



IDNR Fisheries Lake Status Summary **Pittsfield Lake**

Location: In Pike County, between Pittsfield and Griggsville, south of Interstate 72, and east of Route 107.

Area: 241 acres

Lake history and characteristics: Pittsfield Lake was constructed by the City of Pittsfield in 1960 as a flood control impoundment. It was subsequently used as the source of drinking water for the city. No longer used as a water source, Pittsfield Lake attracts many anglers and campers to its rural setting. The lake has a maximum depth of 34 ft, average depth of 12 ft, and shoreline length of 5.2 miles. The lake offers two boat launches, camping, and picnicking. A boat permit and launch fee are required (Pittsfield City Hall 217-285-4484). The lake has no horsepower limit but is NO WAKE ONLY. The western shoreline of the lake is predominately steep-sided and does not provide much bank angling access. The eastern shoreline is comprised of shallow flats, and rip-rap shoreline, with fallen trees and submerged stumps found throughout the lake.

Largemouth Bass: In 2020, we collected 49 Largemouth Bass per hour of electrofishing, falling under the management goal of 60 bass/hr. Bass ranged from 2.8-19.9" and weighed up to 4.8 lbs. The population structure is good with 47.5% of catchable Largemouth Bass measuring over the 14" minimum length limit and 2.5% measuring over 18". Largemouth Bass body condition was good and within management goals (Wr = 95.4). 1,260 5.3-6.8" Largemouth Bass were stocked from an on-site rearing pond on October 16, 2020.

Black and White Crappie: White Crappie are the dominant crappie species in Pittsfield Lake, which is common in a turbid lake, but a fair amount of Black Crappie are present. A higher abundance of crappie were collected during the fall 2020 trap net survey compared to the fall electrofishing survey. The fall trap netting survey yielded 159 White Crappie and 53 Black Crappie, collectively ranging from 4.7-11.7". There are no Minimum Length Limits or Daily Harvest Limits for crappie species at Pittsfield Lake.

Bluegill: The Bluegill population at Lake Pittsfield is characterized by a high density of fish measuring 2.0-6.9" in average condition. Bluegill over 7" are occasionally sampled.

Channel Catfish: Channel Catfish stocking was implemented in 2019 to compensate for poor reproduction and recruitment of Channel Catfish in Pittsfield Lake. Recent trap net and electrofishing surveys showed a lack of Channel Catfish below 24", indicating poor recruitment into the population. The 2020 fall electrofishing survey produced 3 Channel Catfish ranging from 10.0-13.8". Anecdotal reports from anglers indicate that the Channel Catfish stockings have been successful. Pittsfield Lake will continue to receive non-vulnerable sized 8-10" Channel Catfish to supplement the population, if hatchery production allows.

Flathead Catfish: One Flathead Catfish was collected during a supplemental Low-Pulse Electrofishing Run. It measured 12.9".

Hybrid Striped Bass: No Hybrid Striped Bass were collected during 2020 fish population surveys; however previous surveys suggest that the population is doing well. In 2016, 38 Hybrid Striped Bass were collected in spring trap net surveys and 19 in the fall electrofishing surveys. Fish ranged from 17-28" and weighed up to 12.6 lbs. These fish were in excellent body condition. Hybrid Striped Bass are stocked annually when hatchery production allows.

Walleye: 14,770 1.4" Walleye were stocked on June 5, 2020. During the fall 2020 electrofishing survey, 4 Walleye were collected and ranged from 21.8-25.2" and weighed up to 6.1lbs. Walleye will continue to be requested from the State hatchery annually to augment the existing Walleye fishery in Pittsfield Lake.

Other fish species: Other species present in this lake include Black Bullhead, Common Carp, Golden Shiner, Grass Carp, Green Sunfish, Hybrid Sunfish, Redear Sunfish, and Yellow Bullhead.

Fishing Regulations: see the Illinois Fishing Information Booklet or www.IFISHILLINOIS.org for updates.

- Two pole and line fishing only and each pole must not have more than 2 hooks or lures attached while fishing.
- Sport fisherman may harvest carp, buffalo, suckers and gar by bow and arrow devices, gigs or spears during May and June
- Largemouth Bass – 6 Fish Daily Harvest Limit, 14" Minimum Length Limit
- Hybrid Striped Bass – 3 Fish Daily Harvest Limit, 17" Minimum Length Limit
- Channel Catfish – 6 Fish Daily Harvest Limit, No Minimum Length Limit
- Walleye – 6 Fish Daily Harvest Limit, 14" Minimum Length Limit
- Muskellunge – 1 Fish Daily Harvest Limit, 36" Minimum Length Limit

Aquatic vegetation and/or chemical treatment:

- None.

Fisheries Management Activities Completed:

- Deployed 80 fish habitats.
- Hatchery stocked 14,770 1.4" Walleye June 5, 2020.
- Hatchery stocked 8,400 1" Largemouth Bass in Rearing Pond.
- Conducted an electrofishing survey consisting of (2) 30 minute pulsed-DC runs utilizing a standard sampling protocol on October 5, 2020. Water Temperature was 59.0F. A total of 429 fish were collected, representing 13 species.
- Conducted (1) 30 minute Low-Pulse Electrofishing Run targeting catfish species on October 5, 2020. Collected (1) Flathead Catfish and (1) Yellow Bullhead.
- Stocked 1,260 5.3-6.8" Largemouth Bass from the Rearing Pond on October 16, 2020.
- Conducted a fall trap netting survey targeting Black and White Crappie using (11) 3'x6'x1" trap nets, fished for one night from October 27-28, 2020. Water Temperature was 51.4F. 53 Black Crappie and 159 White Crappie were collected.