

Defiance Lake Description and Fish Species

Defiance Lake is a terrific spot for fishing and relaxing on the pier*. It is one of the few glacial lakes in northeastern Illinois that has remained largely undeveloped. With a maximum depth of 18 feet, the lake is stocked annually with largemouth bass and channel catfish.

To access the lake, people park at the main office and carry in their small boats such as canoes or kayaks. Don't have one? Not to worry! The rental rowboats on the shore can be used by picking up the oars from the Fish Tales concession stand at the McHenry Dam day use area, located about a 1.5 miles west of the main park entrance on South River Road. Bank fishing is prohibited due to unstable peat soils that surround much of the lake except for the designated boardwalk/pier.

Fish noted in the 2014 survey by the IDNR are listed below. Other species may reside in the lake, but were not located in the study.

Bluegill

Black crappie

Bowfin

Brook silverside

Brown bullhead

Golden shiner

Lake chubsucker

Largemouth bass

Pumpkinseed sunfish

Warmouth

Yellow Perch

*The boardwalk to the pier can be found behind the Park Office/Nature Center.