



Mud Lake

FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

LOCATION – Mud Lake is located in the McDowell Grove Forest Preserve. Parking is available off Raymond Drive a half mile south Diehl Road in Naperville.

DESCRIPTION – Mud Lake is a 22 acre borrow pit with a maximum depth of 16 feet and an average depth of 5 feet. A 1.0-mi. walk on a gravel trail from the parking lot to the lake helps to limit fishing pressure at this site. Mud Lake is one of 30 lakes and ponds owned and maintained for sport fishing by the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County (FPDDC). There is good shoreline fishing access available via a gravel trail around half of the lake. No watercraft allowed.

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES: These waters have been under management by the FPDDC Fishery Biologist to provide quality sport fishing opportunities. In 1984, the FPDDC entered into a cooperative management agreement with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to facilitate management activities. Largemouth bass and channel catfish are occasionally stocked to supplement the population. New site specific regulations for all FPDDC waters were put in place in 2017 (see reverse side).

STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY – Abundant largemouth bass and bluegill should offer anglers plenty of action in this “off the beaten path” fishery. Some very large bass have been caught in this lake! Yellow perch, black crappie and channel catfish are present but not abundant. Several riverine species (see additional species) are present in this lake due to connectivity with the DuPage River during flood events.

LARGEMOUTH BASS – In our 2017 electrofishing survey, the catch rate for largemouth bass was 101 fish per hour, which is lower than during the previous survey. This abundant population shows no signs of stunting as the fish ranged in length from 3.7 to 21.5 inches, with the heaviest fish weighing 8.1 pounds (the largest bass captured in a FPDDC fish survey on record!). Seventeen percent of the sample measured longer than 15 inches. This bass fishery continues to produce nice fish year after year!

BLUEGILL – As in previous years, the bluegill catch rate was high at 300 fish per hour. Bluegill abundance this high often leads to overcrowding, stunting or less than desirable-length fish. The bluegill in the sample ranged from 1.9 to 7.2 inches, with an average length of 4.8 inches. Size structure looked better in 2017 than in the previous survey with 23% of the bluegill measuring longer than six inches (Compared to 12% in 2013). Pumpkinseed, a cousin of the bluegill, also occur in Mud Lake.

CHANNEL CATFISH – Five channel catfish were captured during the survey. This catch is lower than what we would like to see, but it is encouraging that these fish were captured considering they typically avoid electrofishing gear. All five of the channel catfish were over the “quality” length category and measured between 22.7 to 26.4 inches. Fishing for catfish should be better in the future as 6,000 four inch channel catfish were stocked in 2013.

BLACK CRAPPIE – Three black crappie were sampled during the survey. The crappie measured from 6.5 to 9.3 inches long. This lake is not stocked with or managed for crappie at this time. Small lakes in the area tend to show large fluctuations in crappie catch and can overpopulate a lake easily without the proper predator balance.

YELLOW PERCH - Seven yellow perch were sampled during the 2017 spring electrofishing survey. These fish ranged in length from 5.4 to 7.9 inches.

ADDITIONAL FISH SPECIES: Gizzard shad, black bullhead, white sucker, common carp, golden shiner, yellow bass and green sunfish were also caught in the survey.

2017 Mud Lake Electrofishing Survey Results - 40 minutes DC electrofishing

Species	Number Collected	Length (Inches)			Weight (pounds)	
		Min	Max	Avg.	Min	Max
Largemouth bass	101	3.74	21.46	10.76	0.07	8.07
Bluegill	100	1.93	7.17	4.79	0.04	0.24
Gizzard shad	33	6.30	14.84	11.01	0.09	1.28
Black bullhead	7	7.28	10.83	9.79	0.15	0.74
White sucker	7	10.04	13.58	12.17	0.41	0.91
Yellow perch	7	5.39	7.87	6.51	0.06	0.21
Common carp	48	15.79	22.52	19.47	2.06	7.52
Channel catfish	5	22.72	26.38	24.35	5.56	7.94
Black crappie	3	6.57	9.25	7.57	0.12	0.43
Golden shiner	3	6.50	6.89	6.69	0.09	0.12
Pumpkinseed	3	4.53	5.00	4.75	0.06	0.10
Yellow bass	3	4.41	6.77	5.87	0.11	0.12
Green sunfish	1	4.53	4.53	4.53		

321

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

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Parking lot on Raymond Drive 0.5 mile south of Diehl Road in Naperville. Strenuous 1-mile walk on gravel trail north to lake.

Acres: 22



- 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