



**Dempster St. Launch Facility
Information, Policies, & Application Packet
2024**



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:

- You may begin storing your vessel at Dempster St Beach in your assigned rack starting May 5
- Facility operating dates are May 11, 2024 through October 22, 2024
- Facility Hours are 9:00 am to Dusk

2024 Storage Fees:

Storage & Launch Rates	Resident	Non-Resident
Single Hull Launch Pass & Storage Permit* (w/locker): Includes launch, storage rack, parking and locker (Sunfish, Laser, etc.)	\$376	\$488
Double Hull Launch Pass & Storage Permit (w/locker): Includes launch, storage spot, parking and locker (catamaran, etc.)	\$491	\$638
Windsurfer Launch Pass (w/locker): Includes launch, storage rack, parking and locker	\$376	\$488
Paddle Vessel Launch Pass (no locker): includes launch, storage rack, and parking (kayaks, canoes, stand up paddleboards)	\$318	\$413
Season Launch-Only Pass**	\$221 8/1 and after: \$110	\$378 8/1 and after: \$189
Season Locker Only	\$58	\$79

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 craft's 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) and are for storing masts, rudders, sails, PFDs, etc. Permits for kayaks, canoes, and stand-up paddleboards do not include a storage locker.

On February 12, 2024, City Council voted in favor of new regulations relating to Dempster St Beach Facility. The new rules are as follows:

1. Community members will pay full price for the first vessel and \$50 for each additional vessel for launch-only permits.
2. Only one storage slip (rack or sand storage) will be allowed per household. Anyone possessing more than one storage slip must relinquish all but one by March 31, 2024. Please submit forms for the spaces you will be relinquishing if you had multiple racks in 2023.
3. All vessels will need to be stored in their storage slips by June 15, 2024. If no vessel is stored at 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. You can begin storing your vessels starting May 4, 2024.

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.

Renewing Combined Storage/Launch Passes for Returning Rack Holders:

1. Complete this form confirming renewal or cancelation (and option for lottery) of your storage space by **Monday, March 31, 2024**
<https://arts.formstack.com/forms/2024summerstorage>
2. You will be emailed a receipt showing the space has been rented for 2024 and the amount due.
3. Once you've received a receipt, **pay your balance for your storage space(s) either online or by phone by the end of the day on April 5, 2024.**
 - a. Pay Online: Log onto your City of Evanston Parks & Recreation account at cityofevanston.org/register. Make payment by clicking on "Pay Old Balances" under the My Account tab.
 - b. Pay by Phone: call 847-448-8252
4. Spaces that remain unpaid after April 5 will be entered into the move lottery. If you miss the deadline, you will have to register for the move list to keep a storage space before the lottery.

- If you had a Dempster St. Launch-only pass, you will have to fill out the launch-only application at the Dempster St Beach Office.

Requesting a Different Storage Space(s) for the 2024 Season:

- Fill out the renewal form listed above and select the option to be entered into the lottery. Pay your balance no later than April 5, 2024.
- You, or a representative, will need to attend an in-person lottery on **April 17th at 6 pm at Chandler Newberger Center**. If you or a representative are unable to be physically present, a call-in option will be made available. Names will be selected at random for each available storage spot.

Picking up your 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 starting Wednesday, May 1 through Friday, May 10 from 9 AM-4:30 PM. Starting Saturday, May 11, passes will be available for pick up at the Dempster St Beach Office between 10 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 for activity #753906 (Residents) or #753907 (Non-Residents) online. If emailing, specify if you would like to be added to the paddleboard, kayak, single hull, or double hull waitlist. Note that some waitlists are 5-7 years long.

Once you register for the appropriate waitlist, you will move up on the list as boaters ahead of you receive permits. Staff will assign open spots to boaters in order of the waitlist. You will be contacted twice by email and phone and will have up to 7 business 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.

Season Launch-only Passes:

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.

Launch-Only Fees:

Launch-Only Passes	Resident	Non-Resident
Dempster St - 1st Vessel	\$221 (\$110 after 7/31)	\$289 (\$145 after 7/31)
Each Additional Vessel	\$50 (\$25 after 7/31)	\$65 (\$33 after 7/31)

Purchasing a Season Launch-only Pass:

Fill out a launch-only pass application at Dempster St. Beach Office (1251 Lakeshore Blvd.) starting May 11 through September 2. Hours are as follows:

- May 11 - June 7: 10 am to 6 pm
- June 8 - August 30: 10 am to 8 pm
- August 31- September 2: 10 am-7pm

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.

Family Size				
% off	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. Life jackets should be worn at all times when the vessel is underway.
- d. Children under 13 years of age must wear an appropriate USCG-approved life jacket while on a vessel.
- 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. For information on where to pick up/purchase a season beach pass or daily pass visit:

<https://www.cityofevanston.org/government/departments/parks-recreation-community-service/beach-admissions>

- 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 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 rack holder on file and the name on the ID must match.
- b. Storage rack holders will have the opportunity to renew their rack each year. If a rack holder fails to renew the deadline, their storage spot will be forfeited. Details for renewal will be communicated via a mailed letter and email. It is the rack holder's responsibility to make sure their correct email and mailing address are on file with the city.
- c. All vessels will need to be stored in their storage slips by June 15, 2024. If no vessel is stored at 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. You can begin storing your vessels starting May 4, 2024.
- d. Storage spots are non-transferable.
- e. 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.
- f. 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). Additional permit stickers will be available for those with multiple vessels who are double stacking.
- g. Only one vessel may be stored per rack or spot for the cost of a storage rack. Rack renters may store up to one additional vessel (ie. paddleboard or kayak) in their storage rack/space by double stacking vessels and will be charged an additional \$100. You will receive an additional storage sticker for your second vessel. Double stacking of sailboats will not be permitted. Double stacking is not permitted in vertical storage racks due to space constraints.
- h. 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.
- i. 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 a charge of \$50 for storing beach-going items. Please secure and lock these items to your vessel, and not the storage rack.
- j. Store your vessel bow forward (towards the water), wrap cable across the entire craft, and secure the locks on the opposite side.
- k. Rack holders may not make any major modifications to the racks and cannot chain craft, wheels, or other vessels to the racks.
- l. All vessels must be stored on their proper racks overnight. Do not leave any vessel out on the beach.

- m. Use only your assigned rack/space and locker.
- n. Boat covers must be secured neatly and may not infringe, hang down, etc. onto other boats or into other racks.

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 7 days after the first attempt of contact to respond before they are removed from the waitlist and the next person is contacted.
- c. 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; they may be parked on the grass north of the tennis courts.
- 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, here are a few additional parking options:
 - 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. 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, but not limited to, the following:
 - i. Vessel lacks proper launch pass and/or storage pass
 - ii. Vessel is being stored in the incorrect storage space/locker and an attempt has been made to contact the owner without success
 - iii. Vessel is lost, abandoned, or reported stolen
 - iv. 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.
 - v. The City will make reasonable attempts (if known) to contact the owner.
- 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. The City will store vessels/equipment left by any persons for up to six months. After six months, equipment will be auctioned, discarded, or donated.
- e. Trailers may be towed to North Shore Towing Company. Towing and storage fees are the responsibility of the trailer owner.

2024 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, children under 13 years of age must wear an appropriate USCG-approved life jacket.

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 3/26/2024 - Rules & policies are subject to change