



Lake View is the home of two historic stone piers which were built during the Great Depression. The stone piers are the main structures and focal points of a three-acre municipal shoreline park developed in 1934-1935 under the Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) program. Since that time, the piers have been among the most popular spots on Black Hawk Lake for fishing and special events. The Stone Piers were listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1991 and were refurbished in 1999 under the guidance of the Lake View Historic Preservation Commission (HPC).

The *west pier*, built near the site of a nineteenth-century steamer landing, extends about 34 feet into the water. Its design is a stylized U-shape with two obelisk-like electric light posts near the shore entrance. Between the light posts and the shore there were, as originally constructed, retaining walls on either side and stone steps descending to narrow side decks along the water's edge where there were mooring posts for small boats. The retaining wall and side deck on the north side of the pier are intact, but the south deck has fallen and only its retaining wall remains. Originally, the decks were constructed of flagstone. According to local sources, the flagstone was replaced with a concrete deck shortly after the pier was finished.

The *north pier* extends approximately 82 feet into the water as measured from its farthest point north, which is a curved masonry bench. The foot of this pier is defined by a broken circle of three stone and concrete benches, two of which seems to emerge from the riprap seawall. In the center of the ring is located a large Sioux quartzite boulder which once served as a flagpole base, although it now is the base for the National Register plaque. A finger pier extends from the ring of benches. At the end, a tapered electric light shaft rises from a cylindrical base. Originally, the main deck of the north pier also was of flagstone, but it, too, has been replaced with concrete. A lower side deck of flagstone extends along the west side of the pier almost at water level.

Fishing is the primary direct use of the piers. Other pier use for special events include the annual Summer Water Carnival (with an estimated two-day crowd of 20,000), the annual Carp Fishing Contest, outdoor church services held annually at Easter and occasionally at other times, weddings, and other small-group gatherings. The hundreds of thousands of visitors who use the lake each year are attracted to it because the water is accessible at many points, because the area offers multiple recreational uses from fishing and water skiing to birding and bicycling.