



Foxcroft Lake

FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

LOCATION – Foxcroft Lake is located on the west side of Aurora. From Orchard Road, head east on Sullivan Road, turn south (right) on Foxcroft Drive and then west (right) on Birch Lane. Birch Lane dead ends into a small parking area for the adjacent Foxcroft Park.

DESCRIPTION – Foxcroft Lake is an 8.1 acre dug retention pond with a maximum depth of 4.6 feet. The lake is owned and maintained by the Fox Valley Park District (FVPD) as a community park in a residential setting. Flow through from adjacent storm sewers help keep this shallow lake from serious winter kill. The shoreline is mowed in several areas to allow access for shore fishing. A playground and basketball courts are located at the adjacent park. See the reverse side for a bathymetric map.

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES: The FVPD has entered into a cooperative management agreement with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to facilitate fisheries management activities. Site specific regulations apply (Six fish daily creel on channel catfish and a three fish, 15 inch minimum limit on largemouth bass). A 20 minute electrofishing survey took place on May 22, 2014. A newly started channel catfish program (1,700 four inch catfish every other year) should offer great fishing for this species in the future.

STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY – Abundant largemouth bass and bluegill should offer anglers plenty of action in this suburban park. Excellent access makes Foxcroft Lake a family friendly fishing location.

LARGEMOUTH BASS – In our 2014 electrofishing survey, 29 largemouth bass were found in twenty minutes of shocking (87 fish per hour). We consider anything over 60 fish per hour to be a healthy abundance measure. The average bass was 9.8 inches long, but size ranged from 4.9 to 15.7 inches. The heaviest bass weighed 2.2 pounds. Only 17% of the bass were over twelve inches and just two legal size (15 inches) fish were caught. Previous surveys here have captured bass up to 18 inches in this lake. Large bass may have been lost due to winterkill in the harsh winter of 2013-14. Multiple sizes (year classes) indicate successful reproduction in this lake. Abundant forage species (gizzard shad, bluegill and golden shiner) keep the bass in this lake fat and healthy.

BLUEGILL – Bluegill were vary abundant and captured at a rate of 456 fish per hour. Bluegill ranged in size from 3.7 to 6.1 inches, with an average size of 5.3 inches. Twenty-one percent of the catch was longer than six inches. The results of the survey indicated a very healthy bluegill population that would benefit from responsible harvest.

CHANNEL CATFISH – Three large channel catfish were captured in this survey. They ranged in size from 20.8 to 23.0 inches long, with the largest weighing 5.4 pounds. Fishing for channel catfish should be better in the future as 1,700 four and a half inch channel catfish were stocked in 2012 and 2014.

COMMON CARP – Common carp were extremely abundant during this survey. Six common carp were measured from a sub-sample during the most recent survey. They ranged in size from 7.6 to 23.0 inches, averaging 18.4 inches. The heaviest one weighed 5.9 pounds. Common carp have been very abundant in this lake during previous surveys and unlimited harvest is encouraged for this detrimental species.

ADDITIONAL FISH SPECIES: Golden shiner, gizzard shad, yellow bullhead and bluntnose minnow also occur in Foxcroft Lake.

Foxcroft Lake Survey on May 22nd, 2014

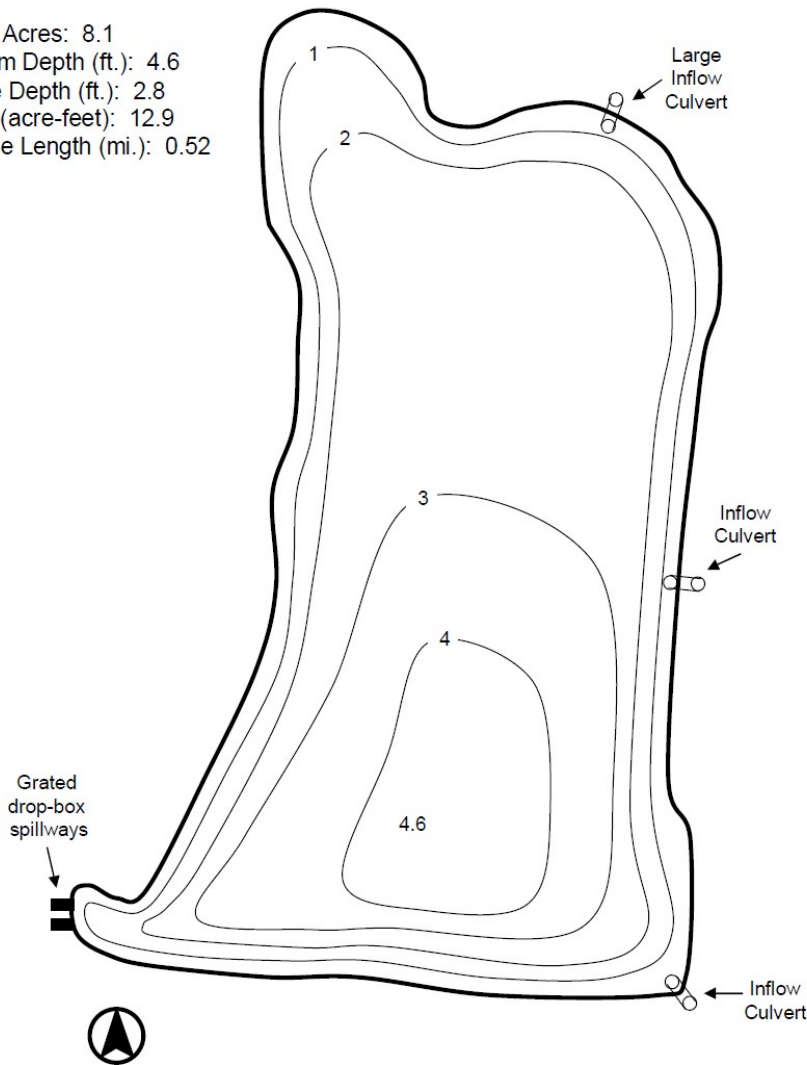
20 minutes of Pulsed D.C. Electrofishing

Species	Number Collected	Length (Inches)			Weight (pounds)	
		Min	Max	Avg.	Min	Max
Bluegill *	76	3.70	6.10	5.31	0.04	0.17
Largemouth bass	29	4.88	15.67	9.83	0.05	2.18
Gizzard Shad	9	10.51	12.91	11.76	0.34	0.63
Golden shiner	8	2.91	3.86	3.53		
Common carp *	6	7.64	23.03	18.35	0.24	5.85
Channel catfish	3	20.75	23.03	21.73	3.37	5.37
Yellow bullhead	3	5.87	7.32	6.68	0.10	0.17
Bluntnose minnow	1	3.07	3.07	3.07		

Total # of fish 135

* 10 minute subsample

Surface Acres: 8.1
 Maximum Depth (ft.): 4.6
 Average Depth (ft.): 2.8
 Volume (acre-feet): 12.9
 Shoreline Length (mi.): 0.52



Soundings (ft.) -9/21/06
 (adjusted to normal water level)

Vic Santucci -3/19/07
 IDNR - Fisheries

For more information call the Fox Valley Park District at (630) 897-0516 or IDNR Fisheries at (815) 675-2386 ext. 214 or visit: <http://www.foxvalleyparkdistrict.org/lakes-and-fishing-2/>
 For general information on fishing in Illinois visit the IDNR Fisheries Division at: www.ifishillinois.org
 To purchase your fishing license go to: www.dnr.illinois.gov