

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

Lake ILO

*National Wildlife
Refuge*

Visitor's Guide



Welcome to Lake ILO National Wildlife Refuge



This goose, designed by J.N. "Ding" Darling, is the symbol of the National Wildlife Refuge System.

Lake Ilo National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) is one of more than 560 refuges in the National Wildlife Refuge System – a network of lands set aside specifically for wildlife. The System is a living heritage, preserving wildlife and habitat for people today and for generations to come.

Lake Ilo NWR is located 1 mile west of Dunn Center, North Dakota, along Highway 200. Refuge headquarters is located on the southeast side of Lake Ilo and is open 8:00 am – 4:30 pm, Monday through Friday, except Federal holidays and when the staff is working away from the office.

The Refuge is open from sunrise to sunset. Please consult the Refuge map for areas open to public use. Refuge brochures can be found in the kiosks located near the Refuge headquarters, the Lake Ilo Park, and near the Refuge boat ramp.

Visitor Opportunities *Lake Ilo Park*

Located on the north shore of Lake Ilo, Lake Ilo Park provides visitors with daytime facilities including picnic tables, charcoal grills, litter receptacles, and a restroom.

Interpretation and Education

The North Shore Nature Trail is 1 mile in length and begins in Lake Ilo Park, winding along the north shore of Lake Ilo. Interpretive signs and benches are available for visitors along the way.

Two interpretive and educational displays provide opportunities to learn about key features of the Refuge. An archeological display containing a reconstructed stone tipi ring and interpretive panels is located near the trailhead, and information about the history of the Lake Ilo Dam, along with a dedication stone, is located near the spillway of the dam.

*Wildlife
Observation and
Photography*

Visitors can enjoy peaceful moments observing or photographing wildlife in the grasslands, wetlands, and along the nature trail in the Lake Ilo Park. Since the establishment of the Refuge in 1939, there have been 227 bird, 36 mammal, 6 reptile, 3 amphibian, and 11 fish species observed.

Early mornings and evenings offer the best wildlife viewing times, and spring and fall migration are peak times to observe and photograph many species and concentrations of birds. A wildlife list is available to provide information on species found on the Refuge.

*Open-water
Fishing and
Boating*

Portions of Lake Ilo are open to shoreline fishing year-round, and to fishing from a boat from May 1 through September 30, in accordance with State and Refuge regulations.

Areas open to fishing are designated by signs, marker buoys, or the Refuge map. Northern pike and perch are the most popular game fish in Lake Ilo.

Wildlife-oriented boating for the purposes of wildlife observation and photography, is open May 1 through September 30. Please consult the Refuge map for areas that are open to the public.

An accessible fishing pier is located in Lake Ilo Park. A boat ramp and courtesy dock are available on the north shore, just west of Lake Ilo Park.

Boat motors are restricted to idle speed.

The concrete spillways on the Lake Ilo Dam, and islands are closed to all public use.

Ice Fishing

Portions of Lake Ilo are open to ice fishing when ice covers the water. Three ice access points are available for vehicles to access the ice. Please consult the Refuge map for locations.

Fish houses may be used for ice fishing in accordance with State regulations. Beginning March 15, fish houses must be removed from the ice daily. They may not be left unattended on Refuge grasslands.

Vehicles, including all-terrain vehicles and snowmobiles, can be used on the ice only in conjunction with ice fishing.

Traveling on Lake Ilo ice can be hazardous and requires caution.

Protecting the Refuge

For the protection of wildlife, habitat and other visitors, please observe the following regulations:

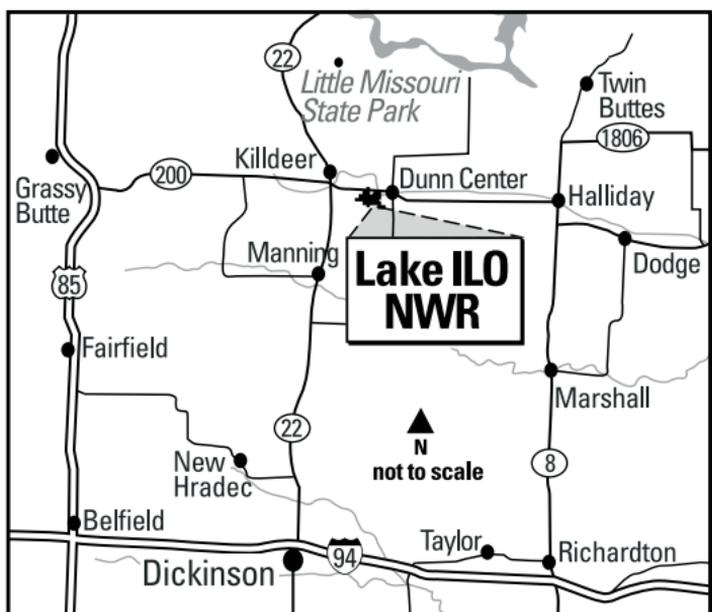
- The Refuge is open from sunrise to sunset.
- Vehicles must stay on designated roads, ice access points, or on the ice.
- Plants, animals, artifacts and other natural materials are protected and may not be disturbed.
- Pets must be leashed or contained in a vehicle or fish house.
- Persons possessing, transporting, or carrying firearms on National Wildlife Refuge System lands must comply with all provisions of State and local laws. Persons may only use (discharge) firearms in accordance with refuge regulations (50CFR 27.42 and specific refuge regulations in 59 CFR Part 32).
- All litter must be packed out or disposed of in receptacles in Lake Ilo Park.

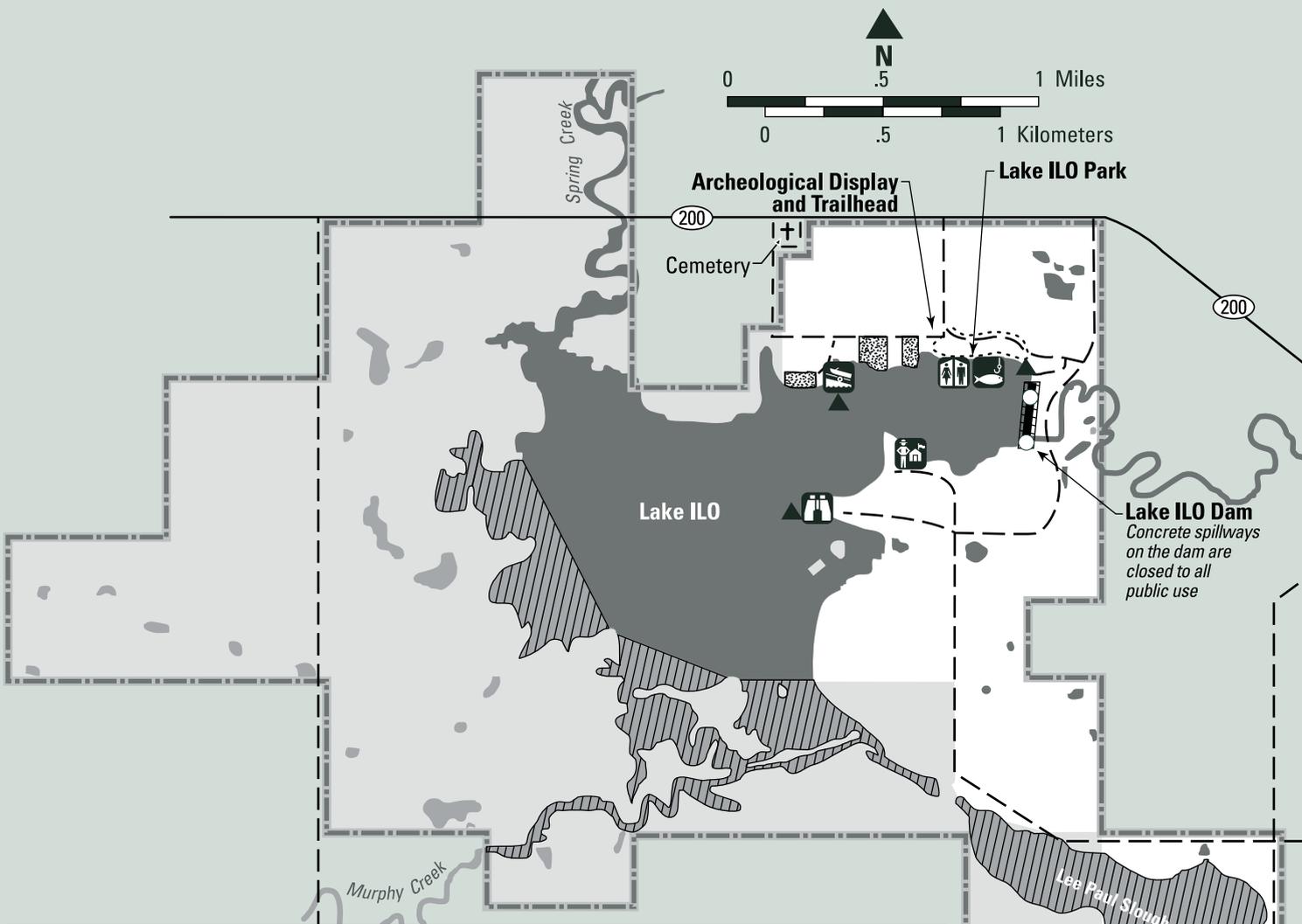
Prohibited Activities

- Hunting
- Horseback riding
- Camping
- Fires, except for fires in grills in Lake Ilo Park
- Recreational water sports, including, but not limited to swimming, jet skiing, sailing, scuba diving, snorkeling, tubing, waterskiing, knee boarding, and stand-up paddling.
- Devices capable of shooting or directing a projectile or liquid at another person or wildlife.

Accessibility Information

Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs and activities of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is available to all individuals regardless of physical or mental ability. Dial 711 for a free connection to the State relay service for TTY and voice calls to and from the speech and hearing impaired. For more information or to address accessibility needs, please contact the Refuge staff at 701 / 548 8110, or the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Equal Opportunity, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, DC 20240.





Lake ILO

National Wildlife Refuge

Refuge boundary

State highway

Gravel road

North Shore Nature Trail

Closed areas on dam

Closed to boats, fishing, and public use

Closed to all public use

Land open to public use

Water open to public use as specified in brochure

Private land inside Refuge boundary

Refuge headquarters

Restroom

Boat ramp

Fishing pier

Wildlife observation point

Ice access point

Lake ILO National Wildlife Refuge
489 102 Avenue SW
Dunn Center, ND 58626
701 / 548 8110
lakeilo@fws.gov
http://www.fws.gov/refuge/Lake_ILO

For State relay service
TTY / Voice: 711

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
<http://www.fws.gov>

For Refuge Information
1 800 / 344 WILD

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