



# CITIZEN'S LAKE

## FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

### LOCATION:

Citizen's Lake is located in Warren County at the west edge of Monmouth along U.S. Route 34.

### DESCRIPTION :

This small watershed impoundment of 26 acres is owned by the City of Monmouth and managed for fishing by the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. The lake has a south basin of 17.7 acres with a maximum depth of 33 feet and a north basin of 8.3 acres with maximum depth of 13 feet. The two basins are connected by a short channel that is spanned by a historic 1895 bridge. In 2016, the bridge was dedicated to Ken Russell the longtime IDNR District Fisheries biologist that helped relocate the bridge to Citizen's Lake. Most of the 1.4 miles of shoreline is accessible to bank fishing. Boat ramps are available on both basins and a small trailer campground is situated near the north lake basin.

### MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES:

The lake and its sport fishery are evaluated annually by a fall electrofishing survey. This survey directs the fish stockings, fishing regulations and aquatic vegetation treatments. Since 1994, the waterlevel at Citizen's Lake has been drawn down 5.5 feet in early September as a major fish management practice. The annual fall drawdown increases the predation of small fish, which favors an increased rate of growth in both the predator and prey species.

A repeating fish kill occurred from September 2018 into the spring of 2019 at Citizen's Lake. It was believed to have started as a low dissolved oxygen fish kill and then developed into a bacterial fish kill. The fish kill was severe on the south half of the lake and moderate on the north half of the lake. The kill appeared to remove all of the gizzard shad and black crappie populations and only left YOY largemouth bass, bluegill and green sunfish. In 2019, the lake was restocked with largemouth bass, channel catfish, redear sunfish, blacknose hybrid crappie and rainbow trout.

### Largemouth Bass:

The largemouth bass population was evaluated by 85 bass from the 2020 electrofishing survey. The largemouth bass population was represented by a majority of the fish from 6 to 11 inches in length. These fish were a combination of stocked and reproduced fish in the lake. They were in very good body condition. A small number of the larger stocked fish of 2019 were also sampled up to 16 inches in length.

### Bluegill:

The bluegill population was sampled by 92 fish in the fall 2020 electrofishing survey. The majority of the sampled bluegill population was from 3.5 to 6.3 inches in length, and was from stocking or natural reproduction in 2019. Bluegill had a very good average body condition value (Wr) of 102.

The establishment of the dense gizzard shad population in 2018 had caused a serious space and food competition with the bluegill population in Citizen's Lake. The late September 2018 low oxygen fish kill, appears to have completely eliminated the gizzard shad population from Citizen's Lake. This is very good news for the future potential growth rate of the bluegill population in the lake.

**Redear Sunfish:**

The redear sunfish population was sampled by 20 fish from 4.3 to 7.9 inches in the fall 2020 electrofishing survey. These fish are from probably both the fall 2018 stocking and natural reproduction in 2019. The current redear population is rated as a low density with the larger fish up to 8 inches in length.

The current bluegill and redear sunfish harvest limit is 10 fish daily per angler.

**Black Crappie:**

In 2020, one hybrid crappie was sampled in the fall electrofishing survey. It appears as if most if not all of the black crappie population was eliminated in the fall/winter fish kill of 2018. This population was present in a high density of fish below 8 inches in length and poor body condition.

The reduction or elimination of this population will be beneficial in the long term. In the fall of 2019, 1,500 crappie were restocked into Citizen's lake in the form of a hybrid between the Blacknose crappie and a white crappie.

**Channel Catfish:**

The channel catfish population was not sampled in the fall electrofishing survey. 842 channel catfish at 8.4 inches in length were stocked in July of 2019, and 1,200 channel catfish at 7.7 inches were stocked in August of 2020. These fish should grow very fast in the fertile water of Citizen's Lake. An annual stocking of non-vulnerable channel catfish is scheduled for the future.

**Rainbow Trout:**

In 2019 and 2020, the rainbow trout stocking did resume at Citizen's Lake with an estimated 800 fish stocked in October of each year.

**Fishing Regulations:**

All Fish - 2 pole and line fishing only.

Large or Smallmouth Bass:

- Protected Slot Length Limit with 1 fish greater than or equal to 15 inches and/or 5 fish less than 12 inches daily.

Bluegill or Redear Sunfish:

- 10 Fish Daily Harvest Limit

Channel Catfish:

- 6 Fish Daily Harvest Limit

Trout:

- Fall Closed Season until the annual opening in October.

Recreational Use Restrictions:

-The use of gasoline motors to propel watercraft is not permitted, electric motors only.

-Swimming is not permitted.

**CONTACT INFORMATION –**

City of Monmouth Clerk's Office: (309) 734-2141.

IDNR Fisheries County Fish Biologist: (309) 446-9143.

Illinois Fishing Information booklet and IFISHILLINOIS website <http://www.ifishillinois.org/>

