



Mays Lake

2020 FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

LOCATION – Mays Lake is located in the Mayslake Forest Preserve (Peabody Estate). The preserve is located in Oak Brook, south of 31st St. Mays Lake is accessible from a parking lot off St. Paschal's Drive, 0.5 miles south of 31st Street.

DESCRIPTION – Mays Lake is a 9.5 acre dug pond with a maximum depth of 15 feet and an average depth of 8 feet. Mays Lake is one of 30 lakes and ponds owned and maintained for sport fishing by the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County (FPDDC). The District owns about 8 acres of Mays Lake. There is a 75 yard gravel trail from the parking lot that leads to fishing access. There is shoreline fishing access available on the north and east sides of the lake.

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES: These waters have been under management by 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. Largemouth bass and channel catfish are occasionally stocked to supplement the population. Site specific regulations apply (see reverse side). ***New sportfishing regulations for all DuPage County Forest Preserve lakes and ponds went into effect April 1st, 2017 – most notable being a 14-18 inch protected slot length for largemouth bass. Anglers will be allowed to harvest three bass under 14 inches and one trophy (over 18 inches), if desired. This regulation is designed to increase numbers of preferred size bass as well as increase the size of bluegill (more large bass to feed on small bluegill).** A 25-minute electrofishing survey of Mays Lake took place on June 4th, 2020.

STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY – The Largemouth Bass and Bluegill have rebounded from a 2014 winterkill. The last survey in 2016 showed a more abundant bass population with a good proportion of large fish (over 15 inches). Bluegill abundance is down to a healthy level and plenty of fish over six inches were present. The 2020 survey mirrored the 2016 in many ways but numbers of bass over 15 inches are down.

LARGEMOUTH BASS – In our 2020 electrofishing survey, seventy-nine Largemouth Bass were caught in 25 minutes of shocking (188 fish per hour). This rate is higher than the management goal of 60 fish per hour that we see in a healthy bass population but not high enough to cause concern. The bass in the sample ranged in length from 4.2 to 19.1 inches with an average length of 10.6 inches. Mays Lake had a fair proportion of adult bass with 18% of the sample measuring longer than 12 inches, with only five percent longer than 15 inches. Overall, the bass population showed signs of trending toward a stunted population. Anglers are encouraged to harvest smaller bass (less than 14 inches) on occasion to keep numbers from getting too high.

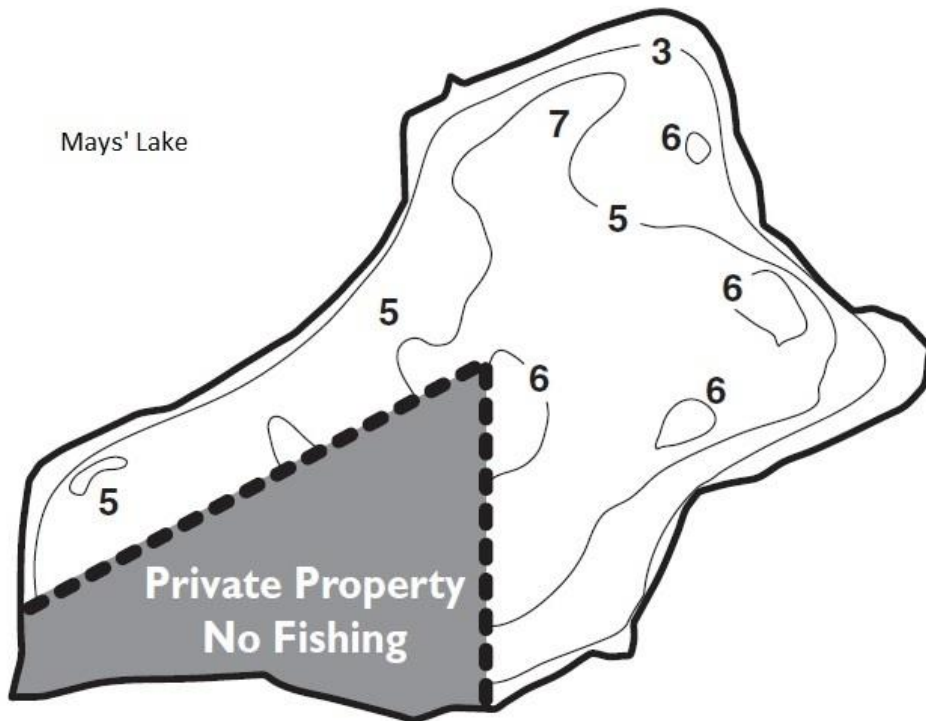
BLUEGILL – Bluegill catch rate was high at 169 fish per hour. This is higher than the management goal of 120 fish per hour, but Bluegills were in good condition and not stunted. Bluegills ranged in size from 3.4 to 6.9 inches, with an average size of 5.7 inches. Forty-five percent of the Bluegills in the sample measured longer than six inches.

CHANNEL CATFISH – Channel catfish are stocked in Mays Lake but eluded our electrofishing gear. Channel catfish stocking has occurred in 2012 and 2016 and is due for stocking again in the next year or two.

ADDITIONAL FISH SPECIES – Black Crappie were present in the sample but are not stocked in Mays Lake. Hybrid Sunfish and Green Sunfish were present in previous surveys of Mays Lake.

Summary of the Survey of Mays Lake on June 4th, 2020 – 20 Minutes DC Electrofishing

Species	Number Collected	Length (Inches)			Weight (pounds)	
		Min	Max	Avg.	Min	Max
Largemouth Bass	79	4.2	19.1	10.6	0.2	3.9
Bluegill	71	2.8	6.7	5.6	0.03	0.2
Black Crappie	2	8.2	9.1	8.7	0.3	0.5
Channel Catfish	1	23.7	23.7	23.7	5.0	5.0
Total # Fish Collected	153					



Site Specific Regulations

Largemouth bass – 14-18 protected slot limit. Four fish possession limit. Three fish under 14 inches. One fish over 18 inches.

Channel catfish – 6 fish per day, 12 inch minimum length limit.

Crappie – 15 fish per day, no minimum length limit

Bluegill and Redear Sunfish – 25 fish daily harvest limit.

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