



TAMPIER LAKE

FOREST PRESERVE DISTRICT OF COOK COUNTY

FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

LOCATION – Located 131ST Street west of Wolf Road near Orland Park, Illinois.

DESCRIPTION – Tampier Lake is 131 acres; maximum depth 10 feet; average depth 5.5 feet. The lake was created in 1964 when Long Run Creek was dammed. The lakes shoreline drops quickly to the average depth (5.5 feet) then expands into a featureless basin offering little bathymetry. Tampier Lake supports a very good sport fishery. Fishing piers, handicap access, boat/kayak rentals, live bait/tackle are available throughout the summer from a concessionaire, a concrete boat launch is available for trailered boats and ample parking is available. Boats with electric motors are allowed however gas motors must be removed. No fish cleaning station is available.

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES: The FPDCC collects walleye from Tampier Lake for brood purposes to support some of their supplemental stocking needs. Rooted aquatic vegetation is sparse because wind driven re-suspension of soft sediments impacts water clarity and thus light penetration. Periodic fish surveys are conducted by either the IDNR or FPDCC Fisheries Staff to evaluate the fishery.

STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY – Annual stockings include: 400 - 8” northern pike, 10,500 – 2” walleye, and 3000 – 8” channel catfish. Below is a brief description of catchable game species in this water body.

LARGEMOUTH BASS – Bass were collected at a rate of 0.68/minute which was just below the goal of 1.0/minute. 52% of the sample exceeded 12”, 33% exceeded the legal length limit of 15”, and 7% were over 18” long. The population appears to be stable and anglers targeting bass should be very happy.

Northern Pike – Northern pike are stocked annually, present, and diversify the predator base to balance the lakes overall fishery but according to survey data do not survive well beyond the legal limit.

WALLEYE – Walleye survive well in Tampier Lake, each spring FPDCC staff collects female broodfish in excess of 10 lbs. and survey data shows fish present between 5” to 22” suggesting consistent stocking has produced a balanced size distribution. Fishermen targeting walleye in Tampier Lake can be rewarded with some really nice fish, particularly in the spring!

BLUEGILL – Survey data shows bluegill can exceed 8 inches long which is a good indicator of “sufficient” predation and a balanced fish population. It’s difficult to find and collect bluegills beyond 8” long in a public lake, in northern Illinois, but Tampier Lake has them and catching them should be enjoyed. Bluegill abundance is good, their maximum size is good and there is ample shoreline access to try and target them!

CRAPPIE – Both black and white crappie are present however survey data shows white crappie grow larger (up to 11”) and are more abundant. Crappie are commonly caught near the culverts under 131ST Street and in the bay near the dam.

CHANNEL CATFISH – Catfish are stocked annually at 8” to 10” long to supplement sport fishing opportunities; fish up to 18” were caught during the most recent fish survey and fishermen report catching larger.

ADDITIONAL FISH SPECIES: Approximately 17 species live in this system including: the above mentioned and green sunfish, pumpkinseed sunfish, hybrid sunfish, yellow perch, yellow bass, black, yellow and brown bullhead, common carp, and gizzard shad.

FISHING REGULATIONS –

<u>Species</u>	<u>Daily Limit</u>	<u>Length Limit</u>
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:

Boaters – Electric Trolling motor only (no gas motors attached)

CONTACT INFORMATION –

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

Tampier Lake Map

