



# Waubonsee Lake

## 2017 FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

**LOCATION** – Waubonsee Lake Park is located on the east side of Kautz Road 0.2 miles north of Montgomery Road in Aurora.

**DESCRIPTION** – Waubonsee Lake is a 16 acre lake and the downstream most in a series of three lakes formed by impounding the Waubonsee Creek. These lakes were built as flood control and serve as a detention system for the area. Waubonsee Lake has a maximum depth of 9.5 feet and an average depth of 4.1. The lake is owned and maintained by the Fox Valley Park District (FVPD) as a community park in a residential setting. There is a jogging/bike path around the lake which connects to the Spring Lake complex to the northeast.

**MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES:** The FVPD has entered into a cooperative management agreement with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to facilitate fisheries management activities. A dredging project was completed in 2017 to deepen the lake. An electrofishing survey took place in May of 2017. Site specific regulations apply (see reverse side).

**STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY** – Fairly abundant bluegill and largemouth bass should provide plenty of quality catches in Waubonsee Lake. Our most recent survey showed a good number of bass over 15 inches and a bluegill population that had plenty of fish over six inches.

**LARGEMOUTH BASS** – Largemouth bass abundance was rated as good” based on the goal of 60 fish per hour. Bass were captured at a rate of 58 fish per hour. Catch rate did increase since the 2012 survey when it was 38 fish per hour but it was not as high as it was in 2006 when catch rate was 96 fish per hour. Largemouth bass ranged in size from 3.0 to 18.1 inches, with the largest fish weighing 3.5 pounds (Table 2). The average length in the sample was 11.0 inches. Twenty-four percent of the catch was longer than fifteen inches.

**BLUEGILL** – Bluegill abundance was very high and size structure was skewed toward small individuals in the previous two surveys. In our most recent survey (2017), bluegill abundance was a bit lower than the 120 fish per hour goal (112 fish per hour). While this may have only earned a “fair” rating based on management goals, it is a sign of a much more “balanced system”. Bluegill ranged in length from 1.8 inches to 6.6 with the average fish measuring 4.8 inches. About 20% percent of the catch measured longer than six inches.

**BLACK CRAPPIE** – No black crappie were caught in this survey, but a 2012 survey caught 11 crappie - the largest measuring over nine 9 inches. This lake is not stocked with or managed for crappie at this time. Due the connectivity of the system, black crappies could move into the system during high water and abundance can vary greatly in a span of a few years.

**CHANNEL CATFISH** – While no channel catfish were captured in this survey, they were stocked in 2012 and 2014. If these fish haven’t been caught or moved out of the system, they should be of a catchable size as of the writing of this report.

**COMMON CARP** – Twenty-eight common carp were counted during the survey. They ranged in size from 10 to 24 inches. They were not collected due to a low oxygen bottle in the livewell. Common carp dislodge vegetation and cloud the water with their feeding behavior of “rooting” through the substrate. Unlimited harvest is encouraged for this detrimental species.

**ADDITIONAL FISH SPECIES:** Multiple forage species are present in the lake; white sucker, redear sunfish, golden shiner, gizzard shad, bluntnose minnow, and quillback carpsucker were also captured in smaller numbers.

**Summary of Catch – Waubonsee Lake Survey on May 10<sup>h</sup>, 2017 – 30 minutes DC electrofishing**

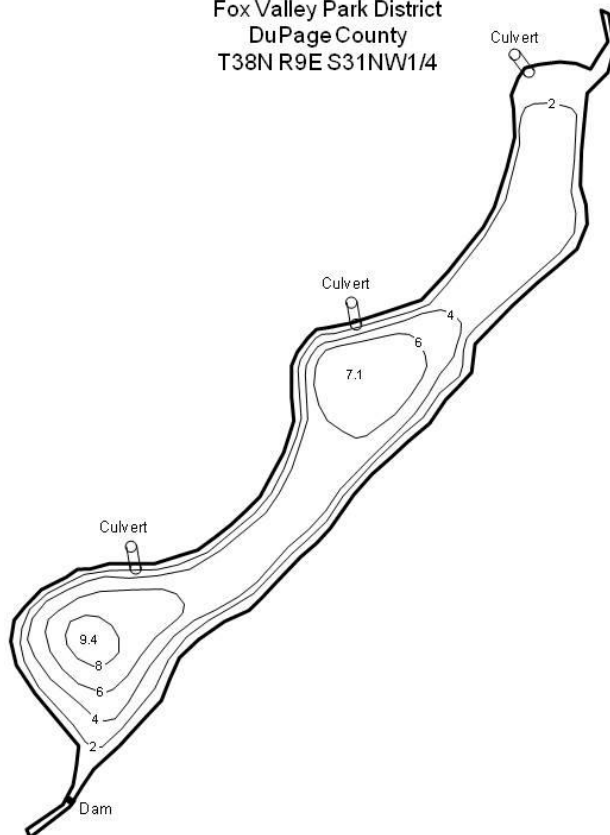
Species	Number Collected	Length (Inches)			Weight (pounds)	
		Min	Max	Avg.	Min	Max
Bluegill*	56	1.81	6.57	4.77	0.03	0.22
Largemouth bass	29	3.03	18.11	10.95	0.05	3.50
Common carp**	28	10.00	24.00			
White sucker	7	8.62	15.39	12.74	0.30	1.39
Redear sunfish	6	5.83	6.85	6.19	0.12	0.20
Golden shiner	4	6.69	7.64	7.13	0.14	0.24
Gizzard shad	4	8.74	13.11	11.60	0.26	0.88
Bluntnose minnow	2	3.15	3.27	3.21		
Quillback	1	16.50	16.50	16.50	1.92	1.92

\* ten minute subsample 109

\*\*not collected and measured due to a low oxygen bottle in livewell

## Waubonsee Lake

Fox Valley Park District  
DuPage County  
T38N R9E S31NW1/4



Soundings (ft.) – 9/21/06  
(adjusted to normal water level)

Vic Santucci – 3/19/07  
IDNR - Fisheries

**SITE SPECIFIC REGULATIONS**  
**All fish** – 2 pole and line fishing only  
**Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass** – 15 inch minimum limit – 3 fish daily creel limit  
**Channel catfish** – six fish daily creel limit

-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/lakes-and-fishing-2/>

-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)