



# 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.

**MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES** - To monitor the fish population, Beaver Lake is surveyed on an as-needed basis. 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.

**STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY** – Beaver Lake is stocked with catfish based on availability. *No special mercury advisory or other contaminant-related consumption advisories pertain.* Below is a brief description of the major sportfish species in these water bodies.

**LARGEMOUTH BASS** – Largemouth bass were collected at a near-record rate in 2016. Size distribution suggests stock piling of bass up to 12 inches with very few bass larger than that present. Poor body condition also suggests forage competition and associated poor growth. The absence of smaller, younger bass may indicate predation on these fish by older, larger bass.

**BLUEGILL** – This species was nearly non-existent in the 2016 survey and only one bluegill was collected. No others were observed. Unless this is a sampling anomaly, the population appears to be suffering from intense predation by largemouth bass, as well as angler harvest. The collection of bluegills has been in decline since 2007 and robust numbers of fish have not been seen since the early 1990's.

**REDEAR SUNFISH** – Few were collected in the 2016 survey. Successful recruitment appears to be thwarted by predation on young fish by largemouth bass. Fish which were collected were essentially too large to be vulnerable to predation.

## IDNR 2016 Survey Results

Species	Number of Fish Collected in each Length Category (Inch)								
	0-5	6-8	9-11	12-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30+	Total
Largemouth Bass	0	15	62	11	0	1	0	0	89
Bluegill	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Redear Sunfish	0	12	2	0	0	0	0	0	14
Black Crappie	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1

**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:

Boaters – Electric trolling motor only

All fish species - Two pole and line fishing only.

Channel Catfish – 6 fish daily creel limit.

Largemouth Bass – 15” minimum length limit.

Rainbow Trout – Spring and fall closed season (Big Lake).

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