



LAKE CARLTON SILT BASIN

FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

LOCATION – Lake Carlton Silt basin is in Whiteside County just north of Morrison off Route 78 within Morrison-Rookwood State Park.

DESCRIPTION – Carlton Silt Basin was built in 1969 and was a rearing pond for Lake Carlton until 1994. The lake is 7.5 acres and has lots fallen timber habitat. The silt basin has a maximum depth of 11 feet. It is being managed as a trophy Bluegill fishery.

STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY –

Largemouth Bass:

Fall

Carlton Silt basin is being managed as a trophy Bluegill fishery. The Largemouth population is diverse for a catch and release population. The expectation would have been a population that was based more in the 8-12 fish. I am guessing that some of the larger bass maybe coming from the lake via fishermen. The 2018 sample was similar to 2017 but with more fish sampled. The bass population is meeting the management goal of a trophy bluegill fishery. The fish in the 10-12 inch range do have decrease relative weight but I hope with a spot vegetation treatment I can help to increase this groups relative weights.

Spring

Spring Data for 2022 was similar to Fall surveys with fish 10-12 inches as the dominate size group, but larger fish were absent from the survey. Larger Bluegill were also absent in the Spring survey vs Fall surveys. The dense 10-12 inch fish are the goal of the trophy sunfish population. They will also help to control some of the Yellow perch that have be transported in from Lake Carlton.

1. Management Plan Fall:Goal 2017 2018

# Stock (200mm)	>50	44	67
PSD	20-40	41	45
RSD 14	0-10	11	8
Effort(Min)		20	15

2. Fall diurnal DC electrofishing CPUE (fish/hr) of each length group of Largemouth bass collected at Lake Carlton Silt basin

Year	<8	8-12	12.1-15	15.1-20	> 20	Total
2017	6.0	78.0	42.0		12.0	138.0
2018	80.0	148.0	108.0		8.0	348.0

3. Management Plan Spring :Goal 2022

# Stock (200mm)	>50	43
PSD	20-40	47
RSD 14	0-10	0
Effort(Min)		15

4. Spring diurnal DC electrofishing CPUE (fish/hr) of each length group of Largemouth bass collected at Lake Carlton Silt basin

Year	<8	8-12	12.1-15	15.1-20	> 20	Total
2022	60.0	92.0	80.0		0.0	232.0

Bluegill:

Fall

The Bluegill population was sampled on 9/26/2017 by 1 DC electrofishing boat with one dipper for a total of 20 minutes DC electrofishing in the fall as part of the annual survey. A total of only 17 bluegill were sampled. The extreme water clarity did not help, many large bluegill were seen but escaped the electrofishing gear. I hope that in the future with some vegetation treatment the pond will develop an algae bloom. The lack of small bluegill in the survey was concerning and Bluegill were stocked by LaSalle hatchery. Overall all size groups have excellent relative weights. In 2018 Carlton Silt Basin was sampled for 15 minutes on 10/3/2018. The 2018 sample was very different from the previous year. The fishery looks excellent and in meets all goals of the management plan. Ice fishing is the primary pressure this pond gets.

Spring

The Spring survey in 2022 did not have fish larger than 8 inches represented like previous Fall surveys. No fish over 8 inch were sampled, but given the water temp was on 63 degrees and the clarity was over 6 ft it is no surprise that they are underrepresented in this survey. Larger Largemouth bass were also underrepresented in the Spring 2022 survey. The trophy sunfish population management will still be the primary goal.

Management Plan:	Fall:	2017	2018
#Stock(80mm)	>100	15	94
PSD	50-80	48	52
RSD 8	10-30	27	15

2. Fall diurnal DC electrofishing CPUE (fish/hr) of each length group of Bluegill collected at Carlton Silt Basin

Year	<3	3.1-6	6.1-8	8.1-10	>10	Total
2017	6.0	24.0	9.0	9.0	0.0	51.0
2018	16.0	180.0	140.0	56.0	0.0	392.0

3. Management Plan:	Spring:	2022
#Stock(80mm)	>100	20
PSD	50-80	60
RSD 8	10-30	0

4. Spring diurnal DC electrofishing CPUE (fish/hr) of each length group of Bluegill collected at Carlton Silt Basin

Year	<3	3.1-6	6.1-8	8.1-10	>10	Total
2022	4.0	32.0	48.0	0.0	0.0	84.0

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 2 Pole and Line Fishing Only except
- Large or Smallmouth Bass Catch and Release Fishing Only
- Bluegill or Redear Sunfish 10 Fish Daily Creel Limit (8" Minimum Length Limit)

CONTACT INFORMATION – Morrison-Rookwood State Park: 815-772-4708

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