

December 2023



Ericson Lake News & Updates

As the sunny days are getting shorter and ice is starting to set in over the lake, ice fishermen will soon be reeling in their catches, snow will be glistening in the moonlight and we can't help taking in the beauty of our little slice of heaven.

Another year is quickly winding down and with the holidays quickly approaching we reflect back on what an amazing year 2023 has been for Ericson Lake. Volunteers have stepped up to help make this year's events some of the best we have seen. The events committee's events have brought in over \$24,000 this year. If you are new to the lake you might ask yourself what those funds have been used for... They have been used for swim ropes and handicap restroom at the swim beach, two tornado shelters at the lake, portion of picnic tables, new playground equipment at the park, portion of the cost for insulating the ELC building, helped with the cost of the new dam computer and dam repairs, helping fund the cost of other events and we are currently working on raising funds to repair the carousel damaged during the 2022 storms.

[Visit our website](#)

Help Ericson Lake Trail of Lights Win Funds!!



If you haven't already heard, the Ericson Lake Trail of Lights Festival has been entered into the Cenex Hometown Throwdown Challenge for a chance to win \$100,000! That would be HUGE for the event and lake. Their theme this year is Powered Locally. What you may not realize is that except for our pick up area at the dam, all of the lights and scenes are powered by 30+ generators that are ran off of gas from our local Cenex station as well as the side by sides pulling the trailers of spectators. Our festival is truly Powered Locally by Cenex.

How can you help? Between October 4th and December 15th, you can submit a photo or video of the event, with a brief description of why you think we would be deserving. A Cenex panel of judges will then review all of the submissions and narrow it down to 3 finalist. If we make it into the top 3, voting will be opened to the public in April to vote on the best festival. Winner will receive \$100,000, second and third place will each receive \$25,000.

You can submit your nomination before December 15th one of two ways.
#1) click on this link to upload photo/video for "Ericson Lake Trail of Lights" and why you think we are deserving.

<https://cenexhometownthrowdown.com/>

#2) Upload a photo or video to your own Facebook Page with a description in your own words why you are nominating Ericson Lake Trail of Lights. Add the following tags to your post without any spaces. @Cenex @EricsonLakeEvents #poweredlocally #contest

If you want to make a nomination, but didn't get any photos of your own let us know. Thank you for your help!

2023 Year In Review

[3rd Annual Trail of Lights](#)

When you think of December you can't help but think of Christmas. The Trail of Lights committee didn't disappoint this year. December 1st & 2nd was the 3rd annual Trail of Lights Festival, a hayrack ride through Christmas light display on the back trails of the lake. Hundred Thousand plus lights flickered brightly and the soft hum of the generators filled the air turning the quiet back trails of Lake Ericson into a magical wonderland with over thirty lighted scenes. This year was our largest attendance to date. Santa made a stop on Friday night to see who has been naughty and nice. Even the animals came out to ask Santa for presents. Wild Hay Café served up some Hot Cocoa, Cider, Funnel Cakes and Churros as visitors waited for their turn next to a crackling bon fire while listening to Christmas music.

We are looking for any volunteers, businesses or organizations who would like to have their own scene at next year's trail of lights. Or if anybody would like to help us decorate? Let us know early, preparations for next years trail of lights will begin this coming summer.

For anybody interested in donating items for next year, we have a wish list on Amazon.

[Amazon Wishlist](#)





10th Annual Fishing Derby

The 10th Annual Ericson Lake Catch & Release Fishing Derby was held in the afternoon of September 9th, 2023. The 4 classes of fish were Bass, Crappie, Northern and Catfish. We had winners in 3 classes with no catch in the Northern class. All attendees were out fished by the minors. Great Job Boys! At the conclusion of the tournament all participants received a grilled brat meal. The youth participants assisted Fred Gerber in the raffle drawing. The tournament and raffle raised \$1,074. A great time was had by all and cannot wait for the 2024 Fishing Derby.

3rd Annual Duck Races & Husker Tailgate Party



This years Husker football schedule didn't quite work out to have our annual tailgate party over Labor Day Weekend, but we had a great time watching the ducks make their way down the river with a large crowd gathered on the banks cheering on their duck. Afterwards winners were announced at the carousel with ice cream social and watermelon for all. For the third year in a row, we have sold out of ducks for the duck races in advance. This year again we had wonderful prizes with the top prize being a 1/4 of beef and all prizes having meat packages, games, certificates and much more. Ducks for next year's race will go on sale mid-July, make sure you get them early before they are gone.

2023 Winners were:

1st Place - Jason Daharsh

2nd Place - Kevin Knott

3rd Place - Emily Levander

4th Place - Jim Meysenburg

The Husker Football party ended up being held on September 16th, a crowd gathered under the carousel to cheer the Huskers on to victory while enjoying brats, bloody Mary's and good comradery. We look forward to next year.

6th Annual Paddle Poker Run **& 4th of July Events**



Fourth of July weekend was once again bustling with activities. A little rain couldn't damper things. Saturday started off with a pancake feed followed by the 43rd Annual ELC meeting the annual bake & craft sale, silent auction and concluded with the golf cart parade around the lake in honor of the founder Mary Ann Hagedorn who passed away earlier this year. Sunday hosted the 6th annual paddle poker run that had another record turnout of participants who

enjoyed a fun afternoon on the water followed by the Splash into Summer Raffle winners drawn, food trucks on the lake front and Fireworks at dusk. Congratulations to all the winners.

Paddle Poker Winners Adult Division

- 1st - BJ Wietzki - 8-high straight (won with a high card draw - Ace of clubs)
- 2nd - Devon Merrell - 8-high straight (lost with a high card draw - 4 diamonds)
- 3rd - Hallie Fleming - Full House

Paddle Poker Winners Kids Division

- 1st - Kade Knott - 3 8's
- 2nd - Aidan Wietzki - 3 6's
- 3rd - Adella Wietzki - Pair of Aces

Splash Info Summer Raffle Winners

- 1st - Austin Bialas - Kayak
- 2nd - Tony Murphy - Floating Trampoline
- 3rd - Mitch Glesinger - Floating Splash Pad

2nd Annual Cornhole Tournament & Family Fun Day



Memorial weekend kicked off the start of summer at the lake. The second annual cornhole tournament brought in 19 teams from near and far to enjoy a fun filled afternoon of cornhole. The 2021 defending champs were able to hang on to their title for a second year. At dark families gathered to take in Goonies on the big screen under the carousel.

Cornhole winners were

- 1st - Aaron Nielsen & Christopher Nielsen
- 2nd - Jarod Rice & Cody Larsen
- 3rd - Shane & Kelly Anderson

This past year we had 4 sets of custom boards made with business logos on them. If you would like to sponsor a set of boards for the lake that will have your name or business logo please let us know. The cost is \$250 /set.

Dam Repairs & Update

2023 brought many repairs to the dam. In April the new computer controls for the dam arrived that were

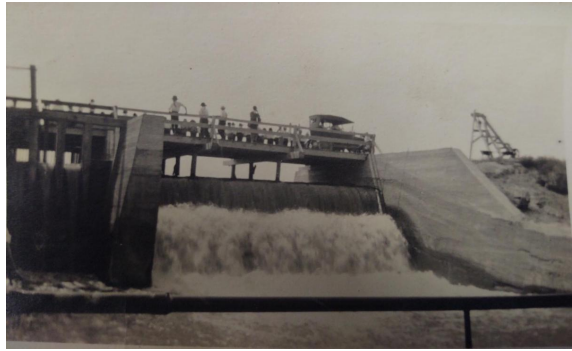
ordered the previous year, at a cost just under \$50,000. The computer arrived just in the nick of time as the old computer quit working completely just days before the arrival. Shortly after the computer was replaced, we had our tri-annual state inspection with a few required repairs to be made. The cost of these repairs will be around another \$40,000. We were gracious enough to have an anonymous donor come forward offering a matching grant, he is willing to donate up to \$10,000 if we can get \$10,000 in matching funds from donations other than events, by January 15, 2024. We currently have \$4,832.11 towards the matching funds.

[Donate Here!](#)

Dam Repairs

\$ 50,000
\$ 45,000
\$ 40,000
\$ 35,000
\$ 30,000
\$ 25,000
\$ 20,000
\$ 15,000
\$ 10,000
\$ 5,000
\$ 0

Scan QR Code to Donate



Donations / Charitable Giving

As 2023 comes to an end and you are preparing your end of the year books and in the need to make some charitable donations, remember that Ericson Lake Corp is a 501c3 non-profit organization that can accept those donations. We will provide you with a receipt for your donations.

2024 Schedule of Events

Saturday, May 25th

Levander Park Ribbon Cutting Ceremony
3rd Annual Cornhole Tournament & Family Fun Day
Outdoor Movie

Thursday, July 4th - In Town Activities

Parade in Town
Methodist Church Luncheon
Junior Rodeo
Firemen's Street Dance

Friday, July 5th

7th Annual Paddle Poker Run
Food Trucks on the Lake Front
Mary Ann Haggdorn Memorial Golf Cart Parade

Saturday, July 6th

Annual Pancake Feed
44th Annual ELC Meeting
Pallet of Beer Raffle Winners Drawn
Annual Bake Sale
Silent Auction
Food Trucks on the Lake Front
Fireworks at Dusk

Saturday, August 31st

4th Annual Husker Tailgate Party

Sunday, September 1st

4th Annual Duck Races

September 2024

11th Annual Fishing Tournament TBD

Friday & Saturday, December 5th & 6th

4th Annual Trail of Lights Hayrack Ride Christmas Light Display

Spotlights

Membership Dues Online

For your convenience you can now pay your 2024 membership dues and dock fees online via our website. <https://www.lakeericson.com/membership>

Flags

We are adding additional memorial flags that go along the Boulevard on Holiday weekends. If you are interested in a purchasing a flag they are \$250 and have a plaque engraved on the pole to dedicate them to a loved veteran or service member. New flags or flags belonging to anybody who has recently passed away will be placed around the carousel area. Anybody interested in a flags please let us know.



Safety



The speed limit around the entire lake and dam road is 15 mph. There are a lot of young kids playing and riding bicycles around the lake along with adults and pets walking. Please obey the 15 mph speed limit and have a discussion with your kids and guest to obey the posted speed.



Red Flag Warnings - No Fires

Please take note around the lake and campsites. If you see these signs posted please no campfires or fires of any kind.

Please do not leave any fires unattended and make sure they are completely out before you leave.

Camping Reservations

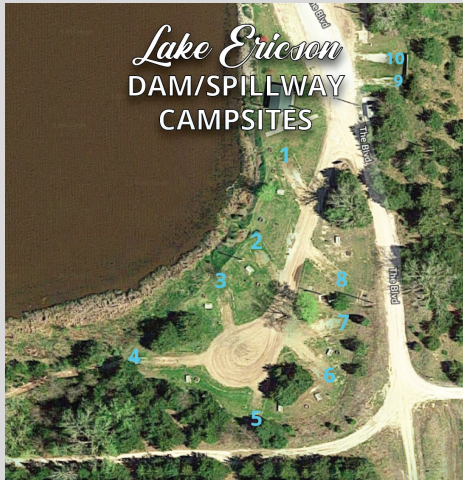
In 2023 we kicked off our online camping reservations. We hope that everyone found it easy to use. The move to the online platform has saved Joe's office staff a tremendous amount of time so they can focus on their



main job. Not only has it been a time saver there has been a substantial increase to the camping revenue seeing more campsites reserved during the week.

Planning your tanking trip or family reunion? Don't delay in reserving your campsite. Please share the link below with your friends and family.

<https://www.campspot.com/book/lakeericson>



Minimum stay of 2 nights for electrical reservations - \$30 per night

(Maximum stay of 14 days)

There are 30-amp campsites for \$30 per night and 50-amp campsites that are also \$30 per night (50-amp sites: Campsites #2, #6, #7 and #8 at the Dam Campground and Campsites G, H and J at the River Campground)

All camp sites are back in ONLY....there are no drive through sites.

Tent camping is also available at two locations. No reservations required - first come first serve. Cost is \$10 per night per tent. (no minimum stay)



Camping Reservations

Lodging



New to our website for 2023 was our lodging page. For those who don't like to rough it in the outdoors, there are short term vacation rentals at or near the lake. Check out these places when planning your next vacation or weekend get away. You won't be disappointed.

Lodging