

McCULLOM LAKE
CITY OF McHENRY
IDNR FISHERIES FACT SHEET

This northeastern Illinois lake is located at the northwest edge of McHenry off of McCullom Lake Road. It is a relatively shallow, 244-acre glacial lake maintained by a 4-ft. dam. Shoreline access is available at several small parks, including the City of McHenry's Peterson Park located at the lake's west end. Petersen Park also has a handicap-accessible fishing pier that is available spring through fall. A small, undeveloped boat launch on the lake's south shore provides boat access. The lake is managed under a cooperative management agreement with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. This fact sheet provides information to help familiarize visitors with the lake, its fishery, and associated site regulations.

Location: In McHenry County at the northwest edge of the City of McHenry off of McCullom Lake Road between Illinois Routes 31 and 47.

Status of the Sport Fishery: Status of the fishery is based on IDNR surveys from fall 2006 and spring 2007. In addition to the species listed below, the lake contains golden shiner, yellow perch, yellow bass, common carp, white sucker, and pumpkinseed.

Largemouth bass – A healthy largemouth bass population made up of fish from a variety of size and age classes currently exists in the lake. Sixty minutes of electrofishing during fall 2006 yielded 35 bass that ranged in size from young-of-year ($N = 17$) to 19 in. (up to 4.6 lbs.). Nearly 35% of the sampled bass over eight inches long were larger than the posted 15 in. minimum size limit.

Northern pike – Consistent stocking has resulted in a strong northern pike population in McCullom Lake. We caught 167 pike in six trap-net nights of sampling (28 pike/net-night) during spring 2007. Thirty-six percent of the pike collected in 2007 were of legal size (24 inches), and the largest fish measured 32 in. long and weighed 10.1 lbs. About 725 hatchery-raised pike fingerlings (9 in. long) are stocked annually to maintain the population.

Bluegill – Numbers of bluegill in the lake have remained relatively consistent over the years. Sampling in fall 2006 indicated improved population size structure (PSD = 36%) compared to the 2004 sample (PSD = 12%). However, harvestable-sized bluegills over 7 in. long were absent from the 2006 survey.

Black crappie – The population of this desirable species has been increasing in abundance. We caught 126 crappie this past fall compared to 18 (2004) or fewer fish in past years. Size structure has remained similar over time with most crappie between 6 and 10 in. long.

Channel catfish – The channel catfish population is maintained through the annual stocking of about 2,400 large catfish fingerlings (8 in. long). Stocking has been very successful in this lake. In fall 2006, we caught 49 catfish that ranged in size from 12 to 24 in. long. Sampled fish were up to 5.0 lbs., but local anglers report larger fish being caught.

This lake is shallow and lacking in good structure that concentrates fish. Try targeting the lily pads on the north and west end of the lake, the overhanging trees on the northeast end, or any submerged logs or deadfalls where the water is deep enough to hold fish. Ice fishing is very popular here, in part, because of improved access on the ice. There is an aerator that runs periodically during winter so beware of open water and areas of thin ice.

Fishing Regulations for McCullom Lake: Anglers may use no more than two lines or poles when fishing at McCullom Lake. Site-specific regulations are given below; statewide regulations are in effect for other species.

| Species | Daily Limit | Length limit |
|-----------------|-------------|--------------|
| Largemouth bass | 1 | 15 inches |
| Bluegill | 25 | None |
| Channel catfish | 6 | None |

A 9.9 horsepower limit is enforced for power boats.

For Further Information Contact:

Pete Mercel, Director
McHenry Parks and Recreation
333 South Green Street
McHenry, Illinois 60050

McCullom Lake

| McHenry County McCullom Lake |
|---|
| NW edge of McHenry off McCullom Lake Road T45N R8E S21, 22, 27, 28 Owned by: Multiple including The City of McHenry |
| Surface Area (acres): 245.0 Maximum Depth (ft.): 9.5 Average Depth (ft.): 4.0 Volume (acre-feet): 1,298.5 Shoreline Length (mi.): 2.9 |

