



EVERGREEN LAKE LAKE STATUS SUMMARY

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

DESCRIPTION: Evergreen Lake was built in 1970 to serve as a secondary water source for the City of Bloomington. The lake is owned by the City of Bloomington and is managed by the McLean County Department of Parks and Recreation. Evergreen Lake is part of Comlara County Park. The lake is 925 acres and has an average depth of 19.7 feet and a maximum depth of 50 feet. County watercraft registration is required. There are 2 boat launches on the lake and one canoe launch. Comlara County Park offers 137 campsites, a swimming beach, and showers. The Friends of Everbloom is an organization that assists with habitat projects and improving the quality of Evergreen Lake. To learn more about their organization, visit their web page <http://friendsofeverbloom.weebly.com>

STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY: The IDNR currently stocks saugeye and muskie. 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 muskie, saugeye, and largemouth bass surveys are currently conducted on an annual basis.

Largemouth Bass – The most recent bass survey resulted in a catch rate of 168 bass per hour. The five-year average is 220.6 bass per hour. During the latest survey, only 10% of the bass collected were larger than the 15 inch length limit, but 42% of the bass collected were larger than 12 inches. Producing young bass has been a problem in Evergreen Lake for many years. A vegetation project was initiated to produce cover for small game fish in Evergreen Lake, with the goal of increasing natural recruitment. Starting in 2005, vegetation was planted in Evergreen Lake to increase habitat available to small bass. In the fall of 2007, bass spawning structures were placed in the lake to help bass find better nesting sites. Evergreen Lake has a lot of bass but the number of legal bass is below average.

Saugeye – Home of the current State Record Saugeye! The State Record Saugeye was caught in 2001. The lake still holds fish capable of breaking the new record. The saugeye is a hybrid made by crossing female walleye with male sauger. The saugeye appear to have adapted quite well to Evergreen Lake. Stocking of this hybrid started in 1992 and the lake has been stocked every year since. The most recent night electrofishing survey resulted in a catch rate of 142 saugeye per hour and the saugeye ranged in size from 8 inches to 26 inches. The average catch rate for the past 5 surveys is 75.4 saugeye per hour. There is a high number of smaller saugeye in the lake. During the most recent spring netting survey, 6.4 saugeye were collected per net-night. The ten-survey average is 4.7 saugeye per net night. Of the saugeye collected over 10 inches, 72% were longer than 15 inches, 47% were over 20 inches, and 9% were over 25 inches.

Muskellunge – Evergreen Lake was first stocked with muskie in 1990. During the most recent spring netting survey, 6.9 muskie per net-night were collected with 20 net-nights of effort and the ten-survey average is 3.4 muskie per net-night. The muskie ranged in size from 27 inches to 46 inches. Approximately 13% of the muskie collected were large than 38 inches and 3% were larger than 42 inches. The largest muskie weighed 34.12 pounds. Muskie exhibit ideal weights at all sizes in Evergreen Lake. Muskie were collected over the current state record during spring netting surveys in 2006, 2007, and 2010.

Crappie – Evergreen Lake is a hotspot for crappie fishing. There has been an increase in crappie catch rates during surveys since 2000. The crappie fishery was once dominated by white crappie, but since 2006 the black crappie population has been more prevalent in fish surveys and anglers’ creels. The black crappie population has responded well to the 15 per day harvest regulation. During the most recent electrofishing survey, approximately 38% of the white crappie collected were larger than 10 inches. The catch rate for black crappie was double the 7-survey average and approximately 20% of the black crappie collected were larger than 10 inches.

FISHING REGULATIONS: Two pole and line fishing only, no trot lines, jugs or bank poles. Except that sport anglers may take carp, carpsuckers, buffalo, gar, bowfin and suckers by pitchfork, gigs, bow and arrow or bow and arrow devices. **OUTBOARD MOTOR SIZE LIMIT OF 10 HP.**

Species	Length <u>Limit</u>	Daily Creel <u>Limit</u>
Largemouth & Smallmouth Bass	15"	6
Walleye/Saugeye/Sauger	18"	3 (effective April 1, 2015)
Muskellunge (Muskie)	48"	1
Crappie	None	15

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

For More Information: McLean County Department of Parks and Recreation – (309) 434-6770; IDNR Fisheries – (217) 784-4730