



# Jericho Lake

## 2016 FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

**LOCATION** – Jericho Lake is located on the west side of Aurora, in Kane County. Jericho Lake Park is located on the south side of Jericho Road, 0.4 miles west of Orchard Road.

**DESCRIPTION** – Jericho Lake is a 20.9 acre reclaimed rock quarry with a maximum depth of 26.2 feet. It is a steep sided lake with clear water. The lake is owned and maintained by the Fox Valley Park District (FVPD) as a community park. The shoreline is mowed in several areas to allow access for shore fishing. There is a boat ramp for small boats with electric motors only. Carry in water craft are a better option. A picnic area and Frisbee golf course are located in the adjacent park. There are several mowed areas to provide excellent shore fishing. See the reverse side for a bathymetric map.

**MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES:** The FVPD has entered into a cooperative management agreement with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) to facilitate fisheries management activities. Jericho Lake is stocked annually with 450 channel catfish (8-12 inch) by IDNR. Site specific regulations apply (Six fish daily creel on channel catfish and a three fish, 15 inch minimum limit on largemouth bass and 15 fish creel limit and nine inch minimum length limit on crappie). A 40 minute electrofishing survey took place on May 12, 2016.

**STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY** – Size distribution and abundance of largemouth bass looked great in the 2016 survey. Bluegill numbers and size were typical of other lakes in the area.

**LARGEMOUTH BASS** – Largemouth bass were caught at a rate of 170 fish per hour. This is well over the 60 bass per hour considered to be a healthy abundance measure. Largemouth bass ranged in length from 2.5 to 19.3 inches. The average size bass was 11.6 inches. The heaviest bass weighed 3.9 pounds. Sixteen percent of the bass captured were over the 15 inch minimum length limit. High relative weight (a measure or “plumpness”) indicates that this population, while abundant, has plenty of forage (food). Forage species include gizzard shad, bluegill, black crappie and golden shiner. Multiple sizes (year classes) indicate successful reproduction and recruitment in this lake.

**BLUEGILL** – Bluegill were captured at a rate of 366 fish per hour (sub-sampled for ten minutes). Bluegill ranged in size from 2.6 to 7.6 inches, with an average size of 5.7 inches. Fifty-one percent of the catch was longer than six inches. The results of the survey indicated a very healthy bluegill population that would benefit from responsible harvest.

**CHANNEL CATFISH** – Channel catfish were not captured in this survey. Spring time boat electrofishing is not an effective method of capturing channel catfish. IDNR stocks non-vulnerable channel catfish annually in Jericho Lake. Remember there is a six fish limit on channel catfish.

**BLACK CRAPPIE** – Six black crappie were captured in this survey. They ranged in size from 6.5 to 11.9 inches, the largest weighing 1.0 pound. Only one of the six crappie captured was greater than the nine inch minimum length limit. Crappie are difficult to manage in small lakes, having catch rates that fluctuate greatly from year to year.

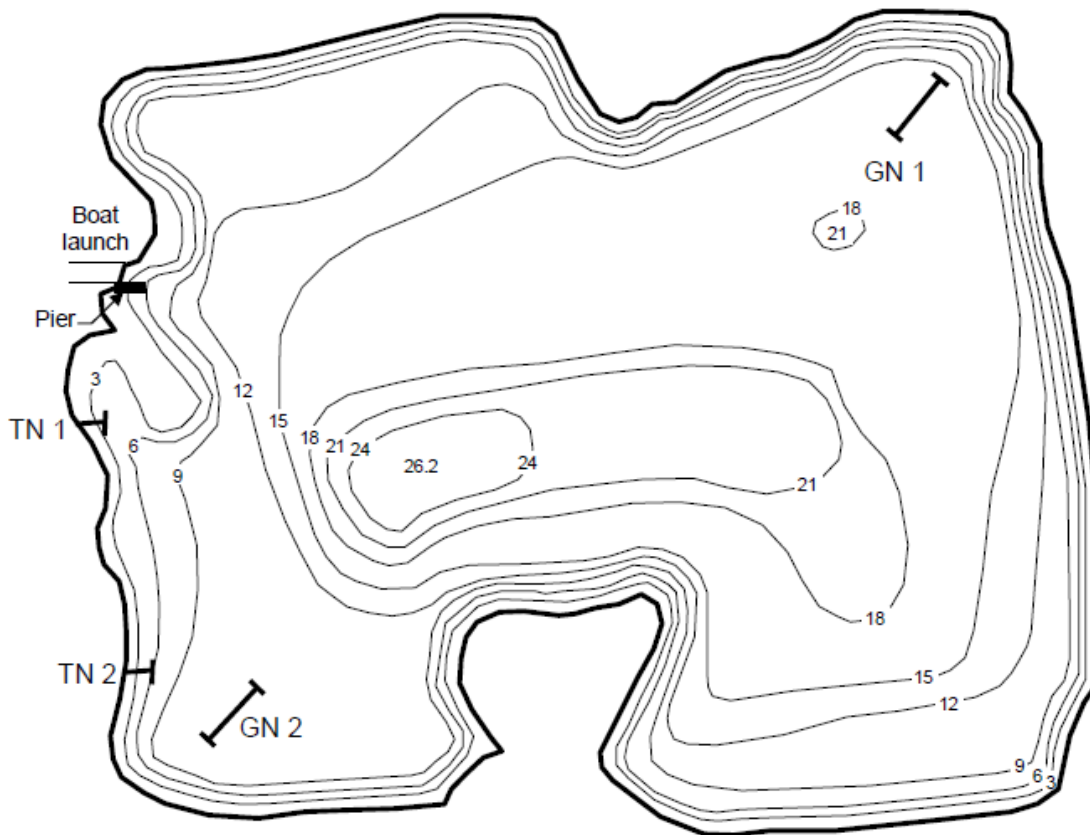
**COMMON CARP** – Common carp were not overly abundant in this survey. Five common carp were measured from a sub-sample ranging in size from 7.1 to 23.1 inches, averaging 14.8 inches. The heaviest one weighed 7.5 pounds. Common carp have been very abundant in this lake during previous surveys and unlimited harvest is encouraged for this detrimental species.

**ADDITIONAL FISH SPECIES:** Gizzard shad, blackstripe topminnow, green sunfish, Golden shiner, and yellow bullhead were also captured in this survey. Very large schools of gizzard shad were observed on a follow up trip. Yellow bass, yellow perch, smallmouth bass and channel catfish have also been captured here.

**Jericho Lake Survey - May 12, 2016**

**40 Minutes of Pulsed D.C. Electrofishing**

Species	Number Collected	Length (Inches)			Weight (pounds)	
		Min	Max	Avg.	Min	Max
Largemouth bass	112	2.48	19.25	11.61	0.09	3.93
Bluegill	61	2.60	7.60	5.72	0.06	0.38
Gizzard shad	10	10.55	11.77	11.17	0.36	0.52
Blackstripe topminnow	7	2.87	3.03	2.95		
Black crappie	6	6.50	11.93	7.51	0.15	0.98
Green sunfish	6	2.99	6.69	5.07	0.11	0.25
Common carp	5	7.09	23.07	14.76	0.21	6.07
Golden shiner	2	4.06	5.67	4.86	0.02	0.08
Yellow bullhead	1	8.19	8.19	8.19	0.43	0.43
<b>Total number of fish</b>	<b>210</b>					



Soundings (ft.) -9/19/06  
(adjusted to normal water level)

Vic Santucci -3/16/07  
IDNR - Fisheries

For more information call the Fox Valley Park District at (630) 897-0516 or IDNR Fisheries at (815) 675-2386 ext. 214 or visit: <http://www.foxvalleyparkdistrict.org>  
For general information on fishing in Illinois visit the IDNR Fisheries Division at: [www.ifishillinois.org](http://www.ifishillinois.org)  
To purchase your fishing license go to: [www.dnr.illinois.gov](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov)