

# LAC LA BELLE

**LOCATION** - In the northwest part of the county, immediately north of Highway 16 and just west of Highway 67 near Oconomowoc.

## **ACCESS**

**A** **Type I (Public):** At the southeast end of the lake; take Highway 16 for 0.1 mile west of Highway 67. A concrete ramp, loading pier, restrooms and picnic area are provided by the city. Trailer parking is permitted on nearby streets and in a municipal parking lot.

**B** **Type III:** On the south side of the lake; take Locust Street north off Highway 16 to the lake. Limited parking is available one block away.

**C** **Type III:** On the south side of the lake; take Highway 16 west of Highway 67 for 7 blocks and turn north onto Chestnut Street. Ice fishermen use this access to drive on the lake.

## **RELATED SERVICES**

**Boat Rental** - None.

**Bait Shops** - Yes, in the City of Oconomowoc.

**Public Parks** - Yes, at Access A in Oconomowoc.

**Guide Services** - Yes, through local bait shops.

**SPECIAL FEATURES** - Parking is generally restricted along most town roads near the lake. There is a dam at the inlet and outlet. Summer boat traffic can be heavy.

## **LAKE CHARACTERISTICS**

**Size and Depth** - 1,164 acres and 46 feet.

**Water Source** - Drainage lake: An inlet on the southeast side from Fowler Lake, an unnamed inlet on the north side, and Rosenow Creek on the east side. The Oconomowoc River outlet is on the south side.

**Shoreline** - Primarily upland and heavily developed. Sections of the shoreline have been riprapped.

**Bottom** - 69% silt and muck, 31% sand and gravel.

**Water** - Slightly below average in fertility and clear. The thermocline develops at about 12 feet with dissolved oxygen lacking below 25 feet.

**Vegetation** - Primarily sandgrass, milfoil, cabbage and coontail. The weed edge forms at about 18 feet. Heavy algae blooms can occur.

## Stocking -

YEAR	SPECIES	NUMBER	SIZE
1986	Walleye	40,300	Fingerling
	Northern Pike	2,000	Fingerling
1987	Walleye	37,700	Fingerling
	Bluegill	6,900	3" - 5"
	Bullhead	202	4" - 6"
1988	Walleye	11,000	Fingerling
	Bluegill	170,143	Yearling
	Panfish	10,082	Yearling
	Bullhead	424	Yearling
1989	Walleye	42,750	Fingerling
	Walleye	167	Adult
	Northern Pike	2,037	Fingerling
	Flathead Catfish	4,400	2 - 20 lbs.

**Treatment** - Chemical treatment has been used in the shallow bays to control the overabundant carp population. A rock reef and half logs were installed to improve walleye spawning and provide smallmouth bass habitat.

### LAKE SURVEY MAP - Fishing Areas Shaded

**Area (1)** This shallow flat attracts largemouth bass during summer. Work spinner-baits or shallow-diving crankbaits through the weeds to locate active fish.

Cast slip bobbers with live bait in the weed openings to take bluegill and crappie.

**Area (2)** Smallmouth bass and walleye are found on the sunken log cribs. Vertical presentations worked along these structures are recommended. The deep weed edge holds smallmouth bass, walleye and white bass by early summer.

Walleye, northern pike and panfish are taken from the cribs during the winter season.

**Area (3)** Drift over the top of this sand and rock sunken island at night for walleye and smallmouth bass. Live bait presentations on light line is a popular summer presentation. A depthfinder is necessary to locate this structure.

**Area (4)** Backtrolling live bait rigs along the deep weed edge is productive for many gamefish species. The 12- to 20-foot depths generally hold the most fish. Panfish are also available during the summer months.

**Area (5)** This small rock bar yields spring smallmouth bass action. By summer channel catfish are taken at night on slip bobbers and live bait.

**Area (6)** Crappie and walleye are the main attraction throughout the year. Concentrate on the inside turns of the weedline. Some largemouth bass and northern pike are caught along the deep weed edge.

**Area (7)** Walleye and smallmouth bass are found on this shallow rock reef. Cast shallow-running crankbaits over this structure during periods of reduced light.

**Area (8)** Largemouth bass are the main attraction on this weedy flat. Spinnerbaits

and shallow-running crankbaits are suggested. Crappie and bluegill inhabit the area in spring and summer.

**Area (9)** During summer bluegill and crappie suspend in this deep water area. In winter many bluegill anglers fish around this 35-foot hole.

**Area (10)** Cast 1/4 oz. spinnerbaits and plastic worms near the submerged weeds for largemouth bass. Crappie and bluegill are taken on a slip bobber and live bait throughout this area during spring and early summer. Ice anglers work the weed edge for late ice panfish.

**Area (11)** Early season crappie and bluegill are available in the channel. Slip bobbers and live bait should be worked near the developing weeds.

**Area (12)** Walleye relate to this rocky shoreline. The entire area is worth fishing after dark and during windy conditions.

**Area (13)** Troll deep-diving crankbaits in the 10- to 20-foot depths for walleye and pike.

**Area (14)** This shallow rock bar attracts spawning walleye. In early summer, largemouth and smallmouth bass can be taken.

**Area (15)** A 1/8 oz. jig and small fathead minnow cast along the shoreline rocks take early season walleye. Try the 10- to 25-foot depths for summer walleye and smallmouth bass.

**Area (16)** The weedy shoreline of Kohl's Bay is a good producer of largemouth bass and panfish. In particular, bass anglers should work the docks and boathouses with plastic worms or jig n' pigs.

**Area (17)** The deep water saddle between the two points holds walleye throughout summer and fall. Vertical jigging or slowly backtrolling slip sinker rigs is effective. Ice fishermen work this area for walleye, northern pike and white bass. Boat traffic can hinder your fishing efforts.

**Area (18)** Several species are available from this weedy underwater point. Try working crankbaits along the weedline for summer walleye and pike. Panfish are also available during summer months.

**Area (19)** Work these underwater points with deep presentations for walleye, smallmouth bass and northern pike. The 10- to 20-foot depths are generally the most productive.

**Area (20)** This weedy bay provides opportunities for northern, largemouth bass and panfish. Concentrate your efforts in the open areas in the weeds.

**Area (21)** The inletting current from Fowler Lake attracts walleye to the submerged rock reef and riprapped shoreline. Cast 1/16 oz. or 1/8 oz. jigs tipped with minnows near these structures. Shore fishing for walleye and panfish is popular near the dam.

**Area (22)** White bass suspend in City Bay during summer. Walleye and panfish relate to submerged weeds in winter. This bay produces good catches of bluegill during late ice.

**Area (23)** Panfish are taken from this shallow channel in early spring. Largemouth bass, bullhead and panfish are found here throughout the summer. Early ice anglers have success for northern pike and walleye.

**FISHING TIPS** - Lac La Belle has many different characteristics. The main basin is relatively deep with structure being the key to fishing. The shoreline and bay

areas provide abundant weed cover. Look for walleye and smallmouth bass to relate to weeds and gravel areas.

**CONCLUSION** - Despite intense angling pressure, Lac La Belle is a productive fishing lake. Continued stocking and other management techniques should create further improvements in the walleye and smallmouth bass populations. Catch and release is urged to help preserve this heavily used but balanced fishery.