



# Christopher Old City Lake

## Fisheries Fact Sheet

Christopher Old City Lake is a very fertile, shallow, 20-acre, city-owned impoundment located just northwest of Christopher, Illinois and north of Route 14 in Franklin County. Christopher Old City Lake is mostly surrounded by woods and has a gravel ramp.

**Largemouth bass:** The 2021 survey of Christopher Old City Lake produced drastically increased number of largemouth bass (108 per hour of electrofishing) compared to the previous year, and quality declined slightly. Twenty nine percent of bass were larger than the 15-inch minimum length limit, and 15% sampled fish were larger than 18 inches. Bass body condition was good, but evidence of natural reproduction was still lacking. Bass fingerlings have been stocked three times in the last five years to boost the population.

**Bluegill:** Bluegill numbers in Christopher Old City Lake were collected at a significantly higher rate of 972 per hour of electrofishing, and fish smaller than 6 inches in length were still the majority. Bluegill body condition remained stable well within the acceptable range. It is hoped that a stronger largemouth bass population (via recent implementation of more restrictive bass harvest regulations and bass stockings) will also improve quality of bluegill.

**Channel catfish:** Channel catfish (48 per hour) were included in the 2021 Christopher Old City Lake sample, and these fish ranged from 10 to 19 inches in length with good body condition. The Christopher Old City Lake channel catfish population is maintained via supplemental stockings every other year.

**Regulations in effect:** Channel catfish – 6 per day creel limit. A largemouth bass minimum length limit of 15 inches with a 3-per-day creel went into effect April 1, 2015. Consult the Illinois Fishing Information booklet for additional regulation information.

**Additional Fisheries Information** can be obtained by calling IDNR District Biologist Luke Nelson at 618-364-5381