



Muskrat Pond

2021 FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

LOCATION – Muskrat Pond is located in the Hawk Hollow Forest Preserve. Walk-in access is available off Army Trail Road at Klein Rd. in Bartlett.

DESCRIPTION – Muskrat Pond is a 3.3-acre gravel pit pond with a maximum depth of 25 ft. at normal water level and average depth is 12.0 ft. The bottom drops rapidly from the shoreline around most of the pond and little shallow littoral habitat is present. Clear water allows submersed vegetation to grow throughout much of the lake. The pond and much of its watershed are contained within the forest preserve and the shoreline is undeveloped. No amenities are available at this location.

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES: The fish community in this pond is sampled every four years. Largemouth bass and Channel Catfish are stocked occasionally to supplement natural reproduction. The Forest Preserve District of DuPage County has installed several fish attractors to provide additional fish cover and structure in this bowl-shaped lake. An electrofishing survey was conducted on April 28th, 2021. New regulations were added in 2017 (see reverse).

STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY – Steep sided ponds are difficult to sample due to the lack of shallow water habitat where electrofishing is most effective. The Spring electrofishing sample showed good catch rate and size structure for Largemouth Bass. Bluegill were abundant and size structure was similar to previous surveys. Access is an issue at Muskrat Pond, so it is a destination for the more adventurous angler who is willing to do some walking to get to a secluded spot.

LARGEMOUTH BASS – Largemouth bass abundance was rated as good during the most recent survey. Bass were captured at a rate of 94 fish per hour. This catch rate is higher than the 60 fish per hour management goal, but not high enough to cause stunting in the Bass population. Largemouth Bass ranged in length from 3.9 to 20.9 inches, with the heaviest fish weighing 5.5 pounds. Over 50% of the sample was longer than twelve inches, while eleven percent were longer than 15 inches.

BLUEGILL – Bluegill catch rate was 139 fish per hour. This is slightly higher than the desired 120 fish per hour goal in the management plan. Bluegill ranged in length from 1.2 to 7.0 inches with an average length of 4.2 inches. Nine percent of the Bluegill sampled were longer than six inches.

CHANNEL CATFISH – One 19-inch Channel Catfish was captured in the survey. They should be fairly abundant at this “off the beaten path” pond where harvest should be low. Channel Catfish are rarely sampled in our spring electrofishing surveys.

BLACK CRAPPIE – Four small Black Crappie were captured in the 2021 survey. Black Crappie up to 11.5 inches have been captured in previous surveys. Crappie numbers tend to fluctuate greatly in lakes and ponds in the area and this year seems to be one of the “down” years for Muskrat Pond.

COMMON CARP – Common Carp are abundant in Muskrat Pond. Nineteen Carp were caught, ranging in length from 14.9 to 27.2 inches. Common carp dislodge vegetation and cloud the water with their feeding behavior of “rooting” through the substrate. Unlimited harvest is encouraged for this detrimental species.

ADDITIONAL FISH SPECIES: Gizzard Shad, Green Sunfish and Hybrid Sunfish have also been sampled from Muskrat Pond.

2021 Muskrat Pond Electrofishing Survey - 35 minutes DC Electrofishing – April 28th, 2021

Species	Number Collected	Length (Inches)			Weight (pounds)	
		Min	Max	Avg.	Min	Max
Bluegill	83	1.18	7.01	4.19	0.04	0.19
Largemouth Bass	55	3.94	20.87	9.13	0.09	5.49
Common Carp	19	14.88	27.17	21.02		
Black Crappie	4	4.41	7.72	5.31	0.05	0.23
Gizzard Shad	1	13.39	13.39	13.39	0.76	0.76
Green Sunfish	1	5.91	5.91	5.91		
Channel Catfish	1	19.69	19.69	19.69	2.05	2.05
Grand Total	164					

List of site-specific regulations for all FPDDC lakes and ponds:

Two pole and line fishing only.

*Largemouth Bass – 14-18-inch protected slot limit; 4 fish daily creel limit with 3 fish that can be harvested under 14 inches and 1 fish 18 inches and larger.

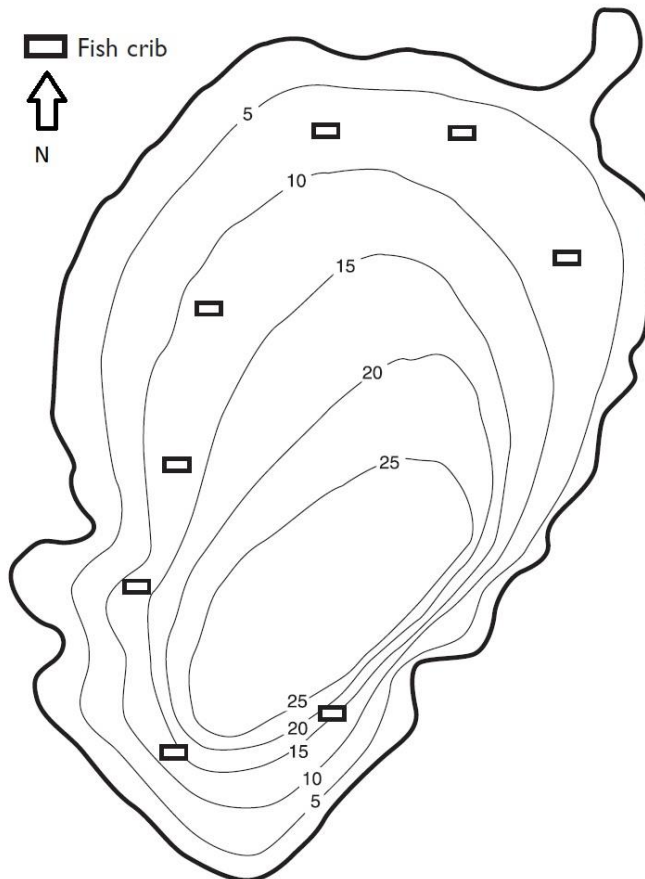
*Bluegill – No minimum length limit; 25 fish daily creel limit

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

*White and black crappie – No minimum length limit; 15 fish daily creel limit.

Northern pike – 24-inch minimum length limit; 3 fish daily creel limit (statewide regulation).

* indicates new for 2017



-This map courtesy of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County - "Fishing in Dupage County"

-For more information call the District at (630) 933-7200 or IDNR Fisheries at (815) 675-2386 ext. 214

-For more information on fishing in Illinois go to: www.ifishillinois.org and to purchase your fishing license online go to: www.dnr.illinois.gov