

LAKE MINGO

LAKE STATUS SUMMARY



LOCATION: Lake Mingo is located 8 miles northwest of Danville in Kennekuk Cove County Park and is operated by the Vermilion County Conservation District. For more information about Lake Mingo and Kennekuk Cove County Park, visit the web page <https://vccd.org/kennekuk-county-park/>

DESCRIPTION: Lake Mingo is 170 acres and was built in 1980 and was renovated in 1983. The lake has a maximum depth of 38 feet and an average depth of 13.5 feet. There is a 9.9 horsepower limit and there is one boat launch.

STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY: The IDNR Division of Fisheries has been active in the management of the fisheries in Lake Mingo since the lake was constructed. The lake currently receives stockings of Channel Catfish, Redear Sunfish, and Saugeye. The following information is a summary of the major sport fisheries based on periodic fish population surveys.

Largemouth Bass – During the most recent electrofishing survey, the catch rate for bass was 54.9 per hour. The average catch rate for the past six surveys is 98.2 bass per hour. Of the bass collected over 8 inches, 60% were longer than 12 inches, 42% were longer than 15 inches, and 9% were longer than 20 inches. A new bass regulation was implemented in 2015 to allow anglers to remove bass less than 15 inches and also protect the number of bass over 15 inches. The 2021 survey resulted in the second highest catch rate ever for bass over 15 inches in Lake Mingo. Lake Mingo has a good bass fishery.

Bluegill - The Bluegill population is regulated by a length limit that protects the larger Bluegill from overharvest. Only 5 Bluegill over 8 inches can be kept, but a total of 20 Bluegill can be harvested. Approximately 58% of the Bluegill collected during the most recent survey were longer than 6 inches. No Bluegill were collected over 8 inches, but 8% of the Bluegill were longer than 7 inches. The Bluegill fishery has improved under the maximum size limit, but there is plenty of room for improvement. Lake Mingo has a good Bluegill fishery.

Redear Sunfish - The number of Redear Sunfish has fluctuated over the years and may be due to the amount of aquatic vegetation in Lake Mingo. Redear Sunfish are dependent upon having adequate amounts of aquatic vegetation. Even though the Redear Sunfish numbers change, there are always 7 to 9-inch Redear Sunfish in the fishery. On average, 70.5% of the Redear Sunfish collected are larger than 7 inches. Reproduction has been low the past few years and is resulting in a decline in Redear Sunfish numbers. Redear Sunfish are stocked in an effort to increase numbers to previous levels.

Channel Catfish - The State Hatchery System stocks Channel Catfish each year to maintain a quality catfish fishery. The Channel Catfish fishery in Lake Mingo commonly produces catfish from 1 to 10 pounds. With the continued efforts from the hatchery, the Channel Catfish fishery will provide anglers a great fishing opportunity.

Crappie – In 2008, a 9” length limit and a 15 per day harvest limit was placed on crappie. The new regulation quickly improved the quality of the crappie fishery. For the first time in 10 years, crappie over 10 inches were collected during the 2010 fish survey. During the most recent fish survey the black crappie catch rate was 13.5 per hour and the four-survey average is 9 per hour. The crappie fishery is dominated by Black Crappie and very White Crappie are collected during surveys. Occasional strong year classes for White Crappie are produced and provides quality fishing for a few years.

FISHING REGULATIONS: 2 Pole and Line Fishing Only, Except bowfishing is allowed from a boat.

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>LENGTH LIMIT</u>	<u>DAILY CREEL LIMIT</u>
Largemouth Bass	2 <15" and 1 ≥15"	3
Channel Catfish	None	6
Muskie	36"	1
Bluegill/Redear Sunfish	Only 5 Over 8"	20
Crappie	9"	15

For other species, statewide regulations are in effect. For further regulation information, please consult the current Illinois Fishing Regulation Booklet.

Lake Mingo and Kennekuk Cove County Park: 217-442-1691
 IDNR Fisheries: 217-784-4730

Vermilion County Conservation District

RECREATION MAP at Kennekuk County Park

Collins
archaeological
site

Map legend

- Water
- Trails
- Parking
- Private
- Restrooms
- Roads
- Ball diamonds
- Shelters/Buildings**
- 1 Visitor Center
- 2 Park residence
- 3 Nature Center
- 4 White Oak Barn (shelter)
- 5 Maintenance
- 6 Hickory Hollow (shelter)
- 7 Twin Points (shelter)
- 8 Herb garden
- 9 Vermilion Chapel
- 10 Hideaway
- 11 Red Oak School
- 12 Neff Grocery
- 13 Bunker Hill Historic Area
- 14 Boat ramp
- 15 Rotary Point (shelter)
- 16 Mallard Point (shelter)
- 17 Dining Car
- 18 Laury Barn
- 19 Gazebo

Ponds

- A Horseshoe
- B Cedar Hill
- C White Oak
- D Twin Points

