



LAKE SERVICES SECTION  
CITY OF DECATUR, ILLINOIS  
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DECATUR, ILLINOIS 62523-1196  
IN CASE OF EMERGENCY DIAL 9-1-1  
LAKE PATROL MONITORS MARINE BAND RADIO  
CHANNELS 16 (EMERGENCY ONLY) AND 68

Source- Sangamon River  
Size- 2,880 surface areas (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

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, Chapter 66.1 Boats and Chapter 66.2 Docks 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 shorelines, docks, piers, and under bridges. No wake is not to exceed 5 miles per hour and during the time of 1 hour after sunset to sunrise.
- D. Waterskiing and similar activities are prohibited in all no wake areas.
- E. USCG 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 Cove, 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. Lake Decatur is 2 Pole and Line Fishing Only. Possession of Large or Smallmouth Bass and Walleye is 14-inch minimum length limit. Possession of all Crappie is 10-inch minimum length limit.

