



LAKE MILLIKEN

FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

LOCATION – Lake Milliken is located in Will County within the confines of the Des Plaines State Fish and Wildlife Area, 3 miles west of Wilmington off River Road and just minutes from Interstate 55.

DESCRIPTION – Lake Milliken was constructed in 1961, a borrow pit resulting from the construction of Interstate 55. A fairly shallow, fertile lake, Milliken has a maximum depth of 8 feet and an average depth of 4 feet. Intensified management of aquatic vegetation is required to provide fishermen with easier angling opportunity on the main basin. The south end, which is relatively shallow, generally supports very lush aquatic plant growth. There is no boat access and watercraft is not permitted.

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES - The fishery is monitored on a biennial basis, utilizing a combination of electrofishing and netting (both gill net and trap net). Aquatic vegetation treatments are conducted on an annual basis (if required) and in the most recent years have incorporated early spring fluridone applications to arrest the growth of curlyleaf pondweed. For habitat considerations, the far south portion of the lake is not treated.

STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY – Due to the severity of the winter of 2013-14, Lake Milliken experienced a near-complete fish kill. Currently the lake is in a “recovery mode” which involves an aggressive restocking program, coupled with restrictive harvest limits on selected species. Lake Milliken also receives catchable rainbow trout for the spring season.

LARGEMOUTH BASS – Several stockings of largemouth bass have occurred since the winter kill event which included fingerlings as well as adults. The fall 2017 survey yielded several year classes of bass at an average length of 10.7”. Until the population has completely recovered a catch and release only regulation is in effect for black bass.

BLUEGILL – This species has also been stocked, along with redear sunfish, at fingerling size. The bluegill population continues to development with fish collected in 2017 approaching 6”.

BLACK CRAPPIE – One of the few species which survived the 2013-14 winter kill, black crappie were very common in the 2017 fall survey and dominated the trap net collection. Although a few larger adults were present the majority of that collection was dominated by younger fish; the average length collected in the 2017 survey measured 6.9”. Although they were absent in the 2015 survey, many white crappie were collected in 2017.

CHANNEL CATFISH – This species has been, and will continue to be stocked to attain reasonable population density which should provide quality angling.

COMMON CARP – Due to an extended period of high water, common carp gained access to the lake from the nearby creek. Efforts have been initiated to remove/reduce the carp population before it has a chance to become too problematic. Directed effort electrofishing has been conducted annually since 2015 and has resulted in the removal of over 1,500 pounds of common carp from this lake.

Length of Selected Species Collected in the 2017 Survey (All Gear Types Combined)

Species	Number of Fish Caught in Each Length Group (Inches)									
	0-5	6-8	9-11	12-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30+	Total	
Largemouth bass	7	5	13	18	2	0	0	0	45	
Smallmouth bass	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	
Black crappie	26	109	0	0	0	0	0	0	135	
White crappie	2	40	1	0	0	0	0	0	43	
Bluegill	86	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	104	
Redear Sunfish	4	5	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	
Green sunfish	9	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	
Yellow bullhead	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	
Northern Pike	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	
Channel catfish	0	1	0	1	0	1	0	0	3	
Common carp	0	2	0	2	47	1	1	0	53	
Golden Shiner	0	105	0	0	0	0	0	0	105	

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 species - Two pole and line fishing only.

Channel Catfish – 6 fish daily creel limit.

Largemouth/Smallmouth Bass – Catch and release only.

Rainbow Trout – Spring closed season.

CONTACT INFORMATION – Des Plaines State Fish and Wildlife Area: 815/423-5326.
IDNR Fisheries County Fish Biologist: 630/553-6680.

Lake Milliken Map

