

# FISHING HOLE

## FOUR MILE LAKE

**WHY GO:** Located west of the Sawbill Trail in Cook County, Four Mile Lake is a good choice for anyone seeking decent walleye fishing. Off the beaten path, yet easily accessible, it is easily fished with anything from a craft from a canoe to a mid-sized boat. The lake lies outside the BWCAW and has no motor restrictions.

**ACCESS:** Reached via Forest Road 170, Four Mile Lake has a concrete ramp and dock with a gravel parking area for six vehicles with trailers. A latrine is available.

**VITALS:** The 593-acre lake has 8.5 miles of shoreline. Nearly all of the lake is less than 15 feet deep, with a maximum depth of 19.5 feet. The water is bog-stained with about five feet of visibility.

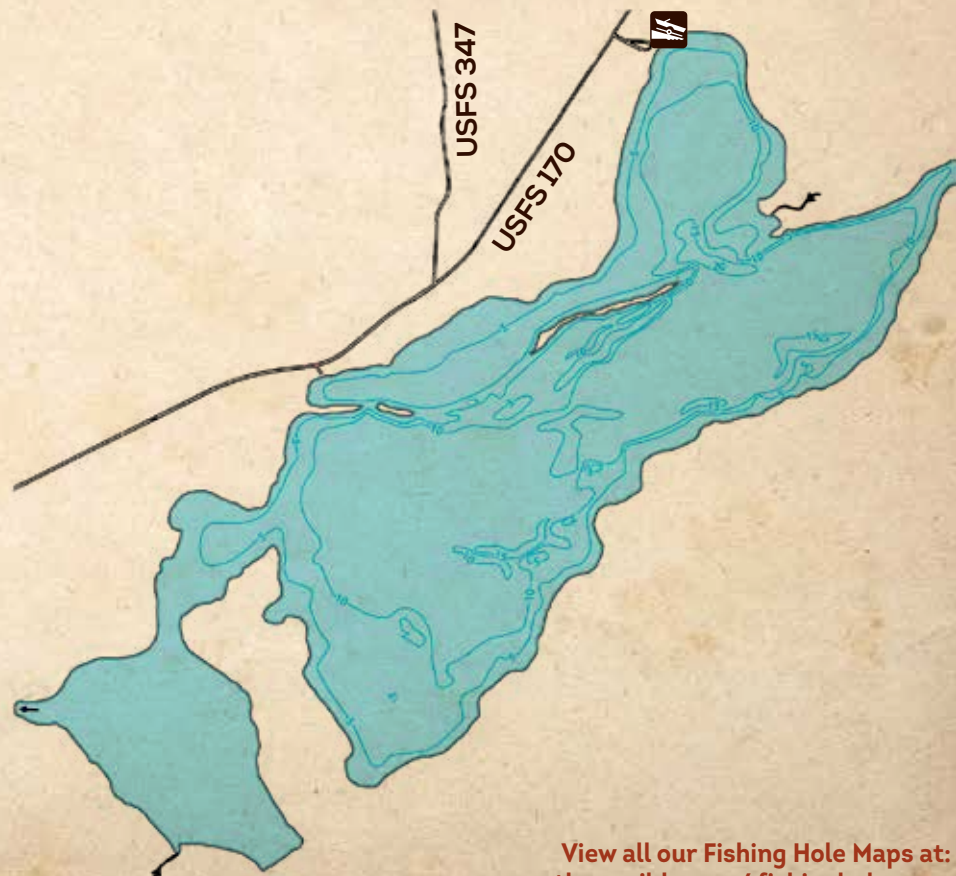
**FISH SPECIES PRESENT:** Black crappie, northern pike, walleye, yellow perch, white sucker, blacknose shiner, central mudminnow, common shiner, creek chub, golden shiner, Iowa darter, Johnny darter, minnows, mottled sculpin, northern pearl dace, and tadpole madtom.

**WILD RICE:** The southwest bay is bordered by bog and lowlands. It contains a healthy stand of wild rice and is designated as a wild rice lake by the state. It attracts waterfowl at times in the fall.

**CAMPING OPTIONS:** The access site has four U.S. Forest Service campsites, with three additional remote sites located on the lake. Camping is popular in the spring, summer and fall.

**ABOUT THE FISHING:** You probably won't catch trophy walleyes in Four Mile, but expect to land "eaters" averaging 14-15 inches. In stained waters, a daytime bite is possible. In early summer, look for walleyes along the outside edge of emerging bulrushes. The lake has a self-sustaining crappie population that occasionally produces a strong year class. When it does, you can be rewarded with 10-12 inchers. Yellow perch are more consistent. You can find keepers running nine inches or more. According to Minnesota DNR surveys, Four Mile has a below-average abundance of northern pike. Expect two-pounders rather than 10-pounders, with occasional pike pushing 30 inches possible.

**WATCH OUT:** Submerged boulders are difficult to see in the bog-stained water. Go slow and pay attention to your electronics if you are unfamiliar with the lake.



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