



Spring Lake

2017 FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

LOCATION – Spring Lake is located north of McCoy Drive 1.1 miles west of Route 59 in Aurora.

DESCRIPTION – Spring Lake is a 23.7-acre in-stream detention lake created on Waubensee Creek for flood control and recreation. The lake has a maximum depth of 14.5 feet. Spring Lake is the upstream-most lake in a series of three lakes built by impounding the Waubensee Creek. Spring Lake is located in a Fox Valley Park District (FVPD) park and natural vegetation buffer is maintained around the shoreline within the park. Bank erosion was not an issue where buffer was present, but eroding banks were evident along portions of shoreline adjacent to homes where lawns were mowed to the lake's edge. There is an improved park with a concrete boat ramp, ADA accessible fishing pier and public restrooms.

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

STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY – Good numbers of largemouth bass and bluegill should provide plenty of action at this family friendly park. Population indices for largemouth bass suggest that the population is doing well and better than it was in the 2012 survey.

LARGEMOUTH BASS – Largemouth bass were caught at a rate of 80 fish per hour, which was higher than the desired catch rate of 60 fish per hour. This catch rate is lower than in the previous survey, but size structure looks much better. Largemouth bass measured in length from 6.8 to 19.5 inches in length, with an average length of 12.0 inches (Table 2). The largest bass weighed 5.1 pounds. Seventy-three percent of the catch was longer than 12 inches. This lake likely lost some adult bass during the harsh winter of 2013-14, when several area lakes and ponds experienced winter kill. The population seems to be rebounding nicely.

BLUEGILL – Bluegill abundance has been high in this lake in the last two surveys, with catch rates ranging from 248 to 405 fish per hour. This most recent survey caught bluegill at a rate of 342 fish per hour. Bluegill ranged in length from 2.3 to 7.2 inches, with an average length of 5.1 inches. About five percent of the bluegill in the sample measured longer than six inches.

BLACK CRAPPIE - One small (5.4 inch) black crappie was captured in the survey. 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. Black crappies have not been over abundant in any of the last three surveys

CHANNEL CATFISH – Channel catfish were not captured in this survey. Channel catfish were stocked in 2012 and 2014 which means there should be harvestable size catfish available in this lake.

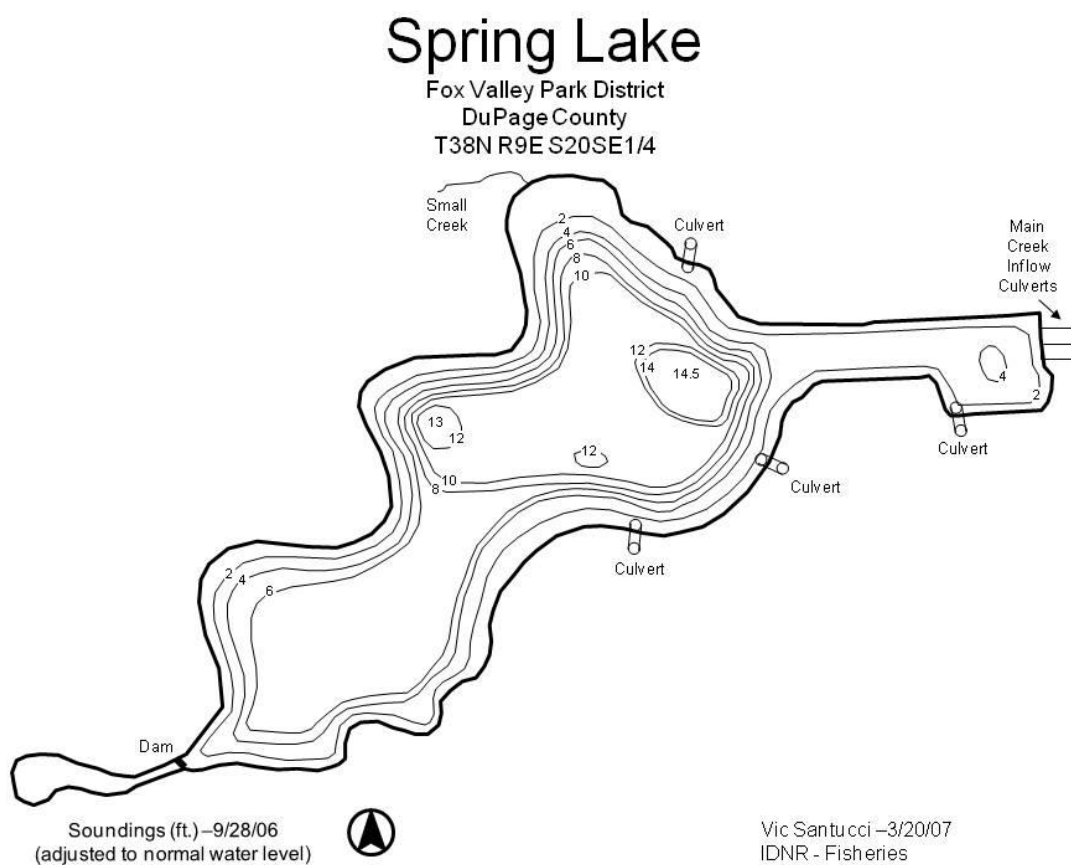
COMMON CARP – Seven common carp were captured. They ranged in size from 14.5 to 21.8 inches, averaging 16.9 inches. Common carp dislodge vegetation and cloud the water with their feeding behavior of “rooting” through the substrate. Unlimited harvest is encouraged for this detrimental species.

ADDITIONAL FISH SPECIES: Multiple forage species are present in the lake. While less abundant in our survey, gizzard shad, golden shiner, and bluntnose minnow should provide alternative forage for largemouth bass or other predatory fish (northern pike) should they be stocked.

Summary of Catch - Spring Lake Survey on May 8th, 2017 – 30 minutes DC electrofishing

Species	Number Collected	Length (Inches)			Weight (pounds)	
		Min	Max	Avg.	Min	Max
Bluegill	57	2.76	7.20	5.09	0.03	0.27
Largemouth bass	40	6.77	19.45	11.99	0.12	5.11
Common carp	7	14.49	21.77	16.93	1.37	6.22
Gizzard shad	5	6.38	10.87	7.76	0.07	0.36
Golden shiner	4	4.13	6.38	5.22	0.02	0.11
Black bullhead	1	8.27	8.27	8.27	0.31	0.31
Black crappie	1	5.43	5.43	5.43	0.08	0.08
Bluntnose minnow	1	2.87	2.87	2.87		
Yellow bullhead	1	8.15	8.15	8.15	0.32	0.32

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-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
-To purchase your fishing license go to: www.dnr.illinois.gov

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