



Catfish Pond

2023 FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

LOCATION – Catfish Pond is located in DuPage County at the Pratt’s Wayne Woods Forest Preserve. Parking is available off Powis Road, one mile south of Stearns Road in Wayne. Catfish Pond is northwest of the main lake (Pickerel Lake).

DESCRIPTION – Catfish Pond is a 5 acre gravel pit with a maximum depth of 16 feet and an average depth of 7 feet. Catfish pond is one of 30 lakes and ponds owned and maintained for sport fishing by the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County (FPDDC). There is good shoreline fishing access available close to the north parking area via a gravel trail around the lake. No watercraft allowed.

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES: These waters have been under management by the FPDDC Fishery Biologist 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. Largemouth Bass and Channel Catfish are occasionally stocked to supplement the population. Northern Pike and Redear Sunfish have been stocked in the past. Site specific regulations apply (see reverse side). A fish survey was conducted on April 24th, 2023.

STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY – Abundant largemouth bass should offer anglers plenty of action in this “easy to access” pond. Bluegill, Black Crappie, Redear Sunfish, Channel Catfish and Northern Pike are also present. Several riverine species (see additional species) are present in this lake due to connectivity with Brewster Creek during flood events. Easy access and proximity to the parking area make this a family friendly fishing spot! This pond has consistently supported an abundant Largemouth Bass population over the last decade.

LARGEMOUTH BASS – Largemouth bass were captured at a rate of 129 fish per hour. This rate is higher than the management goal of 60 fish per hour, and higher than it has been in the previous three surveys. Bass ranged in size from 3.9 to 17.76 inches, the largest weighing 3.2 pounds. The average length bass in the sample was 10.0 inches. A good proportion of the sample, 28% was longer than 15 inches. Catfish Pond offers anglers a good shot at a quality outing.

BLUEGILL – Bluegill catch rate was quite low at only 81 fish per hour. This is most likely due to the timing of the survey or the steep sided morphology of this pond which makes bluegill difficult to catch via electrofishing. Bluegill ranged in size from 1.2 to 6.4 inches, with an average length of 4.0 inches. Only four percent of the catch was longer than six inches.

BLACK CRAPPIE – Black Crappie were not present in this survey. We caught 26 Crappie in the 2015 survey. Black Crappies tend to be very cyclical in their population numbers. We typically don’t manage for or stock Crappies in small ponds as they can become over-abundant and compete with young of year Largemouth Bass.

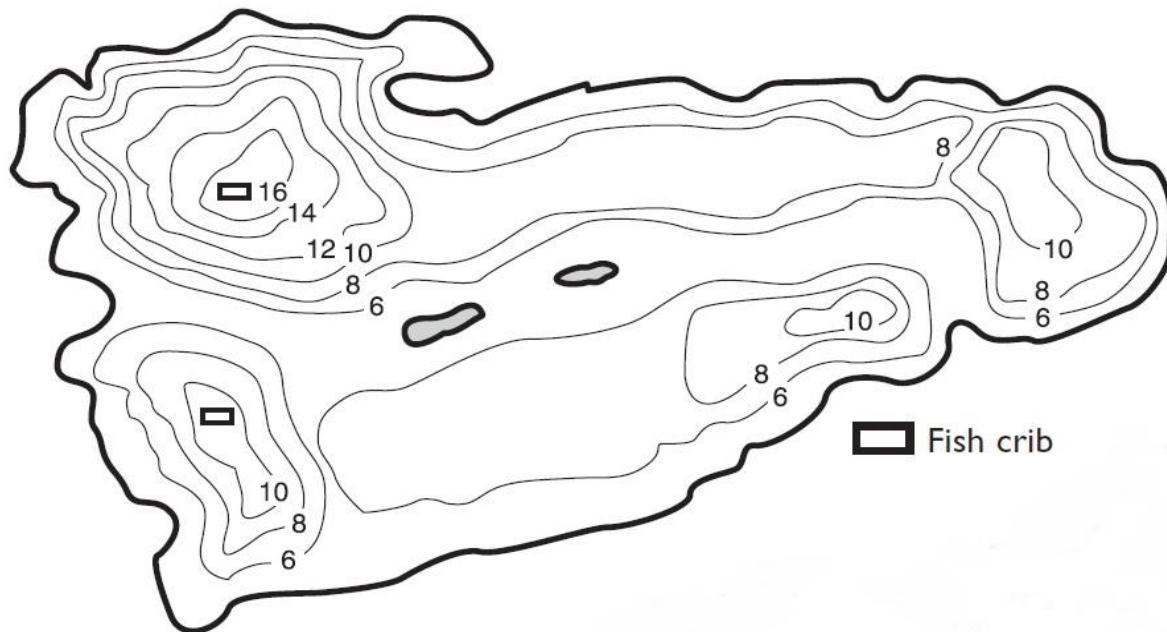
REDEAR SUNFISH – Redear Sunfish catch was higher than the previous survey but not as high as it was in 2015. Fifteen were captured ranging in length from 1.6 to 9.6 inches.

CHANNEL CATFISH – Channel Catfish have been stocked at this location but they were not present in our 2023 survey.

NORTHERN PIKE – This pond has been stocked with Northern Pike twice in the last 12 years (2012 and 2013). Fish over 24 inches have been captured in previous surveys. If any Pike are remaining in Catfish Pond, they are quite large.

ADDITIONAL FISH SPECIES: Common Carp, Fathead Minnow, Golden Shiner, Grass Pickerel, Pumpkinseed, and Yellow Bullhead also occur in this Pond.

Results from the Catfish Pond survey on April 28th, 2023 - 30 minutes of DC electrofishing



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

Species	Number Collected	Length (Inches)			Weight (pounds)	
		Min	Max	Avg.	Min	Max
Largemouth Bass	54	3.94	17.76	9.99	0.07	3.22
Bluegill	35	1.18	6.38	4.00	0.04	0.16
Bluntnose Minnow	22	1.97	3.23	2.64		
Redear Sunfish	15	1.57	9.61	6.60	0.07	0.55
Yellow Bullhead	1	11.81	11.81	11.81	0.88	0.88
Golden Shiner	1	3.94	3.94	3.94		
Central Mudminnow	1	2.01	2.01	2.01		
Grass Pickerel	1	8.23	8.23	8.23	0.13	0.13
Grand Total	130					

-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

District Wide Sportfishing Regulations - *new in 2017
 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 longer than 18 inches.
 ***Bluegill** – No minimum length limit; 25 fish daily creel limit.
 ***White and black crappie** – No minimum length limit; 15 fish daily creel limit.
 ***Yellow perch** – 9-inch minimum length limit; 5 fish daily creel limit.
Northern pike – 24-inch minimum length limit; 3 fish daily creel limit (statewide regulation).
Channel catfish – 12-inch minimum length limit; 3 fish daily creel limit.