

## Valley Water Mill Lake Angler Frequently Asked Questions

*When fishing opens at Valley Water Mill Lake, we expect an increase in phone calls relating to this activity. In the past, the questions have been more oriented as to when is it going to be open for fishing, now they will be more oriented on actual fishing specifics. The following are common questions asked by anglers. Please distribute to staff that may have the opportunity to interact with anglers or respond to general questions concerning the lake.*

- 1. What is in the lake?** Largemouth bass, bluegill and channel catfish are the main species in the lake. From time to time an angler may catch a crappie.
- 2. Do you need a fishing license?** Yes, everyone who fishes at Valley Water Mill Lake must have the appropriate lifetime, annual, or daily fishing permit or qualify for an exemption. These can be purchased over the counter from any permit vendor or online at [www.mdc.mo.gov/permits](http://www.mdc.mo.gov/permits). A list of exemptions can be found in Chapter 5 of the Wildlife Code of Missouri. A copy of the Wildlife Code Book can be picked up where ever permits are sold.
- 3. How many fish can I take?**

### Valley Water Mill Lake Fishing Regulations:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Daily Limit</u>	<u>Length Limit</u>
Black Bass	6 daily	12 to 15 inch protected slot
Crappie	30 daily	
Catfish (all catfish sp. in aggregate)	4 daily	
All Others (in the aggregate)	10 daily	

#### 4. Other regulations?

No boats allowed  
Pole and Line Only (no jug lines, trot lines or limb lines)  
Maximum 3 poles per person

**5. What is a 12 to 15-inch protected slot?** Basically, anglers need to immediately release any black bass (i.e. largemouth bass) that are between 12.0 inches and 15.0 inches. They can harvest black bass below 12 inches and above 15 inches.

**6. What are the hours for the park?** The park facilities will be open from sunrise to sunset. Springfield Greene County Park Board will be in charge of opening and closing the facility on a daily basis.

**7. Can you fish at night?** No, the park is closed between sunset and sunrise.

**8. Public restrooms?** The restrooms at the park will be available only during the regular business hours of the Watershed Center during the spring, summer and fall months. All restroom facilities will be closed during the winter.

**9. Swimming?** No, this is lake owned by City Utilities and is part of Springfield's water supply system.

For angling related questions not addressed on this sheet, please feel free to contact the Missouri Department of Conservation's Southwest Regional Office at 417-895-6880.

For questions regarding Valley Water Mill Park or the Equestrian Center, please feel free to contact the following Springfield Greene County Park Board staff:

Lynn Vandenberg, Park Manager for Valley Water Mill Park and Valley Water Mill Park Equestrian Center at 417-833-3291

Thomas J. Moore, Superintendent of Special Facilities at 417-833-9618

For questions regarding the Watershed Center, please feel free to contact the Watershed Committee of the Ozarks at 417-866-1127