



BELLEAU LAKE

FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF COOK COUNTY

FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

LOCATION – Belleau Lake is located in Park Ridge off Busse Highway, west of the Tri-State Tollway (I-294).

DESCRIPTION – Belleau Lake is 12 acres; maximum depth 32 feet; average depth approx. 17 feet. The lake was created in 1958, probably as a borrow pit for expressway construction; it's steep sided and very clear. The lake is difficult to survey with conventional methods so fisheries data are sparse. Belleau Lake has ample shorefishing access, one parking lot, picnic tables and porta-potty outhouses. No boats are allowed. No fish cleaning station is available.

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES: The Lake is part of both the spring and fall inland rainbow trout seasons, and receives occasional fish surveys by IDNR or FPDC Fisheries Staff to evaluate vegetation and fish species abundance and diversity. Smallmouth bass were supplementally stocked in this “gravel pit” type lake to try and establish a population but positive results have been difficult to verify so smallmouth bass stockings have been discontinued.

STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY – Below is a brief description of catchable game species in this water body.

LARGEMOUTH BASS – Bass were collected at a rate of 2.2 fish/minute which was well above the goal of 1.0 fish/minute. The maximum size fish collected was 15.6”; 17% of the sample exceeded 12” long, 4% exceeded 15” and were legal size; 42 of the 50 bass collected over 8” long were sub-adults (<12” long) suggesting a great opportunity for the population to expand. Fishermen can circle this lake in an hour or so and should find success!

BLUEGILL – Survey data shows bluegill approach 8 inches long and can be found concentrated near vegetation and other nearshore structure. Since the lake is deep, clear, and steep sided lake it may be difficult to find bluegills outside the spring spawning season (mid-May to early June).

ADDITIONAL FISH SPECIES: Approximately 14 species live in this system including the above and smallmouth bass, black crappie, green sunfish, warmouth, rock bass, yellow perch, yellow bass, yellow bullhead, golden shiners, gizzard shad, common carp, and spotted suckers. (several of these species are indicative of fish movement from the Des Plaines River during high water events)

FISHING REGULATIONS –

Species	Daily Limit	Length Limit
Largemouth bass	6	14”
Walleye	6	18”
Northern Pike	3	24”
Channel Catfish	6	None
Bluegill/Sunfish	15	None
Crappie	15	None

Two Pole and Line Only

(For specific details -Illinois Fishing Information Booklet or IFISHILLINOIS website: <http://www.ifishillinois.org/>).

ADDITIONAL SITE SPECIFIC REGULATIONS:

No Boats Allowed

CONTACT INFORMATION – Forest Preserve District of Cook County – Fisheries: 708/403-6951.
IDNR – District Fisheries Biologist: 815/675-2319.

Belleau Lake Map

