



# LAKE MILLIKEN

## FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

**LOCATION** – Lake Milliken is located in Will County within the confines of the Des Plaines Conservation Area, 3 miles west of Wilmington off River Road and just minutes from Interstate 55.

**DESCRIPTION** – Lake Milliken was constructed in 1961, a borrow pit resulting from the construction of Interstate 55. A fairly shallow, fertile lake, Milliken has a maximum depth of 8 feet and an average depth of 4 feet. Intensified management of aquatic vegetation is required to provide fishermen with easier angling opportunity on the main basin. The south end, which is relatively shallow, generally supports very lush aquatic plant growth. There is no boat access and watercraft are not permitted.

**MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES:** The fishery is monitored on a biennial basis, utilizing a combination of electrofishing and netting (both gill net and trap net). Aquatic vegetation treatments are conducted on an annual basis (if required) and in the most recent years have incorporated early spring fluridone applications to arrest the growth of curlyleaf pondweed. For habitat considerations, the far south portion of the lake is not treated. Fish toxicant (rotenone) has been utilized to reduce the gizzard shad population.

**STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY** –Lake Milliken receives annual stockings of 8” to 10” channel catfish, and 10” to 14” rainbow trout (spring only). *No special mercury advisory or other contaminant-related consumption advisories pertain.* Below is a brief description of catchable game species in this water body.

**LARGEMOUTH BASS** – The 2012 fall IDNR survey indicated that the bass population remains fairly strong and even though catch rates declined slightly from the previous survey, bass were still collected at an acceptable rate of 1.0/minute. The average length for bass collected in the 2012 survey increased to 12.8” and 29% of the adult bass collection was legal size or better. Bass exceeding four pounds are not uncommon and IDNR survey collections typically include several bass of trophy caliber.

**BLUEGILL** – This population could be classified as fair at best, generally dominated by smaller individuals. Larger bluegills are more commonly caught by ice fishermen. A strong gizzard shad population, which helps to fuel bass growth, is to the detriment of the bluegill population. To that end, the long-term average size for bluegill collected in IDNR fall surveys is less than 4 inches with fish rarely exceeding 7 inches.

**BLACK and WHITE CRAPPIE** – Both species of crappies are present in Lake Milliken, but black crappie were far more prevalent in the 2012 fall survey. The average length for black crappie collected during IDNR 2012 fall survey was 7.9” while white crappie averaged 7.1 inches.

**CHANNEL CATFISH** – Stocked annually, this population provides excellent angling opportunities with fish ranging in size and some exceeding 24 inches. A total of 14 were collected in the 2013 survey and ranged in length from 7.9” to 23.2”.

**ADDITIONAL FISH SPECIES:** Other species present include common carp, yellow bass and bullhead.

**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:

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 closed season.

**CONTACT INFORMATION** – Des Plaines Conservation Area: 815/423-5326.  
IDNR Fisheries County Fish Biologist: 630/553-6680.

### **Lake Milliken Map**

