



# VALLEY LAKE

## FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

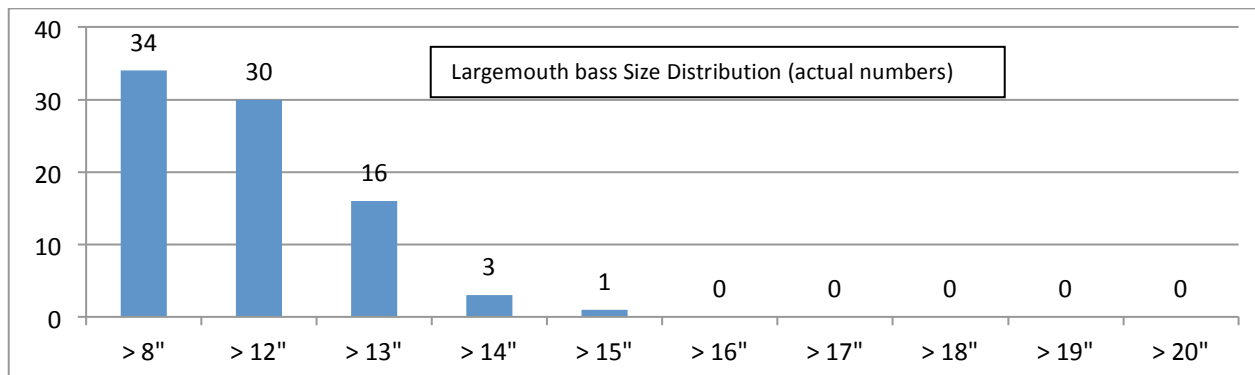
**LOCATION** – Located in the unincorporated Wildwood, north of Route 120, east of Greentree Road, in Lake County, Illinois.

**DESCRIPTION** – Valley Lake is a manmade lake constructed in 1952. Valley Lake is 12.2 acres; shoreline length 0.7 miles; watershed 82 acres (6.8 to 1); maximum depth 9.5 feet; average depth 4.75 feet. Access is restricted by the Wildwood Park District who has management jurisdiction on the lake. Non-motorized boats are allowed on the lake.

**MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES:** Occasional fish surveys are conducted to update the Status of the Fishery, occasional treatments for algae and rooted aquatic vegetation occur as needed through permission of the Wildwood Park District.

**STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY** – Valley Lake has received several stockings of 2” Redear sunfish to attempt to develop a fishery to feed on snails. Below is a brief description of catchable game species in this water body.

**LARGEMOUTH BASS** – In 2016, 36 bass were collected in 30 minutes of DC electrofishing. The largest fish measured 15.7”, and weighed up to 2.1 lbs. 83% were > 12”, 44% were > 13”, 8% were > 14” and 3% exceeded 15”. This size structure will maintain the population with natural reproduction but being such a small lake it’s difficult to grow larger size fish in any quantity.



**BLUEGILL** – In 2016, 57 Bluegill were collected in 30 minutes of electrofishing. They ranged up to 7.4” and weighed up to 0.33 lbs. 14% were > 6”, 3.5% were > 7” and none exceeded 8” in length.

**REDEAR SUNFISH** – Redear from recent stockings were detected and a fish >7” long was collected suggesting a past stocking of redear sunfish as well. Redear can grow to over 1.0 lb in our area so if they thrive like expected, some really nice fish may inhabit this smaller lake in the next few years.

**BLACK CRAPPIE** – Two Black crappie were collected. The largest was 8.5” long. This is the typical size crappie stunt at in small lakes, so to improve their size, either the largemouth bass population needs to expand to the point we collect 2 or 3 fish per minute or fishermen need to harvest a bunch of smaller crappie to open up space for survivors to grow.

**CHANNEL CATFISH** – This species is maintained by stocking and apparently few people harvest channel catfish because we collected 30 fish in 30 minutes of electrofishing in this smaller size lake. Fish ranged from 17” to 24” and weighed up to 3.8 lbs.

**CARP** – No common carp or grass carp were collected or observed during this survey but they may be present in low numbers and so difficult to collect. During our last survey in 2004, both common carp and grass carp were collected.

**ADDITIONAL FISH SPECIES:**

( 30 minutes DC electrofishing )					
Species	Number	Relative Abundance (%)	Minimum (inches)	Average (inches)	Maximum (inches)
LARGEMOUTH BASS	36	28.1	1.7	12.3	15.7
BLUEGILL	57	44.5	2.3	3.8	7.4
CHANNEL CATFISH	30	23.4	17.2	19.8	23.3
REDEAR SUNFISH	2	1.6	2.4	4.9	7.4
BLACK CRAPPIE	2	1.6	7.5	8	8.5
BLACKSTRIPE TOPMINNOW	1	0.8		2.6	
<b>SPECIES = 6    TOTAL =</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>100.0</b>			

**FISHING REGULATIONS** – see Illinois Fishing Regulation Booklet and/or [www.ifishillinois.org](http://www.ifishillinois.org) for details.

Additional Site Specific regulations: Wildwood Park District access restrictions

Boaters – non-motorized boats only

All fish species - Two pole and line fishing only.

Channel Catfish – 6 fish daily creel limit.

Largemouth Bass – 15” minimum length limit ; 3 fish daily creel limit.

**CONTACT INFORMATION** – Wildwood Park District: 847/223-7275.

IDNR District Fisheries Biologist: 815/675-2319.

**Valley Lake Map**

