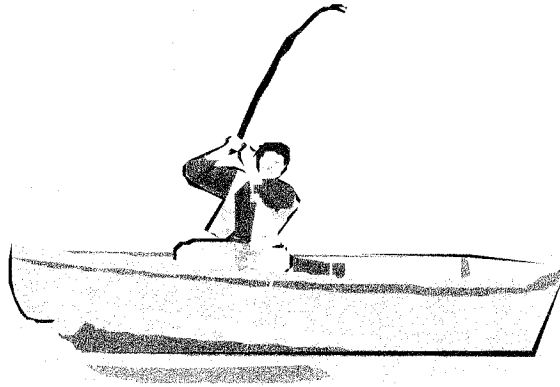
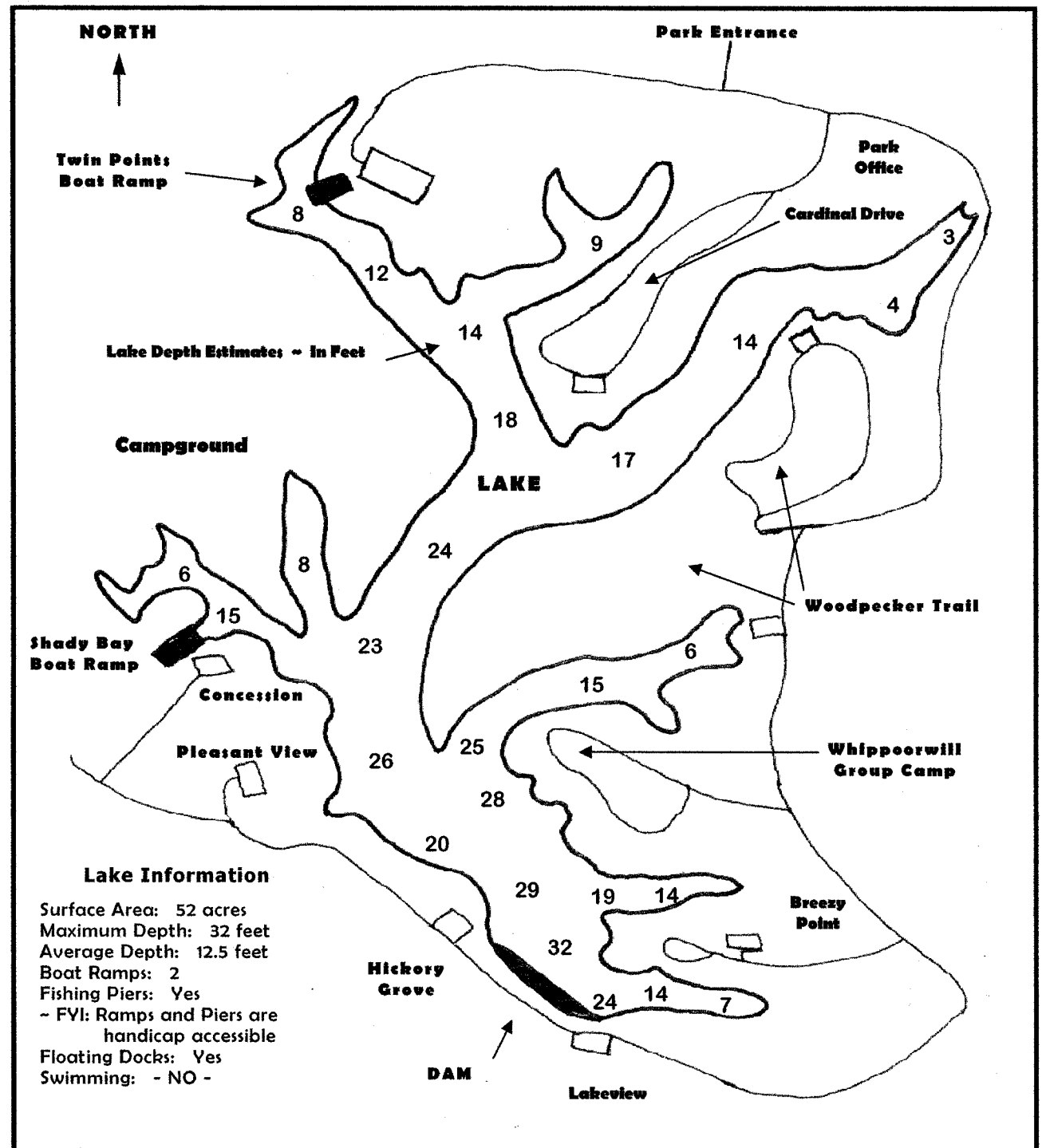


# Walnut Point State Park



## FISHING

2331 ECR 370N  
Oakland, Illinois 61943  
(217) 346-3336



## REGULATIONS:

- \* Only electric motors may be used on this lake
- \* Only *pole and line* fishing is permitted, with no more than two poles allowed per person, and only two hooks or lures per pole
- \* The daily creel limit for channel catfish is six (6)
- \* A slot length limit for largemouth bass is in effect... Bass less than 12" or longer than 15" may be kept... The daily creel limit for largemouth bass is six (6)
- \* The combined daily creel limit for bluegill and redear sunfish is fifteen (15)... *However, of the 15, ONLY FIVE (5) bluegill or redear, 8 inches or larger, may be kept*
- \* Culling (replacing smaller fish with larger fish) is prohibited unless participating in a bonafide tournament using aerated live-wells
- \* Please refer to statewide regulations for additional rules, regulations and information

## FISHERY STATUS:

- \* **Largemouth Bass** are abundant in the lake due to excellent spawning success... For this reason, anglers are allowed to keep smaller bass which helps thin the population... This allows the remaining bass to maintain good growth rates through the protected range (12 - 15")

Under these circumstances, the  
**SELECTIVE HARVEST** of  
"small" largemouth bass  
will **BENEFIT** the entire fishery  
in Walnut Point Lake

- To help maintain the highest quality bass fishing possible, anglers are asked to release all or voluntarily keep only one bass over the size limit
- All bass between 12 - 15" should be released immediately to ensure a high quality fishery and sufficient predation pressure on the panfish population
- Good numbers of bass from 1/2 - 2 lbs. are present, with fish over 6 lbs. caught on occasion
- Lures resembling crayfish, like jig and pig or various plastic bait combinations, work well for bass at Walnut Point Lake.

\* **Black Crappie** are present, but their abundance fluctuates due to varying levels of recruitment... Anglers may catch crappie up to 11" and 3/4 lbs... Minnows, a wide variety of jigs (sometimes tipped with waxworms), in-line spinners and small spinner baits will catch crappie

\* **Bluegill** fishing is good... Regulations to protect larger bluegill help maintain good angling quality... Anglers can expect to catch bluegill between 1/5 - 1/3 lbs... Bluegill are best caught on a wide variety of live baits, flies and lures, with hooks sizes of #8 or less... Small floats or bobbers should be used to detect light bites... This will help reduce baits being swallowed

\* **Redear Sunfish** numbers have improved due to a reintroduction of this species... Anglers may catch an occasional redear up to 10" and 3/4 lbs... Redear may be caught with similar presentations as bluegill, but often are closer to the bottom

\* **Green Sunfish** are present, but do not grow large enough to interest most anglers... They are most abundant around the rip-rap on the dam.

\* **Channel Catfish** are abundant in the lake... This population is maintained only through annual stockings... The average catch goes from 3/4 - 1 1/2 lbs., with an occasional catfish over 5 pounds being caught... Channel catfish are caught on a wide variety of live and prepared baits and occasionally on lures.

*Please Help Keep  
Your Lake  
Clean and Litter Free*

## MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES:

The fish population in Walnut Point Lake is surveyed biennially. Fish collections are made using electro-fishing, gill nets and frame nets. The fish are then measured and weighed. Scales are also collected before releasing them alive. Information gathered from both fish population and fishermen creel surveys is used to optimize the management of fishing quality for this lake.

Aquatic vegetation is monitored annually and is spot treated with chemicals when needed. Vegetation provides valuable and necessary fish habitat, and improved water quality. This is especially important for largemouth bass recruitment.

*One of the greatest threats to the fishing quality of this lake is the illegal release of fish species not present in the lake. Recently, common carp and flathead catfish have been collected from illegal releases by fishermen. Both species could have a significant negative impact on the quality of this fishery. The only way to remove undesirable species is to draw the lake down to a minimal pool. Chemical application is then used to kill all the fish. This is a lengthy and expensive process that requires closing the lake. This is followed by many years of sub-par fishing quality.*

COOPERATIVE SPORTSMEN  
+  
STRUCTURED FISH HARVEST  
=  
OPTIMAL FISHING QUALITY !!!

? Questions or Comments:

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