



AXEHEAD LAKE

FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF COOK COUNTY

FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

LOCATION – Located between Touhy and Des Plaines River Road, east of the Tri-State Tollway (US294) near Park Ridge, Illinois.

DESCRIPTION – Axehead Lake is 17 acres; maximum depth 31 feet; average depth approx. 17 feet. The lake was created in 1958, probably as a borrow pit for expressway construction; it's steep sided and very clear. The lake is difficult to survey with conventional methods so fisheries data are sparse. Axehead Lake has ample shorefishing access, two parking lots, picnic tables and porta-potty outhouses. No boats are allowed. No fish cleaning station is available.

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES: The Lake is part of both the spring and fall inland rainbow trout seasons, and receives occasional fish surveys by IDNR or FPDCC Fisheries Staff to evaluate vegetation and fish species abundance and diversity. Smallmouth bass were supplementally stocked in this "gravel pit" type lake to try and establish a population but positive results have been difficult to verify so smallmouth bass stockings have been discontinued.

STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY – Below is a brief description of catchable game species in this water body.

LARGEMOUTH BASS – Bass were collected at a rate of 0.85/minute which was just below the goal of 1.0/minute. The maximum size fish collected was 12.7"; nearly all fish collected were sub-adults though sampling errors associated with this deep, clear lake make "sampling" adult fish difficult. Since catch rates were decent it indicates that natural reproduction occurs so adult-size fish "must" be present in fair numbers to carry the population along. Anglers report fair catches especially in spring when fish tend to be closer to shore.

Northern Pike – Northern pike are occasionally stocked; fish to 37" have been collected though not abundant; northern pike add to the diversity of the predator base to balance the lakes overall fishery.

BLUEGILL – Survey data shows bluegill can exceed 8 inches long which is a good indicator of "sufficient" predation and a balanced fish population. Bluegill abundance is good, their maximum size is good and there is ample shoreline access to target them! Find vegetation to find bluegills.

ADDITIONAL FISH SPECIES: Approximately 10 species live in this system including the above and black crappie, green sunfish, yellow perch, yellow bass, black bullhead, common carp, and white sucker.

FISHING REGULATIONS –

Species	Daily Limit	Length Limit
Largemouth bass	6	14"
Walleye	6	18"
Northern Pike	3	24"
Channel Catfish	6	None
Bluegill/Sunfish	15	None
Crappie	15	None

Two Pole and Line Only

(For specific details -Illinois Fishing Information Booklet or IFISHILLINOIS website: <http://www.ifishillinois.org/>).

ADDITIONAL SITE SPECIFIC REGULATIONS:

No Boats Allowed

CONTACT INFORMATION –

Forest Preserve District of Cook County – Fisheries: 708/403-6951.
IDNR – District Fisheries Biologist: 815/675-2319.

Axehead Lake Map

