

# LAKE MINGO

## LAKE STATUS SUMMARY



**LOCATION:** Lake Mingo is located 8 miles northwest of Danville in Kennekuk Cove County Park and is operated by the Vermilion County Conservation District. For more information about Lake Mingo and Kennekuk Cove County Park, visit the web page <http://www.vccd.org/gikennekuk.html>

**DESCRIPTION:** Lake Mingo is 170 acres and was built in 1980 and was renovated in 1983. The lake has a maximum depth of 38 feet and an average depth of 13.5 feet. There is a 9.9 horsepower limit, boat decals are required, and there is one boat launch.

**STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY:** The IDNR Division of Fisheries has been active in the management of the fisheries in Lake Mingo since the lake was constructed. The lake currently receives stockings of channel catfish. The following information is a summary of the major sport fisheries based on periodic fish population surveys.

**Largemouth Bass** – During the most recent electrofishing survey, the catch rate for bass was 104.5 per hour. The average catch rate for the past five surveys is 106.9 bass per hour. Of the bass collected over 8 inches, 52% were longer than 12 inches, 19% were longer than 15 inches, and 3% were longer than 20 inches. A new bass regulation was implemented in 2015 to allow anglers to remove bass less than 15 inches and also protect the number of bass over 15 inches. The 2018 survey resulted in the highest catch rate ever for bass over 15 inches in Lake Mingo. Lake Mingo has a decent bass fishery.

**Bluegill** - The bluegill population is regulated by a length limit that protects the larger bluegill from overharvest. Only 5 bluegill over 8 inches can be kept, but a total of 20 bluegill can be harvested. Approximately 72% of the bluegill collected during the most recent survey were longer than 6 inches. Only one bluegill was collected over 8 inches, but 6.8% of the bluegill were longer than 7 inches. The bluegill fishery has improved under the maximum size limit, but there is plenty of room for improvement. Lake Mingo has a fair bluegill fishery.

**Redear Sunfish** - The number of redear sunfish has fluctuated over the years and may be due to the amount of aquatic vegetation in Lake Mingo. Redear sunfish are dependent upon having adequate amounts of aquatic vegetation. Even though the redear numbers change, there are always 7 to 9-inch redear in the fishery. On average, 70% of the redear collected are larger than 7 inches. However, in the most recent fish survey the percentage for redear sunfish over 7 inches was 78%. Reproduction has been low the past few years and is resulting in a decline in redear sunfish numbers.

**Channel Catfish** - The State Hatchery System stocks channel catfish each year to maintain a quality catfish fishery. The catfish fishery in Lake Mingo commonly produces catfish from 1 to 10 pounds. With the continued efforts from the hatchery, the catfish fishery will provide anglers a great fishing opportunity.

**Crappie** – In 2008, a 9” length limit and a 15 per day harvest limit was placed on crappie. The new regulation quickly improved the quality of the crappie fishery. For the first time in 10 years, crappie over 10 inches were collected during the 2010 fish survey. During the most recent fish survey the black crappie catch rate was 7.5 per hour and the three-survey average is 7.1 per hour. The catch rate for white crappie was 3 per hour and the five-survey average is 45.5 per hour. Very few small crappie were collected in the latest survey and suggests recent year classes are weak.

**FISHING REGULATIONS:** 2 Pole and Line Fishing Only, Except bowfishing is allowed from a boat.

<u>SPECIES</u>	<u>LENGTH LIMIT</u>	<u>DAILY CREEL LIMIT</u>
Largemouth Bass	2 <15" and 1 ≥15"	3
Channel Catfish	None	6
Muskie	36"	1
Bluegill/Redear Sunfish	Only 5 Over 8"	20
Crappie	9"	15

For other species, statewide regulations are in effect. For further regulation information, please consult the current Illinois Fishing Regulation Booklet.

Lake Mingo and Kennekuk Cove County Park: 217-442-1691  
 IDNR Fisheries: 217-784-4730

Vermilion County Conservation District

# RECREATION MAP at Kennekuk County Park

Collins  
archaeological  
site

## Map legend

- Water
- Trails
- Parking
- Private
- Restrooms
- Roads
- Ball diamonds
- Shelters/Buildings**
- 1 Visitor Center
- 2 Park residence
- 3 Nature Center
- 4 White Oak Barn (shelter)
- 5 Maintenance
- 6 Hickory Hollow (shelter)
- 7 Twin Points (shelter)
- 8 Herb garden
- 9 Vermilion Chapel
- 10 Hideaway
- 11 Red Oak School
- 12 Neff Grocery
- 13 Bunker Hill Historic Area
- 14 Boat ramp
- 15 Rotary Point (shelter)
- 16 Mallard Point (shelter)
- 17 Dining Car
- 18 Laury Barn
- 19 Gazebo

## Ponds

- A Horseshoe
- B Cedar Hill
- C White Oak
- D Twin Points

