

WELDON SPRINGS STATE PARK

LAKE STATUS SUMMARY

LOCATION: Weldon Springs Lake is located 3 miles southeast of Clinton in DeWitt County.

DESCRIPTION: Weldon Springs is a fertile 29-acre lake that was built in 1936. The lake has a maximum depth of 38 feet and an average depth of 10.3 feet. There is one boat launch and motors are restricted to electric only. Anglers will find bait, tackle, fishing boats and paddle boats available at the concession. The traditional Class A campground has 75 campsites with electricity, vehicular access, sanitary dumping station, shower building, cooking grills, picnic tables, pit toilets, playground equipment, and water hydrants throughout the campground. Weldon Springs' campground is open year-round; the shower building closes in the fall and reopens in the spring. Areas for tent, backpack, large group and youth camping are also available. Primitive backpack campsites are located along Salt Creek.

STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY: The sport fishery in Weldon Springs has been managed since 1938. The lake receives stockings of Channel Catfish, Saugeye, and Rainbow Trout. The following information is a summary of the major sport fisheries based on periodic fish population surveys.

Largemouth Bass – This lake provides an excellent opportunity to catch a nice Largemouth Bass. The catch rate for the most recent electrofishing survey resulted in a catch rate of 165 bass per hour. Of the bass 8 inches and longer that were collected, 89% were longer than 12 inches, 39% longer than 15 inches.

Bluegill – Weldon Springs has a quality Bluegill fishery. Of the Bluegill collected over 3 inches, approximately 30% were over 6 inches and 3% over 8 inches.

Redear Sunfish – There are good numbers and sizes of Redear Sunfish. In the most recent fish survey, approximately 72% of the Redear Sunfish collected were larger than 7 inches and 44% were larger than 9 inches.

Black Crappie – All Black Crappie collected in the 2023 survey were less than 8 inches but should provide a quality fishing in 2024. There were two strong year classes represented in the survey. There is no crappie regulation at Weldon Springs.

Channel Catfish - Each year Weldon Springs is stocked with 8-inch Channel Catfish. Anglers should expect to catch catfish in the 16 to 25-inch range. With the stocking program, the catfish population should continue to provide great angling opportunities for Channel Catfish.

Saugeye – Weldon Springs has been stocked annually with fingerling Saugeye since 2010. The most recent spring electrofishing survey resulted in the collection of 27 Saugeye ranging in size from 9 inches to 27 inches. The largest Saugeye weighed 9.2 pounds.

Rainbow Trout – Weldon Springs is stocked with Rainbow Trout in the spring and fall as part of the Catchable Trout Program. Spring catchable trout season opens at 5 a.m. on the first Saturday of April and the fall catchable trout season opens at 5 a.m. on the 3rd Saturday of October. To legally harvest Rainbow Trout from any waters which receive catchable trout or hatchery stockings of trout, licensed sport fishermen must have an inland trout stamp, unless they are under 16 years of age, blind or disabled, or Illinois residents on leave from the Armed Forces. A daily limit of five trout per angler is enforced.

FISHING REGULATIONS: 2 Pole and Line Fishing Only.

SPECIES	MINIMUM LENGTH LIMIT	DAILY CREEL LIMIT
Largemouth Bass	15 Inches	1
Channel Catfish	None	6
Saugeye	15 Inches; only 1 over 20 Inches	3
Rainbow Trout	None	5
Bluegill or Redear Sunfish	15 Fish Daily Harvest Limit with no more 5 Fish greater than or equal to 7 inches	

Electric Motor Only

For other species, statewide regulations are in effect. For further regulation information, please consult the current Illinois Fishing Regulation Booklet or visit the iFishIllinois web page at <https://www.ifishillinois.org/>.

