



Muskrat Pond

2017 FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

LOCATION – Muskrat Pond is located in the Hawk Hollow Forest Preserve. Access is available off Army Trail Road at Klein Rd. in Bartlett.

DESCRIPTION – Muskrat Pond is a 3.3-acre gravel pit pond with a maximum depth of 25 ft. at normal water level and average depth is 12.0 ft. The bottom drops rapidly from the shoreline around most of the pond and little shallow littoral habitat is present. Clear water allows submersed vegetation to grow throughout much of the lake. The pond and much of its watershed are contained within the forest preserve and the shoreline is undeveloped. No amenities are available at this location.

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES: The fish community in this pond is sampled every four years. Largemouth bass and channel catfish are stocked occasionally to supplement natural reproduction. The Forest Preserve District of DuPage County has installed several fish attractors to provide additional fish cover and structure in this bowl-shaped lake. Dupage County staff may treat this pond's vegetation when needed. New regulations were added in 2017 (see reverse).

STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY – Steep sided ponds are difficult to sample due to the lack of shallow water habitat where electrofishing is most effective. The Spring electrofishing sample showed good catch rates for largemouth bass and bluegill. We did not sample many large fish which is most likely a function of sampling inefficiency. Bluegill catch was a little higher the goal listed in the management plan. Access is an issue at Muskrat Pond so it is a destination for the more adventurous angler who is willing to do some walking to get to a secluded spot.

LARGEMOUTH BASS – Largemouth bass abundance was rated as good during the most recent survey. Bass were captured at a rate of 150 fish per hour, which is higher than the 60 fish/hr outlined in the management goals. Largemouth bass ranged in size from 2.5 to 18.6 inches, with the heaviest fish weighing 3.6 pounds. Ten percent of the sample was longer than 15 inches.

BLUEGILL – Bluegill catch rate was 153 fish per hour. This is slightly higher than the desired 120 fish per hour goal in the management plan. Bluegill ranged in length from 3.2 to 7.3 inches with an average length of 4.7.

CHANNEL CATFISH – No channel catfish were captured in the survey. They are stocked regularly and should be fairly abundant at this “off the beaten path” pond.

BLACK CRAPPIE – Only one black crappie was captured in 2017. It was 8.5 inches long. Fifteen black crappie were caught in the 2013 survey. Crappie numbers tend to fluctuate greatly in lakes and ponds in the area.

ADDITIONAL FISH SPECIES: Common carp were also captured in this survey.

2017 Muskrat Pond Electrofishing Survey - 20 minutes DC Electrofishing

Species	Number Collected	Length (Inches)			Weight (pounds)	
		Min	Max	Avg.	Min	Max
Bluegill	51	3.15	7.32	4.66	0.04	0.26
Largemouth bass	50	2.48	18.62	10.77	0.20	3.62
Common carp	6	17.72	27.64	22.04		
Black crappie	1	8.50	8.50	8.50	0.31	0.31
Total # of fish collected	108					

List of new regulations for all FPDDC lakes and ponds:

Two pole and line fishing only.

*Largemouth Bass – 14-18-inch protected slot limit; 4 fish daily creel limit with 3 fish that can be harvested under 14 inches and 1 fish 18 inches and larger.

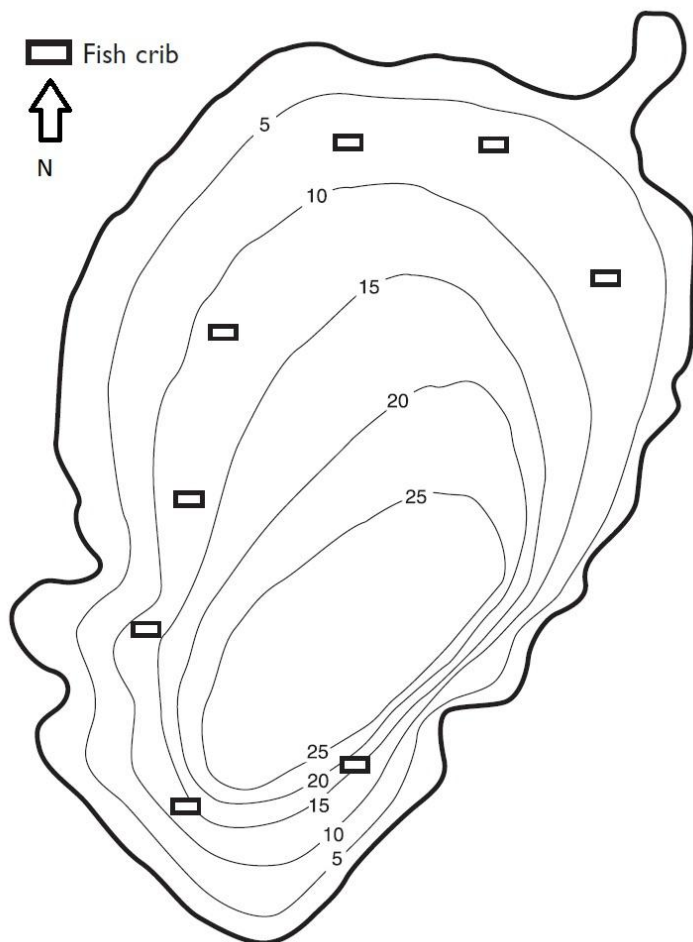
*Bluegill – No minimum length limit; 25 fish daily creel limit

Channel Catfish – 12-inch minimum length limit; 3 fish daily creel limit.

*White and black crappie – No minimum length limit; 15 fish daily creel limit.

Northern pike – 24-inch minimum length limit; 3 fish daily creel limit (statewide regulation).

* indicates new for 2017



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

-For more information call the District at (630) 933-7200 or IDNR Fisheries at (815) 675-2386 ext. 214

-For more information on fishing in Illinois go to: www.ifishillinois.org

-To purchase you fishing license online go to: www.dnr.illinois.gov