



Cheshire Lake

FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

LOCATION – Cheshire Lake is located on the east side of Aurora. Starting from Eola Road, drive west on McCoy Drive and turn right on Cheshire Drive. The lake is located in Cheshire Park and barely visible from the road.

DESCRIPTION – Cheshire Lake is a 4.7 acre dug retention pond with a maximum depth of 13 feet. The lake is owned and maintained by the Fox Valley Park District (FVPD) as a community park in a residential setting. Theoretically, winterkill should not be an issue at this lake due to its 13 foot depth and flow through from storm sewers. A twenty foot strip of vegetation is left un-mowed around the lake to act as a buffer against nutrients entering the lake. A playground and basketball court is located at the adjacent park. See the reverse side for a bathymetric map.

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES: The FVPD has entered into a cooperative management agreement with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to facilitate fisheries management activities. Site specific regulations apply (Six fish daily creel on channel catfish and a three fish, 15 inch minimum limit on largemouth bass). The IDNR conducted a 15 minute electrofishing survey on May 29, 2014. A new channel catfish stocking program (1300-1500 four inch catfish every other year) should offer great fishing for this species in the future.

STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY – This lake is recovering from a fairly severe fish kill during the harsh winter of 2013-14. Recommendations for re-stocking have been made. The lake will be surveyed every four years to monitor the re-establishment of this fishery.

LARGEMOUTH BASS – In our 2014 electrofishing survey, only 8 largemouth bass were found in fifteen minutes of shocking. The catch ranged in size from 3.9 to 15.4 inches. Several adult sized fish were present in the sample to help re-colonize the lake. When this lake was sampled in 2008, it actually had an overabundance of small (10-12 inch) bass so the fish kill may have helped out this population in the long run.

BLUEGILL – Twenty bluegill were captured during the survey. This species will have no problem re-colonizing the lake. It would be prudent for local anglers to not keep any large bluegills (over 6 inches) in 2015 and 2016.

CHANNEL CATFISH – No channel catfish were captured in this survey. Fishing for channel catfish should be better in the future as 1300-1400 four and a half inch channel catfish were stocked in 2012 and 2014.

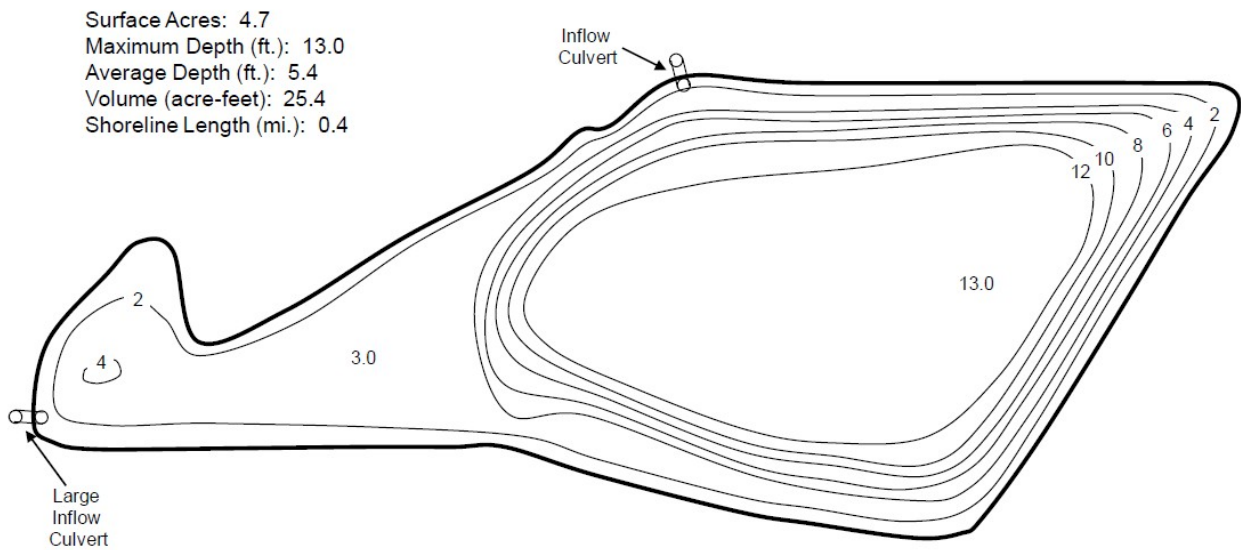
COMMON CARP – Four common carp were captured during the survey. They ranged in size from 23.5 inches to a massive 34.8 inch fish that weighed 31 pounds. Common carp abundance does not appear to be extreme at this time but unlimited harvest is encouraged for this detrimental species.

ADDITIONAL FISH SPECIES: Black crappie were present but not abundant when the lake was sampled last in 2008. The lake is not managed for crappie.

Cheshire Lake Survey on May 29th, 2014

15 minutes D.C. electrofishing

Species	Number Collected	Length (Inches)			Weight (pounds)	
		Min	Max	Avg.	Min	Max
Bluegill	20	3.98	6.38	4.92	0.04	0.20
Largemouth bass	8	3.90	15.39	10.21	0.06	1.89
Common carp	4	23.54	34.84	26.75	6.86	31.00
Black crappie	1	9.17	9.17	9.17	0.38	0.38
Total # of fish	33					



Soundings (ft.) –9/4/08
 (normal water level)

Vic Santucci –11/13/08
 IDNR - Fisheries

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