



Lake Grunwald

FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

LOCATION – Lake Grunwald is located at the Grunwald Farms Forest Preserve south of Elburn. This off-the beaten path lake can be accessed by heading west on Main Street from Route 47 (near Fisherman’s Inn). The entrance is off of Lorang Rd. approximately 1.1 miles west of Route 47 (02S035 North Lorang Rd Elburn).

DESCRIPTION – Lake Grunwald is a 15 acre former gravel mine with a maximum depth of 20 feet and an average depth of 8 feet. The lake is owned by the Forest Preserve District of Kane County (FPDKC) and opened in 2012. There is good shoreline fishing access available via a gravel trail around the lake. This lake does offer boat access (electric motors only) which is extremely rare in the Chicagoland Area. Complex structure of drop offs and flats provide diverse habitat in this lake (bathymetric map on reverse). Several fish attracting structures are located in the lake.

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES: In 2014, the FPDKC entered into a cooperative management agreement with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to facilitate fisheries management activities. Channel catfish are occasionally stocked to supplement the population. As of 2018, the lake is catch and release fishing only. The FPDKC and IDNR are in the process of writing harvest regulations for district waters. A 30 minute electrofishing survey took place on May 31, 2018.

STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY – Grunwald Lake is difficult to sample with electrofishing gear due its depth, steep drop offs and clear water. Largemouth bass were most likely under-represented in the sample for this reason.

LARGEMOUTH BASS – Largemouth bass were abundant in the 2018 electrofishing survey of Grunwald Lake. The catch rate of 92 fish per hour is above the management goal of 60 but it roughly half the catch rate in the previous survey. Size structure was skewed toward smaller individuals. Bass ranged in length from 4.9 to 13.6 inches. No large bass were captured in the survey. The average length was only 10.5 inches. Thirty-four percent of the stock sampled measured over 12 inches. Larger bass were most likely post spawn and occupying deeper water.

BLUEGILL – Bluegill were less abundant than most area lakes. Bluegill were caught at a rate of 72 fish per hour - the management goal is 120 fish per hour. Size structure was excellent with fish up to 8.9 inches in the sample. The average bluegill measured 7.9 inches long. Several large bluegill were observed on nests during the May 31st sampling date.

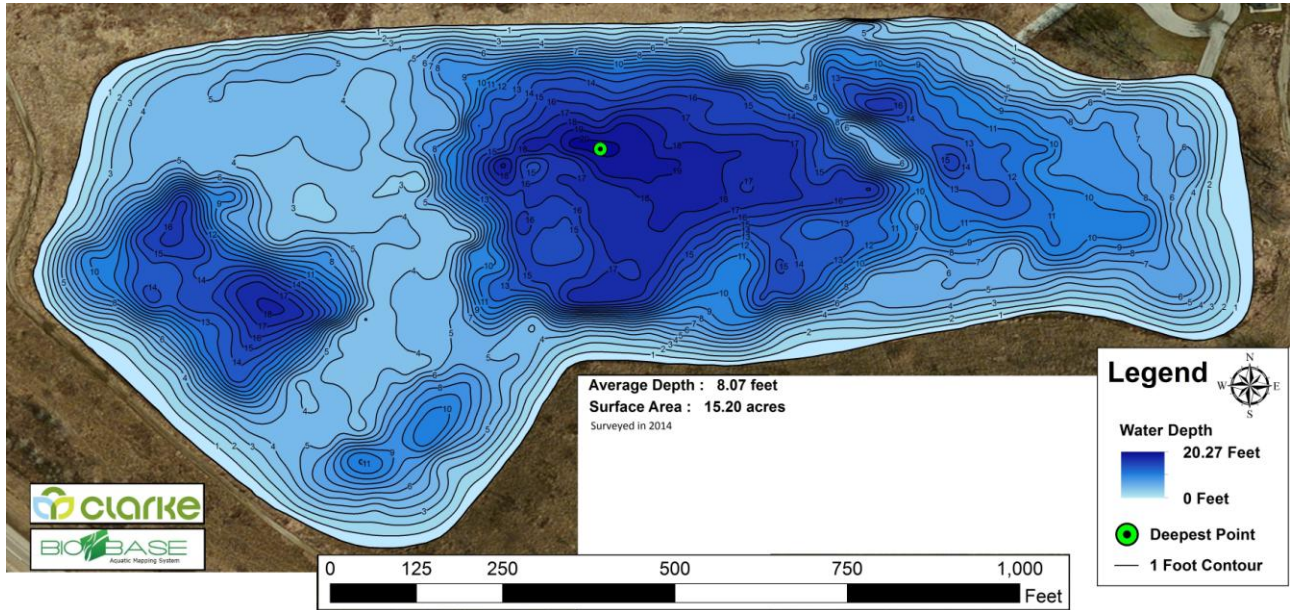
BLACK CRAPPIE – One large (12 inch) black crappie was caught in the 2014 survey but none were captured in 2018.

CHANNEL CATFISH – While not present in the sample, channel catfish are stocked regularly in Grunwald Lake. Channel catfish are difficult to sample with electrofishing gear in deep, clear lakes. This lake will be entered into the IDNR channel catfish stocking program in the future.

ADDITIONAL FISH SPECIES: Smallmouth bass were stocked by the FPDKC in 2014. It will be interesting to see if they show up in future catches. Northern pike may be stocked in the future. A large koi was captured in the 2018 survey. The koi is a colorful variety of common carp, which are highly undesirable in lakes and ponds. Carp feeding behavior destroys aquatic vegetation and the nests of “nest spawning” fish like bass and bluegill. This fish was stocked illegally and reinforces the need to educate the public not to release aquarium fish into other water bodies.

Grunwald Lake Survey - 5/31/18 - 30 minutes electrofishing

Species	Number Collected	Length (Inches)			Weight (pounds)	
		Min	Max	Avg.	Min	Max
Largemouth bass	46	4.9	13.6	10.5	0.0	0.9
Bluegill	36	2.3	8.9	7.9	0.0	0.6
Koi	1	24.9	24.9	24.9		
	83					



For more information call the Forest Preserve District of Kane County at (630) 232-5980 or IDNR Fisheries at (815) 675-2386 ext. 214 or visit: www.kaneforest.com

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