



LAKE BLOOMINGTON

LAKE STATUS SUMMARY

LOCATION: Located approximately 15 miles North of Bloomington IL, Lake Bloomington is easily accessible by taking I-39 North to the Lake Bloomington Exit, then proceeding east on the Lake Bloomington Road (2500N) 4 miles.

DESCRIPTION: Lake Bloomington, a 635 acre reservoir, with 18.5 miles of shoreline, is owned by the City of Bloomington, IL and is maintained and operated by the City’s Water Department. There is one public boat launch, but there is a fee to use the ramp/lake. The Friends of Everbloom is an organization that assists with habitat projects and improving the quality of Lake Bloomington. To learn more about their organization, visit their web page <http://friendsofeverbloom.weebly.com>

STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY: The IDNR currently stocks walleye, smallmouth bass and hybrid striped bass. The following information is a summary of the major sport fisheries based on periodic fish population surveys. A community-wide fish survey is completed approximately every two years and hybrid striped bass, largemouth/smallmouth bass and walleye surveys are currently conducted on an annual basis.

Largemouth Bass/Smallmouth Bass – The most recent bass survey resulted in a catch rate of 108 bass per hour. The average catch rate for the past 14 surveys is 173.6 bass per hour. During the most recent survey, approximately 20% of the bass collected were longer than the 15 inch length limit. The largest bass collected weighed 5.3 pounds. Of the bass collected over 8 inches, 85% were longer than 12 inches, 28% longer than 15 inches and 1% longer than 20 inches. Even though smallmouth bass have been in the lake since it was impounded, the fishery is not strong. A smallmouth bass stocking program was started in 2009 in an attempt to improve the fishery. The State Hatchery stocks 2-inch fingerlings each year.

Walleye – Walleye were first stocked into this lake in 1984 and has received approximately 25,000 two-inch walleye every year. The most recent walleye survey resulted in 58 walleye per hour of sampling. The average catch rate for the past 15 surveys is 40.5 walleye per hour. There are a lot of walleye in Lake Bloomington. Walleye collected during the most recent survey ranged in size from 7 inches to 21.5 inches. The heaviest walleye collected weighed 3 pounds and the average weight was 1.38 pounds. Based on the walleye survey, 80% of the walleye collected were longer than 15 inches and 8% were longer than 20 inches. There have been several 10-pound plus walleye caught in Lake Bloomington since 2001.

Hybrid Striped Bass – The most recent spring netting survey resulted in 105 hybrid striped bass being collected ranging in size from 16.5 inches to 27 inches and the largest hybrid collected weighed 10.7 pounds. The hybrid striped bass fishery in Lake Bloomington is excellent. The State Hatchery System stocks hybrid striped bass to sustain the fishery.

Crappie – Both black and white crappie are present in Lake Bloomington. Historically, white crappie have dominated the crappie fishery, but black crappie dominated the most recent fish survey. The most recent spring electrofishing survey resulted in the collection of 17.3 white crappie per hour and 32.7 black crappie per hour. The objective is to collect 25 per hour. The majority of the crappie are below 10 inches. The black crappie ranged in size from 6 inches to 12 inches and the largest black crappie collected weighed 0.93 pounds. The white crappie ranged in size from 7 inches to 11 inches and the largest white crappie weighed 0.67 pounds.

Channel Catfish – During the most recent fish survey, 16 channel catfish were collected ranging in size from 18 inches to 30 inches and the largest catfish weighed 11.5 pounds. In 2010, the lake was stocked with 10,000 3.75 channel catfish and improved the catch rate to more than 3 times the 7-survey average. There is currently a great channel catfish fishery in Lake Bloomington.

FISHING REGULATIONS: Two pole and line fishing only, no trot lines, jugs or bank poles.

Species	Length Limit	Daily Creel Limit
Largemouth & Smallmouth Bass	15"	6
Walleye	14"	6
Hybrid Striped Bass	17"	3
Crappie	None	15 (effective April 1, 2015)
Bluegill/Redear Sunfish	None	25

40 H.P. OUTBOARD MOTOR RESTRICTION

For other species, statewide regulations are in effect. For further regulation information, please consult the current Illinois Fishing Regulation Booklet.

FEES: The City of Bloomington requires a boat sticker for watercraft utilizing Lake Bloomington.

PHONE NUMBERS: Lake Bloomington – 309-434-2161

IDNR Fisheries – 217-784-4730