



Lake Gregory

2020 FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

LOCATION – Lake Gregory is located at the Blackberry Farm, 100 S. Barnes Rd. in Aurora.

DESCRIPTION – Lake Gregory is a 7.2-acre dug recreational lake located adjacent to Blackberry Creek in the Fox Valley Park District’s (FVPD) Blackberry Farm Historic Park. The lake has a maximum depth of 8.4 ft. and an average depth of 5.4 ft. Flow through from adjacent storm sewers help keep this shallow lake from serious winter kill. The shoreline is mowed in several areas to allow access for shore fishing. Many activities are available at the farm including train and pony rides, paddleboats and live entertainment. If you are looking for a quiet destination with few distractions, this may not be to the place to go! There is a five dollar fee to enter the park.

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES: The FVPD has entered into a cooperative management agreement with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to facilitate fisheries management activities. Site specific regulations apply (Six fish daily creel on channel catfish and a three fish, 15 inch minimum limit on largemouth bass). A 30-minute electrofishing survey took place on September 17th, 2020 as a follow up to a 2015 survey. Prior to that the lake was surveyed in 2007. Channel Catfish have been stocked five times since 2012 (1300 4-5-inch fish per stocking).

STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY – A abundant Largemouth Bass and Bluegill population should entertain any angler. Bass were more slightly less abundant than in the 2007 survey. Bluegill abundance was the same as 2015, but the fall sample time most likely under-estimated the size of both Species. The stocking of small channel catfish should improve this fishery in years to come as well!

LARGEMOUTH BASS – Population indices for Largemouth Bass were similar to 2015 with slightly lower numbers of fish over 15 inches. Bass were caught at a rate of 114 fish per hour compared to 134 fish per hour in 2015. This catch rate meets our management goal of 60 fish per hour. Bass in the sample measured between 5.0 to 18.3 inches. Fifty-six percent of bass in the sample were over 12 inches long while 9% were longer than 15 inches. Multiple year classes of fish indicate successful spawns in recent years. A diverse and abundant forage base ensures bass are well fed in this lake!

BLUEGILL – Bluegill were abundant and captured at a rate of 142 fish per hour which is the identical catch rate as 2015. This is very close to the management goal of 120 fish per hour that we see in healthy bass/bluegill populations. Bluegill ranged in length from 2.4 to 6.8 inches, with an average size of 5.0 inches. Seventeen percent of the catch was longer than six inches.

CHANNEL CATFISH – One 22.8-inch channel catfish was captured in the survey. This lake is scheduled to receive 1,300 four inch channel catfish every other year from the IDNR’s catfish stocking program. Channel catfish are difficult to sample with our electrofishing gear as they are typically using deeper habitat than we sample. Since catfish stocking began in 2012, there should be plenty of large Channel Cats swimming in Lake Gregory.

COMMON CARP – Twenty-one Common Carp were sampled in 2020. They ranged in size from 18.0 to 23.9 inches, averaging 21.4 inches. The heaviest one weighed 6.4 pounds. Common carp dislodge vegetation and cloud the water with their feeding behavior of “rooting” through the substrate. Since this lake receives floodwater from nearby Blackberry Creek, there is no way to eradicate carp. Unlimited harvest is encouraged for this detrimental species to keep their numbers down.

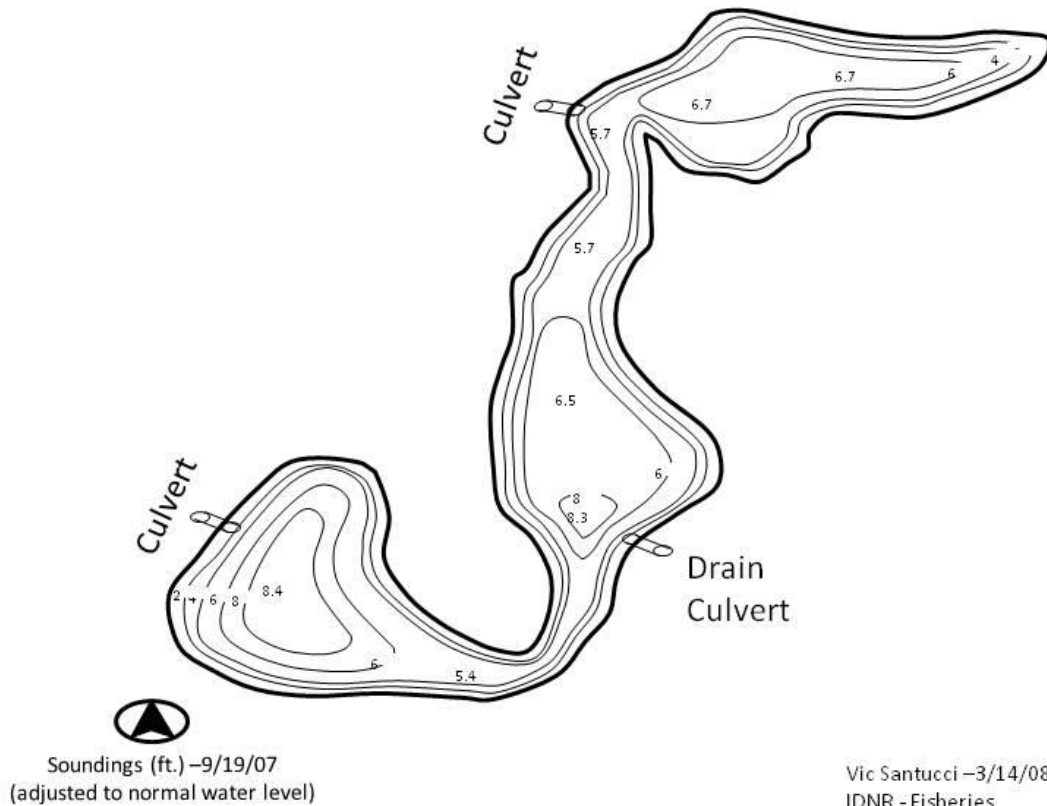
ADDITIONAL FISH SPECIES: Black and Yellow Bullheads, Gizzard Shad, Black Crappie, White Sucker, Hybrid Sunfish, and Golden shiner were also captured in this survey. Goldfish, Green Sunfish and Johnny Darter, and Goldfish were present in previous samples of Lake Gregory.

Summary of the September 21st, 2020 Survey of Lake Gregory – 30 minutes DC electrofishing

Species	Number Collected	Length (Inches)			Weight (pounds)	
		Min	Max	Avg.	Min	Max
Bluegill	71	2.4	6.8	5.0	0.02	0.19
Largemouth Bass	57	5.0	18.3	12.2	0.03	2.44
Common Carp	21	18.0	23.9	21.4	2.97	6.43
Gizzard Shad	12	3.9	13.9	8.1	0.06	1.01
Black Crappie	8	2.8	10.6	6.8	0.05	0.60
White Sucker	3	13.7	15.9	15.0	1.30	1.45
Black Bullhead	1	9.3	9.3	9.3	0.44	0.44
Bluegill x Green Sunfish	1	7.2	7.2	7.2	0.29	0.29
Channel Catfish	1	22.8	22.8	22.8	4.09	4.09
Golden Shiner	1	3.6	3.6	3.6		
Yellow Bullhead	1	8.7	8.7	8.7	0.35	0.35
Total # fish collected	177					

Lake Gregory

Kane County
T38N R7E S24NW1/4



For more information call the Fox Valley Park District at (630) 897-0516 or IDNR Fisheries at (815) 675-2386 ext. 214 or visit:

<http://www.foxvalleyparkdistrict.org/lakes-and-fishing-2/>

For general information on fishing in Illinois visit the IDNR Fisheries Division at: www.ifishillinois.org

To purchase your fishing license go to: www.dnr.illinois.gov