

## FISHING IN LAPORTE COUNTY PARKS

Visitors can fish for free at any of the County Parks during Park Open Hours, 7 am—Sunset. Boats and/or swimming are not allowed at any park! A fishing license is required for anyone 18 and older.

### FISHING PROGRAMS

LaPorte County Parks offers many Summer Day Camps, public programs, and special events through the year on fishing. Environmental Education programs and Group Adventures are also available to school classes and other groups, but must be scheduled in advance. For more information on fishing or other programs offered by the Parks Department, call the Naturalist Staff at Luhr Park Nature Center at (219) 324-5855.

### KIDS FISHING FUN DAY

This program is offered in June. The Northwest Indiana Steelheaders co-sponsor the program with the Parks Department. This is a free program that encourages and educates kids of all ages about fishing. Bait and a limited amount of fishing poles and other equipment are available for use during the event.

### FISHING POLE RENTAL

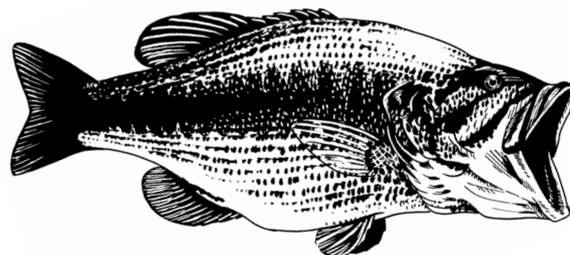
For a \$1.00 security deposit, visitors can use a fishing pole and reel equipped with a bobber, sinker, and hook from the Luhr County Park Nature Center. The deposit will be returned to the visitor when the fishing pole is returned.

*Visitors must bring their own bait!*

**Attention:** No animals can be taken from the park, except fish that are of legal size and number. No animals or plants may be released into the park. If you don't use all of your bait please don't dump the remains into the water. Dogs must be on leashes at all times.

Thank You!

# FISH LIFE IN LAPORTE COUNTY PARKS



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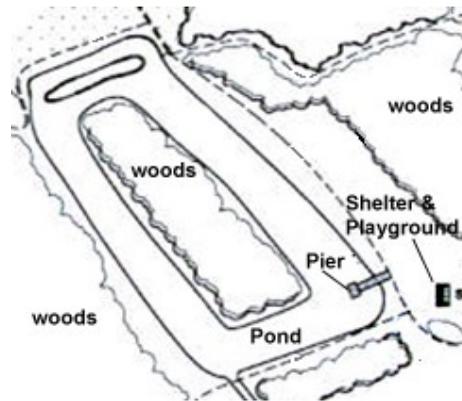
Information on the bodies of water, fishing opportunities, and fishing programs at each LaPorte County Park.



Canada Lodge & Administrative Office  
0185 South Holmesville Road  
LaPorte, IN 46350  
(219) 325-8315

Luhr County Park Nature Center/Naturalist Office  
(219) 324-5855 [www.laportecountyparks.org](http://www.laportecountyparks.org)

## LAPORTE COUNTY PARKS FISHING OPPORTUNITIES



### Luhr County Park

3178 South 150 West, LaPorte, IN 46350

**Park Size:** 74 acres

**Water size and type:** 2 acre Pond

**Structures near water:** Pier, benches, shelter, playground, trails, Boardwalk, observation tower, and restrooms

**Type of fish:** Stocked with largemouth bass, channel catfish, variety of bluegills, redear sunfish, crappie, shiners, and flathead minnows. Other fish are also present, but not stocked.

### Red Mill County Park

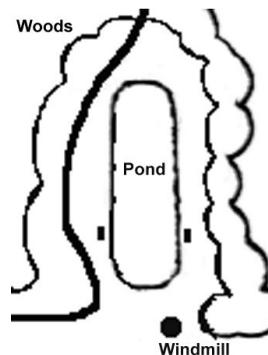
0185 South Holmesville Rd, LaPorte, IN 46350

**Park Size:** 160 acres

**Water size and type:** 23 acre wetland with open water & 1/4 mile of Little Calumet River.

**Structures near water:** Canada Lodge, restrooms, trails, playground, mini-shelter, parking, and several other structures being restored.

**Type of fish:** Annual migration of trout and salmon during high water in Little Calumet River. Wetland and open water holds largemouth bass, catfish, crappie, variety of bluegills and sunfish, carp, and northern pike. No fish stocking done by Parks Department.



### Bluhm County Park

3855 South 1100 West, Westville, IN 46391

**Park Size:** 96 acres

**Water size and type:** 1/2 acre Pond

**Structures near water:** Benches, windmill, and trails.

**Type of fish:** Stocked with largemouth bass, channel catfish, and variety of blue gills. Other fish are also present, but not stocked.

### Creek Ridge County Park

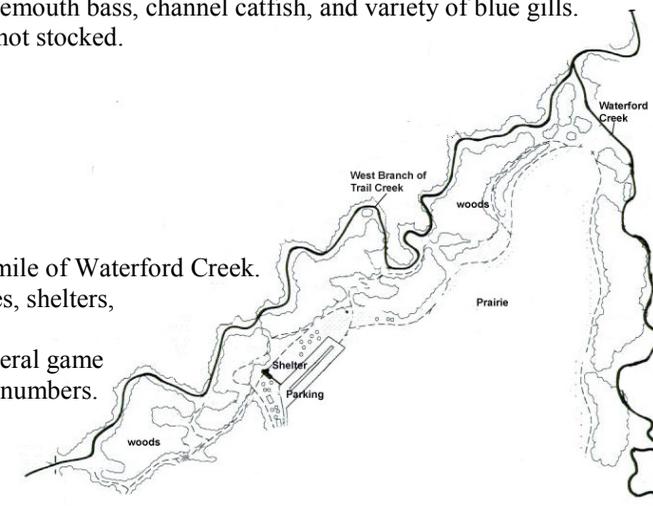
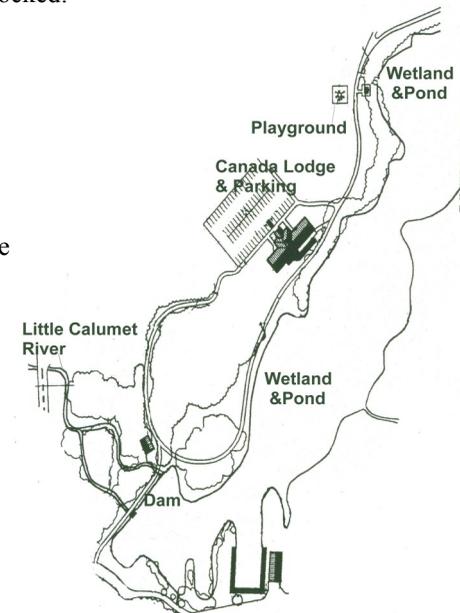
7943 West 400 North, Michigan City, IN 46360

**Park Size:** 112 acres

**Water size and type:** 1 1/2 miles of Trail Creek & 3/4 mile of Waterford Creek.

**Structures near water:** Trails, boardwalks, fishing nodes, shelters, playgrounds, parking, and restrooms.

**Type of fish:** Annual migration of trout and salmon. Several game and non-game fish from Lake Michigan present in small numbers.

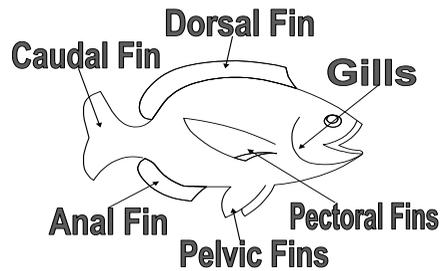


# FISHING REGULATIONS

All fishing regulations set by Indiana Department of Natural Resources apply in the LaPorte County Parks! A fishing license is required for anyone 18 and older.

## PARTS OF A FISH

There are about 400,000 species of fish in the world and most have skeletons made of bone. Most fish are covered with scales used for protection, but some fish have only skin to protect them, like catfish. The age and growth of a fish can be determined by looking at small rings on their scales. A fish breathes by pulling in water through its mouth and pushing it out through its gills. As oxygen in the water passes the gills it is absorbed into the gill and carbon dioxide is released into the water. Most fish have 8 fins which are used to propel and steer the fish as it swims. Trout and salmon have a fin called an adipose fin between the caudal and dorsal fin.



## FORAGE FISH

The following fish are prey species, meaning they are eaten by larger fish and animals. They are not considered game fish.



### FLATHEAD MINNOWS

The flathead minnow is found throughout the Midwest. Its small size of 2-3 inches and abundant reproduction make it an excellent forage fish in the pond. These fish are often found in large schools around submerged structures where they feed primarily on microscopic organisms. Crappie, bass, and even catfish and bluegills will feed off of this prey species.



### GOLDEN SHINERS

The golden shiner can be found throughout most of the Midwest. Much like the fathead minnow, the golden shiner is a great forage fish for the predators in the pond. They are larger than Flathead minnow ranging from 4-8 inches. They are big enough to not be eaten by crappie and bluegills, but bass and channel catfish will feast on them. These fish can be found in large schools around submerged structures where they feed primarily on very small organisms. They get their name by their shiny scales and golden coloration.

## MIGRANT FISH

These fish migrate in the spring and fall into the tributaries of Lake Michigan. They are big game fish.

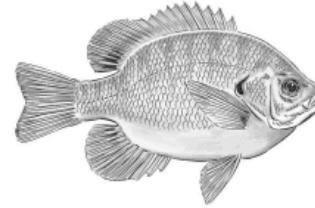


### RAINBOW TROUT

Rainbow trout are commonly 4-8 lbs and have an iridescent pinkish strip on each side giving them their name. They have dark backs and dark spots on their sides. They are also called “steelhead”, because some lose the vibrant color and are more silvery colored. They are cold-water fish and live in Lake Michigan migrating into streams to spawn. They are caught in Trail Creek and the Little Calumet River. They hide under downed trees and vegetation and are aggressive eaters.

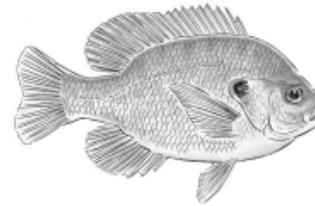
## PAN FISH

Pan fish are named because they are frequently eaten. Regulations allow for large daily bag and no minimum size limits. These are only a few of the many pan fish that can be caught in the LaPorte County Parks.



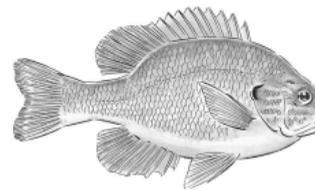
### BLUEGILL

The bluegill can be found in abundance in many Midwestern waters. It can be easily caught and tastes great. It’s commonly found around structures such as brush piles and weed beds, where it feeds almost exclusively on insects. Bluegill can be distinguished from other sunfish by the presence of a small mouth, long, pointed pectoral fins, and a dark spot on the dorsal fin. Bluegill begin to spawn in late spring and continue throughout the summer. The prolific reproductive habits of the bluegill make it the primary forage base for predators such as the largemouth bass.



### HYBRID BLUEGILL

The hybrid bluegill, a cross between a green sunfish and bluegill, is stronger and faster growing bluegill. This fish has the habits of bluegills, but is more aggressive. There are easily caught and taste great. The hybrid bluegill can be distinguished from regular bluegill by a yellow margin along the pelvic and anal fins and a larger mouth than bluegill sunfish. The spawning habits of the hybrid bluegill are similar to the bluegill, but the number of offspring produced is lower.

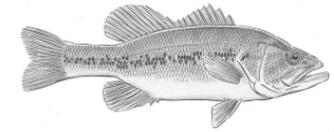


### REDEAR SUNFISH

The redear sunfish is very similar to the bluegill. It is a member of the sunfish family and behaves accordingly. It is found around structures where it feeds almost exclusively on mollusks such as snails, hence its nickname “shellcracker.” The redear is known to be hard fighting and great tasting. It can be distinguished from the bluegill by a conspicuous red spot on the gill covering. Spawning begins in late spring and may continue into summer.

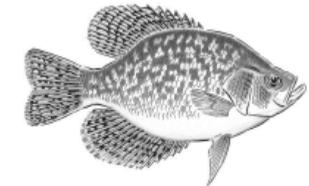
## PREDATOR FISH

These fish feed mostly on small mammals, reptile, amphibians, and other fish. They can grow to large sizes and are prized game fish.



### LARGEMOUTH BASS

The largemouth bass is considered to be one of the most prized game fish in North America. It will readily take many types of live and artificial lures. Bass are usually found around structures such as brush piles and weed beds. It has a widely varied diet that includes minnows and small fish. Its predatory nature helps to keep bluegill from overpopulating. It can be distinguished by its largemouth, dark stripe down its side, and the deep curvature of its dorsal fin. Bass spawn when water temperatures near 60°.



### BLACK CRAPPIE

The black crappie is a member of the sunfish family, although it does not play the role typical of the bluegill. The crappie acts more like predator than prey. It feeds mainly on minnows and other small fish. Crappie populate near submerged structures like downed trees. There are two species of crappie: white and black. The black crappie can be distinguished from white crappie by the number of stiff spines on the dorsal fin. White crappie have five or six spines on the dorsal fin; black crappie have seven or eight. Spawning occurs in early spring.



### CHANNEL CATFISH

The channel catfish is most commonly near around the bottom of the pond. It is a scavenger and will eat just about anything it finds. It will eat live fish, although it is not considered to be a true predator. The channel catfish is growing in popularity among sport fishermen due to its large size, hard fighting ability, and good taste. The channel catfish can be distinguished from other catfish by the presence of dark spots on its body and a deeply forked tail.