



# LINCOLN TRAIL LAKE 2016 Lake Status Summary



**LOCATION:** Lincoln Trail State Park, which is located about 2 miles south of Marshall, off State Route 1, in Clark County.

**DESCRIPTION:** Lincoln Trail Lake is a man-made impoundment, constructed in 1956. The surface area is 137 acres, maximum depth, 35 feet, and average depth, 16 feet. The lake is usually very clear as a result of being only moderately fertile with an abundance of aquatic plants. The clear water can make fishing challenging. Lincoln Trail State Park has facilities for camping, fishing, hiking, hunting, and picnicking. A concession is present with food and dining area, bait and tackle, boat rental, ice, and firewood available.

**MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES:** The fish population in Lincoln Trail Lake is surveyed intensively every two years. Fish are collected by electrofishing, then measured and weighed before releasing the fish alive back in the lake. Aquatic vegetation is monitored annually. Desirable species of aquatic plants are being introduced to help compete for limited nutrients against undesirable plants, prevent shoreline erosion, and provide valuable fish habitat. Eurasian milfoil has infested the lake and plans have been made to treat this in 2016. A few anglers have suggested stocking shad to improve bass growth rates. Repeated studies in small lakes, like Lincoln Trail Lake, have proven **CONCLUSIVELY** that introducing shad quickly results in poor quality fishing for all species, **INCLUDING BASS!** Bass recruitment is reduced significantly with shad present.

**FISHERY STATUS:** **Largemouth bass** are very abundant due to good spawning success. Anglers are allowed to keep smaller bass to help thin the population. This is **ENCOURAGED** and will help improve growth rates for the remaining bass and will **BENEFIT** the entire fishery. Limiting the harvest of bass over the size limit will help maintain the highest quality bass fishing possible. All bass between 14-18 inches must be released immediately to ensure a high quality fishery and sufficient predation pressure on bluegill. Good numbers of bass from 1/2-2 lbs. are present with fish over 6 lbs. caught occasionally.

**Black crappie** are generally abundant. Anglers may catch crappie up to 17 inches and 2+ pounds.

**Bluegill** fishing is excellent and there are many fish exceeding 8 inches and from 1/4 - 3/4 lbs. Voluntary limits on harvest are encouraged. Research indicates that due to competition for prime nesting locations the presence of large male bluegill delays maturation and improves growth of smaller male bluegill. The overharvest of large male bluegill can result in angler-induced stunting, which is difficult to correct.

**Redear sunfish** numbers are steady and fishing good. Anglers may catch redear over 12 inches and 1+ pounds!!!

**Warmouth** are present in the lake but are not very abundant. Anglers may catch an occasional warmouth up to 8 in. and 1/2 lbs.

**Channel catfish** are maintained only through annual stockings. The average catch is from 3/4 - 2 lbs., with some catfish 10+ pounds caught.

**Walleye** fingerlings (2") have been stocked in 2010 and 2014. It will take a few years for this fishery to develop.

**Green sunfish, yellow bullheads, and white suckers** are present in low to moderate numbers and few are caught.

**REGULATIONS:** All statewide regulations are in effect. Refer to the Illinois Fishing Information Guide for special site regulations. All tournaments must be registered through [ifishillinois.org](http://ifishillinois.org).

Species	Daily Harvest Limits	Length Limits
<b><u>ALL</u></b>	<b>2 pole and line only with no more than 2 hooks or lures per pole</b>	
<b><u>Largemouth</u></b> or Smallmouth Bass	4 ( <u>see below</u> )	14-18" slot length limit
<b><u>Channel Catfish</u></b>	6	none
<b><u>Walleye</u></b> , sauger, or their hybrid	6	14" minimum length limit

- Bass **less than** 14 inches or 18 inches and longer **MAY BE KEPT**. There is a four (4) fish daily creel limit for bass, but **only one of the four** can be larger than 18 inches.

## **COOPERATIVE SPORTSMEN + STRUCTURED HARVEST = OPTIMAL FISHING QUALITY!**

Please remove all litter, especially fishing line!

Comments and questions are encouraged!

Please contact the IDNR fisheries biologist, Mike Mounce  
Phone: 217-345-2420, or visit [ifishillinois.org](http://ifishillinois.org)