Spring Lake 2026
REEL FACTS

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General Information: Spring Lake is a clear, shallow 40-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.

Park/Lake information: http://www.mdwfp.com/parks-destinations/state-parks/wall-doxey/

Purchase a Fishing License: https://www.ms.gov/mdwfp/hunting_fishing/

Amenities

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

Creel and Size Limits

- Largemouth Bass: 10 per day per angler.
- Crappie: 30 per day per angler.
- Bream: 100 per day per angler.
- Catfish: 10 per day per angler.
- Walleye: 3 per day per angler.
- 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

- 2025 - 2,000 channel catfish.

Fishing Tips

Largemouth Bass

- Despite the clear water, heavier line may be needed to punch lures through surface weed mats and hoist fish out. Spinnerbaits, weedless jigs, and soft plastics are less likely to hang up fishing around cypresses and weeds.

Bream

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

Catfish

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

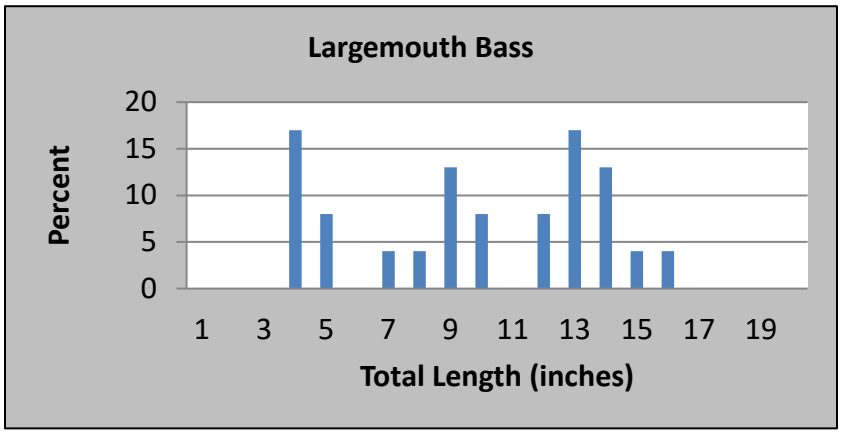
Crappie

- Crappie can be caught with jigs and/or minnows around cypresses or fallen trees.

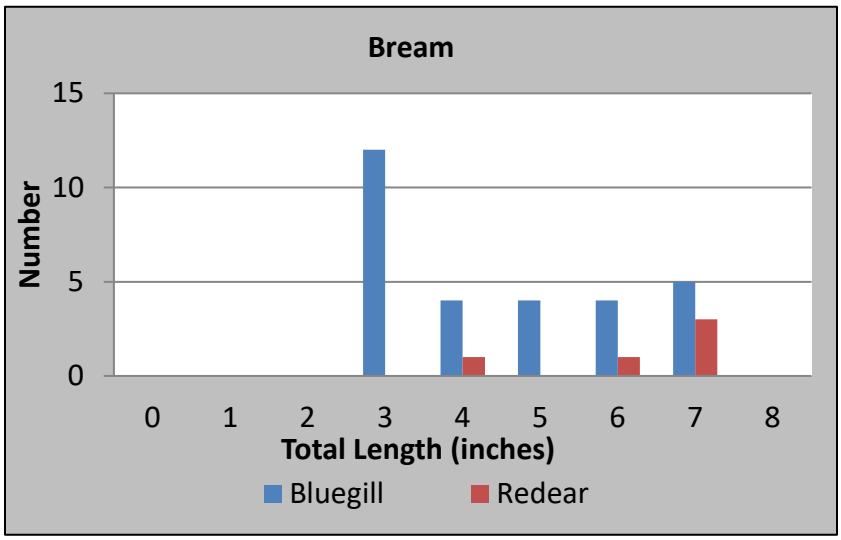
Below: Results from 2025 fall electrofishing surveys conducted at Spring Lake. The sport fishery is dominated by Largemouth Bass and bream (Bluegill and Redear Sunfish). Spring Lake has other species (Warmouth Sunfish, Spotted Gar, Bowfin, Lake Chubsuckers, Pirate Perch, Spotted Suckers, Brook Silversides, etc.) in small numbers that are observed but not collected.

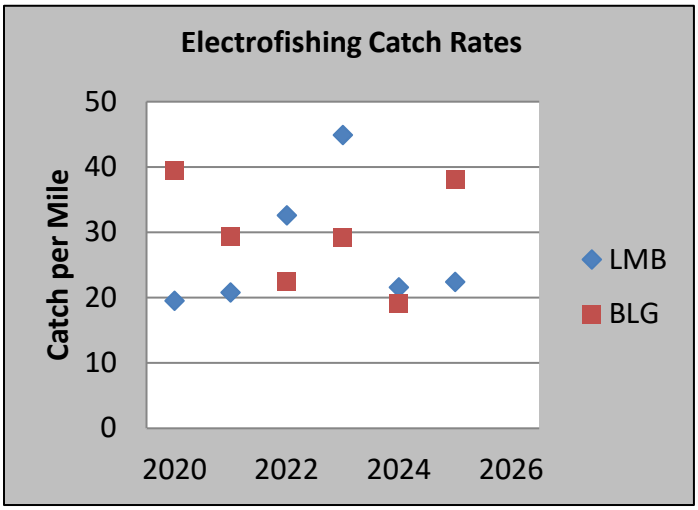
Species	# of fish collected	% of sample	Average Length (inches)	Maximum Length (inches)	Average Weight (pounds)	Catch Rate – Adult fish (fish/mile)
Bluegill	29	50	3.2	7.8	0.1	38
Largemouth Bass	24	41	4.1	16.3	0.7	22
Redear Sunfish	5	9	4.6	7.4	0.2	7

Right: Length distributions of Largemouth Bass and Bluegill collected during 2025 fall electrofishing. The size ranges of bass (mostly less than 14 inches) and bream (mostly small adults and young-of-year) suggested a shift towards a more balanced state of predators to prey.



Redear Sunfish were less numerous, but larger, than Bluegill. Redear Sunfish normally average larger than Bluegill in Spring Lake with some “shellcrackers” weighing over a pound. Low fertility (very clear water) and a high flow of water through the lake limits the average sizes of all fish.







Above: Fall electrofishing catch rate trends (left) for Largemouth Bass (LMB) and Bluegill (BLG) vary year-to-year based on vegetative cover, spawning success, angler harvest, etc. Fishing (and electrofishing) in this very clear lake is difficult; fish can easily see both boat and bank anglers (right). 2025 showed an increased catch per mile (CPM) for bluegill despite collecting less total bluegill than in 2024. This is because CPM is specific for adult fish, reflecting a higher-than-normal percentage of adult bluegill collected than young-of-year after the removal of the invasive watermilfoil in summer 2025. Less vegetative cover inhibits younger fish's ability to hide, allowing bass to predate more of the smaller BLG than in previous years.





Above: Gulf Coast strain Walleye (left) are native to the Tombigbee River system. Walleye are the largest species in the perch family. MDWFP's Bob Tyler Fish Hatchery (BTFH) 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 BTFH at Enid.

As their name suggests, Grass Pickerel (right**)** have flourished with the weedy conditions; they (and other uncommon species) are not recorded while electrofishing. One of the smallest members of the pike family, they rarely exceed 15 inches. Their natural camouflage lets them hide in vegetation from which they ambush prey with a unique S-shaped strike motion. There are no size or creel limits on pickerel.

Walleye and Grass Pickerel will strike lures intended for bass or other species. Anglers are warned not to "lip land" either of these fish due to their toothy mouths.





Above: The vegetation that has expanded since 2019 is Eurasian watermilfoil that likely came in on a boat trailer. Although aquatic vegetation provides habitat for 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 also make fishing challenging (left) and can be spread to other waters. Triploid (sterile) Grass Carp (right) eat aquatic vegetation; they were stocked in 2019, 2020, and 2022. Parrotfeather, which has been in the lake for decades, and Eurasian watermilfoil are both invasive watermilfoils originally from South America. Eurasian watermilfoil is faster growing and can grow in deeper water.



Left: Since 2020, MDWFP fisheries biologists have treated high use areas around the boat ramp and fishing piers (bottom) with a granular aquatic herbicide. In 2025, a new, fast-acting liquid herbicide (ProcellaCOR SC) was trialed and showed great results. It is designed to target watermilfoils while minimizing damage to scenic cypress trees that provide habitat and shade for fish and people.



Winter drawdowns done annually 2020-2024 to reduce weeds was not necessary 2025/2026 due to the success of the ProcellaCOR SC treatment done in the summer of 2025.

MDWFP replaced the pier north of the boat ramp in summer 2025 (top).