

FISHING HOLE GREENWOOD LAKE

WHY GO: This long, shallow Lake County lake—not to be confused with the lake of the same name in Cook County—has a reputation for pumping out walleyes and crappies, and is a rare winter walleye option, where many other walleye fisheries in the region shut down come winter.

ACCESS: Greenwood, which is bog-stained, has many boulders that can make boating hazardous. There's a concrete ramp on the southwest end of the lake, off of Lake County Road No. 2. "If you go out there in the summer, you need a boat that will take the rocks," said Thor Steenerson, of Brimson Sportsman's Center, about the only baitshop in the vicinity, though it is located about 24 miles to the southwest of the lake in relatively nearby Fairbanks Township, an unincorporated community over the border in St. Louis County.

VITALS: This 1,329-acre lake has a maximum depth of 7 feet, and more than 10 miles of shoreline. The aforementioned bog-stained water has an average clarity of 4.2 feet, according to the most recent DNR lake survey conducted in 2009.

GAME SPECIES PRESENT: Crappies, northern pike, rock bass, walleye, white sucker and yellow perch.

WALLEYE: Steenerson said Greenwood is a good walleye option both in open water and in hardwater. Minnesota DNR hasn't sampled the lake since 2009, but that survey mentioned the lake was above average for the lake class. The survey said that the lake has good numbers of walleye, but they tend to run small. That being said, eight walleyes in that survey were in the 20- to 24-inch range. Steenerson hasn't heard of any big walleyes being caught in Greenwood.

As far as fishing for the walleyes during open water, Steenerson said minnows, leeches and crawlers are the main

options during the summer, with minnows and waxies the preferred bait in the winter.

The DNR survey mentions that the dark water probably allows the lake's walleye bite to hold up during the day. Steenerson said the one deeper hole in the lake is where many walleye anglers focus, both during the summer and winter.

CRAPPIES: While crappies haven't been sampled in any of the DNR lake fish surveys going back to 1951, that year's survey mentioned that in 1938, 570 crappie fingerlings were stocked in the lake, as well as 105 sunfish fingerlings, and it was noted that was the first year walleye fry were stocked into the lake.

Steenerson said crappies are the second target species in the lake after walleyes, and, they, too, are a winter target. He couldn't say how big they got in the lake, but they are big enough that many of his customers target them.

"They are in there," he said. "You gotta search for them. Sometimes they don't bite all week, and then, all of the sudden, they turn on."—*Javier Serna*



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