

Wonder Lake – Nippersink Creek Fishing Information - 2026

Wonder Lake, and the Nippersink Creek stream channel downstream (east) of the Thompson Road Bridge, are owned by the Wonder Lake Master Property Owners Association (MPOA). Fishing is only allowed in these areas for those landowners holding deeded lake rights to Wonder Lake, or their guests, who must be accompanied by someone holding deeded lake rights.

Fishing in these areas is governed by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR), as summarized below, with IDNR fishing licenses required for anyone 16 years of age or older. Fishing Licenses are available for purchase at the MPOA office.

SPORT FISHING LICENSE

ILLINOIS RESIDENTS:

A resident sport fishing license may be obtained by anyone who has been a resident of Illinois 30 days prior to purchase. Sport fishermen under 16 years of age, and persons declared legally disabled or blind, may fish without a license. Owners or tenants (if they reside on the land) may fish in waters on or flowing over their lands without a license. This exemption does not apply to club and organizational lakes or lake developments.

Persons on active duty in the Armed Forces are considered residents. A person on active duty in the Armed Forces, who entered the service from Illinois and is an Illinois resident, may fish without a license while on leave.

**** Half-priced sport fishing and sportsman's licenses will be available to resident veterans of the U.S. Armed Forces after returning from service abroad, or mobilization by the President of the United States. Veterans must contact the Springfield office to obtain a half-priced license. Please call 217-782-6302.**

NON-RESIDENTS:

Non-residents of Illinois may purchase sport fishing licenses to fish waters of the state. Non-resident sport fishermen under 16 years of age may fish without a license. All other non-resident sport fishermen must purchase sport fishing licenses before fishing in Illinois (except in licensed fee fishing areas or on boundary rivers).

Resident or non-resident sport fishermen who fish at fee fishing areas licensed by the Department of Natural Resources are not required to have a license.

Non-residents holding licenses from states bordering Illinois are not required to have an Illinois license to fish on the Illinois side of rivers adjoining the licensing state (see page 74 BOUNDARY RIVERS).

Sport fishermen should have their license in possession at all times while fishing. Licenses expire on March 31 each year.

CURRENT FEES (Fees subject to change) (INCLUDES AGENT'S FEES):

Resident sport fishing; annual	\$15.00*
Resident sport fishing;	
65 years old and over	\$7.75
75 years old and over	\$1.50
Resident and non-resident sport fishing;	
under 16 years of age	NONE NEEDED
Resident sport fishing;	
disabled, blind	NONE NEEDED
Resident sport fishing 24-hour license	\$5.50
(does not include salmon or trout fishing privileges)	
Non-resident sport fishing 24-hour license	\$10.50
(does not include salmon or trout fishing privileges)	
Non-resident sport fishing (3 days)	\$15.50
Non-resident sport fishing (annual)	\$31.50
Resident Sportsmen's License	
(combined hunting and fishing licenses)	\$26.25*
Resident Senior Sportsmen's License	
(combined hunting and fishing licenses;	
65 years old and over)	\$13.50
Lake Michigan Salmon Stamp	
(Licensed sport fishermen only)	\$6.50
Resident; 75 years and over	\$0.50
Inland Trout Stamp (all waters except Lake Michigan)	
(Licensed sport fishermen only)	\$6.50
Resident; 75 years and over	\$0.50
Resident lifetime sport fishing	\$435.00
Resident lifetime combined	
(hunting and fishing)	\$765.00

***Half-priced license for qualifying resident veterans.**

LOST, STOLEN, DESTROYED LICENSE REPLACEMENT:

1. Licenses purchased via the Internet can be reprinted at no charge by visiting www.dnr.

illinois.gov/LPR. Vendor transactions will incur a fee.

2. Replacement licenses, permits and stamps are available for \$3 from the Chicago office and the Springfield Public Service area.
3. Vendors can issue replacement licenses with a DNR Direct terminal. There is a \$3 replacement fee per item plus a small transaction fee.

DISABLED OR BLIND PERSONS:

In order for disabled or blind persons who are Illinois residents to fish without a license, the person must be able to show proof of disability in the form of one of the following:

1. **A State disabled person I.D. card** (available from the Secretary of State through the driver's license examining station) showing a Class 2 or Class 2A disability. Applies to Illinois residents only.
2. **Veterans disability card** - (available from the Illinois Department of Veterans' Affairs Office) Veterans who are at least 10% disabled with service-related disabilities or in receipt of total disability pensions may fish with sport fishing devices during any open season without being required to have a license, on the condition that their respective disabilities do not prevent them from fishing in a manner which is safe to themselves and others. Applies to both Illinois residents and non-residents.

INTERNET PURCHASES AND CURRENT FEES:

To purchase fishing and hunting licenses and stamps over the Internet, please visit the Department's Home Page at:

<http://www.dnr.illinois.gov>

Boat renewals may also be done at this site.

License sales for the year begin on March 1 and expire on March 31 of the following year. (e.g. Licenses bought on or after March 1, 2022 expire on March 31, 2023).

Source: <https://www.ifishillinois.org/regulations/FishingDigest.pdf>

The Nippersink Creek stream channel immediately downstream of the Wonder Lake Dam, as well as the Wonder Lake Dam embankment, are also owned by the MPOA, and are posted "No Trespassing". Anyone found in the dam area / creek will be subject to arrest by the Wonder Lake Police Department.

Fish Limits for Wonder Lake - 2026

The Wonder Lake Sportsman's Club takes an active role in managing the Wonder Lake fishery, and regularly updates its recommendations on limits for Wonder Lake / Nippersink Creek.

Walleye Pike - Catch-and-release only.

Northern Pike - Catch-and-release only.

Musky – Catch-and-release only.

Bass - Largemouth, Spotted, Black and Smallmouth :
(6) fish in aggregate per day, with no more than
(2) Smallmouth Bass.
12" minimum size limit.

Panfish - White/Black Crappie, Yellow Perch, Bluegill / Sunfish :
(20) fish in aggregate per day,
with no more than 10 per day of any one species.

Catfish - Blue, Channel and Flathead:
(6) fish per day of any species.

Rough Fish - Carp, Bullhead, Striped Bass :
No size limit. Remove and dispose

Catch-and-release only from Thompson Road bridge downstream (east) to Wonder Lake

VWL / MPOA

FISH LIMITS FOR
WONDER LAKE

(SIZE & CREEL LIMITS)

 **MUSKY'S**
CATCH & RELEASE ONLY

 **LARGE & SMALL MOUTH BASS**
BASS- LARGE, SPOTTED, BLACK AND SMALLMOUTH
6 FISH IN AGGREGATE PER DAY, WITH NO MORE
THAN 2 SMALLMOUTH BASS
12" MINIMUM SIZE LIMIT.

 **WALLEYE PIKE**
CATCH AND RELEASE ONLY.

 **NORTHERN PIKE**
CATCH AND RELEASE ONLY.

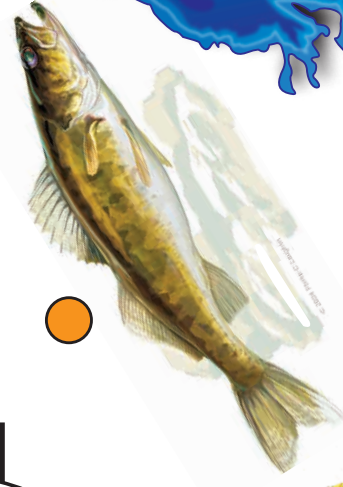
PANFISH-WHITE / BLACK CRAPPIE, YELLOW PERCH,
BLUEGILL / SUNFISH- 20 FISH IN AGGREGATE PER DAY,
WITH NO MORE THAN 10 PER DAY OF ANY SPECIES.

CATFISH-BLUE, CHANNEL AND FLATHEAD
6 FISH PER DAY OF ANY SPECIES

ROUGH FISH
CARP, BULLHEAD, STRIPED BASS
NO SIZE LIMIT. REMOVE & DISPOSE

CATCH & RELEASE ONLY FROM THOMPSON ROAD BRIDGE
DOWNSTREAM TO WONDER LAKE

VILLAGE ORDINANCE



Please Promote **W.L.S.C.** & The **M.P.O.A.** In The Catch & Release Program To Insure Our Fish Population