



# LAKE MENDOTA

## FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

**LOCATION –**

**DESCRIPTION –** Lake Mendota is a small 18 acre lake located on just off Illinois Route 251. Lake Mendota is owned by the city of Mendota and the Fishery is managed by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Fishery Division. Lake Mendota has one boat ramp, but the lake has a no gas motor regulation. A handicapped fishing pier, picnic area, shelters and restrooms are available for use at the lake.

**MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES -** The fishery is managed by annual species-specific surveys, regulations, and stocking.

**Largemouth Bass:**

The 2024 sample showed a diverse population with a PSD of 50. Total catch per unit effort (CPUE) was like the 2023 survey, but fish in the 15-20 size group have not rebounded to pre 2019 numbers. Harvest by anglers in the smaller than 12inch size group will be required to help fish get larger than 15 inches. Strong year classes from 2021, 2022 and 2023 have caused slowed growth in fish less than 12 inches.

1.Management Plan Fall:Goal	2018	2019	2021	2022	2023	2024
# Stock (200mm)	>100	58	62	125	104	109
PSD(95% CI)	40-60	57	82	45(11)	52(12)	54(14)50(11)
RSD 15      10-20	16	16	2	2	3	2
RSD 18      0-10	0	0	0	1	1	0

2.Fall diurnal DC electrofishing CPUE (fish/hr) of each length group of Largemouth bass collected at Lake Mendota

Year	<8	8-12	12.1-15	15.1-20	> 20	Total
2018	24.0	100.0	96.0	36.0	0.0	256.0
2019	44.0	44.0	164.0	40.0	0.0	292.0
2021	96.0	276.0	212.0	12.0	0.0	596.0
2022	56.0	200.0	208.0	8.0	0.0	472.0
2023	52.0	200.0	224	12.0	0.0	488.0
2024	20.0	228.0	216.0	8.0	0.0	472.0

**Bluegill:**

The Bluegill population historically was a low-density population that produced few quality large individuals. The 2024 survey showed decreased catch numbers for all sizes of fish. Bluegill population may go through 5 year cycle of up and down. Lacking numbers of fish less than 3 inches indicates reduced reproduction and stocking will continue in 2025 to help boost bluegill numbers. The increase in population numbers will help to feed the dense Largemouth bass population but also help to control Largemouth and Yellow Perch reproduction.

1.Management Plan:	Goal:	2018	2019	2021	2022	2023	2024
#Stock(80mm)	>100	14	3	41	67	84	32
PSD (95% CI)	20-60	93	67	56(19)	22(11)	68(16)	63(16)

RSD 7	10-15	64	67	20	19	18	31
RSD 8	5-20	0	67	2	15	10	0

2. Fall diurnal DC electrofishing CPUE (fish/hr) of each length group of Bluegill collected at Lake Mendota

<u>Year</u>	<u>&lt;3</u>	<u>3.1-6</u>	<u>6.1-8</u>	<u>8.1-10</u>	<u>Total</u>
2018	0.0	4.0	52.0	0.0	56.0
2019	56.0	4.0	0.0	8.0	68.0
2021	32.0	72.0	88.0	4.0	196.0
2022	12.0	208.0	16.0	44.0	280.0
2023	0.0	108.0	192.0	36.0	336.0
2024	0.0	48.0	80.0	0.0	128.0

**Crappie:**

Black crappie are present in Lake Mendota but are in low density. The few Black crappies that do show up in samples have been of quality size and in good condition. The 2024 survey included 7 fish.

**STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY** – Lake Mendota receives an annual stocking of Channel catfish, and Rainbow Trout.

**Other Species:**

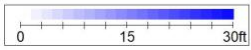
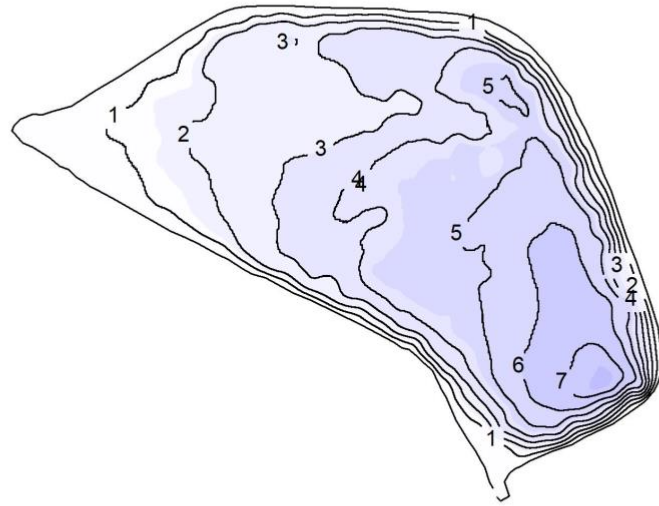
Other species present at Lake Mendota are Channel catfish, Golden shiner, Yellow perch, Green sunfish, Common carp, and Rainbow trout (Stocking program)

**FISHING REGULATIONS** – Statewide fishing regulations apply at this lake (see current Illinois Fishing Information booklet and IFISHILLINOIS website <http://www.ifishillinois.org/> for specific details).

Additional Site Specific fishing regulations:

- All Fish . . . . . 2 Pole and Line Fishing Only
- Large or Smallmouth Bass . . . . . 1 Fish Daily Creel Limit over 15 inches and 2 Fish under 12 inches Daily creel Limit
- Bluegill or Redear Sunfish . . . . . Statewide Regulations
- Channel Catfish . . . . . 6 Fish Daily Creel Limit
- White, Black, or Hybrid Crappie . . . . . Statewide Regulations

**CONTACT INFORMATION** – Mendota Park District: 815-539-7287  
IDNR Fisheries County Biologist: 630-360-4185



Mendota Map 2022\_2  
Mapping by AutoChart