



Mud Lake

2021 FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

LOCATION – Mud Lake is located in the McDowell Grove Forest Preserve. Parking is available off Raymond Drive a half mile south Diehl Road in Naperville.

DESCRIPTION – Mud Lake is a 22 acre borrow pit with a maximum depth of 16 feet and an average depth of 5 feet. A 1.0-mi. walk on a gravel trail from the parking lot to the lake helps to limit fishing pressure at this site. Mud Lake 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 via a gravel trail around half of the lake. No watercraft allowed.

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES: In 1984, the FPDDC entered into a cooperative management agreement with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to facilitate management activities on their lakes and ponds. These waters have been under management by the FPDDC Fishery Ecologist and IDNR to provide quality sport fishing opportunities. Largemouth Bass and Channel Catfish are occasionally stocked to supplement the population. New site-specific regulations for all FPDDC waters were put in place in 2017 (see reverse side).

STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY – Abundant Largemouth Bass and Bluegill should offer anglers plenty of action in this “off the beaten path” fishery. Some very large bass have been caught in this lake! Yellow Perch, Black Crappie and Channel Catfish are present but not abundant. Several riverine species (see additional species) are present in this lake due to connectivity with the DuPage River during flood events.

LARGEMOUTH BASS – In our 2021 electrofishing survey, the catch rate for Largemouth Bass was 73 fish per hour, which is lower than during the previous survey but still excellent. This abundant population shows no signs of stunting as the fish ranged in length from 5.2 to 20.5 inches, with the heaviest fish weighing 5.0 pounds. Twenty-eight percent of the sample measured longer than 15 inches. This fishery continues to produce quality Largemouth Bass year after year!

BLUEGILL – As in previous years, the Bluegill catch rate was high at over 300 fish per hour. Bluegill abundance this high often leads to overcrowding, stunting or less than desirable-length fish. The Bluegill in the sample ranged in length from 1.5 to 7.1 inches, with an average length of 4.9 inches. Twenty-six percent of the Bluegill sampled were longer than six inches. Size structure was similar to the 2017 survey when 28% of the sample was longer than six inches. Pumpkinseed are also present in Mud Lake, but are few and far between.

CHANNEL CATFISH – No Channel Catfish were caught in this survey. Channel Catfish were last stocked in 2013, so the Channel Catfish in Mud Lake will be quite large. The last time Channel Catfish were sampled in Mud Lake (2017), the smallest fish was over 22 inches, and the largest was over 26 inches.

BLACK CRAPPIE – Eighteen Black Crappie were caught in the 2021 survey, ranging in length from 4.4 to 11.4 inches. This Lake is another example of fluctuating abundance of Black Crappie in a short time. The previous survey in 2017 collected only three Black Crappie, the largest measuring 9.2 inches. This lake is not stocked with or managed for crappie at this time. Small lakes in the area tend to show large fluctuations in crappie catch and can overpopulate a lake easily without the proper predator balance.

COMMON CARP – Common Carp are abundant in Mud Lake. Fourteen Common Carp were collected, ranging in length from 16.6 to 23.8 inches. Common carp dislodge vegetation and cloud the water with their feeding behavior of “rooting” through the substrate. Unlimited harvest is encouraged for this detrimental species.

ADDITIONAL FISH SPECIES: Gizzard shad, Black and Yellow Bullhead, White Sucker, Golden Shiner, Yellow Bass and Green Sunfish were also caught in the survey. Yellow Perch were present in the 2017 sample.

2021 Mud Lake Electrofishing Survey Results – 60 minutes DC electrofishing – April 29th, 2021

Species	Number Collected	Length (Inches)			Weight (pounds)	
		Min	Max	Avg.	Min	Max
Largemouth Bass	73	5.2	20.5	12.7	0.09	5.00
Bluegill	52	1.5	7.1	4.9	0.03	0.27
Black Crappie	18	4.4	11.4	7.7	0.04	0.78
Gizzard Shad	16	14.0	15.1	14.5		
Common Carp	14	16.6	23.8	20.2		
Yellow Bass	11	6.5	7.9	7.0	0.13	0.22
White Sucker	5	11.0	13.6	12.3	0.70	1.00
Black Bullhead	3	10.4	11.2	10.7	0.62	0.72
Redear Sunfish	3	4.4	6.4	5.7	0.06	0.19
Yellow Bullhead	1	8.9	8.9	8.9	0.39	0.39
Bluegill x Green Sunfish	1	6.3	6.3	6.3	0.16	0.16
Golden Shiner	1	6.9	6.9	6.9		

Grand Total 198

List of site-specific regulations for all FPDDC lakes and ponds:

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 18 inches and larger.

*Bluegill – No minimum length limit; 25 fish daily creel limit

Channel Catfish – 12-inch minimum length limit; 3 fish daily creel limit.

*White and black crappie – No minimum length limit; 15 fish daily creel limit.

Northern pike – 24-inch minimum length limit; 3 fish daily creel limit (statewide regulation).

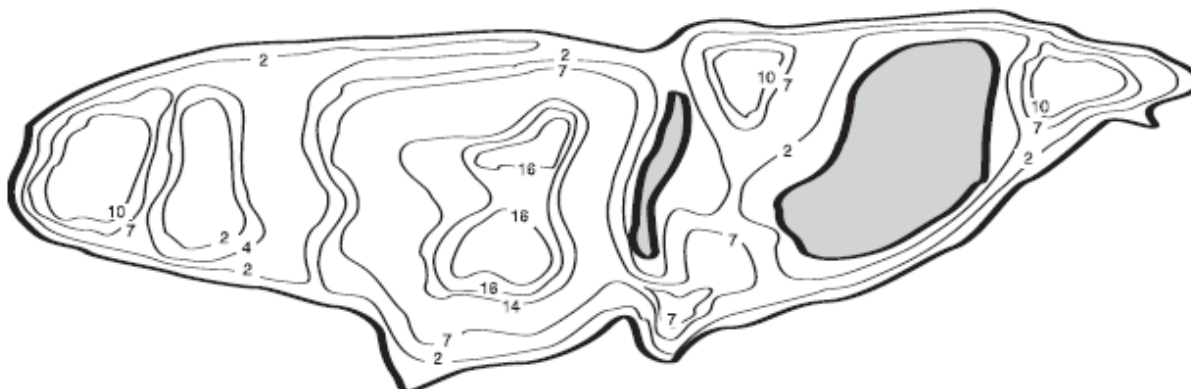
* indicates new in 2017

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Parking lot on Raymond Drive 0.5 mile south of Diehl Road in Naperville. Strenuous 1-mile walk on gravel trail north to lake.

Acres: 22



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

-For more information call the District at (630) 933-7200 or IDNR Fisheries at (815) 675-2386 ext. 214

-For more information on fishing in Illinois go to: www.ifishillinois.org

-To purchase you fishing license online go to: www.dnr.illinois.gov