



# SILVER SPRINGS STATE FISH & WILDLIFE AREA

## BIG and BEAVER LAKES

### FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

**LOCATION** – Silver Springs is located in Kendall County, 5 miles west of Yorkville on Fox Road.

**DESCRIPTION** –A total of seven gravel pits are located at this state site and contain a variety of warm-water fish species, while the two largest, Beaver Lake (4.5 acres) and Big Lake, also known as Loon Lake (22.0 acres), are actively managed and will provide the most consistent action. Beaver Lake has a maximum depth of 14 feet and averages 8 feet, while Big Lake contains a maximum depth of 20 feet and averages 11.8 feet. A concession stand located at the park provides paddle boat rental, bait, food and drinks. A gravel boat ramp is available at Big Lake, with boats restricted to trolling motors only. A barrier-free fishing pier with access is also available at Big Lake. A one- lane concrete boat ramp on the Fox River is present as well.

**MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES** - To monitor the fish population, Beaver and Big Lake are surveyed every other year. The smaller ponds are surveyed on an as-needed basis. Aquatic vegetation is monitored annually and treated as required. Most recently, fluridone has been utilized in early spring applications to arrest the growth of Eurasian milfoil and curlyleaf pondweed. These applications have generally provided control for two seasons. Aquatic habitat projects have included the introduction and establishment of selected emergent aquatic plants as well as structures placed in mid-water locations.

**STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY** –Big Lake receives annual stockings of 8” to 10” channel catfish and catchable-size rainbow trout both spring and fall. *No special mercury advisory or other contaminant-related consumption advisories pertain.* Below is a brief description of the major sportfish species in these water bodies.

**LARGEMOUTH BASS** – IDNR fish population surveys indicate fair largemouth bass populations present on both Beaver and Big Lakes. Smaller fish are prevalent, as suggested by the fact that just 37% of all bass sampled from Big Lake in 2013 were 12” or larger. Electrofishing catch rates exceeded 2 bass per minute. The largest bass collected measured 14.6” although bigger fish are reportedly caught each year. The average size bass collected from Big Lake measured 10.4” while largemouth collected from Beaver Lake averaged just 6.6”. Smallmouth bass are present in Big Lake in low density.

**BLUEGILL** – These populations could be classified as average at best, generally dominated by smaller individuals; very few bluegills which exceeded 6 inches were collected during the Big Lake spring 2013 survey (just 4% of total). Larger bluegills are more commonly caught by ice fishermen.

**REDEAR SUNFISH** – Redear sunfish in excess of 10 inches have been collected in IDNR sampling while the average size caught in 2013 spring trap netting measured 6.6 inches with fish up to 9.6” collected.

**BLACK and WHITE CRAPPIE** – Although both species of crappie are present, black crappie are presently the more common of the two. Large crappies are not common, but fish in excess of ten inches have been collected during IDNR spring trap net sampling. No crappies were collected during the 2013 spring survey on Big Lake.

**CHANNEL CATFISH** – Stocked annually in Big Lake, this population provides excellent angling opportunities with fish ranging in size and some exceeding 24 inches. Channel catfish collected in the 2013 survey of Big Lake averaged 14.4’. Channel catfish are also present in Beaver Lake, but at lower density.

**ADDITIONAL FISH SPECIES** - The likely result of an unauthorized angler release, yellow bass have established a reproducing and recruiting population. Yellow bass collected from Big Lake during the 2013 survey averaged 7.8”.

**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 – Electric trolling motor only

All fish species - Two pole and line fishing only.

Channel Catfish – 6 fish daily creel limit.

Largemouth Bass – 15” minimum length limit.

Rainbow Trout – Spring and fall closed season (Big Lake).

**CONTACT INFORMATION** – Silver Springs State Fish and Wildlife Area: 630/553-6297.  
IDNR Fisheries County Fish Biologist: 630/553-6680.

### **Big (Loon) Lake Map**

