

LAKE OF THE WOODS

LAKE STATUS SUMMARY



Description: Lake of the Woods is operated by the Champaign County Forest Preserve District. The lake is located 1 mile northeast of Mahomet. The lake is 25.5 acres and was constructed in 1945. The lake has a maximum depth of 28 feet and an average depth of 11.2 feet.

Status of the Sport Fishery: The lake currently 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: Based on the most recent fish survey, the bass population at Lake of the Woods has a good distribution of bass sizes. Of the bass collected over 8 inches, 36% are longer than 12 inches and 25% are longer than 15 inches. In 2019, the catch rate of bass over 15 inches was the highest ever recorded. The largest bass collected weighed 4.8 pounds.

BLUEGILL: The most recent fish survey resulted in a large increase in bluegill over 6 inches. The catch rate of bluegill over 6 inches was more than twice the 5-survey average.

CHANNEL CATFISH: The State Hatchery System stocks channel catfish in Lake of the Woods each year. The stocking program has created a good catfish fishery. Anglers have a good chance to harvest catfish in the 1 pound range.

CRAPPIE: The crappie fishery can experience large swings in numbers and appears to be on the high end now. The majority of crappie collected are black crappie and are less than 10 inches.

SAUGEYE/WALLEYE: The State Hatchery System started stocking saugeye in 2016 and the Champaign County Forest Preserve stocked walleye in 2018. The numbers of both species are relatively low, but should provide a good angling opportunity.

FISHING REGULATIONS: 2 Pole and Line Fishing Only

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>LENGTH LIMIT</u>	<u>DAILY CREEL LIMIT</u>
Largemouth Bass	15 Inches	1
Channel Catfish	None	6
Saugeye/Walleye	14 Inches	6
Bluegill/Redear Sunfish	No more than 5 fish greater than or equal to 7 inches; unlimited daily harvest limit for fish less than 7 inches.	

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/>.

For more information regarding Lake of the Woods and the Champaign County Forest Preserve District:
217-586-4630