



Bass Lake

2020 FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

LOCATION – Bass Lake is located in Bartlett (DuPage County) at the West Branch Forest Preserve on Army Trail Road, 1.6 miles east of Route 59.

DESCRIPTION – Bass Lake is a 15 acre gravel/clay pit with a maximum depth of 30 feet and an average depth of 18 feet. Bass Lake is one of 30 lakes and ponds owned and maintained for sport fishing by the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County (FPDDC). Bass Lake is a walk in only lake accessible via a 0.75 mile walk on gravel and mowed trails. There is shoreline fishing access available via mowed paths around the preserve. There are no fishing piers. No watercraft are allowed. The FPDDC has installed several fish attracting structures in this lake (see map on the reverse side of this summary).

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES - These waters are under management of the FPDDC Fishery Ecologist to provide quality sport fishing opportunities. In 1984, the FPDDC entered into a cooperative management agreement with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to facilitate management activities. Channel Catfish, Northern Pike, and Redear Sunfish have been stocked by the FPDDC. Redear sunfish were stocked beginning in 2012 to combat a newly discovered population of invasive zebra mussels. Electrofishing surveys take place every four years on district waters, the most recent occurring June 9th, 2020.

***New sportfishing regulations for all FPDDC waters too effect 2017 (see next page).**

STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY – Largemouth Bass abundance was higher than previous surveys and some quality size fish are available. Catch rates for panfish (Bluegill, Black Crappie and Redear Sunfish) have been variable over time, but the opportunity for catching nice panfish exists in this lake. Crystal clear water, minimal access and abundant aquatic vegetation may make fishing Bass Lake a little tricky. **Due to the presence of zebra mussels, gear used in this lake should be cleaned and dried before using it in other waters. Spring surveys are usually conducted in late April but were delayed in 2020 due to COVID-19 restrictions.**

LARGEMOUTH BASS – In our most recent survey we sampled 88 Largemouth Bass in 45 minutes of electrofishing (116 fish per hour). This catch rate is higher than it has been in recent surveys (since 2007) and is higher than the 60 fish per hour goal of the management plan. Despite the moderately high catch rate, the population looked healthy and fat with no signs of stunting. Multiple year classes were present in the sample with 76% of the sample measuring between eight and twelve inches. Twenty-two percent of the sample was over 12 inches, while just three percent was longer than 15 inches. Largemouth Bass size structure was most likely under-estimated due to the late sample date as most bass were not using shallow spawning habitat.

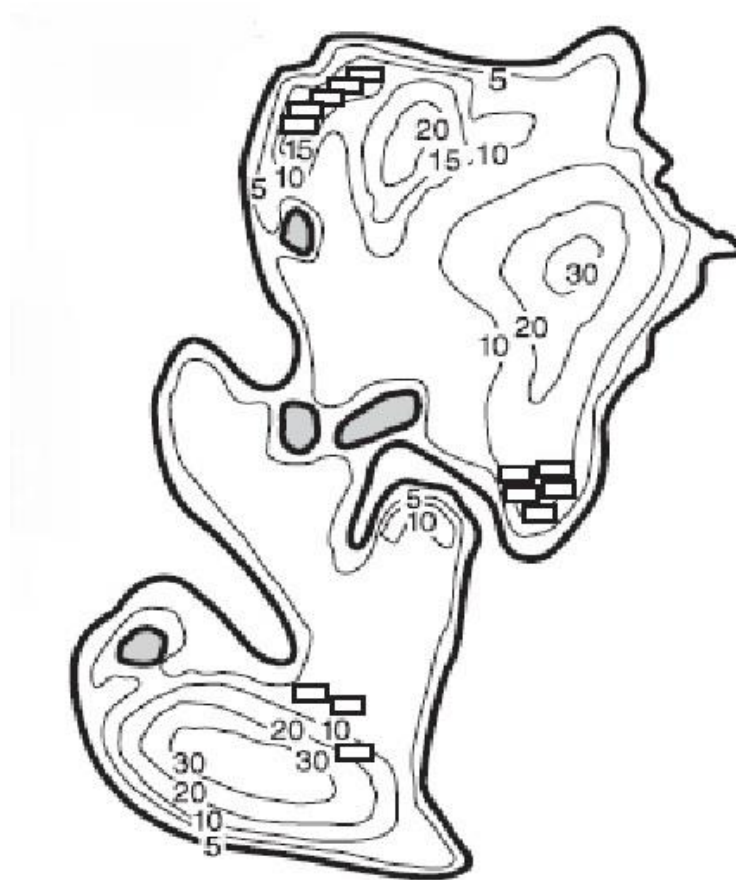
BLUEGILL (and Other Panfish) – Bluegill catch was low at 76 fish per hour. This catch rate has been close to the management goal of 120 fish per hour during the last two surveys (176 in 2012 and 140 in 2016). The Bluegill ranged in size from 2.0 to 7.4 inches with the average size Bluegill measuring 5.4 inches. Forty percent of the Bluegills sampled were longer than 6 inches. Black Crappie over 13 inches and Redear Sunfish over 10 inches have been captured in previous survey. Crappie catch in Bass Lake has fluctuated from 0 to over 50 fish per hour in Spring surveys! Pumpkinseed are also present in Bass Lake.

CHANNEL CATFISH – No Channel Catfish were captured during the survey. This lake receives regular stockings of Channel Catfish so they are much more abundant than this survey would suggest.

ADDITIONAL FISH SPECIES – Northern Pike were not captured in this survey but pike over 25 inches have been caught in Bass Lake. Pike have been stocked in four of the last ten years. Flathead Catfish are also present in Bass Lake including a very large 39-pound specimen caught in this survey. Gizzard Shad, Green Sunfish, Orange-Spotted Sunfish, White Sucker and Yellow Bullheads have also caught in the Bass Lake.

Bass Lake Survey – June 9th, 20 – 45 Minutes of D.C. Electrofishing

Species	Number Collected	Length (Inches)			Weight (pounds)	
		Min	Max	Avg.	Min	Max
Largemouth Bass	88	5.1	21.7	10.5	0.1	4.8
Bluegill	57	2.0	7.4	5.4		0.2
Redear Sunfish	20	3.5	8.8	7.0	0.1	0.4
Common Carp	12	16.5	29.1	22.8		
Flathead Catfish	3	36.4	44.5	39.3	19.0	39.2
Golden Shiner	1	5.9	5.9	5.9		
Total # fish collected	181					



FISHING REGULATIONS
All Species - Two pole and line fishing only.
Largemouth Bass* – 14-18-inch protected slot limit; 4 fish daily creel limit with 3 fish that can be harvested under 14 inches and 1 fish 18 inches and larger. Bass Lake was previously a one fish over 18 inch limit.
Bluegill* – No minimum length limit; 25 fish daily creel limit
Channel Catfish – 12-inch minimum length limit; 3 fish daily creel limit.
White and Black Crappie* – No minimum length limit; 15 fish daily creel limit.
Northern Pike – 24-inch minimum length limit; 3 fish daily creel limit (statewide regulation).
 *Indicates new in 2017

This map courtesy of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County - "Fishing in Dupage County"

-For more information or if you have questions call the District’s Fisheries Ecologist Dan Grigas at (630) 933-7668 or IDNR Fisheries at (815) 675-2386 ext. 214 or go to: www.dupageforest.com

-For general information on fishing in Illinois visit the IDNR Fisheries Division at: www.ifishillinois.org AND purchase your fishing license online at: www.dnr.illinois.gov