



# BUSSE LAKE

## FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF COOK COUNTY

### FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

**LOCATION** – Located south of Higgins Rd, east of Route 53 near Elk Grove Village, Illinois.

**DESCRIPTION** – Busse Lake is 457 acres (Main Pool 325 acres, South Pool 115 acres, North Pool 17 acres); maximum depth 19 feet; average depth 5.5 feet. The lake was created in 1978 when Salt Creek was dug and dammed. The Main Pool and South Pool are deeper lakes that support excellent sport fish populations. The North Pool is an isolated lake and provides more of a small pond fishery. It is stocked in the fall with Rainbow trout. Fishing piers, handicap access, boat/kayak rentals, live bait/tackle are available throughout the summer from a concessionaire, concrete boat launches are available in the two larger impoundments and a paved bike path with numerous parking areas makes accessing the lakes very easy. Boats with electric motors are allowed however gas motors must be removed. No fish cleaning station is available.

**MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES:** Supplemental surveys to assess muskie growth, relocate muskie and walleye from below the spillway, and to collect samples requested by IEPA to update consumption advisories occur regularly. Fish surveys evaluating the overall fishery are regularly undertaken by either IDNR or FPDCC Fisheries Staff.

**STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY** – Muskie stockings began in the Main Pool in 2007; 100 of the original 840 fingerlings were implanted with Passive Integrated Transponder (PIT) tags to track growth over time, in a separate project the FPDCC has implanted several radio transmitters into fish to track movement; the system receives biennial stockings of 800 – 12” muskie fingerlings (Main Pool), northern pike stockings were stopped in 2017 due to hatchery production cuts, 4500 – 8” channel catfish, and 20,000 – 2” walleye. Below is a brief description of catchable game species in this water body.

**LARGEMOUTH BASS** – Bass were collected in the Main Pool at a rate of 0.73 fish/minute compared to 0.38 fish/minute in the South Pool but fish from the South Pool were slightly larger with several fish over 18” in the sample. For the lake as a whole, 83% of the sample exceeded 12”, 33% exceeded the legal length limit of 15”, and 8% were at least 18” long. The population appears to be stable and anglers targeting bass should be very happy.

**MUSKELLUNGE** – In 2017, 96 muskie were “rescued” below the spillway and returned to the boat launch in the Main Pool; fish ranged in length from 23” to 42” long; to date the longest muskie measured by IDNR/County Biologists was 42” long.

**WALLEYE** – During 2015 we weighed and measured over 62 walleye during sampling and “rescue” operations; fish ranged from 13.5” and 26” long. Seventy nine percent of those fish were longer than the 18” (the legal limit) and 45% exceeded 20” long so fishermen targeting walleye should be very happy!

**BLUEGILL** – In 2013, survey data indicated bluegills approached 7.5” but did not exceed that length. The increased predation by muskie and the abundant walleye and bass populations should help “contain” bluegill so that over time their maximum size improves. Bluegill abundance is good but their maximum size could use some improvement and that takes time.

**BLACK CRAPPIE** – In 2013, crappie ranged from 5.8” to 10.9” long. Most crappie are slightly less than 9” long but a few larger fish are present. Catching larger fish is dependent on finding suitable structure and

fishing for them seasonally. As predator abundance and sizes increase, the crappie population should respond like mentioned above with bluegills.

**CHANNEL CATFISH** – Catfish are stocked annually at 8” to 10” long to supplement sport fishing opportunities; fish up to 24” and 5.5 lbs. were recently collected suggesting fishermen targeting them should be in for a fight.

**ADDITIONAL FISH SPECIES:** Approximately 19 species live in this system including: the above mentioned and green sunfish, pumpkinseed sunfish, orange spot sunfish, white crappie, yellow perch, yellow bass, northern pike, black and yellow bullhead, common carp, golden shiners, white suckers and gizzard shad.

**FISHING REGULATIONS –**

Species	Daily Limit	Length Limit
Largemouth bass	6	14”
Walleye	6	18”
Muskie	1	36”
<b>(Quick Set Rig for bait over 8” long)</b>		
Northern Pike	3	24”
Channel Catfish	6	None
Bluegill/Sunfish	15	None
Crappie	15	None

**Two Pole and Line Only**

(For specific details -Illinois Fishing Information Booklet or IFISHILLINOIS website: <http://www.ifishillinois.org/>).

**ADDITIONAL SITE SPECIFIC REGULATIONS:**

Boaters – Electric Trolling motor only (no gas motors attached)

**CONTACT INFORMATION –** Forest Preserve District of Cook County – Fisheries: 708/403-6951.  
IDNR – District Fisheries Biologist: 815/675-2319.

**Busse Lake Map**

