



Cheshire Lake

2020 FISHERIES STATUS SUMMARY

LOCATION – Cheshire Lake is located on the east side of Aurora. Starting from Eola Road, drive west on McCoy Drive and turn right on Cheshire Drive. The lake is located in Cheshire Park and barely visible from the road.

DESCRIPTION – Cheshire Lake is a 4.7 acre dug retention pond with a maximum depth of 13 feet. The lake is owned and maintained by the Fox Valley Park District (FVPD) as a community park in a residential setting. Theoretically, winterkill should not be an issue at this lake due to its 13 foot depth and flow through from storm sewers. A twenty foot strip of vegetation is left un-mowed around the lake to act as a buffer against nutrients entering the lake. A playground and basketball court is located at the adjacent park. See the reverse side for a bathymetric map.

MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES: The FVPD has entered into a cooperative management agreement with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to facilitate fisheries management activities. Site specific regulations apply (Six fish daily creel on channel catfish and a three fish, 15 inch minimum limit on largemouth bass). The IDNR conducted a 15-minute electrofishing survey on September 17th, 2020 as a follow up to the 2014 survey. Channel Catfish stocking (1500 four-inch catfish four times since 2014) should offer great fishing for this species in the future.

STATUS OF THE SPORT FISHERY – When sampled in 2014 Cheshire Lake was recovering from a fairly severe winter fish kill during the harsh winter of 2013-14. Six years later, the Largemouth Bass and Bluegill populations have recovered well. Largemouth Bass and Bluegill were abundant in the sample, with multiple size classes present in the sample.

LARGEMOUTH BASS – In our 2014 electrofishing survey, Largemouth Bass catch rate was only 32 fish per hour. In 2020, the catch rate was 294 fish per hour meaning that bass were very abundant. Bass ranged in length from 2.4 to 19.4 inches with the largest bass weighing four pounds. Twenty-nine percent of the catch was longer than twelve inches, but only two fish in the sample measured longer than 15 inches. The bass fishery in Cheshire Lake looks like a great place to take a young angler for some fast bass action.

BLUEGILL – Bluegill are abundant and doing well since the 2014 sample. The catch rate of 264 fish per hour well exceeds our management goal of 120 fish per hour. Bluegill ranged in length from 1.7 to 8.7 inches, with the average fish measuring 5.4 inches. Forty-five percent of the bluegill sampled were longer than six inches. Adult Bluegill were healthy and fat. Hundreds of young of year Bluegill were observed in the shallow areas near shore.

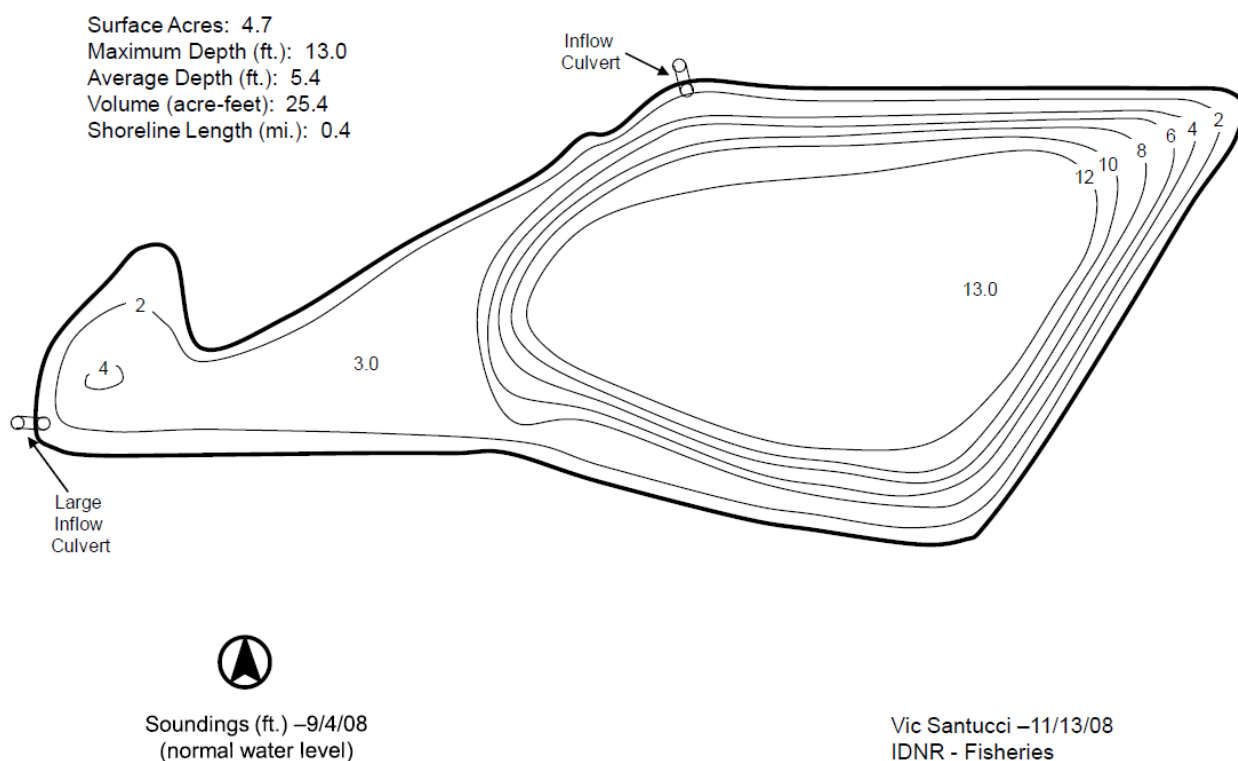
CHANNEL CATFISH – While no Channel Catfish were captured in this survey, they were stocked in 2014, 2017, 2018 and 2019. Our electrofishing gear does not catch Channel Catfish well as this species typically uses deeper habitat than we sample. Fishing for channel catfish should be great in the evening for these catfish, some of which should be well over 20 inches.

COMMON CARP – Eleven common carp were captured during the survey. They ranged in length from 15.8 inches to 23.5 inches. None were nearly as large as the massive 34.8-inch fish that weighed 31 pounds in the 2014 survey! Common carp abundance does not appear to be extreme at this time, but unlimited harvest is encouraged for this detrimental species.

ADDITIONAL FISH SPECIES: Black crappie are present but not abundant. Six Black Crappie were sampled, ranging in length from 7.6 to 11.5 inches. Five Yellow Bullhead were also present in the sample.

Cheshire Lake Survey on September 17th, 2020**20 minutes D.C. electrofishing**

Species	Number Collected	Length (Inches)			Weight (pounds)	
		Min	Max	Avg.	Min	Max
Largemouth Bass	98	2.4	19.4	9.0	0.0	4.0
Bluegill	88	1.7	8.7	5.4	0.0	0.4
Common Carp	11	15.8	23.5	19.7	6.9	6.9
Black Crappie	6	7.6	11.5	9.4	0.2	0.9
Yellow Bullhead	5	8.7	11.1	9.7	0.3	0.6
Bluegill x Green Sunfish	1	3.3	3.3	3.3		
Total # Fish Collected	209					



For more information call the Fox Valley Park District at (630) 897-0516 or IDNR Fisheries at (815) 675-2386 ext. 214 or visit: <http://www.foxvalleyparkdistrict.org/lakes-and-fishing-2/>

For general information on fishing in Illinois visit the IDNR Fisheries Division at: www.ifishillinois.org

To purchase your fishing license go to: www.dnr.illinois.gov