



Grove Lake

2020 FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

LOCATION – Grove Lake is located in the Wood Dale Grove Forest Preserve. Parking is available off Wood Dale Road 2 miles north of Lake Street (Route 20) in Wood Dale.

DESCRIPTION – Grove Lake is a 9 acre gravel/clay pit with a maximum depth of 30 feet and an average depth of 12 feet. Grove Lake is one of 30 lakes and ponds owned and maintained for sport fishing by the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County (FPDDC). There is good shoreline fishing access available via a gravel trail circling the lake. Wood Dale Grove Forest Preserve offers ample parking, picnic shelters, pump water faucets and pit toilet restroom facilities.

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES: These waters have been under management by the FPDDC Fishery Ecologist to provide quality sport fishing opportunities. In 1984, the FPDDC entered into a cooperative management agreement with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to facilitate management activities.

Largemouth bass, bluegill and channel catfish are occasionally stocked to supplement the population. The FPDDC stocks 300-500 catchable size rainbow trout in March and October. Site specific regulations apply (see reverse side). ***New sportfishing regulations for all DuPage County Forest Preserve lakes and ponds go 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).**

STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY – Largemouth bass numbers looked better in 2020 than they have in the last four surveys! The most recent survey showed an abundant bass population with large proportion of fish over 15 inches. Bluegill abundance is right on target, but no fish over six inches were present in the sample. Grove Lake does receive an added influx of fishing pressure during the opening weekends of spring and fall trout fishing.

LARGEMOUTH BASS – In our 2020 electrofishing survey, sixty-three Largemouth Bass were caught in 25 minutes of shocking (150 fish per hour). This rate is higher than the management goal of 60 fish per hour that we see in healthy bass populations, but no signs of stunting were present. The bass in the sample ranged in length from 3.9 to 18.3 inches with an average length of 11.7 inches. Thirty-five percent of the bass exceeded 15 inches. Multiple size classes are present indicating natural reproduction. Largemouth Bass have not been stocked since 2013.

BLUEGILL (and other panfish) – The Bluegill catch rate of 119 was rated as “good” as the management goal is 120 fish per hour. Typically, at this level of abundance we will see some larger individuals but no fish over six inches were present in the sample. Bluegill ranged in length from 2.0 to 5.5 inches, with an average size of 4.4 inches. Black Crappie, Green Sunfish, Pumpkinseed and Redear Sunfish contribute to the panfish population in Grove Lake. Catch rates for these species has been variable over time. Since this lake is highly pressured and very accessible, during the trout seasons, it is thought that a lot of large panfish go home with the trout fishermen.

CHANNEL CATFISH – Channel Catfish stocking has been suspended since 2013 in an effort to allow panfish numbers to stabilize. No Channel Catfish were present in the sample. Some large individuals are most likely still present in the lake.

ADDITIONAL FISH SPECIES - As previously mentioned black crappie numbers have been variable in recent surveys. Two black crappies were present in the 2020 sample, while 36 were caught in 2012. It is not uncommon for crappie populations to fluctuate over time in small lakes. Black Bullhead are the also present in Grove Lake.

Summary of the Survey of Grove Lake – June 3rd, 2020 – 25 Minutes DC Electrofishing

Species	Number Collected	Length (Inches)			Weight (pounds)	
		Min	Max	Avg.	Min	Max
Largemouth Bass	63	3.9	18.3	11.7	0.1	3.1
Bluegill	52	2.0	5.5	4.4	0.0	0.1
Redear Sunfish	15	3.5	7.5	5.6	0.0	0.3
Pumpkinseed	3	3.5	3.5	3.5		
Black Crappie	1	8.0	8.0	8.0	0.3	0.3
Green Sunfish	1	3.5	3.5	3.5		
Total # Fish Collected	135					

FISHING REGULATIONS

All Species - Two pole and line fishing only.

Largemouth Bass* – 14-18-inch protected slot limit; 4 fish daily creel limit with 3 fish that can be harvested under 14 inches and 1 fish 18 inches and larger. Bass Lake was previously a one fish over 18 inch limit.

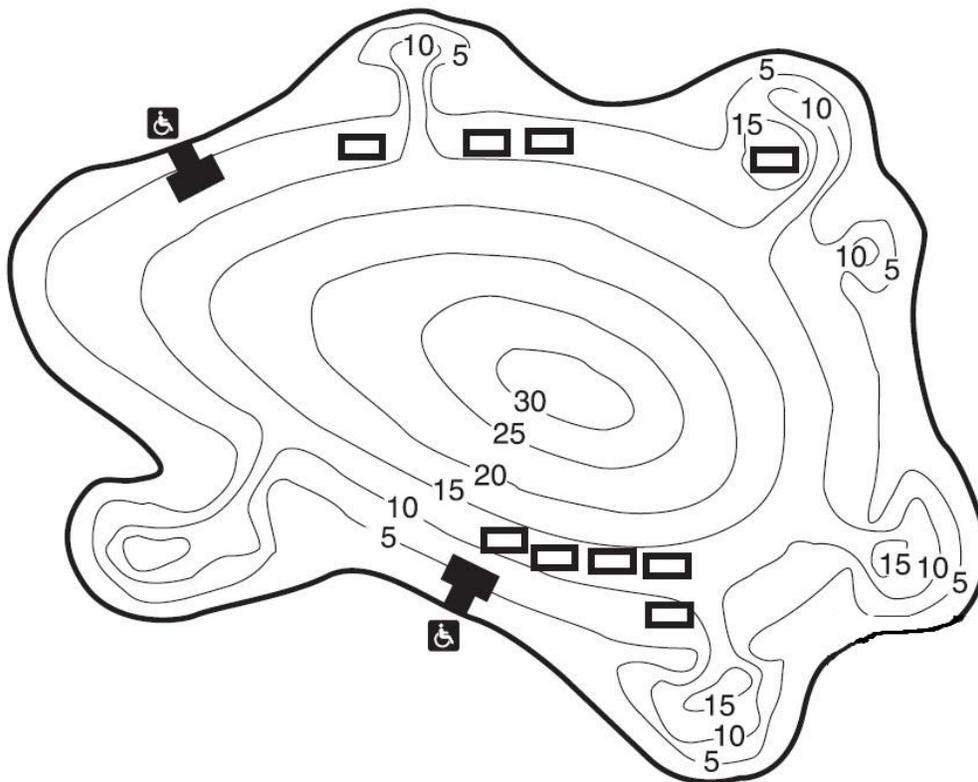
Bluegill* – No minimum length limit; 25 fish daily creel limit

Channel Catfish – 12-inch minimum length limit; 3 fish daily creel limit.

White and Black Crappie* – No minimum length limit; 15 fish daily creel limit.

Northern Pike – 24-inch minimum length limit; 3 fish daily creel limit (statewide regulation).

*Indicates new in 2017



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