LAKE DECATUR

LAKE SERVICES SECTION
CITY OF DECATUR, ILLINOIS
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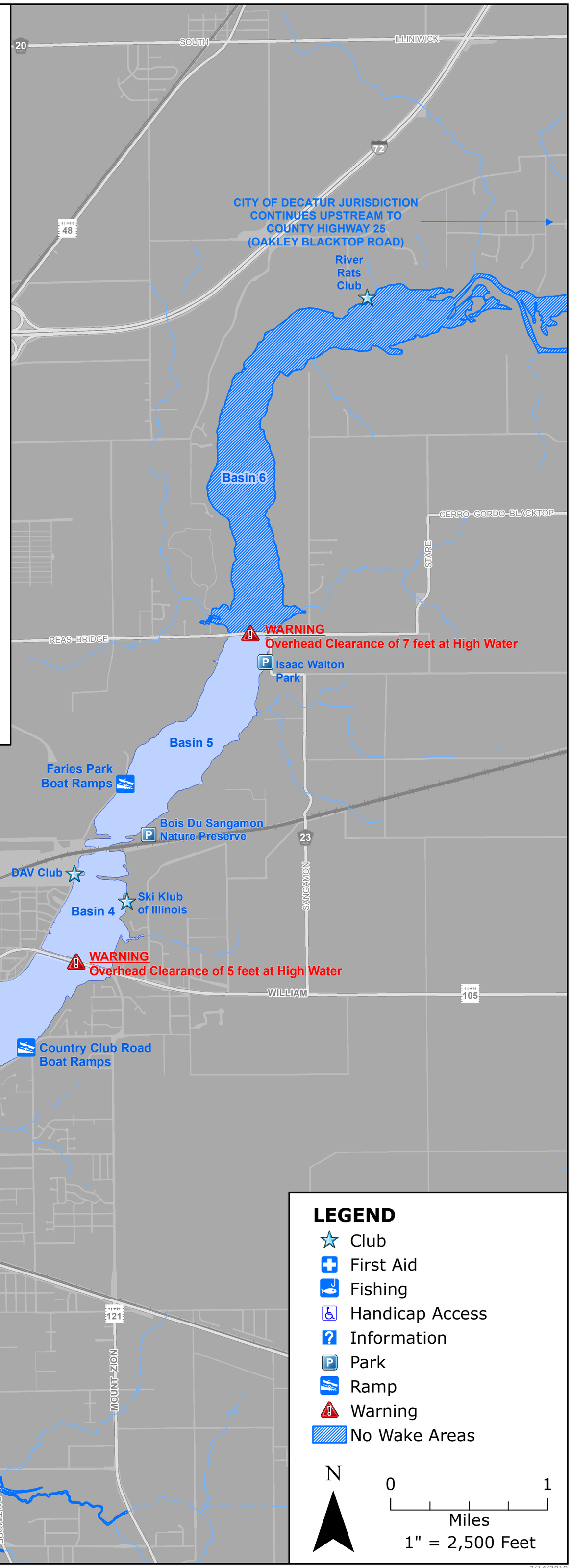
IN CASE OF EMERGENCY DIAL 9-1-1
LAKE PATROL MONITORS MARINE BAND RADIO
CHANNELS 16 (EMERGENCY ONLY) AND 68

LAKE SPECIFICATIONS:

Source – Sangamon River
Size – 2,880 surface acres (4.5 square miles) at 614.5 feet above MSL
Dam – built in 1921-22, bascule gates added in 1955, length 1,900 feet, height 28.5 feet
Lake level elevation (average) – Summer 614.5 feet, Winter 612.5 feet
Capacity (at 614.5 feet elevation) – 27,804 acre-feet (9.06 billion gallons)
Average depth of 10 feet, maximum depth of 25 feet
Length - (including Sangamon River section) 13 miles
Average width (excluding Sangamon River section) 0.4 miles
Watershed area- 925 square miles (592,000 acres) in 7 counties

GENERAL REGULATIONS:

Illinois Department of Natural Resources rules and regulations apply with the addition of the following City of Decatur ordinances. Please refer to City Code Chapter 66 Regulation of Lake Decatur for details:

A. Lake Decatur property and jurisdiction follows the Sangamon River downstream from the Oakley Blacktop Road Bridge (County Road 25) to the Canadian National Railroad Bridge downstream of the Lake Decatur Dam.
B. City of Decatur licenses are required to operate all watercraft, iceboats and construct or maintain docks and waterfowl hunting blinds.
C. NO WAKE SPEED IS REQUIRED within 200 feet of all shoreline, docks, piers, under bridges, and between the hours of 10:00 p.m. and one-half hour before sunrise.
D. Waterskiing and similar activities are prohibited in all no wake areas.
E. USCG approved Type I, II, III or V PFDs (life jackets) must be worn by all water skiers (and similar activities), personal watercraft and specialty prop-craft occupants, sail or surf boarders, and all persons under age 13 in any type of watercraft.
F. When approaching bridges watercraft shall bear to the right (unless otherwise directed) and overtaking (passing) is prohibited under bridges.
G. Swimming from boats is permitted only within 25 feet of boats in no wake areas. Swimming from boats is prohibited on the west side of Basin 2 (Nelson Park Basin). Swimming from boats is also prohibited adjacent to all boat ramps, bridges and navigational channels, and between one-half hour after the sunset and one-half hour before sunrise.
H. Swimming from licensed docks is permitted only within 50 feet of shoreline with dock owner's permission. Swimming from docks is not permitted between one half hour after sunset and one-half hour before sunrise.
I. Ice skating and ice fishing from licensed docks is permitted only within 50 feet of dock with owner permission. Ice skating is also allowed in Sand Creek south of South Shores drive bridge and in Bayview Cove east of North Country Club Road.
J. All watercraft towing, a tuber, skier, wakeboarder, etc. is required to display a red flag visible to oncoming watercraft at all times while towing is in process.
K. Trespassing on the City Dam, aircraft landings, and snowmobiles on the lake, are prohibited.
L. Possession of large or smallmouth bass, walleye or sauger less than 14 inches in length is prohibited.