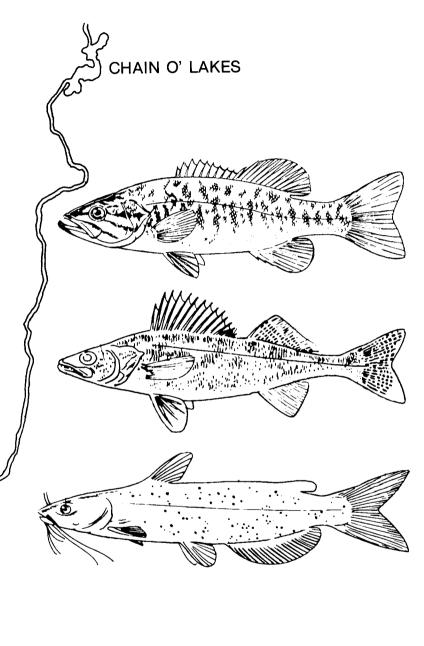
FOX RIVER ACCESS AREAS & FISHING GUIDE



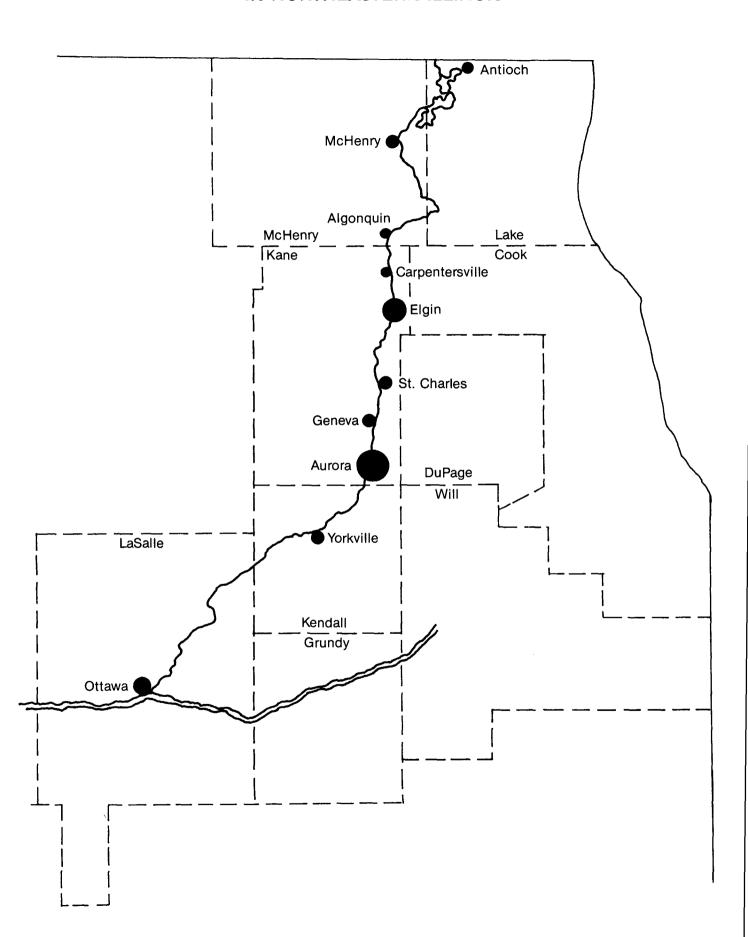




ILLINOIS RIVER



LOCATION OF THE FOX RIVER IN NORTHEASTERN ILLINOIS



ILLINOIS DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION OF FISHERIES

FOX RIVER ACCESS AREAS AND FISHING GUIDE

by

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and

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District Fishery Biologist

Revised: April, 1996

INTRODUCTION

Originating northwest of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, the Fox River enters Illinois near Antioch and flows generally in a southerly direction for 115.2 miles through populous northeastern Illinois emptying into the Illinois River at Ottawa. This major tributary to the Illinois provides considerable recreational opportunity and is within easy access of the more than 7 million people living in the greater Chicago metropolitan area. Sport fishing is one of the major recreational activities engaged in along its course, particularly in the tailwater areas below 15 major dams, which impound the river into pools of varying length. The majority (11) of these dams are found in the Elgin-Aurora area, more specifically located at Carpentersville, Elgin, South Elgin, St.

Charles, Geneva, Batavia (2), North Aurora, Aurora (2), and Montgomery. Other dams are located at McHenry, Algonquin, Yorkville, and Dayton. The Dayton Dam is the only one on the river used to generate electrical power.

The McHenry Dam, reconstructed by the State of Illinois in 1939, became the only dam on the river to provide boat lockage and created the 6,500 acres of water forming the Fox Chain O'Lakes. Boaters can go through the lock at McHenry and proceed upstream into the Fox Chain O'Lakes, one of the most popular recreational areas in Illinois. A separate publication, FOX CHAIN O'LAKES ACCESS AREAS AND FISHING GUIDE, is also available through the Division of Fisheries.

REGULATIONS

When fishing the Fox River, anglers should consult State fishing regulations regarding current size and creel limits — particularly, largemouth and smallmouth bass, walleye*, and northern pike. All State boating and hunting regulations are also applicable and enforced.

Copies of these regulations can be obtained where fishing licenses are sold or by writing to:

Department of Natural Resources Division of Fisheries Lincoln Tower Plaza 524 South Second Street Springfield, Illinois 62706

* A special regulation became effective April 1, 1992: An 18-inch minimum length limit and 3 fish daily creel limit was imposed upon all walleye harvested from the Fox Chain O'Lakes proper and that portion of the Fox River from the Illinois-Wisconsin State Line south to the McHenry Dam.

POLLUTION

Pollution problems have stemmed from enrichment — particularly, in the form of nitrates and inorganic phosphates introduced from agricultural drainage, sewage effluents, and other sources. The enrichment triggers tremendous blooms of planktonic algae, which can give the river a bright green appearance during the warm summer months.

Water quality has improved due to good environmental management practices. Legislation has been enacted for floodplain protection, especially in the upper areas of the river and Chain O'Lakes region. Construction of housing, which displaced wetlands and marshes essential as biological filters and as fish spawning and rearing areas, has ceased because of recent legislation. In addition, governmental agencies such as the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have assisted in controlling pollutants which are introduced into the Fox River Basin.

SAFETY

Whether boating or wading, safety is an important concern on the river. Avoid the areas immediately above and below dams. The boil area below the dam can be extremely hazardous, especially during high water periods. A certain amount of respect for the river is only good judgment.

SPECIFIC AREAS TO FISH

The most popular fishing areas have been at the following dams: Dayton, Yorkville, Montgomery, North Aurora, St. Charles, and McHenry. Spring and fall are the best times to catch most species of fish found in the Fox River. Limits of walleyes are not uncommon at these times, especially in April and September, with many smallmouth bass taken right along with the walleye.

The farthest downstream dam at Dayton is located approximately 5.5 miles up from the confluence with the Illinois River. In addition to the tailwater area below the dam, another exceptional fishing spot is located here. Immediately below the hydroelectric power plant on the west side of the river just down from the dam has been a hot spot for walleye, white bass, crappie, and channel catfish.

Proceeding upstream, in addition to the fine tail-water fishery below the various dams, there are several well-known channel areas that provide fine angling opportunities. Channels and backwaters, in addition to spring and fall, can be exceptionally productive during the ice fishing season and at times of high water. Bluegill, crappie, and yellow bass are most commonly caught at these locations. The east channel just above Montgomery Dam has been noted as probably the best. This channel, at one time, was dug for the purpose of boat lockage; but the project was never completed and has provided a very popular place to catch fish and enjoy the outdoor setting.

Another good channel is an area known as Depot Pond. Located on the west side of the river, at the upper Batavia Dam, it also produces fine catches of panfish, especially crappie.

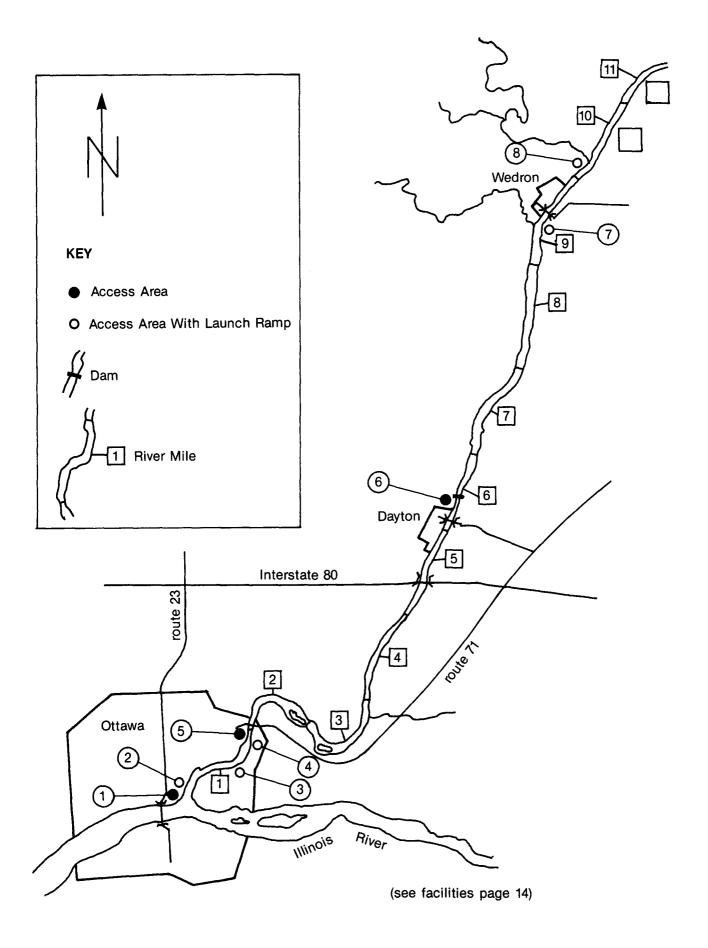
To the north, the farthest upstream dam is located 2.5 miles south of McHenry. Providing a tailwater fishery of the Fox Chain O'Lakes, this area provides more walleye than any spot on the river and is a prime area for channel catfish, white and yellow bass, and crappie. Flathead catfish have been caught below most Fox River dams, including McHenry Dam, where 20 to 30 pound fish are not uncommon. Northern pike are also taken, especially in April.

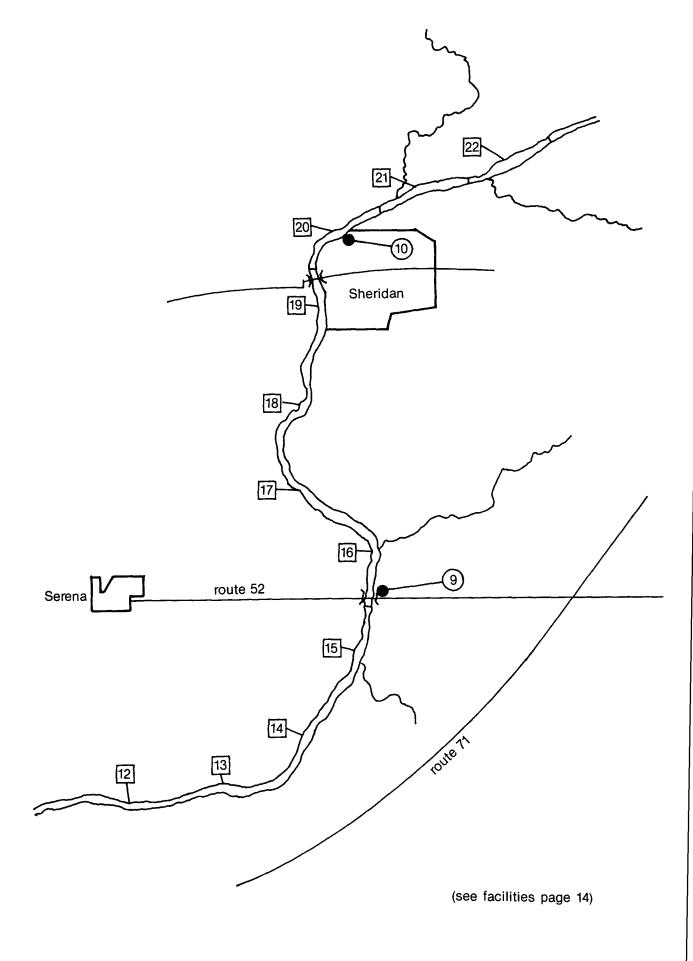
In order to be a successful fisherman, one must expend some time and effort to learn and understand the behavior and habits of the various fish; the types of bait ant tackle to use, and when, where, and how to fish for them. As the old saying goes, "Ten percent of the fishermen catch ninety percent of the fish." Hence, all fishermen must learn to be patient if they expect to consistently catch fish.

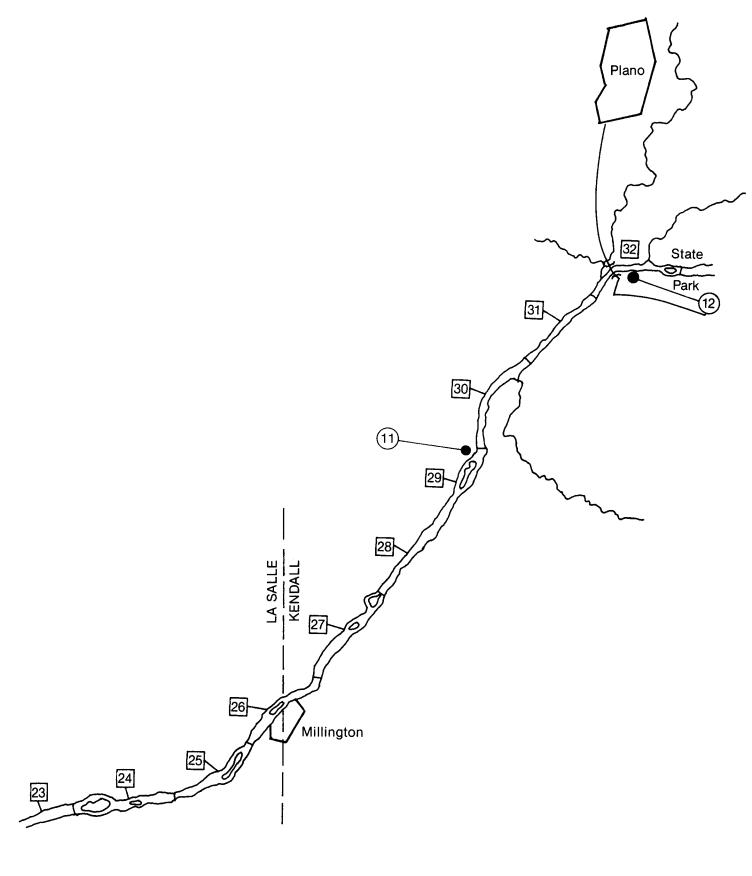
ACCESS AREAS

The following pages contain information relative to the public and private access areas along the Fox River. Sites are numbered and listed in tabular form showing facilities available. Maps show access numbers and river miles beginning at the junction with the Illinois River at Ottawa upstream to the Illinois-Wisconsin State Line near Antioch. Access areas along the section of river, which becomes part of the Chain O'Lakes, have been listed in a separate report, FOX CHAIN O'LAKES ACCESS AREAS AND FISHING GUIDE.

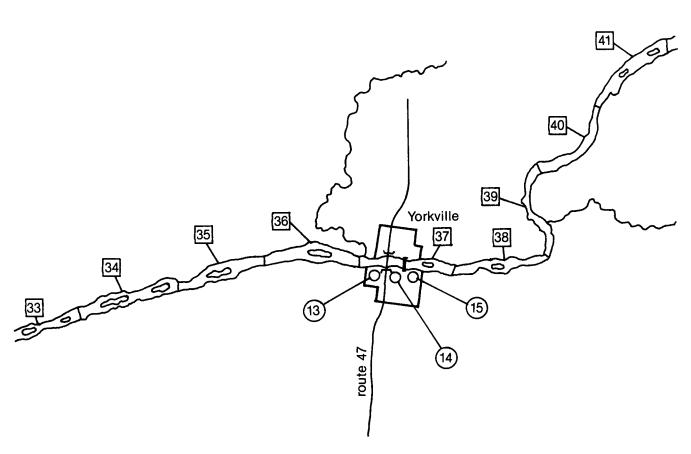
A few major named highways have been shown but a State highway map would be useful in finding exact locations of access areas.



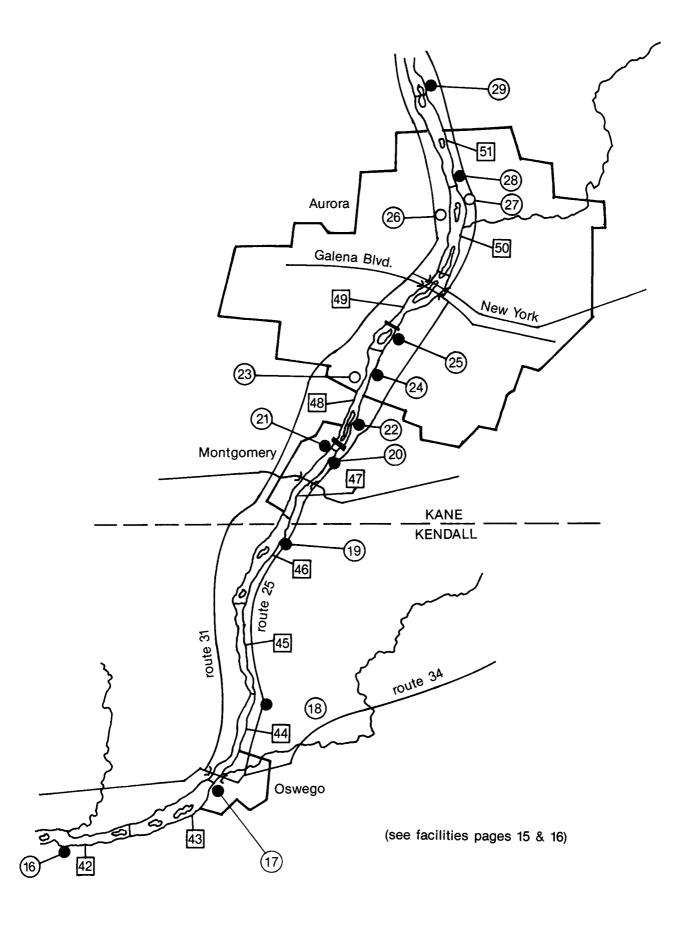


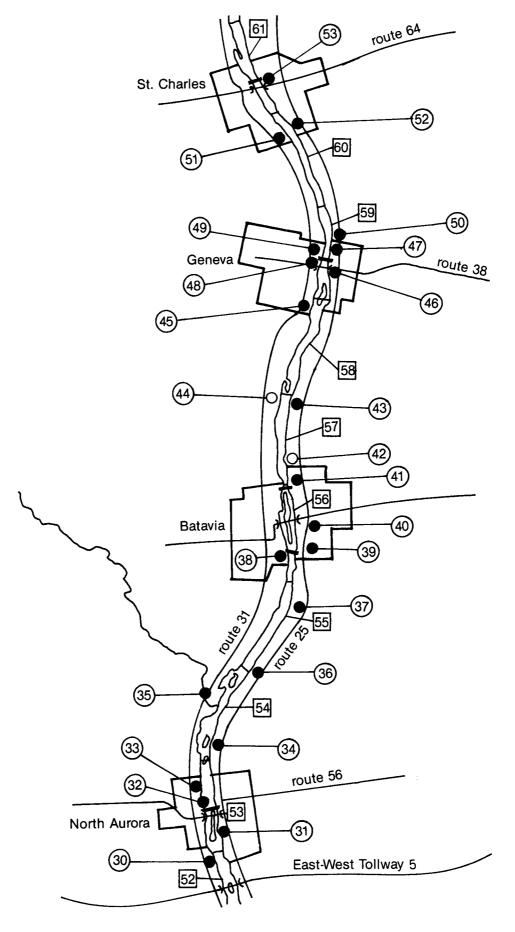


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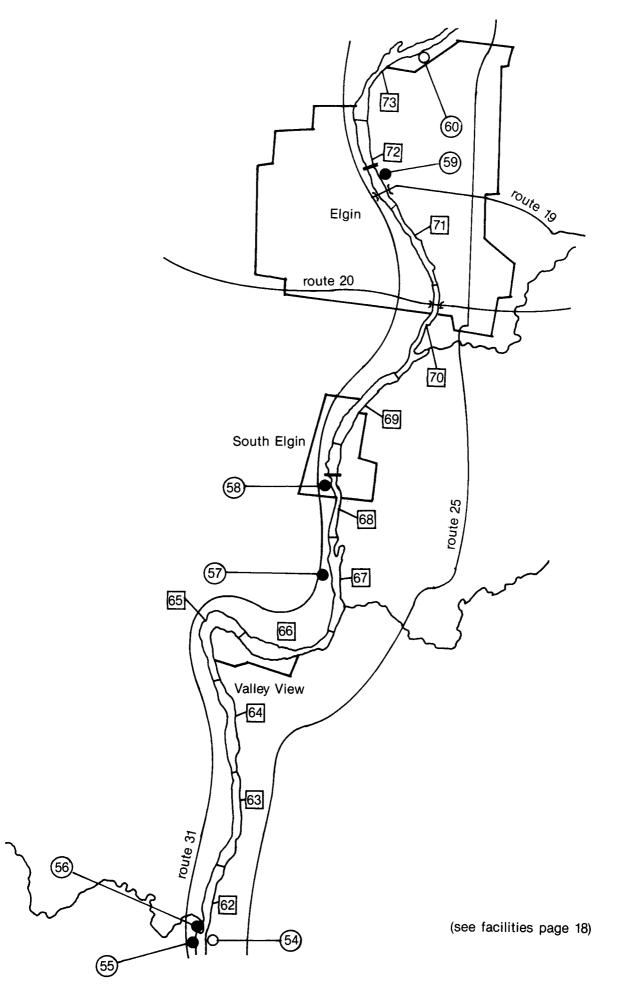


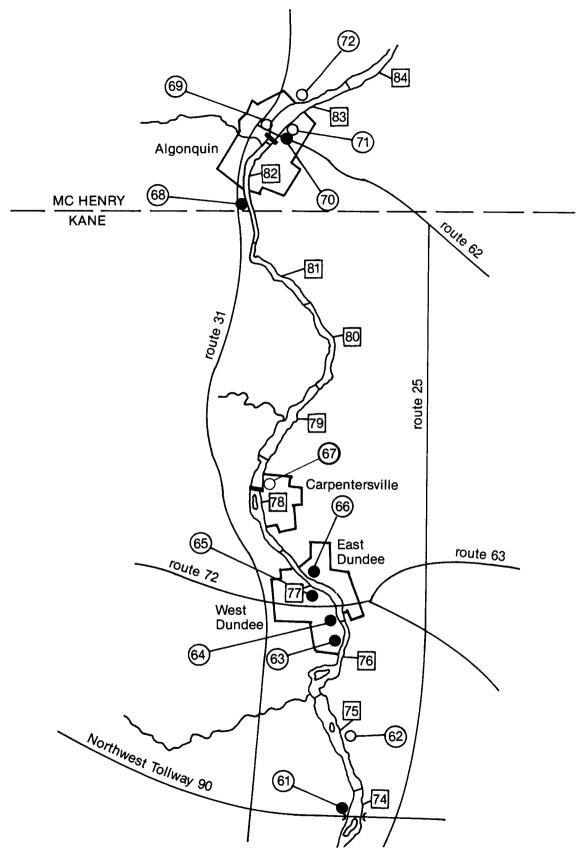
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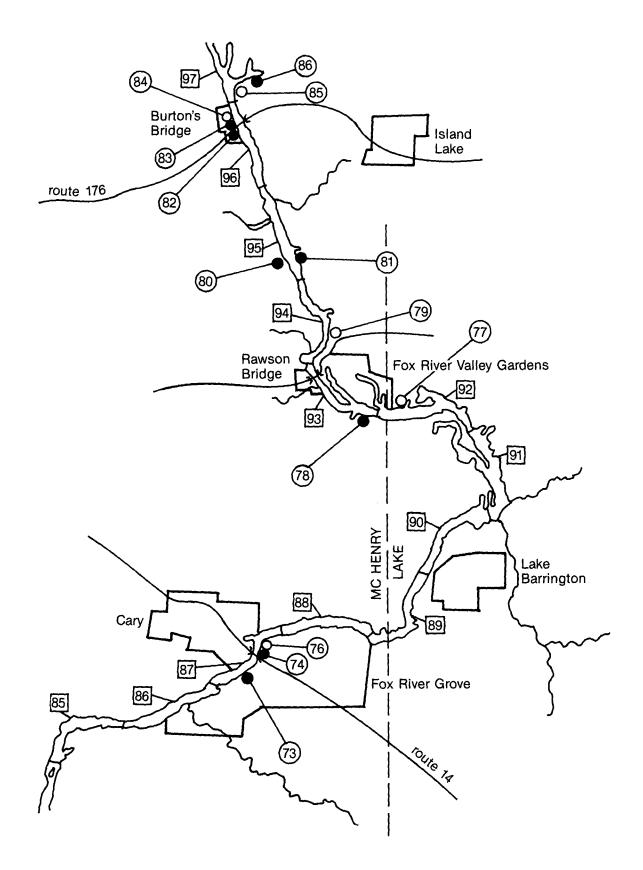


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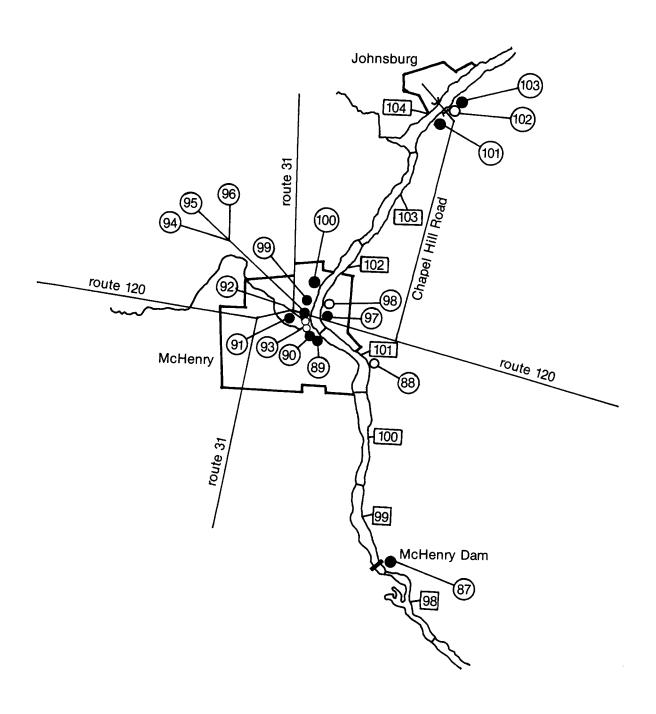




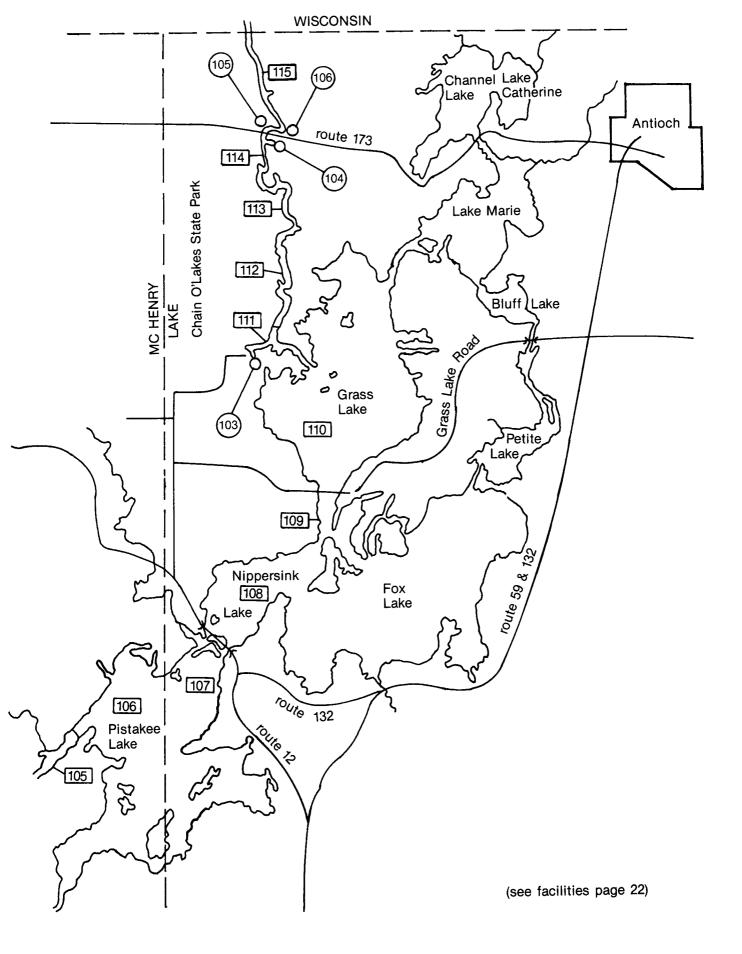
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(see facilities pages 21 & 22)



Access No.	Access Area	River Mile	Legal Location	Bank Fishing	Launching Ramp	Boat, Canoe, or Motor Rental	Dockage or Slips	Gasoline and Oil	Repair Service	Marine Supplies	Winter Storage	Bait	Camping	Picnic Areas	Refreshment Stand	Restaurant	Liquor	Other Services and Facilities
1	Ottawa Marine Service Ottawa	0	T33N R3E S11 SE1/4		1 concrete for rescue squad only		4	X	X	X								Diving Service
2	Starved Rock Yacht Club Ottawa	0	T33N R3E S11 NE1/4		Ramp & hoist for members only		150										X	
3	Shoreline Boat Club Ottawa	1	T33N R3E S12 NW1/4		1 concrete fee		75							×			X	
4	Fox River Marina Ottawa	2	T33N R3E S11 NE1/4		1 concrete fee		40	×	X	X	X			×	X			Store
5	Montes Riverside Inn Ottawa	2	T33N R3E S1 SW1/4				3									×	X	
6	Dayton Dam Dayton	6	T34N R4E S29 SE1/4	X						·								Electrical Power Generation
7	Fox River Tavern Wedron	9	T34N R4E S9 SE1/4		1 dirt local use free												X	
8	Ayers Landing Wedron	10	T34N R4E S3 SW1/4		1 concrete fee	canoes	6						×	×	×	X		Drivers available (fee)
9	Route 52 Bridge Sheridan	16	T35N R5E S20 SE1/4	X														Canoe float drop off site
10	Sheridan Bait Shop Sheridan	20	T35N R5E S5 NW1/4			canoes				X		X						Canoe float drop off site
11	Millbrook Bridge	29	T36N R6E S9 SW1/4	X														
12	Silver Springs State Fish and Wildlife Area Yorkville	32	T37N R6E S34 SE1/4	X		canoes						×	X	X	×			

Access No.	Access Area	River Mile	Legal Location	Bank Fishing	Launching Ramp	Boat, Canoe, or Motor Rental	Dockage or Slips	Gasoline and Oil	Repair Service	Marine Supplies	Winter Storage	Bait	Camping	Picnic Areas	Refreshment Stand	Restaurant	Liquor	Other Services and Facilities
13	City Boat Launch Below Dam Yorkville	37	T37N R7E S32 NE ¹ ⁄ ₄	X	1 gravel													
14	Freemans Sport Shop Yorkville	37	T37N R7E S33 NW1⁄4		E	canoes		X	X	X		X						
15	Yorkville Dam Yorkville	37	T37N R7E S33 NW1/4	X	dirt/gravel									X				
16	Saw-wee-kee Park Oswegoland Park District	41	T37N R7E S23 NE1/4	X	1 concrete free													
17	Violet Patch Park Oswego	44	T37N R8³ S8 SW 1⁄4	X										X				
18	Unnamed Oswego	46	T37N R8E S5 NW1/4	X														
19	Unnamed Montgomery-Public Access	47	T38N R8E S33 SW1/4	х										×				
20	South Island Park Montgomery	47	T38N R8E S33 NE1/4	X										X				
21	Montgomery Dam Montgomery	47	T38N R8E S33 NE1/4	X										X				Playground on both sides of river
22	South Island Park Aurora	48	T38N R8E S33 NE1/4	Х										X				
23	Park & Park District Office Aurora	48	T38N R8E S28 SE1/4	X	1 concrete free									X				
24	South Broadway Park Aurora	48	T38N R8E S28 SE1/4	X										×				
						15												

Access No.	Access Area	River Mile	Legal Location	Bank Fishing	Launching Ramp	Boat, Canoe, or Motor Rental	Dockage or Slips	Gasoline and Oil	Repair Service	Marine Supplies	Winter Storage	Bait	Camping	Picnic Areas	Refreshment Stand	Restaurant	Liquor	Other Services and Facilities
25	Hurd Island Park North Avenue Dam Aurora	49	T38N R8E S21 SE ¹ / ₄	х										×				Playground Bathrooms
26	Illinois Avenue Island Park Below Bridge Aurora	50	T38N R8E S15 SE1/4	X	1 concrete free													
27	Illinois Avenue Park Above Bridge Aurora	50	T38N R8E S15 SE1/4	X	2 concrete free													Both sides of river
28	Unnamed Aurora	51	T39N R8E S27 SW ¹ / ₄	X														
29	QW. Gregory Park Indian Trail Bridge Aurora	52	T38N R8E S10 SW1/4	X										X				
30	Unnamed Aurora	52	T38N R8E S4 SE ¹ / ₄	X														
31	North Aurora Island Park North Aurora	53	T38N R8E S4 NE1/4	X										x				Playground Pavilion
32	North Aurora Dam North Aurora	53	T38N R8E S4 NE1/4	X										X				
33	Unnamed North Aurora	53	T38N R8E S4 NE1/4	X														
34	Red Oak Nature Center North Aurora	54	T39N R8E S33 NE1/4	X										×				Museum Aviary Hiking Trails
35	Leslie C. Arends Forest Preserve District Moosehart	54	T39N R8E S33 NE1/4	х										X				
36	John A. Lippold Outdoor Recreation Center Batavia	55	T39N R8E S27 SW1/4	Х									X	X				Archery Range Playground Snowmobiling

Access No.	Access Area	River Mile	Legal Location	Bank Fishing	Launching Ramp	Boat, Canoe, or Motor Rental	Dockage or Slips	Gasoline and Oil	Repair Service	Marine Supplies	Winter Storage	Bait	Camping	Picnic Areas	Refreshment Stand	Restaurant	Liquor	Other Services and Facilities
37	Kane County Forest Preserve Glenwood Park Batavia	55	T39N R8E S27 NE1/4	Х										X				Hiking and Snowmobiling Trails Bathroom
38	Quarry Park Batavia	55	T39N R8E S22 SW1/4	X									X	X				Pool Playground Tennis Bike Trail
39	Lower Batavia Dam Access via Island Batavia	56	T39N R8E S22 SE ¹ / ₄	X										X				Bike Trail
40	Island Park Batavia	56	T39N R8E S22 SE1/4	X										X				Baseball Fields
41	Upper Batavia Dam Batavia	57	T39N R8E S22 NW1/4	X							,							
42	Batavia Boat Club Batavia	57	T39N R8E S15 SE1/4	Х	1 concrete free									X				
43	Kane County Forest Preserve District Fabyan Forest Preserve Geneva	57	T39N R8E S10 SE1/4	X										X				Bike Trail Windmill (restored)
44	Kane County Forest Preserve District Fabyan Forest Preserve Geneva	57	T39N R8E S10 SE1/4	X	1 concrete free									X				Museum
45	Gunnar Anderson Forest Preserve Geneva	58	T39N R8E S10 NE ¹ / ₄	Х										X				Baseball and Soccer Fields
46	Island Park (Geneva Dam) Geneva	58	T39N R8E S2 SE ¹ / ₄	X										X				
47	Old Mill Park (Geneva Dam) Geneva	58	T39N R8E S2 SE1/4	х										×				
48	Geneva Garden Club (Geneva Dam) Geneva	58	R8E S3 SE1/4	X										×				

Access No.	Access Area	River Mile	Legal Location	Bank Fishing	Launching Ramp	Boat, Canoe, or Motor Rental	Dockage or Slips	Gasoline and Oil	Repair Service	Marine Supplies	Winter Storage	Bait	Camping	Picnic Areas	Refreshment Stand	Restaurant		Liquor	Other Services and Facilities
49	City of Geneva Boat Launch Geneva	58	T39N R8E S3 SW1/4	Х	1 asphalt		_												
50	Bennet Park Geneva	58	T39N R8E S2 NE1/4	X			-							Х					
51	Riverside Park St. Charles	60	T40N R8E S34 SE1/4	X										X					Hiking Trails Bike Trails X-Country Skiing
52	Mt. St. Mary Park St. Charles	60	T40N R8E S34 SE1/4	X							·			Х					Hiking Trails
53	St. Charles Dam St. Charles	61	T40N R8E S27 SW1/4	X			_							×					
54	Pottawatomie Park St. Charles	62	T40N R8E S27 NW1/4											X	×				Softball Field Tennis, Golf, Playground, Pool, Paddlewheel Boat Rides
55	Boy Scout Island Park St. Charles	62	T40N R8E S27 NW1/4	X			4							X					
56	Ferson Creek Park Kane Co. Forest Preserve	62	T40N R8E S22 SW1/4				4									×	(
57	Kane County Forest Preserve Blackhawk Park South Elgin	67	T40N R8E S2 NW1/4	Х	1 concrete									Х					
58	Panton Mill Park South Elgin Dam South Elgin	68	T41N R8E S35 NE1/4	X															
59	Walton Island Elgin Dam Elgin	72	T41N R8E S11 NE1/4	X										Х					
60	Slade Avenue Boat Ramp Elgin	74	T41N R8 ³ S1 SW ¹ / ₄		1 asphalt														

Access No.	Access Area	River Mile	Legal Location	Bank Fishing	Launching Ramp	Boat, Canoe, or Motor Rental	Dockage or Slips	Gasoline and Oil	Repair Service	Marine Supplies	Winter Storage	Bait	Camping	Picnic Areas	Refreshment Stand	Restaurant	Liquor	Other Services and Facilities
61	Kane County Forest Preserve Voyageur Landing Elgin	74	T42N R8E S35 NW1/4	X	1 concrete 1 asphalt		3							×				
62	Hunts Marine East Dundee	75	T42N R8E S35 NW1/4		1 concrete 1 asphalt fee			×	х	X	X			×				
63	Dundee Township Park District South End Park West Dundee	76	T42N R8E S26 NW1/4	X										X				Baseball Field Basketball Court Playground
64	Dundee Township Park District William Aldis Sr. Park West Dundee	77	T42N R8E S26 NW1/4	Х										×				Tennis Court Playground
65	West Dundee Riverside Park West Dundee	77	T42N R8E S26 NW1/4	х										X				
66	East Dundee Riverside Park East Dundee	77	T42N R8E S22 SE1/4	X										×				
67	Fox River Shores Kane Co. Forest Preserve Carpentersville	78	T42N R8E S15 SW1/4	X	1 concrete	rubber raft												Private Dam — Fishing by daily or annual fee
68	Buffalo Park Algonquin	82	T42N R8E S3 NW1/4	X		canoe					X	X	X	X	Х			Snowmobile Rental Swimming Pool
69	Port Edward Above Algonquin Dam Algonquin	83	T43N R8E S34 NW1/4				50									X	X	
70	Dam Marina Algonquin	83	T43N R8E S34 SE1/4					X										
71	Boat House Marina Algonquin	83	T43N R8E S34 SE1/4		1 concrete fee		32	X			X	×						Sanitary Pump
72	Treadwell Marine Algonquin	83	T43N R8E S27 SE1/4		2 gravel/ steel grate fee		150	X	X	X	X							

Access No.	Access Area	River Mile	Legal Location	Bank Fishing	Launching Ramp	Boat, Canoe, or Motor Rental	Dockage or Slips	Gasoline and Oil	Repair Service	Marine Supplies	Winter Storage	Bait	Camping	Picnic Areas	Refreshment Stand	Restaurant	Liquor	Other Services and Facilities
73	Fox River Grove Park Fox River Grove	87	T43N R9E S18 SE1/4	Х														Playground
74	Johnsons Dead End Fox River Grove	87	T43N R9E S18 SE1/4				4										X	
	blic Access Longer Available					-												
76	Varky's Marine Service Fox River Grove	87	T43N R9E S18 SE1/4		2 hoists for repair service only 1 concrete fee		25	X	X	X	X							
77	Kaximours Marina Lake Barrington	92	T43N R9E S4 NW1/4		1 concrete fee		100	X	X	X	X			X				
78	McHenry County Conservation District Hickory Grove Fox River Valley Gardens	93	T43N R9E S5 NE1/4	X										×				Nature Trails Horseback Riding, Trails
79	Broken Oar Fox River Falley Gardens	94	T44N R9E S32 NW1⁄4		1 concrete fee		30	X			X						X	
80	Fox Valley Campground Burton's Bridge	95	T44N R9E S29 SE1/4	X									X					*For Campers Only
81	Harbor Lights Burton's Bridge	95	T44N R9E S29 SW1/4				10					•					×	
82	Turnkey Classics Burton's Bridge	96	T44N R9E S19 NE1/4		1 concrete fee		12		Х									* Inboard Engines Only Antique Boat and Car Sales
83	Kief's Reef Burton's Bridge	96	T44N R9E S19 NE ¹ / ₄				2							****			X	
84	Dercole Launch Burton's Bridge	96	T44N R9E S19 NE ¹ / ₄		1 concrete fee		2							Х				

Access No.	Access Area	River Mile	Legal Location	Bank Fishing	Launching Ramp	Boat, Canoe, or Motor Rental	Dockage or Slips	Gasoline and Oil	Repair Service	Marine Supplies	Winter Storage	Bait	Camping	Picnic Areas	Refreshment Stand	Restaurant	Liquor	Other Services and Facilities
85	De Mar Marine Burton's Bridge	97	T44N R9E S19 NE1/4		1 concrete 1 asphalt 1 hoist fee		50	X	X	X	X							
86	Edgewater Beach Hotel Burton's Bridge	97	T44N R9E S19 NE1/4	Х			10							X		Х	X	
87	Moraine Hills State Park McHenry Lock & Dam McHenry	99	T44N R8E S12 NW ¹ / ₄	X		rowboat						х		X	X			Playground Handicap Fishing Piers, Bike/Hiking Trails, Boat Lockage
88	Snug Harbor McHenry	101	T45N R8E S36 NW1/4		1 concrete fee		25									х	X	
89	Riviera Yacht Basin McHenry	102	T45N R8E S35 NE ¹ / ₄		3 hoists for repair service only		75	X	×	X	×							Sanitary Pump
90	Bruce Marine McHenry	102	T45N R8E S35 NE1/4		3 hoists for repair service only		40	X	X	X	X				X			
91	Walsh Park City of McHenry McHenry	102	T45N R8E S35 NE ¹ / ₄				2											Rest Benches
92	Dobyns House McHenry	102	T45N R8E S26 SW1/4				Х									X		Lunch/Dinner Cruises Excursion Boats
93	Millers Dream Marine McHenry	102	T45N R8E S26 SE1/4		1 concrete fee		20	X	X	X	X							
94	Fox River Valley Boat Company McHenry	102	T45N R8E S26 SE1/4				16	X	X	X	X							Boat Refinishing
95	Bimbo's McHenry	102	T45N R8E S26 SE1/4				6									X	X	
96	Old Bridge Tavern McHenry	102	T45N R8E S26 SE1/4				4										x	

Access No.	Access Area	River Mile	Legal Location	Bank Fishing	Launching Ramp	Boat, Canoe, or Motor Rental	Dockage or Slips	Gasoline and Oil	Repair Service	Marine Supplies	Winter Storage	Bait	Camping	Picnic Areas	Refreshment Stand	Restaurant	Liquor	Other Services and Facilities
97	Vickie's Place	102	T45N R8E S26 SE ¹ / ₄				44				-					X	X	
98	Water Tower Marine McHenry	102	T45N R8E S26 SE1/4		1 concrete fee		100	X	x	×	X							Boat Wash
99	After the Fox Ltd. McHenry	102	T45N R8E S26 SE1/4			.,	10									X	X	* Sandwiches
100	Weber's Park City of McHenry McHenry	102	T45N R8E S26 SE1/4	X														Playground Rest Benches
101	Paradise Cove Johnsburg	104	T45N R9E S18 SW1/4		l Fee Ramp		20							•		х	х	Motel and Banquet Facilities
102	Raymonds/Peer Inn Johnsburg	104	T45N R9E S18 SW1/4	V	1 asphalt fee		20									X	X	Bowling
103	Maple Grove Chain O'Lakes State Park Spring Grove	111	T46N R9E S21 SE ¹ / ₄	X	4 asphalt free	rowboat	20					X	X	X	X			Playground * Camping Hiking and Horseback Riding Trails in other areas of park
104	Oak Point Chain O'Lakes State Park Spring Grove	114	T46N R9E S10 SW1/4	Х	3 concrete free		25							X				
105	Bridge-Port Inn Antioch	114	T46N R9E S10 SW1/4		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		16	_						X		X	X	
106	Fox River Recreation Antioch	114	T46N R9E S10 SW1/4	Х	1 concrete fee		4	X			X	X	×	X	X			Fireplace Wood
	Illinois - Wisconsin State Line	115.2	14-1										•					22.7.2

MAJOR SPECIES OF FISH KNOWN PRESENT IN THE FOX RIVER

Smallmouth bass	LOCAL NAMES Largemouth, bass, black bass, bigmouth bass, line side, green bass, green trout, Oswego bass, slough bass, lake bass. Smallmouth black bass, black bass, smallmouth, Oswego bass, bronzeback, redeve bass.
Grass pickerel	Common pike, pickerel, great northern pike, northern, jack fish. Pickerel, grass pike, mud pickerel, little pickerel, slough pike. Pike-perch, walleyed pike, pike, jack salmon, jack. Striped bass, streaker, silver bass, silver fish. Streaker, striped bass, barfish, black-striped bass, gold bass. Calico bass, strawberry bass, crappie, speckled crappie. Crappie, silver crappie, bachelor, newlight. Perch, ringed perch, ringtail perch, lake perch.
Rock bass	Redeye bass, goggle-eye, rock sunfish, redeye. Bream, brim, sunfish, sun perch, gill. Green perch, sunfish, perch, black perch, creek perch, rock bass. Redspotted sunfish, pumpkinseed, dwarf sunfish, pigmy sunfish. Common sunfish, round sunfish.
Black bullhead Brown bullhead Yellow bullhead	shovelnose cat, Johnny cat, Morgan cat, flat belly. Bullhead, common bullhead, yellow-belly cat, catfish, horned pout. Speckled bullhead, speckled cat, bullhead. Yellow-bellied cat, greaser, catfish, white-whiskered bullhead,
Longnose gar Bowfin Carp Goldfish Quillback Hog sucker	Dogfish, grindle, mudfish, cypress trout. German carp, European carp, mirror carp, scaleless carp. Carp, goldfish. Silver carp, carpsucker, white carp.
Muskellunge	slender sucker, black sucker. Great Lakes muskellunge, muskie (musky), lunge, maskinonge. Sheepshead, drum, white perch, perch, croaker, grunting perch, gaspergou. The River Redhorse is a threatened species in Illinois therefore; possession of this fish is illegal. If caught, the fish should be released immediately.

Plus various minnows, darters and redhorse suckers.