



# Meadow Lake

## 2020 FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

**LOCATION** – Meadow Lake Park is located in the southeast corner of Aurora, just west of Route 59. From Route 59, head west on Montgomery Road, and turn right (north) on Meadowbrook Drive. Meadow Lake is about 200 yards north of Montgomery Road. Parking is on the street.

**DESCRIPTION** – Meadow Lake is a three acre dug retention pond which is part of system of lakes used for storm water retention. Maximum depth is eight feet. The lake is owned and maintained by the Fox Valley Park District (FVPD) as a community park in a residential setting. The shoreline is mowed in several areas to allow access for shore fishing. The park also contains a playground and basketball court.

**MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES:** The FVPD has entered into a cooperative management agreement with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to facilitate fisheries management activities. An electrofishing survey took place on September 23<sup>rd</sup>, of 2020 as a follow up to the 2015 survey. Site specific regulations apply (see reverse side). Winterkill was reported at this lake in the spring of 2014 after the harsh winter of 2013-14.

**STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY** – Very large, dense mats of water willow protruded out from the shoreline covering water that was up to six feet deep. Water Willow provides great cover for small fish and invertebrates, but it hampers fishing access and our ability to effectively sample. The electrofishing catch was most likely negatively affected. Good numbers of Largemouth Bass should provide plenty of action. Heavy fishing line will need to be used if fishing in the areas covered in water willow. The Bluegill catch was nearly non-existent as they tend to use the shallow habitat covered by the water willow.

**LARGEMOUTH BASS** – In our 2020 electrofishing survey, Largemouth Bass were caught at a rate of 102 fish per hour. We consider anything over 60 fish per hour to be a healthy abundance measure. The average bass was 9.8 inches long, but bass lengths ranged from 2.4 to 20.6 inches. Two bass measured longer than 20 inches and weighed over five pounds. Thirty-two percent of the bass were over 12 inches and 18% were longer than 15 inches.

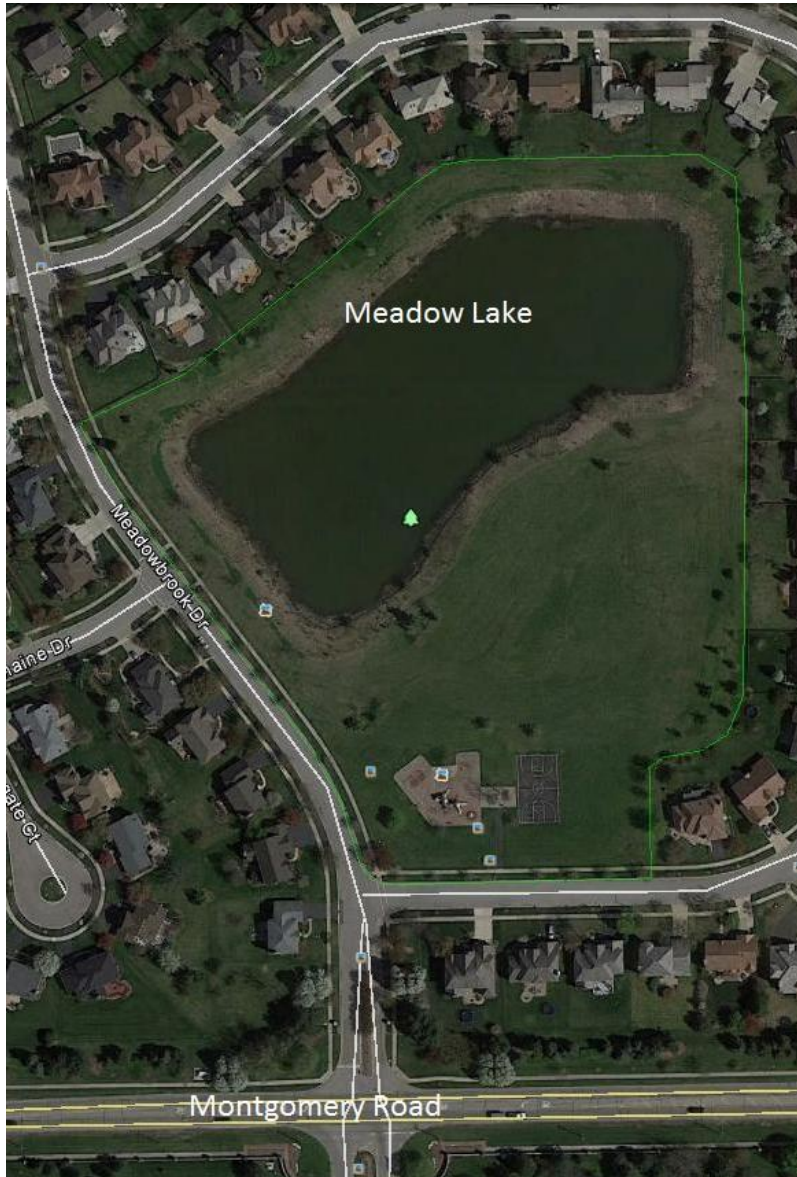
**BLUEGILL** – Only 15 Bluegill were captured. This low catch is most likely due to the vegetation described above. The previous survey had an abundant Bluegill population with a catch rate of 184 fish per hour. Bluegill ranged in size from 2.9 to 6.5 inches, with an average size of 4.6 inches. Nine percent of the sampled fish were over six inches.

**COMMON CARP** – Ten common carp were captured in this survey. They ranged in size from 15.5 to 19.9 inches, averaging 17.4 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 Yellow Bullhead were caught when the pond was sampled in 2015.

**Summary of Meadow Lake Survey – September 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 – 20 minutes DC electrofishing**

Species	Number Collected	Length (Inches)			Weight (pounds)	
		Min	Max	Avg.	Min	Max
Largemouth Bass	34	2.4	20.6	9.8	0.1	5.0
Bluegill	15	2.9	6.5	4.6	0.1	0.2
Common Carp	10	15.5	19.9	17.4	2.2	3.7
Total # fish collected	59					



**SITE SPECIFIC REGULATIONS**  
 All fish – 2 pole and line fishing only  
**Largemouth and Smallmouth Bass** – 15 inch minimum limit – 3 fish daily creel limit  
**Channel Catfish** – six fish daily creel limit

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](http://www.ifishillinois.org)  
 To purchase your fishing license go to: [www.dnr.illinois.gov](http://www.dnr.illinois.gov)