



Pickrel Lake

2021 FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

LOCATION – Pickrel Lake is located in DuPage County at the Pratt’s Wayne Woods Forest Preserve. Parking is available off Powis Road, one mile south of Stearns Road in Wayne.

DESCRIPTION – Pickrel Lake is a 22 acre lake that was dug as part of a mining operation with a maximum depth of 20 feet and an average depth of 12 feet. Pickrel Lake is one of 30 lakes and ponds owned and maintained for sport fishing by the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County (FPDDC). There are two smaller ponds (Catfish and Horsetail Ponds) at this preserve which offer good fishing opportunities. There is good shoreline fishing access available as well as two large handicapped accessible fishing piers on this lake making it a family friendly fishing spot! In 2018, the lake level receded about a foot after a beaver dam washed out in the adjacent wetland. No watercraft allowed.

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES: In 1984, the FPDDC entered into a cooperative management agreement with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to facilitate management activities on their lakes and ponds. These waters have been under management by the FPDDC Fishery Ecologist and IDNR to provide quality sport fishing opportunities. Northern Pike and Channel Catfish are regularly stocked to supplement the population. Rainbow Trout are stocked in the spring and fall to coincide with the State’s Catchable Trout Program. An electrofishing survey was conducted on May 4th, 2021. Site specific regulations apply (see reverse side).

STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY – Abundant Largemouth Bass and Bluegill should provide many hours of fishing success. Black Crappie, Redear Sunfish, Channel Catfish and Northern Pike add to the diversity of species present. Several riverine species (see additional species) are present in this lake due to connectivity with Brewster Creek during flood events.

LARGEMOUTH BASS – The Largemouth Bass population looks as good as it ever has in Pickrel Lake. Bass were caught at a rate of 117 fish per hour with 29% of the catch measuring longer than 15 inches. The Bass ranged in length between 3.0 and 20.9 inches, the heaviest weighing 5.1 pounds. Largemouth over six pounds have been caught in previous surveys. Pickrel Lake has had a consistently good Bass population over the last ten years (three surveys). Management goals are met every survey!

BLUEGILL – Bluegill catch rate was high at 132 fish per hour. This is right in line of the management goal of 120 Bluegill per hour. Bluegill ranged in length from 3.1 to 6.9 inches, with an average length of 4.7 inches. Nine percent of the catch was longer than six inches. Green Sunfish, Pumpkinseed and Redear Sunfish also contribute to the panfish catch.

BLACK CRAPPIE – Crappie abundance has been low during the last three surveys. We caught 5 Black Crappie during the most recent survey. They ranged in length from 8.0 to 8.5 inches.

CHANNEL CATFISH – Channel Catfish are stocked on an annual basis by IDNR. No Channel Catfish were captured in the 2021 survey, but fish up to 25 inches have been sampled in previous surveys.

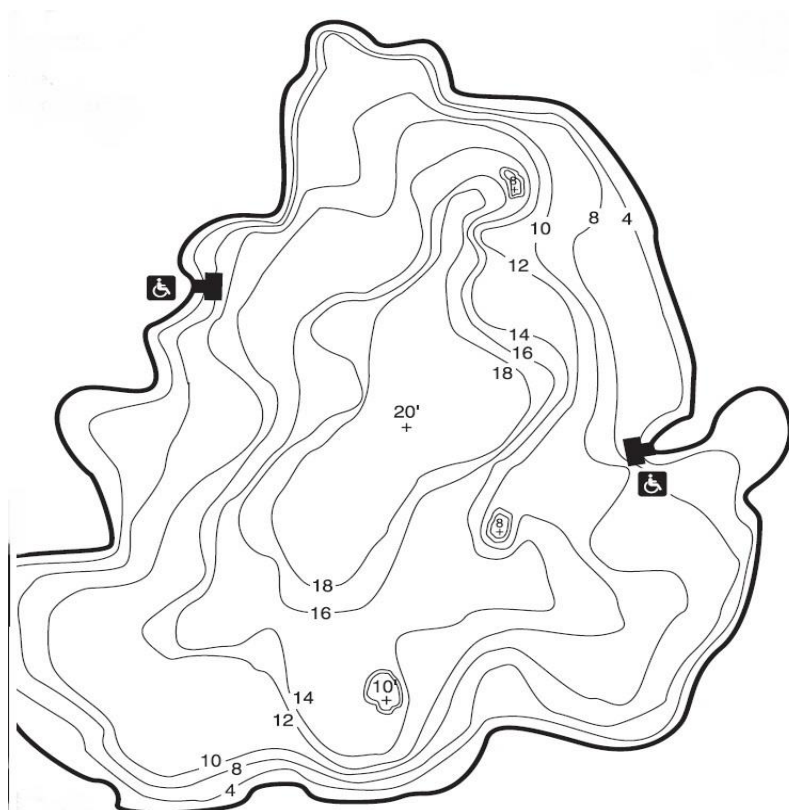
COMMON CARP – Common Carp are abundant in Pickrel Lake. Carp ranged in length from 18.9 to 21.3 inches. Common carp dislodge vegetation and cloud the water with their feeding behavior of “rooting” through the substrate. Unlimited harvest is encouraged for this detrimental species.

NORTHERN PIKE – Northern Pike have been stocked in six of the last ten years. Two of the recently stocked fish (14 inches) were sampled in the 2021 survey. Larger Pike typically avoid our electrofishing gear. Legal sized Pike (over 24 inches) have been captured during previous surveys.

ADDITIONAL FISH SPECIES: Bluntnose minnow, Central Mudminnow, Fathead Minnow, Golden Shiner, Quillback Carpsucker, White Sucker and Yellow Bullhead also occur in this lake.

Results from the Catfish Pond survey on May 4th, 2021 - 35 minutes of DC electrofishing

Species	Number Collected	Length (Inches)			Weight (pounds)	
		Min	Max	Avg.	Min	Max
Bluegill	77	3.1	6.9	4.7	0.0	0.3
Largemouth Bass	68	3.0	20.9	11.1	0.1	5.1
Common Carp	14	18.9	21.3	20.1		
Bluntnose Minnow	6	2.2	3.1	2.7		
Black Crappie	5	8.0	8.5	8.2	0.3	0.4
Pumpkinseed	3	2.6	4.6	3.8	0.1	0.1
Quillback	3	17.2	17.8	17.5	2.3	3.1
Northern Pike	2	14.0	14.3	14.1	0.5	0.5
Rainbow Trout	1	15.4	15.4	15.4		
Grand Total	179					



Site Specific regulations

Largemouth bass – 3 fish per day, 15 inch minimum length limit

Channel catfish – 3 fish per day, 12 inch minimum length limit

Crappie – 15 fish per day, 9 inch minimum length limit

Northern pike – 3 fish per day, 24 inch minimum length limit

Statewide regulations apply to other species

This map courtesy of the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County - "Fishing in Dupage County"

-For more information or if you have questions call the District's Fisheries Ecologist Dan Grigas at (630) 933-7668 or IDNR Fisheries at (815) 675-2386 ext. 214 or go to: www.dupageforest.com

-For general information on fishing in Illinois visit the IDNR Fisheries Division at: www.ifishillinois.org **AND** purchase your fishing license online at: www.dnr.illinois.gov