



# LAKE CHAMINWOOD

## FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

**LOCATION** – Lake Chaminwood is located in Will County, 1 mile north of Channahon off Shepley Road and just minutes from Interstate 55.

**DESCRIPTION** – Located in northeastern Illinois, Lake Chaminwood is a gravel pit lake which was purchased in 2009 by the Forest Preserve District of Will County (FPDWC) and is cooperatively managed by the IDNR. Following the completion of the site development project, the lake was opened to the public in 2010. Lake Chaminwood has a maximum depth of 23.0 feet with an average depth of 5.0 feet. The watershed is somewhat limited but the lake is fed by groundwater. During flood events, water has entered the lake from the adjacent DuPage River. Boat fishing is restricted to smaller watercraft which are easily carried, i.e. canoes and kayaks. Electric trolling motors only. Much of the east side of the lake lends itself to bank fishing whereas the west side has reduced opportunity. A barrier-free fishing pier is available on the east side near the parking lot. Fishing is open daily during open water - ice fishing is not allowed.

**MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES:** Lake Chaminwood is surveyed on a biennial basis, incorporated various gear types. Aquatic vegetation is managed by the Forest Preserve District, in cooperation with the IDNR. Fish stockings are completed as recommended/required.

**STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY** – Lake Chaminwood supports a good largemouth bass fishery as well as a diverse panfish population consisting of fair populations of bluegill and redear sunfish. Crappie have shown a decline in recent surveys. Channel catfish are present but in somewhat low density. The fishery also supports riverine species which have been introduced from the DuPage River during high water events.

**LARGEMOUTH BASS** – In the 2017 fall survey, largemouth bass were collected at the rate of 91 per hour of electrofishing, ranging from 1.6” to 16.9” with an average size of 5.6”. Survey results have shown that although spawning success has been good the survival of young bass has been poor. Largemouth bass which were at least 18 inches in length have been absent from IDNR surveys since 2013. For the 2018 fishing season, anglers can once again expect to catch sub-legal bass with larger fish being far less prevalent.

**BLUEGILL** – Bluegills were once again very prominent in the 2017 fall survey, and especially fish from that year’s spawn. The average size bluegill in the fall collection ranged from 1.2” to 8.3”. Larger bluegills were collected with greater frequency during the spring trap net survey and averaged nearly 7” with many fish collected which were 8” and larger.

**REDEAR SUNFISH** – Following a poor showing in the previous survey, redear sunfish showed a resurgence in the 2017 fall survey with fish collected up to 11.0”. Natural reproduction and recruitment is successfully occurring and hopefully this species will continue to expand in number and create an excellent addition to the fishery.

**CRAPPIE** – The crappie population appears to be in a “down cycle” at the present time as collection efforts have generally shown decreasing numbers. In 2017, only three (3) black crappie were collected in the fall survey, all by trap netting. Spring trap netting, which focused on the collection of these fish, produced a lone individual. White crappie have not been collected since 2013.

**CHANNEL CATFISH** – Channel catfish have been stocked through the IDNR state hatchery system on two occasions; in September 2012 and July 2017. In 2012 a total of 8,000 4-inch fish were released and 960 catfish were stocked in 2017 at an average length of 7.2”. Channel catfish will be stocked on a rotational basis with other lakes, with numbers based upon hatchery production.

**Length of Selected Species Collected in the 2017 Fall Survey (all gear types combined)**

Species	Number of Fish Caught in Each Length Group (Inches)								
	0-5	6-8	9-11	12-14	15-19	20-24	25-29	30+	Total
Largemouth bass	72	6	4	10	7	0	0	0	99
Redear Sunfish	8	50	0	0	0	0	0	0	58
Black crappie	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	3
Bluegill	463	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	483
Channel catfish	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1

**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:

Boaters - Trolling motor only

All fish species - Two pole and line fishing only.

Channel Catfish – 3 fish daily creel limit.

Largemouth Bass – 18” minimum length limit ; 1 fish daily creel limit.

White, Black, or Hybrid Crappie – 15 fish daily creel limit

Bluegill or Redear Sunfish – 15 fish daily creel limit

**CONTACT INFORMATION** – Lake Chaminwood: 815/727-8700  
 or visit the Will County Forest Preserve website at  
<http://www.reconnectwithnature.org/>  
 IDNR Fisheries County Fish Biologist: 630/553-6680.