



BECK LAKE

FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF COOK COUNTY

FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

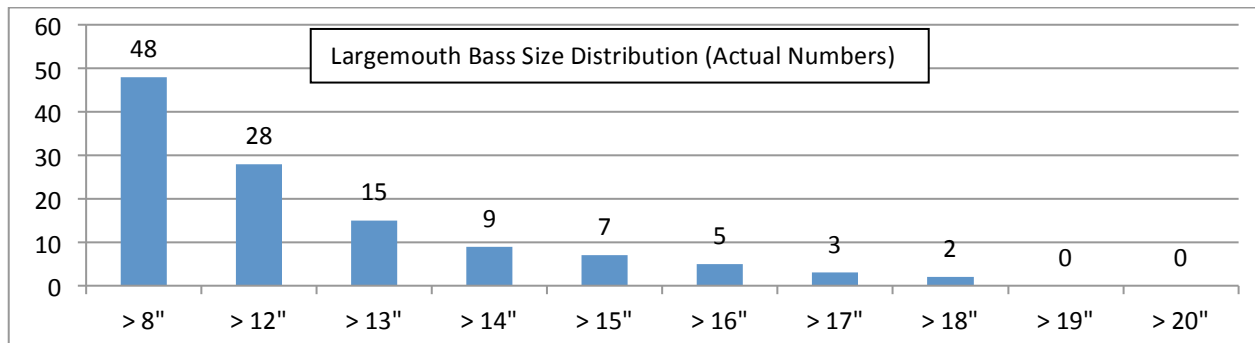
LOCATION – Located on in Cook County, on Central Road between River Road and the Tri-State Tollway (US294) in Des Plaines, IL.

DESCRIPTION – Beck Lake is 37 acres; shoreline length 6000 ft; maximum depth 19 feet; average depth approx. 12 feet. The lake was created in 1958, as a borrow pit for expressway construction; it has good depth and vegetation in summer creating good fish habitat. Beck Lake has ample shorefishing access, a concrete boat ramp (no gas motors can be attached boat, electric motor only), kayaks and canoes are common but no concessions are available for rentals or bait. Parking, picnic, picnic tables and porta-potty outhouses are provided amenities. No fish cleaning station is available.

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES: Occasional fish surveys, by IDNR or FPDC Fisheries Staff, are conducted to evaluate the fishery. Northern pike have been stocked to diversify the fishery, most other species are maintained through natural reproduction. FPDC Staff treat nuisance levels of rooted aquatic vegetation with herbicides on an as needed basis.

STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY – Below is a brief description of catchable game species in this water body.

LARGEMOUTH BASS – Fifty four bass were collected in 30 minutes of DC electrofishing for a catch rate of 1.8/minute. This was above the goal of 1.0/minute. The maximum size fish collected was 18.7”; 52% were > 12”, 16% were > 14”, and 12.5% were > 15” and legal size. The population was balanced between mature and immature fish, anglers should be happy with their fishing results if they spend some time fishing Beck Lake.



Northern Pike – Northern pike are occasionally stocked; one 23” fish was collected; northern pike add to the diversity of the predator base and help balance the lakes overall fishery.

BLUEGILL – No bluegills exceeded 8 inches long but several approached 8” long. Fishermen probably influence the maximum size bluegill can grow in Beck Lake since they have access to nearly the entire shoreline.

ADDITIONAL FISH SPECIES: Shown in the below table:

(30 minutes DC electrofishing)

Species	Number	Relative Abundance (%)	Minimum (inches)	Average (inches)	Maximum (inches)
LARGEMOUTH BASS	56	36.4	6.5	11.8	18.7
BLUEGILL	34	22.1	1.6	5.7	7.6
BLACK CRAPPIE	35	22.7	1.4	6.6	9.8
BLACKSTRIPED TOPMINNOW	6	3.9	1.5	2.3	3.3
YELLOW BULLHEAD	5	3.2	7.6	9.8	12
PUMPKINSEED SUNFISH	5	3.2	5	5.7	6.2
COMMON CARP*	4	2.6	12.9	15	17.5
WARMOUTH	4	2.6	3.3	5.3	7.4
GOLDEN SHINER	1	0.6		6.5	
BLACK BULLHEAD	1	0.6		11.6	
NORTHERN PIKE	1	0.6		23	
BLUEGILL HYBRID	1	0.6		2.8	
WHITE SUCKER	1	0.6		16.8	
SPECIES = 13 TOTAL =	154	100.0			

FISHING REGULATIONS

Species	Daily Limit	Length Limit
Largemouth bass	6	14"
Walleye	6	18"
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:

Electric motors only (no gas motors attached)

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

Beck Lake Map

