



LAKE CHAMINWOOD

FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

LOCATION – Lake Chaminwood is located in Will County, 1 mile north of Channahon off Shepley Road and just minutes from Interstate 55.

DESCRIPTION – Located in northeastern Illinois, Lake Chaminwood is a gravel pit lake which was purchased in 2009 by the Forest Preserve District of Will County (FPDWC) and is cooperatively managed by the IDNR. Following the completion of the site development project, the lake was opened to the public in 2010. Lake Chaminwood has a maximum depth of 10.0 feet with an average depth of 5.0 feet. The watershed is somewhat limited but the lake is fed by groundwater. During flood events, water has entered the lake from the adjacent DuPage River. Boat fishing is restricted to smaller watercraft which are easily carried, i.e. canoes and kayaks. Electric trolling motors only. Much of the east side of the lake lends itself to bank fishing whereas the west side has reduced opportunity. A barrier-free fishing pier is available on the east side near the parking lot. Fishing is open daily during open water - ice fishing is not allowed.

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES: Lake Chaminwood is surveyed on a biennial basis, incorporated various gear types. Aquatic vegetation is managed by the Forest Preserve District, in cooperation with the IDNR. Fish stockings are completed as recommended/required.

STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY – Lake Chaminwood supports a good largemouth bass fishery as well as a diverse panfish population consisting of good populations of bluegill and redear sunfish. Crappie were not as prevalent in the most recent survey as in the past but site reports indicated anglers having fair to good success during the 2015 season. Channel catfish are present but in somewhat low density. The fishery also supports riverine species which have been introduced from the DuPage River during high water events.

LARGEMOUTH BASS – In the fall 2015 survey, largemouth bass were collected at the rate of 216 per hour of electrofishing, ranging from 2.4” to 16.9” with an average size of 6.9”. 25% of this collection was comprised of bass 12”. No legal-size bass were collected in the 2015 survey and trend analysis has shown cropping of those individuals of larger size.

BLUEGILL – Bluegills were very prominent in the 2015 fall survey, collected at the rate of 282 per hour at a length range of less than 1” up to nearly 8”. The average size bluegill in this collection slightly exceeded 4” while bluegills 7” and larger were more prevalent than in past IDNR fall surveys. This should provide excellent angling opportunities in the coming season.

REDEAR SUNFISH –Very few were collected in the 2015 survey which is felt to be more of a sampling anomaly than a steep decline in the population. Redear sunfish exceeding 10” were collected in this survey, however.

BLACK CRAPPIE – Only 16 black crappie were collected in 2015, ranging from 5.9” to 11.4”. No white crappie were collected. Site reports indicated that spring crappie angling in 2015 was fair.

CHANNEL CATFISH – Very few were collected in IDNR sampling in 2015. It is anticipated that this population will be augmented by stockings of non-vulnerable size fish from the state hatchery system on a rotational basis.

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 - Trolling motor only

All fish species - Two pole and line fishing only.

Channel Catfish – 3 fish daily creel limit.

Largemouth Bass – 18” minimum length limit ; 1 fish daily creel limit.

White, Black, or Hybrid Crappie – 15 fish daily creel limit

Bluegill or Redear Sunfish – 15 fish daily creel limit

CONTACT INFORMATION – Lake Chaminwood: 815/727-8700
or visit the Will County Forest Preserve website at
<http://www.reconnectwithnature.org/>
IDNR Fisheries County Fish Biologist: 630/553-6680.