



SILVER SPRINGS

STATE FISH and WILDLIFE AREA

FISHERIES FACT SHEET

The state of Illinois purchased the original 1,250 acres that comprise Silver Springs State Fish and Wildlife Area in 1969, with additional land purchases bringing the present total acreage to 1,314. A number of old gravel pits at the site, which range in size from less than one acre to 22 acres, coupled with more than 4 miles of Fox River frontage, provide excellent and diverse angling opportunities. Rob Roy Creek, which is a stream of significance, flows through the northeastern part of the park ultimately emptying into the Fox River.

LOCATION: Silver Springs is located in Kendall County, 5 miles west of Yorkville on Fox Road.

DESCRIPTION: All seven of the gravel pits at this state site contain a variety of warm-water fish species, while the two largest, Beaver Lake (4.5 acres) and Big Lake, also known as Loon Lake (22.0 acres), are intensively managed and will provide the most consistent action. Beaver Lake has a maximum depth of 14 feet and averages 8 feet, while Big Lake contains a maximum depth of 20 feet and averages 11.8 feet. A concession stand located at the park provides paddle boat rental, bait, food and drinks. A gravel boat ramp is available at Big Lake, with boats restricted to trolling motors only. A concrete boat ramp on the Fox River is present as well.

STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY: The fisheries of both Beaver and Big Lakes are dominated by largemouth bass and bluegill. Angling on Big Lake can be difficult due to the high water clarity - light lines and overcast skies with a slight breeze will increase success. Big Lake receives annual stockings of channel catfish as well as catchable-size rainbow trout both spring and fall. The diminutive Kids Fishing Pond is stocked with catchable-size hybrid sunfish in conjunction with annual National Hunting and Fishing Days events. The stretch of the Fox River which runs through the park provides excellent opportunity for channel and flathead catfish, smallmouth bass, walleye and muskellunge.

Largemouth Bass - The 2007 IDNR fish population surveys indicated good largemouth bass populations present on both Beaver and Big Lakes. Smaller fish are prevalent, as suggested by the fact that just 6% of bass sampled from Big Lake in 2007 which were adults (at least 8 inches) were of legal size. Smallmouth bass are present in Big Lake in lower density.

Bluegill - This population could be classified as fair at best, generally dominated by smaller individuals; very few bluegills which exceeded 6 inches were collected during fall sampling in 2007. Larger bluegills are more commonly caught by ice fishermen. Redear sunfish in excess of 10 inches have been collected in IDNR sampling.

Crappie - Although both species of crappie are present, black crappie are presently the more common of the two. Large crappie are not common, but fish in excess of ten inches have been collected during IDNR spring trap net sampling.

Channel Catfish - Stocked annually in Big Lake, this population provides excellent angling opportunities with fish ranging in size and some exceeding 24 inches. Also available in Beaver Lake, but at lower density.

Rainbow Trout - Catchable size rainbow trout are released both spring fall as part of the Statewide program.

FISHING REGULATIONS: Site specific angling regulations. Two pole and line fishing only, all other statewide regulations apply. Swimming is prohibited.

Species	Daily Creel Limit	Minimum Length Limit
Largemouth Bass	6	15"
Channel Catfish	6	none

Fishing at Big Lake is closed approximately two weeks prior to the opening of the spring and fall trout seasons).

For further information contact:

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