



LAKE EUREKA

FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

Location: Lake Eureka is located within the city limits of Eureka in Woodford County, Illinois. The lake is surrounded by a city park that offers playground and day-use facilities for the general public.

Description: Lake Eureka is a 30 acre impoundment located on Walnut Creek which is a tributary to Panther Creek and the Mackinaw River. The lake was built in the early 1940s as part of a public works project (WPA), to provide a potable water source for the City of Eureka. Lake Eureka provided drinking water until 1982, when wells replaced the water needed by the city. Lake Eureka is quite shallow and very fertile. Average depth for Lake Eureka is approximately 6.5 feet with a maximum depth of 12.8 feet. The lake has a very large watershed that includes approximately 1,300 acres of row crops. It receives significant loads of sediment from the cultivated watershed and both total alkalinities and dissolved solids are quite high. Lake Eureka is surrounded by manicured, lawn-like shore. It is 100% accessible for shoreline access and is "kid friendly", for bank fishing.

History and Status of the Sport Fishery: Lake Eureka was built in the early 1940s as a WPA project to create a safe water source for the City of Eureka. In the early 1980s, the water intakes of the intake tower became obstructed. At that time, a proposal to use wells for water was designed and built. Because the lake was no longer a potable water supply, it was rehabilitated using rotenone to remove a very bad fish population. The lake was immediately restocked with largemouth bass, bluegill and channel catfish. An excellent game fish population resulted from the rehabilitation work.

NOTE: It continued to be an excellent fishery until 2013, when a severe winter caused a winter fish-kill to occur. During 2014, and 2015 an effort to restock the lake and remove common carp breeders, that were able to reproduce in 2014, was attempted. A fall survey of the fish population was completed and showed that the restocking effort for game fish after the 2013-2014 winter kill had been effective at creating large populations of bass, bluegill and crappie. Many young of the year bass and bluegill were present in the electro-fishing sample. All of these fish showed good to excellent growth rates. As part of our removal of common carp effort, the lake was drawn down in the fall and electro shocking equipment was used in several efforts to remove as many brood carp as was possible. We were able to remove 110 common carp in 3 electro fishing efforts.

A spring and fall population sample in 2016, 2017 and 2018, showed a tremendous population of fast-growing common carp are present at Lake Eureka. Because of the large successful spawns of common carp over the past 3 years, it is now necessary to totally remove all fish from the lake and restock fingerling bass, bluegill, redear and channel catfish in 2019. The Illinois Department of Natural Resources will work with the City of Eureka on this complete fishery rehabilitation. We will draw the lake down to the limits of the valve drain and apply rotenone by boat and backpack sprayer to remove all live fish in September of 2018. The lake will be restocked in October 2018 thru July 2019. Only catch and release fishing will be available for 2 years after the rehabilitation.

Additional Lake Information: There is a single lane concrete boat ramp all boat access is controlled by a permit from the City of Eureka. No gas powered motors are allowed and launching of larger boats is difficult. No minnow fishing is allowed.

Fishing Regulations:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Size Limit</u>	<u>Creel Limit</u>
Large or Smallmouth Bass	None	6 fish/day
Channel catfish	None	6 fish/day

All fish 2 Pole and line fishing only.
Recreational Use Restriction: No Fishing with minnows.

CONTACT INFORMATION:

City of Eureka Administrator: (309) 467-2113.
IDNR Fisheries County Fish Biologist: (309) 446-9143.
Illinois Fishing Information booklet and IFISHILLINOIS website <http://www.ifishillinois.org/>