# Spring Lake 2021
## REEL FACTS
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**General Information:** Spring Lake is a clear, shallow 60 acre spring-fed impoundment in Wall Doxey State Park. Nearly half the lake is filled with large cypress trees.  
**Location:** Approximately 7 miles south of Holly Springs.  
**Fishery Management:** Largemouth Bass, bream, crappie, catfish, and Gulf Coast strain Walleye.  
**Purchase a Fishing License:** [https://www.ms.gov/mdwfp/hunting_fishing/](https://www.ms.gov/mdwfp/hunting_fishing/)

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### Amenities
- 1 public boat ramp.  
- 2 wooden fishing piers, 1 courtesy pier by ramp.

### Creel and Size Limits
- **Largemouth Bass:** 10 bass per day per angler.  
- **Crappie:** 30 crappie per day per angler.  
- **Bream:** 100 bream per day per angler.  
- **Catfish:** no limit.  
- **Walleye:** No harvest allowed.
- **No size limits on any species.**

### Regulations
- Rod and reel or pole fishing is allowed. No trotlines, FFFD’s, jugs, yo-yo’s, limblines, throwlines, or set hooks are allowed.  
- MS sportfishing licenses and fishing permits are required except by individuals otherwise exempt or on designated days during National Fishing and Boating Week.  
- **No water skiing allowed.**  
- **Boating is no wake only.**

**Stocking**
- 2020, 2,500 catfish (channel and hybrid)  
- 2020, 1,000 Triploid (sterile) Grass Carp

### Fishing Tips

**Largemouth Bass**
- Very clear water means fish with light line and smaller lures. Spinnerbaits and weedless soft plastics are less likely to get lost fishing around cypress and piers.

**Bream**
- Try crickets and worms for bream around cypress. Bream bed over sand or gravel bottoms.

**Catfish**
- Channel Catfish can be caught with cut bait, liver, worms, etc.

**Crappie**
- Crappie can be caught with jigs and/or minnows around cypress or fallen trees.
Below: Results from 2020 fall electrofishing surveys conducted at Spring Lake. The sport fishery is dominated by Largemouth Bass and bream (Bluegill and Redear Sunfish). Spring Lake has other species (Warmouth Sunfish, Spotted Gar, Bowfin, Pirate Perch, Spotted Suckers, Brook Silversides, etc.) in small numbers. Lake Chubsuckers are collected as an indicator of vegetation abundance; they become more numerous as submerged vegetation increases. Only four were captured in 2018 before vegetation became abundant in 2020.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Species</th>
<th># of fish collected</th>
<th>% of sample</th>
<th>Average Length (inches)</th>
<th>Maximum Length (inches)</th>
<th>Average Weight (pounds)</th>
<th>Catch Rate – Adult fish (fish/mile)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bluegill</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>3.1</td>
<td>7.5</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>40</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Largemouth Bass</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>7.2</td>
<td>15.2</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Lake Chubsucker</td>
<td>22</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>6.0</td>
<td>8.3</td>
<td>0.1</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grass Carp</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>13.5</td>
<td>14.5</td>
<td>1.0</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redear Sunfish</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5.5</td>
<td>7.6</td>
<td>0.2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black Crappie</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>8.4</td>
<td>11.3</td>
<td>0.4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Channel Catfish</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>11.1</td>
<td>11.1</td>
<td>0.3</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Above: Length distributions of Largemouth Bass and Bluegill collected during 2020 fall electrofishing. Bass (about 3 inches) and Bluegill were more numerous and smaller than normal. Weedy conditions were hiding Bluegill, and other forage fish, from bass resulting in thinner fish. Both bass and Bluegill were having trouble finding and catching prey in the vegetation. Redear Sunfish (not shown) in Spring Lake were less numerous than Bluegill. Redear Sunfish normally average larger than Bluegill in Spring Lake with some "shellcrackers" weighing over a pound.
Above: Electrofishing catch rate trends for Largemouth Bass (LMB) and Bluegill (BLG), left. Catch rates vary year-to-year based on vegetative cover, spawning success, angler harvest, etc. Bluegill numbers have increased significantly the last two years, which has resulted in smaller Bluegill. Electrofishing in this very clear lake is difficult since fish can see the boat approaching (right).

Above: Gulf Coast strain Walleye are native to the Tombigbee River system and are found in the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway. MDWFP North Mississippi Fish Hatchery (NMFH) personnel have stocked Gulf Coast strain Walleye in Spring Lake; Walleye are cool water fish and the lake rarely exceeds 80° F. Some of these fish are recaptured for brood stock for the NMFH at Enid. Walleye harvest is prohibited in Spring Lake.
Above: Parrotfeather, a South American invasive aquatic rooted plant, expanded explosively over the 2019/2020 winter due to several causes. Although aquatic vegetation provides habitat for small fish and their insect prey, too much vegetation prevents bass and other predators from controlling the numbers of bream and other small fish. Thick weeds not only make fishing challenging (left), but they could be spread to other waters on boats and trailers. Triploid (sterile) Grass Carp (right) eat aquatic vegetation; they were stocked in 2019 and 2020 (see page 1).

Left (top): In summer 2020, MDWFP fisheries biologists treated high use areas around the boat ramp and fishing piers (top) with a granular aquatic herbicide. Liquid (dissolved) herbicides were not used because of high water flow and possible damage to scenic cypress trees that provide habitat and shade for fish (and people).

Left (bottom): A winter 2020/2021 drawdown was conducted to reduce weeds as dewatered areas dry out and freeze. Over the winter, Triploid Grass Carp can eat parrotfeather and bass can eat abundant small fish in the remaining pool. MDWFP will extend the boat ramp and replace the courtesy pier during the drawdown. Spring Lake is expected to be refilled in March 2021.