



Rush Lake

2020 FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

LOCATION – Rush Lake is located in the East Branch Forest Preserve on Glen Ellyn Road, 0.25 miles south of Army Trail Road in Glendale Heights.

DESCRIPTION – Rush Lake is a 15.0-acre borrow-pit lake located in the East Branch Forest Preserve (Forest Preserve District of DuPage County – FPDDC). The lake was built in the 1980s and rehabilitated in 1990. It has a maximum depth of 20 feet and average depth of 8 feet. The East Branch of the DuPage River flows adjacent to the lake, but it does not appear to have flooded lake since the 1990 rehabilitation. The lake and much of its watershed are set in a natural setting in the park and the shore is undeveloped. There is a moderate 50-yard walk down hill, on a gravel trail to access the lake. A crushed limestone path circles the lake and several areas are cleared for fishing access. No watercrafts are allowed.

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES: Rush Lake has been under management by the FPDDC Fishery ecologist to provide a quality sport fishing opportunity. In 1984, the FPDDC entered into a cooperative management agreement with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to facilitate management activities. The fish community in this pond is sampled every four years. Largemouth bass and channel catfish are stocked when needed including 152 adult bass from Harrier Lake in 2017. Vegetation is being treated by a contractor hired by FPDDC. **New sportfishing regulations for all DuPage County Forest Preserve lakes and ponds went into effect April 1st, 2017 – most notable being a 14-18 inch protected slot length for Largemouth Bass. Anglers will be allowed to harvest three bass under 14 inches and one trophy (over 18 inches), if desired. This regulation is designed to increase numbers of preferred size bass as well as increase the size of bluegill (more large bass to feed on small Bluegill).** A 40-minute electrofishing survey of Rush Lake took place on June 3rd, 2020. This survey was conducted five weeks later than usual due to COVID-19 restrictions.

STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY – Results from the 2020 fish survey show that Rush Lake has a low abundance Largemouth Bass and good number of Bluegill. Catch rates could be lower than normal as the survey took place after the bass spawning season. Easy shore access and fish attractors should provide ample opportunities for a quality fishing experience.

LARGEMOUTH BASS – In the 2020 Spring electrofishing survey, Largemouth Bass were caught at a rate of 46 fish per hour. This is lower than desired management goal of 60 fish per hour. Bass ranged in size from 3.1 to 18.2 inches and averaged 12.7 inches. The largest bass weighed 2.8 pounds. Size structure indices were lower than the 2016 survey. Large fish were present in the sample with 29% of the sample measuring longer than 15 inches (this percentage was 45% in the 2016 survey).

BLUEGILL – Bluegill were captured at a rate of 122 fish per hour (in line with the management goal of 120 fish per hour). Bluegill ranged in size from 3.1 to 5.9 inches, with the average size being 4.5 inches. The lack of large bluegill (over six inches) in the sample suggests high angler harvest or gear avoidance in the deep, clear water.

BLACK CRAPPIE – No Black Crappie were caught in the 2020 survey. Crappie over 10 inches have been caught in previous surveys. Crappie numbers tend to fluctuate in area lakes and are difficult to manage.

CHANNEL CATFISH – Two Channel Catfish were captured in the 2020 survey (16 and 19 inches). We rarely see high catches of channel catfish in the spring in area lakes as these fish tend to stay in deeper water.

ADDITIONAL FISH SPECIES: In addition to the species listed above; Blackstripe Topminnow, Common Carp and Smallmouth Bass were also captured.

Summary of Catch at Rush Lake - June 3rd, 2020 - 40 minutes DC electrofishing

Species	Number Collected	Length (Inches)			Weight (pounds)	
		Min	Max	Avg.	Min	Max
Bluegill	82	3.1	5.9	4.5	0.0	0.2
Largemouth Bass	31	3.0	18.2	12.7	0.2	2.8
Common Carp	3	27.4	29.9	28.5	11.9	17.1
Channel Catfish	2	16.6	19.1	17.8	1.4	2.5
Blackstripe Topminnow	1	2.4	2.4	2.4		
Smallmouth Bass	1	15.2	15.2	15.2	2.1	2.1
Total # of Fish Collected	120					

Rush Lake

Glen Elyn Road 0.25 mile south of Army Trail Road in Glendale Heights.
Moderate 50-yard walk downhill on gravel trail.

Acres: 15



This map courtesy of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County - "Fishing in Dupage County"

-For more information or if you have questions call the District's Fisheries Ecologist Dan Grigas at (630) 933-7668 or IDNR Fisheries at (815) 675-2386 ext. 214 or go to: www.dupageforest.com

-For general information on fishing in Illinois visit the IDNR Fisheries Division at: www.ifishillinois.org

AND purchase your fishing license online at: www.dnr.illinois.gov

Site Specific Regulations

Largemouth bass – 14-18 protected slot limit. Four fish possession limit. Three fish under 14 inches. One fish over 18 inches.

Channel catfish –6 fish per day, 12 inch minimum length limit.

Crappie – 15 fish per day, no minimum length limit

Bluegill and Redear Sunfish – 25 fish daily harvest limit.