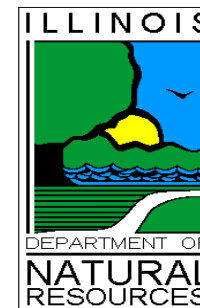
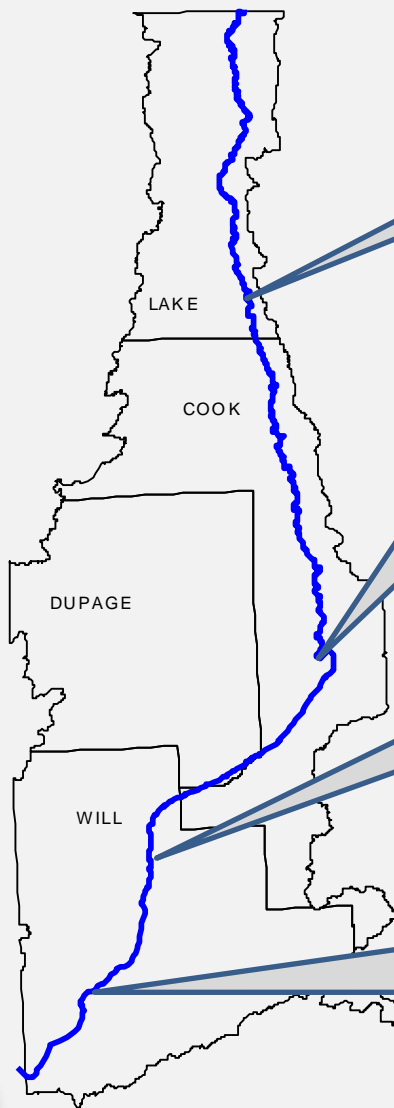


# Des Plaines River Fishery Fact Sheet - 2015



Over the past thirty years the Des Plaines River has transformed from highly degraded stream to a thriving urban fishery, offering one of the more diverse assemblages of sportfish species in Northeastern Illinois. Much of the River is bordered by Forest Preserves with many good access areas. The Des Plaines River yields one of the highest catch rates for **Northern Pike**, especially near Riverside and the upstream areas. Fish larger than 25 inches were common. Anglers have caught a few larger individuals. Near Riverside, fall walleye catch rates are typically between 10 and 15 per hour of electrofishing. ILDNR has stocked 20,000 two-inch **Sauger** each year since 2000. Catch rates have ranged between 15 and 40 per hour through the lower river. **Channel Catfish** are abundant at Riverside and other riffle areas downstream like Isle La Cache and Division Street. **Smallmouth Bass** are common around the Riverside Area along with **Rockbass** and **Crappie**. **Largemouth Bass** are abundant in the some locations, especially the segment below Brandon Lock. The area downstream of I-55 Bridge is a popular tournament spot. Bluegill are also present in the upstream reaches and downstream of Brandon Dam.



**Upper River Area:**  
Largemouth Bass\*\*\*  
Northern Pike\*\*  
Rockbass\*\*

**Riverside/ Lyons:**  
Smallmouth Bass: \*\*\*  
Channel Catfish\*\*\*\*  
Walleye\*\*\*  
Sauger\*\*\*  
Rockbass\*\*  
Crappie \*\*  
Northern Pike\*\*\*

**Lower River 135<sup>th</sup> to Division:**  
Channel Catfish\*\*\*  
Sauger\*\*

**Lower River Brandon Dam to I-55:**  
Largemouth Bass\*\*\*  
Bluegill\*\*  
Channel Catfish\*\*

