

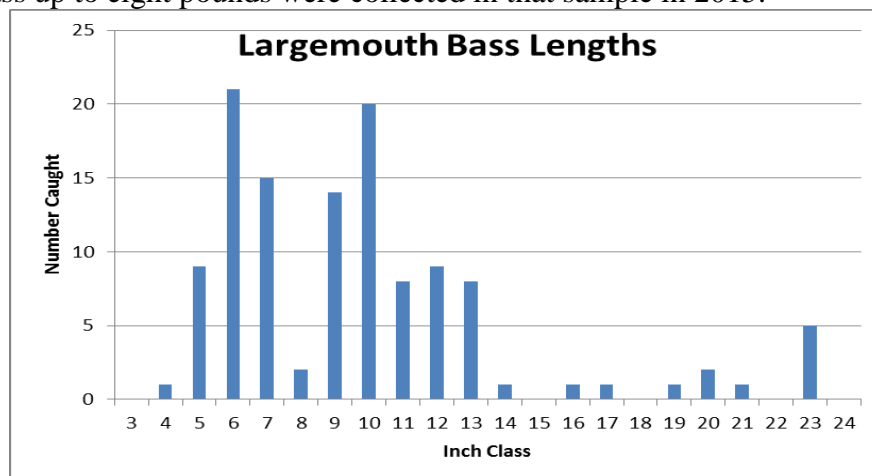


Great Creek Lake 2016

Great Creek Lake is a 212-acre impoundment in Brunswick County, Virginia. The lake is owned by Brunswick County and serves as a drinking water supply and flood control reservoir for the surrounding area. Fisheries management is provided by the Virginia Department of Game and Inland Fisheries (VDGIF). Great Creek Lake is located in Lawrenceville, Virginia and offers anglers great fishing opportunities in a picturesque, rural setting. Gasoline engines are not allowed at Great Creek but electric motors can get you to most areas on this reservoir (two batteries would be a wise move!). Habitat in the lake consists of hinge tree fish attractors placed by VDGIF, other natural woody debris and some aquatic vegetation. Grass Carp were stocked to control the spread of the exotic, invasive species Hydrilla. Other prohibited activities at Great Creek Lake include swimming, open-air fires, trotlines, fishing tournaments involving prizes, littering, waterfowl hunting, camping, and seining.

Anglers fishing Great Creek are likely to catch Largemouth Bass, Channel Catfish, Bluegill, Redear Sunfish (AKA shellcracker), Chain Pickerel, and Black Crappie. Largemouth Bass harvest is regulated with a 14-18 inch slot limit (all bass from 14-18 inches cannot be retained) and a five bass per day bag limit. All other fish species are regulated by statewide limits.

The Largemouth Bass fishery at Great Creek Lake has remained consistently good over the years. Based on spring electrofishing samples, Largemouth Bass are fairly abundant and in good condition. Largemouth Bass size structure is excellent and citation-size bass are caught each year. While sampling in 2015, biologists collected nine Largemouth Bass longer than 18 inches with several greater than 5 pounds in just one hour of sampling effort. Bass up to eight pounds were collected in that sample in 2015.



Bluegill, Redear Sunfish, and crappie are common in Great Creek Lake with Bluegill being the most abundant of the panfish species. Redear Sunfish tend to be larger than Bluegill but shellcracker densities were low in 2015. Anglers can expect to catch bluegill and redear up to 8 inches and crappie up to 14 inches. Crappie are not numerous but several fish over 10 inches were sampled in the 2015 DGIF electrofishing survey. Beginning in late April, anglers should be able to catch a lot of fish as they begin to move into shallow water to spawn.

In addition to these species, the VDGIF stocks approximately 2100, 10-inch Channel Catfish every year. Natural reproduction in small lakes is generally insufficient to support a viable population so the population is supplemented through annual stockings. Fishing is generally better for catfish during the summer and at night.

The access road to Great Creek Lake is located off Route 46, approximately one mile north of the Town of Lawrenceville, across from James Solomon Junior High School.