



INDEPENDENCE GROVE LAKE

LAKE COUNTY FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT

FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

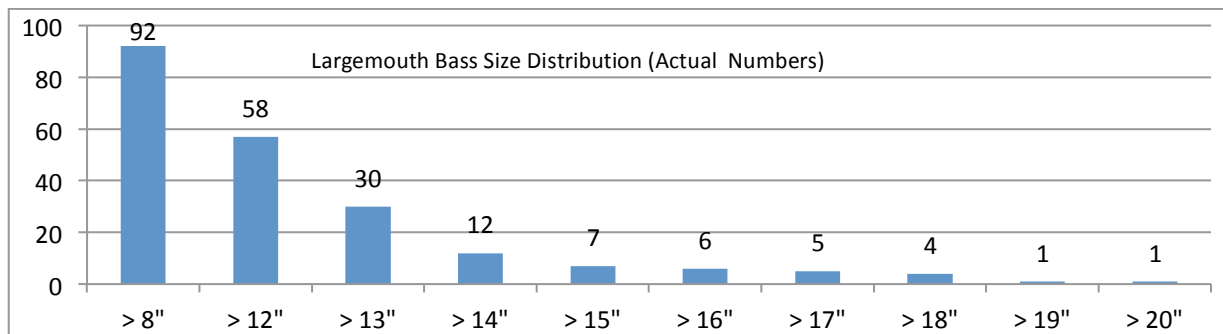
LOCATION – Located east of the Des Plaines River north of Buckley Road (Rt. 137) near Libertyville, IL: Lake County.

DESCRIPTION – Independence Grove Lake, formerly known as Liberty Pits, was filled with water in 2000. The Lake County Forest Preserve District acquired the area in the low 1990's and opened the facility once concessions, picnic areas, and a swimming beach were completed. Rental boats with electric motors are available through seasonal concessions. No outside boats, canoes or kayaks are allowed. No fish cleaning facilities are available; this is a “Catch and Release Only” lake; for all species. Independence Grove Lake is 110 acres; maximum depth is 50.0 ft., average depth is 7.5 ft. shoreline length is 4.3 miles.

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES: Periodic fish surveys are undertaken to track the fishery relative to “Catch and Release” recreational fishing. Very little aquatic plant “management” takes place in the lake, most of it occurs near the swim and boat rental areas.

STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY – Independence Grove has received a couple of northern pike stockings since 2000 but little else. The lake is managed as a no harvest “natural” system. Below is a brief description of catchable game species in this water body.

LARGEMOUTH BASS – In 2017, 101 bass were collected in one hour of DC electrofishing. Fish ranged from 2.7” to 22.5” and weighed up to 6.2 lbs.; 63% were over 12” long, 19% exceeded 14”, 7.6% exceeded 15” and 6.5% exceeded 16”. Many of the originally impounded bass that grew fast, large, and made the lake locally famous for trophy size fish have died off and now the system contains quality size, second and third generation fish that have slower grow rates because of competition. Over all bass condition (Wr) was 90 which is considered normal for northeastern Illinois (normal range 90 – 100). According to our data, 13” to 14” bass are the thinnest size group in the lake.



BLUEGILL – In 2017, 165 bluegill were collected during the survey. Fish ranged from 1.2” to 7.5” long and topped the scale at 0.3 lbs.; 18% exceeded 6” long, 6% were longer than 7” and 3.6% were over 7.5” long. A more diverse predator base and/or some “human predation” would help reduce abundance and increase panfish growth rates.

BLACK CRAPPIE – 20 black crappie were collected in 2017; fish measured between 4.7” and 10.5” long and weighed up to 0.6 lbs.; 50% of the catch exceeded 9”, 15% exceeded 10” and 0% exceeded 11” for this survey. Most crappie were collected in the western lagoon near timber.

Independence Grove Catch Summary

(60 minutes DC electrofishing) 5/23/2017

Species	Number	Relative Abundance (%)	Minimum (inches)	Average (inches)	Maximum (inches)
BLUEGILL	165	51.6	1.5	4.0	7.7
LARGEMOUTH BASS	101	31.6	2.8	11.6	22.5
BLACK CRAPPIE	20	6.3	4.7	8.7	10.7
COMMON CARP*	11	3.4	24.0	27.9	32.5
GREEN SUNFISH	10	3.1	2.0	4.3	6.5
BLACKSTRIPED TOPMINNOW	10	3.1	1.8	2.2	2.4
YELLOW PERCH	2	0.6	4.4	4.8	5.2
BLUEGILL HYBRID	1	0.3	0.0	5.3	0.0
SPECIES = 8 TOTAL =	320	100.0			

FISHING REGULATIONS – Catch and Release Only (All Species)

(see current Illinois Fishing Information booklet and IFISHILLINOIS website <http://www.ifishillinois.org/> for specific details).

ADDITIONAL SITE REGULATIONS:

Boaters – No outside boats allowed, Rentals available at Concessionaire
 No live bait (minnows, shiners, etc)

CONTACT INFORMATION – Lake County Forest Preserve District, General Office: 847/367-6640.
 IDNR District Fisheries Biologist: 815/675-2319.

Independence Grove Lake Map

