



# Maple Lake

## 2020 FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

**LOCATION** – Maple Lake is located in DuPage County at the Meacham Grove Forest Preserve on Circle Ave., 0.25 miles north of Lake Street in Bloomingdale.

**DESCRIPTION** – Maple Lake is a 17.7-acre borrow-pit lake located in the Meacham Grove Forest Preserve. The lake was built in 1952 and rebuilt in 1994 as an urban flood retention reservoir. It is one of 29 lakes and ponds owned and maintained for sport fishing by the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County (FPDDC). No watercraft are allowed. There is a popular jogging/walking path around the lake. The FPDDC has installed several fish attracting structures in this lake (see map on the reverse side of this summary).

**MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES** - These waters are under management of 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. Channel Catfish and Largemouth Bass have been stocked regularly in the last ten years. Walleye were stocked for the first time in 2019. In a 2012 survey, Yellow Bass were found to be very abundant. This species is not managed for in this lake and is considered a nuisance species. Active removals since 2013 have removed 685 pounds of Yellow Bass. The fish are being used to feed animals at a nearby wildlife and bird rehab facility. An electrofishing survey was conducted on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 to assess the sportfish population. A summary table is found on the reverse side of this summary.

**\*New sportfishing regulations for all DuPage County Forest Preserve lakes and ponds went into effect April 1<sup>st</sup>, 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.**

**STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY** – Low numbers of quality size largemouth bass and bluegill were found in the previous surveys in 2012 and 2016. The 2020 survey showed Yellow Bass were still present, but not in alarmingly high numbers. Largemouth Bass and Bluegill population indices look better than they have in a more than a decade!

**LARGEMOUTH BASS** – **Largemouth Bass** were captured at a rate of 59 fish per hour, this catch rate is just under the management goal of sixty fish per hour, but still considered “good”. Size structure was much better than in previous surveys with a rating of “Good” in every category. Largemouth bass ranged in size from 3.1 to 20.6 inches long with an average length of 8.6 inches. The heaviest bass weighed 4.8 pounds. Thirty-Three percent of the catch were longer than 12 inches, while 6% were longer than 15 inches.

**BLUEGILL** – The catch rate was 306 fish per hour (based on a 20-minute subsample) in 2020. This is well above the management goal and suggests that removal of Yellow Bass is helping the Bluegill Population. Bluegill size structure looked better in 2020 than in the last two surveys (2012 and 2016). Nineteen percent of the bluegills were longer than six inches, while five percent were longer than seven inches.

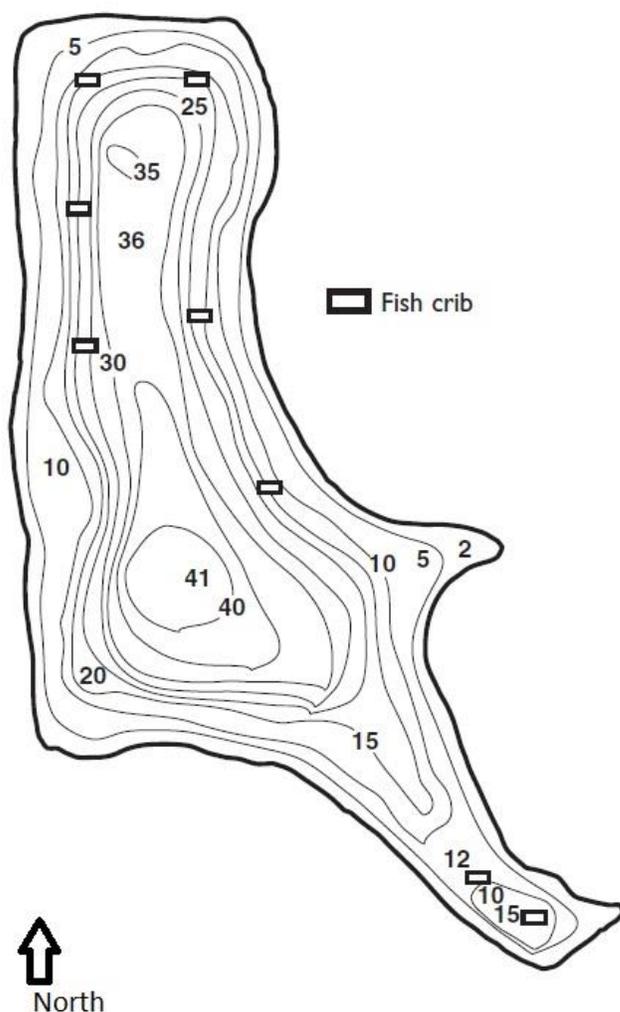
**BLACK CRAPPIE** - Twenty-two Black Crappie was captured in this survey, which meets the management goals for this lake. Only one of the Crappie was longer than 8 inches. This species also looks to doing better with the removal of Yellow Bass.

**CHANNEL CATFISH** – Five Channel Catfish were caught in this survey. They ranged in length from 15.6 to 22.1 inches.

**ADDITIONAL FISH SPECIES** – Since there is connectivity to Salt Creek, several riverine species, which are not stocked, inhabit the lake. Yellow Bass were extremely abundant prior to removal efforts. Maple Lake Yellow Bass abundance will be monitored for years to come. Common Carp, Green Sunfish, Golden Shiner and White Sucker commonly found in our surveys.

## Maple Lake Survey – June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020 – 45 Minutes of D.C. Electrofishing

Species	Number Collected	Length (Inches)			Weight (pounds)	
		Min	Max	Avg.	Min	Max
Bluegill	101	2.8	7.6	4.8	0.0	0.4
Largemouth Bass	54	3.1	20.6	8.6	0.2	4.7
Yellow Bass	60	4.0	9.1	5.5	0.0	0.3
Black Crappie	22	4.0	8.3	5.6	0.0	0.3
Common Carp	15	NA	NA		NA	NA
Green Sunfish	7	3.2	5.2	3.9		
Channel Catfish	5	15.6	22.1	19.6	1.2	4.6
White Sucker	5	9.1	18.2	11.9	0.3	0.8
Walleye	2	6.5	7.2	6.9	0.1	0.1
<b>Total # Fish Collected</b>	<b>271</b>					



-Two pole and line fishing only and each pole must not have more than two hooks or lures attached while fishing.

### Largemouth or Smallmouth Bass

- 14 to 18 inch protected slot limit;  
- 4 fish daily creel limit with three fish less than 14 inches and one fish over 18 inches.

### Channel Catfish

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

### White or Black Crappie

- 15 fish daily creel limit; no size restrictions

### Bluegill and Redear

- 25 fish daily creel limit; no size restrictions

### Yellow Perch

- Five fish daily creel limit; 9 inch minimum length limit

### Walleye

- Three fish daily creel limit; 16 inch minimum length limit

*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](http://www.dupageforest.com)

-For general information on fishing in Illinois visit the IDNR Fisheries Division at:

[www.ifishillinois.org](http://www.ifishillinois.org) AND purchase your fishing license online at: [www.dnr.illinois.gov](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov)