge will be assessed a lake use fee charge. This includes vessels that are in dry storage and/or maintained in slips at the marinas.

Vessel (1 day)	\$2.00 per vessel
Vessel (7-days)	\$5.00 per vessel
Vessel (annual pass)	\$10.00 first vessel (July - June)
	\$5.00 each additional vessel

Holders of Interagency Senior and Access Passes are authorized a 50% discount of the full value price for Lake Use Fees. Additional annual vessel passes are already discounted, therefore all additional passes are \$ 5.00.

In order for the pass to be valid it must be affixed directly to the vessel on the port (left) bow next to, but not overlapping the state registration.

Special Recreation Permit Fees

For specialized uses such as group activities, recreational events and rental fees.

Fish-off Permit	\$35.00 per organization (permit allows the organization to host one fish-off at each of the three lakes per season)
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