



SILVER SPRINGS STATE FISH & WILDLIFE AREA

BEAVER LAKE

FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

LOCATION – Silver Springs is located in Kendall County, 5 miles west of Yorkville on Fox Road.

DESCRIPTION –A total of seven gravel pits are located at this state site and contain a variety of warm-water fish species, while the two largest, Beaver Lake (4.5 acres) and Big Lake, also known as Loon Lake (22.0 acres), are actively managed and will provide the most consistent action. Beaver Lake has a maximum depth of 14 feet and averages 8 feet, while Big Lake contains a maximum depth of 20 feet and averages 11.8 feet. Beaver Lake does not have a formal boat ramp but there is a small gravel access for personal watercraft launching. A concession stand located at the park provides paddle boat rental, bait, food and drinks. A one-lane concrete boat ramp on the Fox River is present as well.

HISTORY AND STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY- To monitor the fish population, Beaver Lake is surveyed biennially. Aquatic vegetation is monitored annually and treated as required and fluridone has been utilized in early spring applications to arrest the growth of Eurasian milfoil and curlyleaf pondweed. These applications have generally provided control for multiple seasons. Aquatic habitat projects have included the introduction and establishment of selected emergent aquatic plants, as well as man-made structures placed in mid-water locations. ***No special mercury advisory or other contaminant-related consumption advisories pertain.***

LARGEMOUTH BASS – The catch rate of fish ≥ 6 inches declined some in 2020 but was still close to the target rate of 1 fish/min. Length frequency distribution continues to suggest fish are “stock piled” just beneath the minimum length limit of 15 inches. Body condition for all major size groups was above the 85th percentile target. Beaver Lake Largemouth Bass are purposefully managed for high densities of relatively smaller fish in order to promote panfish growth through increased predation.

BLUEGILL – After being virtually non-existent in 2016 an emergency stocking event took place in order to bolster the population. This stocking effort appears to have helped facilitate the partial recovery of this fishery, as the overall 2020 catch rate was 6.6 fish/minute (which is a recent all-time high). Most of the fish were young-of-year ($n = 174$), but a couple fish were over 5 inches. This fishery could be classified as recovering, and hopefully Largemouth Bass predation will help improve the size structure.

REDEAR SUNFISH – While only four Redear Sunfish were captured in the 2020 survey, the low catch can be attributed to the lateness of the survey. Large fish were observed hanging out in deeper water, outside the electrical field range. This fishery is managed to have few, but larger fish.

CHANNEL CATFISH – Catchable Channel Catfish are requested from the state hatchery system on a triennial basis (next stocking in 2021). Natural reproduction is not expected, and this fishery could be classified as a “put-take” fishery.

ADDITIONAL LAKE INFORMATION - Beaver Lake does not have a formal boat ramp but there is a small gravel access for personal watercraft launching. A concession stand located at the park provides paddle boat rental, bait, food and drinks. A one- lane concrete boat ramp on the Fox River is present as well.

Boaters – Electric trolling motor only

Additional Site-Specific Fishing Regulations:

All fish species - Two pole and line fishing only.

Large or Smallmouth Bass – 15 inch minimum length limit.

Channel Catfish – 6 fish daily harvest limit.

CONTACT INFORMATION – Silver Springs State Fish and Wildlife Area: 630/553-6297.
IDNR Fisheries County Fish Biologist: 630/553-6680.