

LAKE BLOOMINGTON

LAKE STATUS SUMMARY



LOCATION: Located approximately 15 miles North of Bloomington IL, Lake Bloomington is easily accessible by taking I-39 North to the Lake Bloomington Exit, then proceeding east on the Lake Bloomington Road (2500N) 4 miles.

DESCRIPTION: Lake Bloomington, a 635 acre reservoir, with 18.5 miles of shoreline, is owned by the City of Bloomington, IL and is maintained and operated by the City's Water Department. There is one public boat launch, but there is a fee to use the ramp/lake. The Friends of Everbloom is an organization that assists with habitat projects and improving the quality of Lake Bloomington. To learn more about their organization, visit their web page <http://friendsofeverbloom.weebly.com>

STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY: The IDNR currently stocks walleye, smallmouth bass and hybrid striped bass. The following information is a summary of the major sport fisheries based on periodic fish population surveys. A community-wide fish survey is completed approximately every two years and hybrid striped bass, largemouth/smallmouth bass and walleye surveys are currently conducted on an annual basis.

Largemouth Bass/Smallmouth Bass – The most recent bass survey resulted in a catch rate of 114.7 bass per hour. The management objective is 100 bass per hour. During the most recent survey, approximately 24% of the bass collected were longer than the 15 inch length limit. The largest bass collected weighed 5.35 pounds. Of the bass collected over 8 inches, 77% were longer than 12 inches, 27% longer than 15 inches and 2% longer than 20 inches.

Even though smallmouth bass have been in the lake since it was impounded, the fishery is not strong. A smallmouth bass stocking program was started in 2009 in an attempt to improve the fishery. The State Hatchery stocks 2-inch fingerlings each year.

Walleye – Walleye were first stocked into this lake in 1984 and has received approximately 25,000 two-inch walleye every year. The most recent walleye survey resulted in only 8 walleye per hour of sampling, but the average catch rate for the past 17 surveys is 38.9 walleye per hour. It is believed the higher water temperature during the fall survey resulted in a poor sample. Walleye collected during the most recent survey ranged in size from 10 inches to 20 inches. Starting April 1, 2017, the walleye regulation will be an 18 inch minimum length limit and a 3 per day harvest limit.

Hybrid Striped Bass – The most recent spring netting survey resulted in 26 hybrid striped bass being collected, which was a large reduction from the previous survey that had 105 collected. The hybrid striped bass fishery in Lake Bloomington is still considered good. The State Hatchery System stocks hybrid striped bass to sustain the fishery.

Crappie – Both black and white crappie are present in Lake Bloomington. The most recent spring electrofishing survey resulted in the collection of 80 white crappie per hour and 20.7 black crappie per hour. The objective is to collect 25 per hour for each species. The black crappie ranged in size from 7.5 inches to 11.5 inches and the largest black crappie collected weighed 0.61 pounds. The white crappie ranged in size from 6 inches to 13 inches and the largest white crappie weighed 1.07 pounds.

Channel Catfish – During the most recent fish survey, 9 channel catfish were collected ranging in size from 11 inches to 36 inches and the largest catfish weighed 7.2 pounds. There is currently a good channel catfish fishery in Lake Bloomington.

FISHING REGULATIONS: Two pole and line fishing only, no trot lines, jugs or bank poles.

Species	Length Limit	Daily Creel Limit	
Largemouth & Smallmouth Bass	15"	3	
Walleye	18"	3	NEW 4/1/2017
Hybrid Striped Bass	17"	3	
Crappie	None	15	
Bluegill/Redear Sunfish	None	25	

40 H.P. OUTBOARD MOTOR RESTRICTION

For other species, statewide regulations are in effect. For further regulation information, please consult the current Illinois Fishing Regulation Booklet.

FEES: The City of Bloomington requires a boat sticker for watercraft utilizing Lake Bloomington.

PHONE NUMBERS: Lake Bloomington – 309-434-2161
IDNR Fisheries – 217-784-4730