

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 and 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 <https://www.friendsofeverbloom.com/>

STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY: The IDNR currently stocks walleye, hybrid striped bass, and smallmouth 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 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 103.8 bass per hour. The management objective is 100 bass per hour. The largest bass collected weighed 5.06 pounds. Of the bass collected over 8 inches, 42% were longer than 12 inches, and 10% longer than 15 inches. The average percent of bass over 15 inches is 21%. The bass fishery is average but the future looks promising. 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.

Walleye – Walleye were first stocked into this lake in 1984 and has received approximately 25,000 two-inch walleye every year. The most recent electrofishing survey for walleye resulted in 34.3 walleye per hour of sampling. The average catch rate for the past 18 surveys is 38.6 walleye per hour. Walleye collected during the most recent survey ranged in size from 8 inches to 24 inches. In the spring of 2019, nets were used to collect walleye and 4.4 walleye per net were collected. The average catch rate is 3.7 per net. Of the walleye collected over 10 inches, 41% were longer than 20 inches and 8% were longer than 25 inches. The walleye regulation was changed in 2017 to an 18 inch minimum length limit and a 3 per day harvest limit.

Hybrid Striped Bass – **The State record hybrid striped bass was caught at Lake Bloomington in 2017.** The record hybrid weighed 21.45 pounds. The hybrid striped bass fishery in Lake Bloomington is considered good.

Crappie – Both black and white crappie are present in Lake Bloomington. The most recent spring electrofishing survey resulted in the collection of 57.1 white crappie per hour and 12 black crappie per hour. The objective is to collect 25 per hour for each species. The black crappie ranged in size from 7 inches to 10.5 inches and the largest black crappie collected weighed 0.6 pounds. The white crappie ranged in size from 7 inches to 14 inches and the largest white crappie weighed 1.37 pounds.

Channel Catfish – During the most recent fish survey only 4 channel catfish were collected. The current channel catfish fishery is average in Lake Bloomington. Lake Bloomington does not receive any catfish stockings.

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
Crappie	Only 5 ≥ 10"	15
Bluegill/Redear Sunfish	None	25
Hybrid Striped Bass/White Bass	10 fish daily harvest limit, with no more than 3 fish greater or equal to 17 inches	

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