



# DES PLAINES LAKE (LCFPD)

## FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

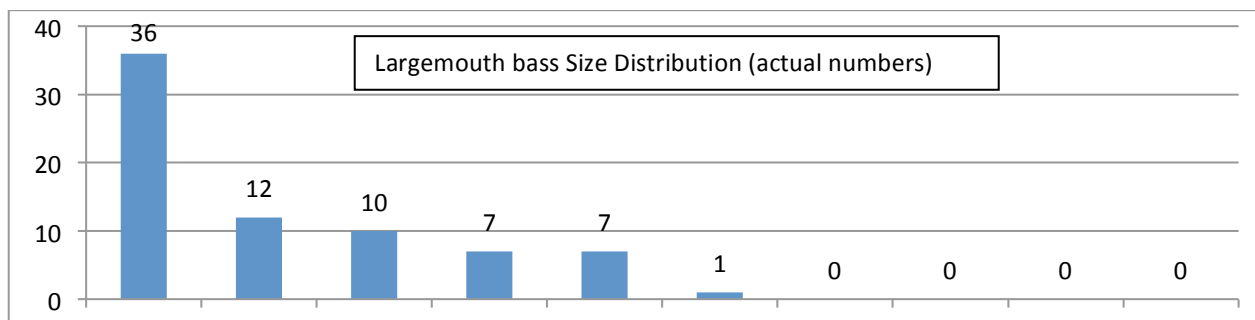
**LOCATION** – Located north of Gurnee, east of Route 41 and south of Wadsworth Road in Lake County, Illinois.

**DESCRIPTION** – Des Plaines Lake was once a quarry and isolated from the Des Plaines River, it now is connected and the Des Plaines River flows through the lake. Des Plaines Lake is 19 acres; shoreline length 1.0 miles; maximum depth 36 feet; average depth 4 feet. The closest kayak/canoe launch is approximately 2 miles upstream near Wadsworth Road. The lake is accessible by foot or bike along a limestone path.

**MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES:** Since access is so difficult and this system is connected to the Des Plaines River, very little management occurs here.

**STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY** – Des Plaines Lake has a nice largemouth bass population because it's a backwater of the Des Plaines River. Backwaters are magnets for many fish species that benefit from slower river flows; bass, bluegill, black crappie, northern pike and bowfin. Below is a brief description of catchable game species in this water body.

**LARGEMOUTH BASS** – In 2016, 59 bass were collected in 30 minutes of DC electrofishing. Fish measured up to 16.2" and weighed up to 2.5 lbs. 20% were > 12", 12% were > 14", 12% > 15" (legal length) and 2% > 16" long. This size structure provides quality bass fishing in a relatively small area but because it is connected to the Des Plaines River fish may not remain as resident's long enough to grow really big. Fish in rivers tend to disperse up and down the system.



**BLUEGILL** – In 2016, 101 Bluegill were collected. They ranged up to 7.4" long and weighed up to 0.32 lbs. 18% exceeded 6" long, 3% were > 7", 0% exceeded 7.5" long.

**BLACK CRAPPIE** – 10 Black crappie were collected during this survey. Fish measured up to 11" and weighed up to 0.8 lbs. 80% topped 9", 40% exceeded 10" and 10% were > 11" long.

**CHANNEL CATFISH** – No channel catfish were collected during this survey but are expected to exist in the system, especially since downstream dams have been removed which allows migrating fish, like channel catfish to move more freely.

**ADDITIONAL FISH SPECIES:**

( 30 minutes DC electrofishing )

Species	Number	Relative Abundance (%)	Minimum (inches)	Average (inches)	Maximum (inches)
BLUEGILL	101	44.7	1.7	4.7	7.4
LARGEMOUTH BASS	59	26.1	3	9.5	16.2
SPOTTED SUCKER	22	9.7	7.7	14.2	16.2
BLACK CRAPPIE	10	4.4	7.3	9.5	11.1
BOWFIN	7	3.1	14.9	20.9	24.7
PUMPKINSEED SUNFISH	6	2.7	4.3	4.7	5.4
COMMON CARP*	5	2.2	20.8	21.7	23.3
WARMOUTH	6	2.7	3.5	4.9	7.6
GIZZARD SHAD	3	1.3	5.6	8.7	14.3
NORTHERN PIKE	2	0.9	10.3	15.1	20
GREEN SUNFISH	2	0.9	4.1	4.3	4.4
WHITE SUCKER	1	0.4		17.1	
GOLDEN SHINER	1	0.4		5.6	
BLACKSTRIPED TOPMINNOW	1	0.4		2.8	
		0			
<b>SPECIES= 14 TOTAL =</b>	<b>226</b>	<b>100.0</b>			

**FISHING REGULATIONS** – Statewide fishing regulations apply unless posted at site; see Illinois Fishing Regulation Booklet or <http://www.ifishillinois.org>.

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

**Des Plaines Lake Map**

