

NYARI RESIDENTS WELFARE SOCIETY

Visitor and Resident Information Booklet
Estate Bylaws, Regulations, and Facility Guide



YOU MUST SIGN A DISCLAIMER ACKNOWLEDGING THAT YOU HAVE READ AND UNDERSTOOD THESE NOTES HEREIN, THE BYLAWS, AND AGREE TO BE BOUND BY THEM.

THERE IS A DISCLAIMER FORM AT THE END OF THE DOCUMENT. PLEASE SIGN IT AND LEAVE THAT PAGE WITH THE NYARI OFFICE.

Living Harmoniously at Nyari

Nyari Estate is a special place—a community that values environmental stewardship, peaceful coexistence, and respect for shared resources. By following the guidelines and bylaws outlined in this booklet, you contribute to maintaining the quality of life that makes Nyari unique.

Whether you are a long-term resident or a first-time visitor, your cooperation in adhering to these rules ensures that Nyari remains a healthy, safe, and beautiful environment for all.

Enforcement and Compliance

The NRWS takes its mandate from WRMA and NEMA seriously. Violations of these bylaws are not merely internal estate matters but can result in referral to national authorities with jurisdiction over environmental protection and water resource management.

Consequences of non-compliance may include:

- Estate sanctions and restrictions
- Referral to the relevant management committee
- Referral to police, NEMA, and/or WRMA
- Fines and legal proceedings
- Ongoing monitoring (probation) by regulatory authorities

We ask all residents and visitors to take these regulations seriously. They exist to protect our shared environment, ensure community safety, and preserve the unique character of Nyari Estate for current and future generations.

Thank you for being part of our community.

Welcome to Nyari Estate

Thank you for participating in our community, whether you do so as a visitor or as a resident. This booklet introduces you to the facilities in the estate, in particular the water bodies and wetland areas which, together with the tree-planted road verges and children's spaces, are an integral part of our lives here and make healthy living possible for all of us.

This booklet also serves as a guide to Nyari's bylaws that all of us adhere to and follow. Follow the rules and regulations in this booklet and the bylaws so that we can all live together harmoniously.

We, the Nyari Main Committee, are writing to you regarding the latest developments on the lake(s) and to inform you about the bylaws of the estate with particular regard to those that govern the lake and the reason for their enactment. The lake is a highly sensitive environment subject to abuse through members' and visitors actions that you might not have considered. For this reason, we have separate guidelines and rules for the lake from the general rules covering the other environs of the estate. They are as follows, with explanations for their presence in the greater list of Nyari bylaws.

Governance and Authority

The Water Resources Management Authority (WRMA) and the National Environmental Management Authority (NEMA) have delegated authority for the care and upkeep of the estate, including its lakes, to Nyari Residents Welfare Society (NRWS). NRWS therefore informs you that failure to follow these rules and those contained in the bylaws will lead to your being sanctioned by the estate, referred to the relevant management committee, and possibly even to prosecution.

Lake Access and Safety Protocols

Resident and Visitor Access

Residents living on the lakes are permitted to be on the lakes at any time. Visitors must inform the office every time they come to the estate with the intention of boating, fishing, sailing, or making any other use of the lake(s).

The office requires all non-resident/visitor users to sign a disclaimer form every time they intend to be on the water. This form can be obtained and signed at the Nyari office. You must do this or you will not be permitted on the lake. If you are

found on the lake, without having signed the disclaimer form, you will be removed from the lake by security.

Estate Facilities and Amenities

Water Bodies and Wetlands

The lakes and wetland areas are the ecological heart of Nyari Estate. These water bodies provide critical ecosystem services including mosquito control, water purification, wildlife habitat, and aesthetic value. Cormorants, egrets, coots, Egyptian Geese, Fish Eagles, cattle egrets are a few examples of the rich biodiversity supported by this environment. Nyari is proud to maintain a list of 37 regular species of birds within the estate.

The reed beds surrounding the lakes play a vital role in maintaining water quality by filtering heavy metals and other contaminants while also reducing evaporation by moderating wind speeds. These areas provide essential habitat for numerous bird species and contribute to the overall health of the ecosystem.

Tree-Planted Road Verges

The tree-lined roads throughout the estate provide shade, improve air quality, and contribute to the overall aesthetic appeal of Nyari. These trees are protected assets of the community and should not be damaged or removed without explicit permission from the NRWS committee.

Children's Spaces

Designated play areas for children are maintained throughout the estate. These spaces are designed to provide safe recreational opportunities for young residents while preserving the peaceful character of the community. Children regularly play on the estate on the roads, ride their bicycles, and generally have a good time. You are hereby ordered to maintain driving speed below 40 kPH At all times,

Critical Safety Information

Any body of water in any location worldwide is a hazard, and injury or loss of life is a possibility that can arise at any time in the most unexpected ways.

Nyari Lake Bylaws

Revised January 2026

IMPORTANT NOTICE: These are Nyari Residents Welfare Association (NRWS) bylaws that are fully backed by the National Environment Management Authority (NEMA) and the Water Resource Management Authority (WRMA). As such, we are **ALL** required to adhere to them. If any member fails to follow these rules and bylaws, the NRWS will have no recourse but to refer that member to the police, NEMA, and/or WRMA. Please be advised that involvement of any of these authorities can cause the member concerned a great deal of trouble in extricating themselves from fines, court cases, and monitoring that these authorities impose on recalcitrant persons. The NRWS has been charged with and given authority to manage the lake and its environs by the above authorities and as such acts as their agent and is obligated to report any transgressions against these bylaws.

- 1) No visitor to Nyari is permitted on any of the estate lakes without the written permission of the residents whose guests they are. You must obtain this permission from the resident you are affiliated to and take it to the Nyari office to have it authenticated there and while there to sign the Nyari disclaimer. Residents are entirely responsible for any visitor they allow on the lake. Any violation of these bylaws by a visitor to Nyari is the entire responsibility of the resident who allowed them in.

We have had three (3) deaths by drowning on the main lake over the years. One of those persons' families resorted to suing NRWS for that tragic loss of life. Protracted cases of this nature are a waste of time, resources and money and in the end Nyari has always won any and all legal action because **the lake(s) are private bodies of water not open to the public.**

The NRWS does not provide lifesavers, first aid equipment, rescue, or medical facilities. All persons, residents and visitors to NRWS, use the lakes entirely at their own risk and hold the NRWS harmless against any incident arising from such use.

- 2) **No one is permitted on the lake after 6pm.**

The reason for this is two-fold:

First: It compromises our security systems which require that no unknown or unidentifiable persons or vehicles be wandering around any part of the estate after sunset. Our guards have been instructed to arrest anyone found on the lake after 6pm. Please help us enforce this security constraint.

Second: We used to have a large host (many hundreds) of cattle egrets (the white birds) that roosted on the northwest end of the lake. These birds would leave the lake in the early morning and come back to roost just after 6pm each evening. We lost these birds as we had people on the lake flaunting our rules and frightening them away when they come to roost. We have since put a stop to this and you must therefore leave the lake before 6pm on all days of the week.

- 3) **No fishing or boating in front of other plots except the one from which you originate. Maintain a distance of 25m (twenty-five metres) minimum from all plot frontages.**

Certainly, your fishing lure should not be able to reach the reeds at the front of any person's plot. Please keep to the area close to your plot or the plot from which you entered the lake, and certainly do not wander too close to any other person's plot. This rule exists in order to preserve our members' privacy.

It is very disturbing to members who may be sitting enjoying a quiet moment or observing birds on the lake when a fishing boat comes barging into the members view, scaring away all the birds and then getting their lures stuck right in your field of vision subsequently fighting to get the lure free doing all manner of damage to the lake plants, margins and roosts. Please keep away from others' plots. In particular, the small lake at the western end of the main lake where the water comes in and is a sedimentation trap, and the main lake where the water leaves on the extreme eastern end are both fish hatcheries and bird roosts. Keep well away from these two ends.

4) Limit the number of visitors to your plot, especially when you are not there to supervise them.

All members living on the lake have agreed that the peace and quiet of the lake environment is paramount to them. This peace and quiet is also extremely important to the bird life and the health of the fish in the lake. For this reason, please control the number of visitors and the noise that they generate. Note that according to city-wide bylaws, loud music is not permitted after 11pm. Disturbance of the peace through loud music will be reported to the police and if necessary to NEMA.

5) No person is permitted to fish who is not a member of Nyari or who has not explicitly been given permission to fish by a member of Nyari that lives on the lake.

We constantly battle poachers—we have had and continue to deal with people who come with a basket and fill it with fish to take to Gachie and neighbouring areas to sell at stalls there. Our lake is not able to take this kind of pressure as it is not run as a commercial fish farming entity. The fish control mosquito populations and provide food for the birds of prey that control rat populations around the lake margins. Overfish the lake and we will all suffer the nightmare of malaria and vector borne diseases carried by rats. For the same reason, please do not remove small fish or too many fish. Take a reasonable number of LARGE fish only. A reasonable number is two (2) fish per fishing rod per day (this is a KWS standard for all lakes and rivers in Kenya).

6) Do not damage the reeds in any way.

Reeds are important to prevent water loss by slowing down wind speeds and also act as water purifiers by removing heavy metals and other toxins. The reed beds are also home to very many species of birds. If you get your lure stuck in the reeds, DO NOT REMOVE the stuck lure; tie a small float (an empty water bottle will suffice) to your line and cork it, cut the line and leave it floating on the water. Nyari maintenance who patrol the lake on a weekly basis will clear the line on your behalf. Do not just leave the line in the water after you cut it as pieces of line are very injurious to both the fish and bird life.

7) Do not cut back or damage any plant life on or near the water.

Do not cut any trees on the lake margins except with written permission of the NRWS committee, who will only give such permission after careful consideration of the consequences of such tree cutting. Trees around the lake margin are critical for stabilizing the banks (especially the lake wall at the eastern end), for providing habitat for various bird species, and for oxygenation that makes our lives that much more healthy. Do not cut down any trees.

8) No motor boats, boats with internal combustion engines, or jet skis are permitted on the water.

Electric motors and boats powered by oars (human power) or sails are permitted. Windsurfers, sailing dinghies, and kite surfers are permitted. All internal combustion motors are prone to polluting the water with oil, fuel, and other contaminants. They are also noisy and pollute the neighbourhood in this way too. For these reasons, they are not permitted at any time.

9) Bright lights are not permitted on the lake or the lake margins.

Do not shine bright lights on the water; they disturb your neighbours, scare away the bird life, and prevent our guards from seeing the water surface clearly at night. Be aware that light pollution is a significant problem on our

planet. There is a move, which you can search for on the Internet, to obtain dark skies as far as possible. There are those among us who have never seen stars in the sky like some of us see out in the dark areas of our country. Please do not become a contributor to the massive light pollution we see in so many parts of the world.

10) Keep all septic tanks functioning properly.

Overflowing effluent from septic tanks can lead to a Nairobi Dam scenario. We remind all of you that Nairobi Dam is no longer a lake but a solid piece of land and. We don't want this to happen to our lake. Not only will we lose this wonderful, peace-generating asset that we share, but also once it turns into solid ground you can be sure that a real estate developer will swoop in to put high-rise apartments onto the newly-found land as soon as he or she can. Attempts to drain the lake for such nefarious use have already been thwarted in the past. Let's not revisit this nightmare scenario.

11) Do not use fertilizers closer than 25m to the water.

This is a KWS directive and is clearly to prevent the kind of disaster we have seen at Nairobi Dam. Fertilizers cause algae to bloom in the water, killing off the natural animals. Do not use any chemicals near the water. Do not allow any paint or cement into the water. Again, these chemicals kill off the natural organisms that are needed to keep the living ecosystem of the lake functioning normally. Do not use any herbicides close to the lake. Two herbicides Roundup and Dicamba are in use on Kenyan soils. **DO NOT USE THESE ON LAND IN NYARI.** You can search the Internet for more news on how these have irreversibly damaged lands, especially here in Kenya.

12) Farm animals: Chickens, ducks, geese, goats—these are considered farm animals and are not permitted within city boundaries as per Nairobi City Council bylaws.

These animals are considered a health risk and are therefore ruled by the Council to be raised outside city limits. Nyari being well within city limits, they are not permitted within the estate. Egyptian geese and other non domestic wild animals are common on our lake and are not covered this bylaw.

13) Do not pump lake water to water your gardens.

The lake is at risk of drying up if you do this. Please use City Council water to water your gardens. As well as risking drying up of the lake, the water from the lake is not suitable for drinking, and contact with human skin can spread diseases that might be present in the lake. The NRWS regularly has the water tested. In the recent past, bilharzia has been found in the water. You can contract bilharzia just by handling fish or getting any even a small splash of water on your skin. Bilharzia is a serious disease that can lead to cancers of the bladder.

14) All persons use the lake entirely at their own risk.

Nyari Residents Welfare Society is not responsible for any accident, illness, or injury, including death, be that to a member, their visitor, or to any other person whomsoever. In the past, there have been three drownings on our lake, and we have assisted in recovering the bodies but cannot be held responsible for providing lifeguard-like facilities. Some people have swum in the lake and later been diagnosed with bilharzia. The NRWS is not responsible for this as it is impossible to treat the water.

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Contact Information

Please report any and all environmental concerns directly to the Nyari Office:

+254 738 543 865

+254 720 577 924

+254 20 712 3306

I, (first name) _____

Of P O Box _____, **(city)** _____

Physical address: _____

Am a guest of (Nyari member) _____

Of House number _____

Visiting Nyari Lake(s) and environs on (date) _____

Acknowledge that I have read and understood the above in full and agree to abide by these rules and regulations.

Signed: _____

Date: _____