



# LAKE MENDOTA

## FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

### LOCATION –

**DESCRIPTION** – Lake Mendota is a small 18 acre lake located on just off Illinois Route 251. Lake Mendota is owned by the city of Mendota and the Fishery is managed by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Fishery Division. Lake Mendota has one boat ramp, but the lake has a no gas motor regulation. A handicapped fishing pier, picnic area, shelters and restrooms are available for use at the lake.

**MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES** - The fishery is managed by annual species-specific surveys, regulations, and stocking.

**STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY** – Lake Mendota receives an annual stocking of Channel catfish, and Rainbow Trout.

### Largemouth Bass:

Lake Mendota did have a history of a poor Largemouth population with poor to average growth. Regulation changes in 1992 to the current regulation have produced a quality Largemouth population. The 2022 sample showed a diverse population with a PSD of 54. Total catch per unit effort (CPUE) was like the 2022 survey. Fish in the 15-20 size group have not rebounded to pre 2019 numbers. Relative weights for fish less than 15 inches average near 90 indicating a lack of food and space. Harvest by anglers will be required to help fish get larger than 15 inches.

1.Management Plan Fall:Goal	2018	2019	2021	2022	2023
# Stock (200mm)	>100	58	62	125	104 109
PSD(95% CI)	40-60	57	82	45(11)	52(12) 54(14)
RSD 15	10-20	16	16	2	2 3
RSD 18	0-10	0	0	0	1 1

### 2.Fall diurnal DC electrofishing CPUE (fish/hr) of each length group of Largemouth bass collected at Lake Mendota

Year	<8	8-12	12.1-15	15.1-20	> 20	Total
2018	24.0	100.0	96.0		36.0	0.0 256.0
2019	44.0	44.0	164.0		40.0	0.0 292.0
2021	96.0	276.0	212.0		12.0	0.0 596.0
2022	56.0	200.0	208.0		8.0	0.0 472.0
2023	52.0	200.0	224		12.0	0.0 488.0

### Bluegill:

The Bluegill population historically was a low-density population that produced few large individuals. Stockings of Bluegill were done to boost bluegill numbers post summer fish kills. The 2023 survey showed increased catch numbers for 6–8-inch sized fish. Lacking numbers of fish less than 3 inches indicates reduced reproduction and stocking will continue in 2024 to help boost bluegill numbers. The increase in population numbers will help to feed the dense Largemouth bass population but also help to control Largemouth and Yellow Perch reproduction.

<u>1.Management Plan:</u>	<u>Goal:</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2019</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2023</u>
#Stock(80mm)	>100	14	3	41	67	84
PSD (95% CI)	20-60	93	67	56(19)	22(11)	68(16)
RSD 7	10-15	64	67	20	19	18
RSD 8	5-20	0	67	2	15	10

2.Fall diurnal DC electrofishing CPUE (fish/hr) of each length group of Bluegill collected at Lake Mendota

<u>Year</u>	<u>&lt;3</u>	<u>3.1-6</u>	<u>6.1-8</u>	<u>8.1-10</u>	<u>Total</u>
2018	0.0	4.0	52.0	0.0	56.0
2019	56.0	4.0	0.0	8.0	68.0
2021	32.0	72.0	88.0	4.0	196.0
2022	12.0	208.0	16.0	44.0	280.0
2023	0.0	108.0	192.0	36.0	336.0

**Crappie:**

Black crappie are present in Lake Mendota but are in low density. The few Black crappies that do show up in samples have been of quality size and in good condition. Anglers have reported some good catches in the past year. I suspect that these showed up from Lake KaKusha.

**Other Species:**

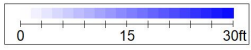
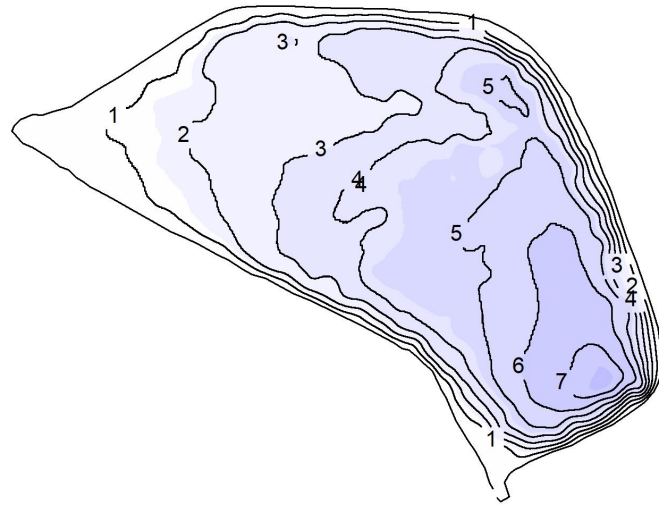
Other species present at Lake Mendota are Channel catfish, Golden shiner, Yellow perch, Green sunfish, Common carp, and Rainbow trout (Stocking program)

**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:

- All Fish . . . . . 2 Pole and Line Fishing Only
- Large or Smallmouth Bass . . . . . 1 Fish Daily Creel Limit over 15 inches and 2 Fish under 12 inches Daily creel Limit
- Bluegill or Redear Sunfish . . . . . Statewide Regulations
- Channel Catfish . . . . . 6 Fish Daily Creel Limit
- White, Black, or Hybrid Crappie . . . . . Statewide Regulations

**CONTACT INFORMATION** – Mendota Park District: 815-539-7287  
 IDNR Fisheries County Biologist: 630-360-4185



Mendota Map 2022\_2  
Mapping by AutoChart