

EVERGREEN LAKE

LAKE STATUS SUMMARY



LOCATION: Located approximately 15 miles North of Bloomington IL, Evergreen Lake is easily accessible by taking I-39 North to the Lake Bloomington/Evergreen Lake Exit, then proceeding west on the Lake Bloomington Road (2500N).

DESCRIPTION: Evergreen Lake was built in 1970 to serve as a secondary water source for the City of Bloomington. The lake is owned by the City of Bloomington and is managed by the McLean County Department of Parks and Recreation. Evergreen Lake is part of Comlara County Park. The lake is 925 acres and has an average depth of 19.7 feet and a maximum depth of 50 feet. County watercraft registration is required. There are 2 boat launches on the lake and one canoe launch. Comlara County Park offers 137 campsites, a swimming beach, and showers. The Friends of Everbloom is an organization that assists with habitat projects and improving the quality of Evergreen Lake. To learn more about their organization, visit their web page www.friendsofeverbloom.com

STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY: The IDNR currently stocks Saugeye and Muskie. The following information is a summary of the major sport fisheries based on periodic fish population surveys. A community-wide fish survey is completed approximately every two years, and muskie, saugeye, and largemouth bass surveys are currently conducted on an annual basis.

Largemouth Bass – The most recent bass survey resulted in a catch rate of 139 bass per hour and met the management objective of 100 bass per hour. Of the bass collected over 8 inches, 66% of the bass collected were larger than 12 inches and 28% were longer than 15 inches. Producing young bass has been a problem in Evergreen Lake for many years. A vegetation project was initiated to produce cover for small game fish in Evergreen Lake, with the goal of increasing natural recruitment. Starting in 2005, vegetation was planted in Evergreen Lake to increase habitat available to small bass.

Saugeye – Home of the current State Record Saugeye! The State Record Saugeye was caught in 2001. The saugeye is a hybrid made by crossing female Walleye with male Sauger. The Saugeye appear to have adapted quite well to Evergreen Lake. Stocking of this hybrid started in 1992 and the lake has been stocked every year since. The most recent night electrofishing survey resulted in a catch rate of 32 Saugeye per hour and was similar to the previous survey but was much less than the average catch rate of 71.3 for the past 8 surveys. The survey had the second highest catch rate of legal Saugeye. Even with the recent reduction in catch rates, Evergreen has an excellent Saugeye fishery.

During the most recent spring netting survey, 8.5 Saugeye were collected per net-night. The 14-survey average is 5.5 Saugeye per net-night. Of the Saugeye collected over 10 inches, 99% were longer than 14 inches and 55% were over 18 inches. The largest Saugeye collected in 2018 weighed 10.6 pounds (current state record is 9.68 pounds). In 2019, an 8.9 pound Saugeye was collected.

Muskellunge – Evergreen Lake was first stocked with Muskie in 1990. During the most recent spring netting survey, 5.1 Muskie per net-night were collected with 20 net-nights of effort and the 14 survey average is 4.1 Muskie per net-night. Approximately 42% of the Muskie collected were large than 38 inches and 24% were larger than 42 inches. The largest Muskie collected in 2019 was just under 48 inches and weighed 33.6 pounds. Evergreen has an excellent Muskie fishery.

Crappie –The crappie fishery was once dominated by white crappie, but since 2006 the black crappie population has been more prevalent in fish surveys and anglers’ creels. During the most recent electrofishing survey, approximately 20% of the White Crappie collected were larger than 10 inches. The catch rate for Black Crappie exceeded the management objective and approximately 8% of the Black Crappie collected were larger than 10 inches. The crappie fishery is dominated by young Black Crappie.

FISHING REGULATIONS: Two pole and line fishing only, no trot lines, jugs or bank poles. Except that sport anglers may take carp, carpsuckers, buffalo, gar, bowfin and suckers by pitchfork, gigs, bow and arrow, or bow and arrow devices.

Species	Length Limit	Daily Creel Limit
Largemouth & Smallmouth Bass	15"	3
Walleye/Saugeye/Sauger	18"	3
Muskellunge (Muskie)	48"	1
Crappie - New in 2021	Only 5 ≥ 10"	15

OUTBOARD MOTOR SIZE LIMIT OF 10 HP.

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

For More Information:

McLean County Department of Parks and Recreation – (309) 434-6770
IDNR Fisheries – (217) 784-4730