



HASTINGS LAKE

FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

LOCATION – Located in the Village of Lindenhurst, in Lake County, Illinois.

DESCRIPTION – Hastings Lake was purchased by the Lake County Forest Preserve District in 2003 from the YMCA of Metropolitan Chicago. The YMCA maintained a Youth Camp at the lake from 1923 to 2003. Hastings Lake is a glacial origin lake and has inputs from Crooked Lake to the west and Linden Lake to its southeast. Hastings Lake is 74 acres; shoreline length 1.5 miles; watershed 2129 acres (29 to 1); maximum depth 26 feet; average depth 9.5 feet. Carry-in boats, kayaks and canoes can launch on a sandy shoreline in the northwestern part of the lake. Electric trolling motors are allowed. There is No developed boat ramp and there is no trailer parking available. No concessions are available and no fish cleaning facilities are available.

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES: Common carp were causing some water quality problems when the lake was acquired in 2003 so a removal project was undertaken; 620 carp weighing 1500 lbs. were removed by 2008 and predator stockings were enhanced. The fishery has rebounded and now supports a more balanced combination of sport fish and pan fish. Occasional fish surveys take place to update the Status of the Fishery.

STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY – Hastings Lake receives annual stockings of 10” northern pike. Below is a brief description of catchable game species in this water body.

LARGEMOUTH BASS – In 2015, 22 largemouth bass were collected in 50 minutes of DC electrofishing. Fish measured 7.3” and 20.3”; 81% were over 12” long, 67% were over 14” long, and 62% exceeded the legal length of 15”. Water was very clear during the survey and many more fish could be seen cruising in front of work boat but couldn’t be collected! The size structure of this population creates a quality bass fishing experience and many pan fishing opportunities!

BLUEGILL – In 2015, 98 Bluegill were collected. Fish ranged from 4” to 7.8”; 14% of the bluegill were over 7” long and 3% were over 7.5” long. Larger fish likely exist but because of sampling conditions larger size bluegill were tough to collect.

BLACK CRAPPIE – 4 Black crappie were collected in 2015. Fish measured from 5” to 9.2”. Larger crappie were not been detected with the gear we used but likely are present at lower abundances.

NORTHERN PIKE – This species is stocked annually with 10” fingerlings. Spring fyke nets targeting northern pike yielded 4.2 fish/net night; averaged 27” long and weighed 4.8 lbs.

ADDITIONAL FISH SPECIES: Approximately 10 fish species have recently been detected in this mid-size glacial lake: largemouth bass, bluegill, black crappie, yellow perch, northern pike, yellow bass, black crappie, pumpkinseed sunfish, common carp, black bullhead.

FISHING REGULATIONS – Statewide fishing regulations apply at this lake (see current Illinois Fishing Information booklet and IFISHILLINOIS website <http://www.ifishillinois.org/> for specific details).

Additional Site Specific fishing regulations:

Boaters – kayak/canoe (electric trolling motor only)

All fish species - Two pole and line fishing only.

Largemouth Bass – 15” minimum length limit; 6 fish daily creel limit.

Walleye – 14” minimum length limit; 6 fish daily creel limit

Northern pike – 24” minimum length limit; 3 fish per day creel limit

CONTACT INFORMATION – Lake County Forest Preserve District: 847/367-6640.
IDNR Fisheries County Fish Biologist: 815/675-2319.

Hastings Lake Map

