



BANANA LAKE (LCFPD)

FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

LOCATION – Located in Lakewood Forest Preserve east of Wauconda, IL., west of Fairfield Road and south of Route 176 in Lake County.

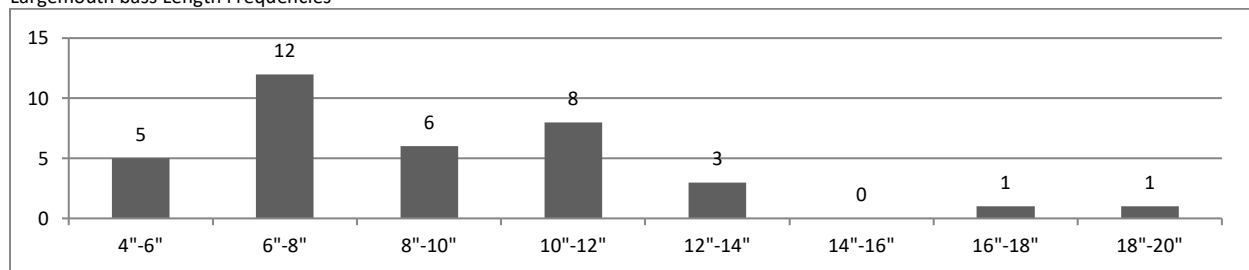
DESCRIPTION – Banana Lake is considered a dug wetland lake, though it appears to be a dug quarry lake by its bathymetry. Banana Lake is 4.8 acres; shoreline length 0.4 miles; watershed 67 acres (14 to 1); maximum depth 27 feet; average depth 13 feet. Picnic facilities and limestone trails are available in the park. No boats are allowed on Banana Lake. No concessions are available.

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES: Banana Lake receives periodic fish surveys by IDNR staff to update the status of the fishery.

STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY – Banana Lake is a steep sided lake so it's difficult to fish and can be surrounded by vegetation by mid-summer. The fishery is maintained by natural reproduction and has only a few species of fish present. Below is a brief description of catchable game species.

LARGEMOUTH BASS – In 2021, 37 bass were collected in 30 minutes of DC electrofishing. Fish measured up to 18.3" long and weighted up to 3.1 lbs.; 19% were > 12", 5% were > 15" (legal length) and 5% were > 17" long. The bass abundance and size structure in Banana Lake is indicative of a heavily fished, small lake. Reproduction is consistent and some larger fish are present but not abundant. Bass appear to be harvested as soon as they reach legal size.

Largemouth bass Length Frequencies



BLUEGILL – In 2021, 83 Bluegill were captured during the survey. They ranged up to 7.0" but most fish were small; 10% were > 6" and 1 fish was equal to 7" long. Bluegill are probably targeted and harvested as they reach "reasonable" size. In small lakes with fishing access there just aren't enough places for fish to hide and evade a baited hook!

ADDITIONAL FISH SPECIES: Banana Lake and Taylor Lake share many of the same species but Banana Lakes depth makes it difficult to collect species which may live near the bottom.

(30 minutes DC electrofishing)					
Species	Number	Relative Abundance (%)	Minimum (inches)	Average (inches)	Maximum (inches)
BLUEGILL	83	83.0	1.2	4.7	7.0
LARGEMOUTH BASS	37	37.0	2.9	8.5	18.3
PUMPKINSEED SUNFISH	8	8.0	4.1	5.2	5.6
GREEN SUNFISH	2	2.0	2.3	4.0	5.7
CHANNEL CATFISH	1	1.0		24.6	
SPECIES = 5 TOTAL =	131	100.0			

FISHING REGULATIONS – see Illinois Fishing Regulation Booklet or <http://www.ifishillinois.org>

All fish species - Two pole and line fishing only.

Channel Catfish – 3 fish daily creel limit.

Largemouth Bass – 15” minimum length limit; 1 fish daily creel limit.

No Boats allowed

CONTACT INFORMATION – Lake County Forest Preserve District: 847/367-6640.
IDNR District Fisheries Biologist: 815/675-2386.

Banana Lake Map

