

New 2017 Fishing Regulations

Unless posted, fishing is permitted in all Forest Preserve District of DuPage County lakes and ponds and along the east and west branches of the DuPage River, Salt Creek, and any tributaries. Forest Preserve District rules are generally similar to Illinois' but may be more restrictive to sustain certain species at certain locations.

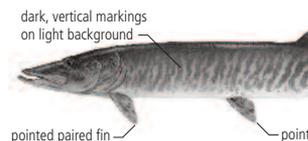
1. In most cases, anglers 16 or older must carry valid Illinois fishing licenses; to fish for trout they must also have valid inland trout stamps. U.S. military personnel with "active" or "active duty" service IDs, U.S. veterans with qualifying disabilities, and Illinois residents with class 2O or 2A disability IDs do not need either.
2. Fishing hours are the same as regular forest preserve hours: one hour after sunrise to one hour after sunset. Night fishing is only allowed at Deep Quarry Lake at West Branch Forest Preserve; anglers must be out of the preserve by 11 p.m.
3. Fishing is not allowed in Illinois nature preserves.
4. Unless posted, anglers can fish from shorelines and piers and wade in rivers and streams. **Wading in lakes or ponds, swimming, and using rubber rafts or similar flotation devices are not allowed.**
5. Each angler can fish with no more than two poles or tip-ups with no more than two hooks or lures attached to each. Anglers must observe and attend to their poles and tip-ups at all times.
6. Anglers cannot fish with nets, seines, traps, bows and arrows, spears or slingshots.
7. Anglers can use minnows, worms, insects, lures, stink bait, wet flies, blood bait or dough balls but not amphibians, reptiles or crayfish. They cannot collect bait in the forest preserves, and they must dispose of all bait and bait water in the trash or on the ground far from shore.
8. Anglers may not fish for or collect crayfish, mussels, or any amphibians or reptiles, such as turtles and frogs.
9. An angler must release a fish if it is shorter than the required minimum length for that species or if it is between the lengths of a protected slot limit. An angler cannot possess more of a species per day than that species' daily creel limit. Creel possessions must be clearly separated by angler.
10. Anglers must release fish in the same waters in which they were caught.
11. Anglers must remove all aquatic plants and animals from all equipment before moving the equipment away from any body of water.
12. Ice fishing is permitted on most forest preserve waters unless otherwise posted. Due to fluctuating water levels, ice fishing is never allowed at Spring Creek Reservoir Forest Preserve. Each angler may fish from no more than two holes at one time, and holes must be less than 10 inches in diameter. Anglers can only use portable shelters and must remove them when not in use. Rangers do not monitor ice; all ice-related activities are done at the user's own risk. As a guideline, not a guarantee, a minimum of 4 inches is recommended. Ice may be safe in one spot yet very thin only a few feet away; river currents, underwater springs, animal activity or runoff from local roads can all create hard-to-detect areas of thin ice. Anglers should carry ropes and flotation devices on the ice for emergencies.
13. If you catch a tagged fish and release it, please report the date, location, tag number, type of fish, length and weight to the Forest Preserve District fisheries biologist at (630) 933-7200. If you keep the fish, mail the tag with the same information to Forest Preserve District of DuPage County, Natural Resources, P.O. Box 5000, Wheaton, IL 60189.

HOW TO MEASURE A FISH

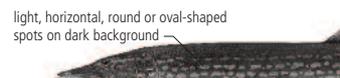
Place the fish on a flat board, close the mouth and compress the tail to get the maximum length. Then, measure from the tip of the snout to the tip of the tail fin.



Muskellunge (*Esox masquinongy*) scal 48-inch minimum catchable length



Northern Pike (*Esox lucius*) 24-inch minimum catchable length



Size and Creel Limits

Lakes and Ponds

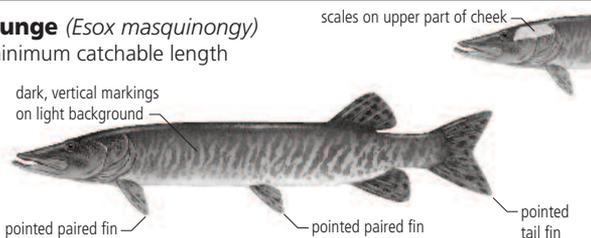
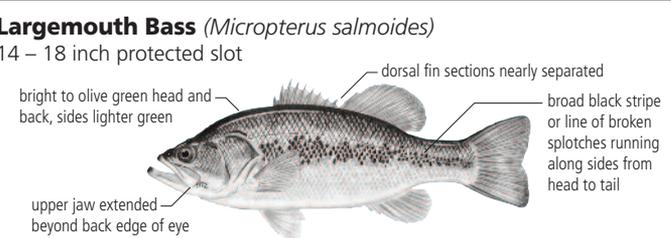
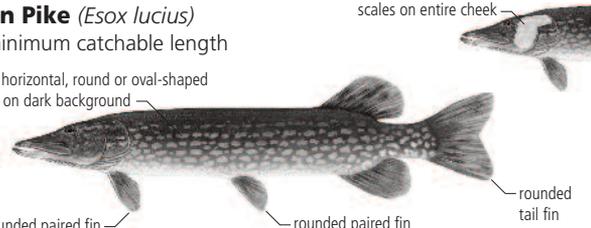
	Protected Slot Limit	Daily Creel Limit (per licensed angler)
Bass (largemouth)	14" – 18"	three under 14" and one over 18" (four total)
	Min. Length	Daily Creel Limit (per licensed angler)
Bass (smallmouth)	catch and release only	
Bass (yellow, white or hybrid)	under 17"	none
	17"	three (any combination)
Bluegill	none	25
Catfish (channel or flathead)	12"	three (any combination)
Crappie (black or white)	none	15 (any combination)
Muskie	48"	one
Northern pike	24"	three
Rainbow trout	none	five
Walleye	16"	three
Yellow perch	9"	five

Rivers

	Min. Length	Daily Creel Limit (per licensed angler)
Bass (large- or smallmouth)	15"	three (any combination)
	Smallmouth are catch-and-release year-round in the West Branch DuPage River between the canoe launch at Warrenville Grove Forest Preserve and Fawell Dam at McDowell Grove Forest Preserve.	
Catfish (channel or flathead)	12"	three (any combination)
Crappie	9"	15
Northern pike	24"	three
Walleye	16"	three

KNOW THE DIFFERENCE

With muskie and northern pike at Mallard Lake and large- and smallmouth bass at other locations — and each with a different creel limit — it's important to know how to identify these species.

<p>Muskellunge (<i>Esox masquinongy</i>) 48-inch minimum catchable length</p> 	<p>Largemouth Bass (<i>Micropterus salmoides</i>) 14 – 18 inch protected slot</p> 
<p>Northern Pike (<i>Esox lucius</i>) 24-inch minimum catchable length</p> 	<p>Smallmouth Bass (<i>Micropterus dolomieu</i>) catch and release only (lakes and ponds)</p> 