

FRIENDS



LEAVE NO TRACE



The Friends of Pool 9 – Upper Miss Refuge and the resource agencies managing the Upper Mississippi River ask you to help preserve the beauty and character of this magnificent River by practicing the:

Principles of Leave No Trace

- Plan Ahead and Prepare
- Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces
- Dispose of Waste Properly
- Minimize Campfire Impacts
- Respect Wildlife
- Be Considerate of Other Visitors
- Leave What You Found

Leave No Trace is an education program that teaches outdoor enthusiasts how to protect the places they love.

The Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge is one of the busiest public lands in the Nation. Every year over three million people visit the Refuge to view wildlife, boat, swim, camp, hunt, and fish. Individually these visits may only have a limited impact, but collectively they can have far reaching consequences.

The Friends of Pool 9 encourage you to adopt the Leave No Trace philosophy when visiting the Upper Mississippi River National Wildlife and Fish Refuge. These principles are voluntary guidelines that when used in tandem with state and federal regulations can help minimize the impact you have on the environment. Refuge regulations are posted at most boat landings and on many islands



Principles of Leave No Trace

Plan Ahead and Prepare:

- Know the regulations and special concerns for the area you'll visit.
- Prepare for extreme weather, hazards, and emergencies.
- If possible schedule your trip to avoid times of high use.
- Repackage food to minimize waste.



- Avoid using any glass containers. The use or possession of glass food and beverage containers on lands within the Refuge is prohibited.

Travel and Camp on Durable Surfaces:

- Wherever you travel or camp, use impact resistant surfaces like sand, gravel, snow, or water.
- Avoid beaching your boat in vegetated areas, use sand beaches instead.
- Recognize the effect your wake has on erosion. Boat wakes have been shown to accelerate shoreline erosion, degrade water quality, and negatively impact fish and wildlife. Try to minimize your wake effects near shorelines and sensitive areas.

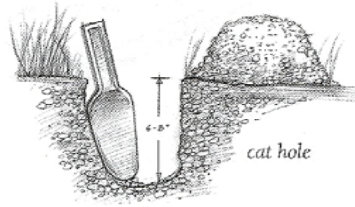
For more information contact the Leave No Trace Center for Outdoor Ethics at www.LNT.org or call 1-800-332-4100.

If you would like more information about the Friends of Pool 9 visit our website at www.lansingiowa.com/friendsofpool9.htm or write us at Friends of Pool 9, PO Box 455, Lansing, IA 52151

Dispose of Waste Properly:

Litter and uncontained trash are unsightly and unlawful. Glass, metal cans and other sharp objects can injure people and animals alike. Cigarette butts are litter too! Even organic litter like watermelon rinds, orange peels, peanut shells, or apple cores should be carried out.

- If you bring it in, take it out!
- Deposit solid human and pet waste in holes dug 6-8 inches deep and at least 50' from the water's edge. Cover and disguise the hole when finished. Left uncovered these can transmit disease to humans and wildlife.



- Pack out all diapers and hygiene products.
- Restrooms are available at many public boat landings. Use these restrooms to minimize your impact on the islands and beaches.
- Hunters and anglers can help as well, by properly disposing of all empty bait canisters, spent shells, used fishing line, lures, and animal remains.

Minimize Campfire Impacts:

Campfires can be a traditional part of the outdoor experience. Fire rings overflowing with ashes, partially burned logs, cans, bottles, food, and trash continue to dot the Refuge islands. Nearby trees are cut down

or their branches torn off for firewood. Avoid these lasting impacts by using a camp stove, or practicing the following techniques:

- Use established fire rings where available.
- Keep fires small.
- Burn only firewood. Refuge regulations prohibit the burning of metal cans, plastic containers, glass, fiberglass, wood containing nails, staples, or wire, treated wood products, flotation materials, and other refuse.
- Dead and down wood is often hard to find, and when available provides important habitat for many kinds of wildlife. If you bring your own firewood, please follow these guidelines: Use dry, cured wood, with the bark removed. Many people accidentally transport invasive insects, such as the emerald ash borer or gypsy moth with firewood brought from infected areas. Since these insects often lay their eggs under or on the outside of the bark, debarked wood is recommended. Refuge regulations require you to remove any unused firewood that you bring in.
- Burn all wood to ashes, let cool, and then scatter the ashes in the woods.



Respect Wildlife:

- Observe wildlife from a distance to minimize disturbance.

- Never feed animals. Feeding wildlife may damage their health, alter their natural behavior, or expose them to predators and other dangers.
- Control pets at all times. Keep them on a leash or leave them at home. Letting your pet roam freely can lead to deadly consequences for wildlife.
- Avoid disturbing wildlife during sensitive times; mating, nesting, raising young, or winter.

Be Considerate of Other Visitors:

Sharing limited resources with a variety of recreational enthusiasts requires outdoor etiquette. National Wildlife Refuges are here for the benefit of all people and wildlife.

- Put in and take out at boat landings quickly. Stop short of the ramp to prepare your boat for launch. Pull your boat off the ramp to finish stowing away your gear and to prepare for the trip home. Take your trash home. Don't leave it for someone else to clean up.



- Manage your pet at all times. Avoid unwanted interactions with other visitors. Be responsible and clean up after your pet.
- Be courteous. Respect other visitors and protect the quality of their experience.
- Let nature's sounds prevail. Avoid loud voices and noises, especially at night.
- Share what you've learned about Leave-No-Trace.

Leave What You Found:

Many visitors unknowingly transport exotic plants and animals such as purple loosestrife, Eurasian water milfoil, or zebra mussels as they move from one area to another. Check and clean your clothing, footwear, tents, and pets after each trip. Drain all water from boats, canoes, and kayaks at your removal point to eliminate the spread of these invasive species. Remove all aquatic organisms and plants from your props, rudders, or trailers before you leave the landing. Never discard live bait in the water.



Collecting plants, animals, and cultural artifacts (such as pottery shards and arrowheads) is prohibited within a National Wildlife Refuge. Even nests and feathers of most wild birds are protected; leave them untouched for the next visitor to see.