



MIRROR LAKE

Mautino State Fish and Wildlife Area

FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

LOCATION – Mirror Lake is located just south of Sheffield or 3 miles west of Buda, within the Mautino State Fish and Wildlife Area.

DESCRIPTION – Mirror Lake was created by strip-mining in the 1950's. The lake did not open to the public until 1994 because of lack of roads and restroom facilities. Mirror Lake has 5.1 surface acres of water. A single lane gravel boat ramp with car/trailer parking is available.

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES - The fishery is managed by species-specific surveys and fish stocking.

Largemouth Bass:

Historically Mirror Lake was sampled by nocturnal dc electrofishing. Historical DC nocturnal data is limited to 2 previous years. The lakes clear water and extreme steep sides do not favor sampling efforts. A total 28 of Largemouth Bass were sampled in 2024. The 2024 survey, as previous surveys, indicates a population dominated by Largemouth from 8-15 inches. Spring relative weights indicate food source issues after fish reach 12 inches. This dense population of fish less than 15 inches is directing the excellent Bluegill growth.

1.Management Plan Fall: Goal		1997	1999	2021	2024
# Stock (200mm)	>50			48	17
PSD (95% CI)	40-60	39	73	44(18)	65(28)
RSD 14	10-20	8	20	8	35
RSD 18	0-10			0	0
Effort(Min)		35	36	30	30

2.Spring nocturnal DC electrofishing CPUE (fish/hr) of each length group of Largemouth bass collected at Mirror Lake

Year	<8	8-12	12.1-15	15.1-20	> 20	Total
2021	18.0	54.0	40.0	2.0	0.0	114.0
2024	22.0	12.0	20.0	2.0	0.0	56.0
Wr	(86)	(88)	(77)	(73)		

Bluegill:

A total of 52 Bluegill were sampled in 2024. The size structure continues to be strong with a PSD of 43, RSD 7 of 33 and an RSD 8 of 28. The population is very similar to historical records of nocturnal DC electrofishing results. The dense largemouth population is keeping Bluegill numbers in check helping to produce very good numbers of preferred fish. Dense Chara stands are the dominate aquatic vegetation that provide ample food sources for the Bluegills.

Management Plan:	Goal:	1997	1999	2021	2024
#Stock(80mm)	>100			83	40
PSD	20-60	66	49	37(13)	43(19)
RSD 7	10-15			29	33

RSD 8 0-10 8 15 16 28

2.Spring nocturnal DC electrofishing CPUE (fish/hr) of each length group of Bluegill collected at Mirror Lake.

Year	<3	3.1-6	6.1-8	8.1-10	Total
2021	60.0	104.0	28.0	34.0	226.0
2024	24.0	46.0	10.0	24.0	104.0
Wr		(99)	(101)	(94)	

Redear Sunfish:

A total of 11 Redear sunfish were sample in 2024. The limited catch is typical of Redear sunfish unless they are sampled during spawning activities. Redear Sunfish are doing very well in Mirror Lake with a PSD of 55 and RSD 8 of 36. Population statistics are very similar from the 2021 and 2024 surveys.

Management Plan:	Goal:	1997	1999	2021	2024
#Stock(80mm)	>50			16	11
PSD	20-60	25	46	56(30)	55(29)
RSD 8	10-15			38	36
RSD 10				0	0

2.Spring nocturnal DC electrofishing CPUE (fish/hr) of each length group of Redear sunfish collected at Mirror Lake.

Year	<3.9	3.9-7.1	7.1-9.1	9.1-11	11-13	Total
2021	2.0	14.0	16.0	2.0	0.0	34.0
2024	0.0	10.0	12.0	0.0	0.0	22.0
Wr		(93)	(92)			

FISHING REGULATIONS – Statewide fishing regulations apply at this lake (see current Illinois Fishing Information booklet and IFISHILLINOIS website <http://www.ifishillinois.org/> for specific details).

Additional Site Specific fishing regulations:

All Fish 2 Pole and Line Fishing Only
 Large or Smallmouth Bass 1 Fish Daily Creel Limit (14" Minimum Length Limit)
 Bluegill or Redear Sunfish 10 Fish Daily Creel Limit (No Minimum Length Limit)
 Channel Catfish 6 Fish Daily Creel Limit (No Minimum Length Limit)
 Walleye, Sauger, or Hybrid Walleye State Wide Regulations
 White, Black, or Hybrid Crappie No Fish Daily Creel Limit (No Minimum Length Limit)

CONTACT INFORMATION – Hennepin Canal Parkway State Park: 815-454-2328
 IDNR Fisheries County Biologist: 630-360-4185

