

LAKE OF THE WOODS

LAKE STATUS SUMMARY



Description: Lake of the Woods is operated by the Champaign County Forest Preserve District. The lake is located 1 mile northeast of Mahomet. The lake is 25.5 acres and was constructed in 1945. The lake has a maximum depth of 28 feet and an average depth of 11.2 feet.

Status of the Sport Fishery: The lake currently receives stockings of channel catfish, saugeye, and rainbow trout. The following information is a summary of the major sport fisheries based on periodic fish population surveys.

LARGEMOUTH BASS: Based on the most recent fish survey, the catch rate of bass from electrofishing was 162 bass per hour and the management objective is 125 to 150 bass per hour. Of the bass collected over 8 inches, 58% are longer than 12 inches and 9% are longer than 15 inches.

BLUEGILL: Based on the most recent fish survey, the catch rate of Bluegill from electrofishing was 264 Bluegill per hour and the management objective is 150 to 220 bass per hour. Based on Bluegill collected over 3 inches, 60% were longer than 6 inches but none were longer than 8 inches.

CHANNEL CATFISH: The State Hatchery System stocks Channel Catfish in Lake of the Woods each year. The stocking program has created a good catfish fishery. Anglers have a good chance to harvest catfish in the 1 pound range.

CRAPPIE: The crappie fishery can experience large swings in numbers. The majority of crappie collected are Black Crappie and are less than 10 inches.

SAUGEYE/WALLEYE: The State Hatchery System started stocking saugeye in 2016 and the Champaign County Forest Preserve stocked walleye in 2018. Based on the most recent fish survey, the catch rate of Saugeye from electrofishing was 16 Saugeye per hour and the management objective is 10 Saugeye per hour. Of the Saugeye collected over 10 inches, 75% were longer than 10 inches and 38% over 20 inches.

FISHING REGULATIONS: 2 Pole and Line Fishing Only

| <u>SPECIES</u> | <u>MINIMUM LENGTH LIMIT</u> | <u>DAILY HARVEST LIMIT</u> |
|-------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| Largemouth Bass | 15 Inches | 1 |
| Channel Catfish | None | 6 |
| Saugeye/Walleye | 14 Inches | 6 |
| Bluegill/Redear Sunfish | No more than 5 fish greater than or equal to 7 inches; unlimited daily harvest limit for fish less than 7 inches. | |

For other species, statewide regulations are in effect. For further regulation information, please consult the current Illinois Fishing Regulation Booklet or visit the iFishIllinois web page at <https://www.ifishillinois.org/>.

For more information regarding Lake of the Woods and the Champaign County Forest Preserve District:
217-586-4630