

A map of the city parks and water basins/ponds open to public fishing is available at: <http://www.ankenyoptimists.org/ankenyfishing.html>

Note: All public ponds can be fished.

Boats/Canoes/Float Tubes/Kayaks: Not permitted on Any public water basin in Ankeny.

Where to fish in a pond: rock piles, brushy areas, deep holes, near aerators, logs, corners, along the edge of weed lines.

When to fish: Early morning (6-9AM) and late afternoon (5-9PM) remain the **best times** to be successful to catch some fish.

Lures and baits that catch fish: **small bait** for smaller fish/panfish (bluegill, crappie, green sunfish, red ear sunfish, trout, etc.); **Large baits** for large fish (catfish, largemouth bass). **Artificial baits:**(plastics, hair, feathers and crankbaits mimicking minnows, crayfish, frogs, snakes; plastic worms with different texture and color, peanut butter, spam, catfish bait). **Live baits**-nightcrawlers, wax worms, small red worms, crawfish, frogs, other.

Hooks: Consider small hooks (size 8 to size 20) for small fish, large hooks for large fish. (size 2 to size 6). Use double and treble hooks for certain baits like peanut butter, catfish bait, spam, etc. Use **short shank** hooks for small baits and **longer shank** hooks for larger baits.

Fish harvests: Ankeny has posted water basins to help with fish management. **Help by respecting the postings. Keep all panfish (2-9") that are caught for disposal or dinner table fare. Return big panfish over 9 inches to maintain a population of large panfish for reproduction. Follow DNR rules on fish harvests--numbers, sizes etc..**

Respect: Keep the areas around the water basins clean and free of debris. Make a point to clean up by disposing of any bait containers, fishing line, food wrappers, etc.



Ice fishing on all public and designated fish basins (see map) in Ankeny is allowed. The process is quite different. The gear needed to be successful is also quite different than fishing open water.

Gear: Ice auger to cut holes in the ice.

Ice scoop to remove ice from holes.

Small ice fishing rods. Reels with very light line—2 to 6 lb test depending on fish to be caught.

Bucket for fish transportation. Small ice fishing jigs. Vexilar or other electronics to identify fish and your lure below the ice. Shelter, heater and warm clothes.

Safety Equipment:

Technique: For information on “How To” participate in ice fishing go to the following resource.

www.iowadnr.gov/portals/idnr/uploads/education/icefish.pdf

Safety: Tips to keep you safe on the ice. Go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=O4eHKi6hAdI>

or <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TlfBgVJiKVg>

Note: Keep areas on the ice clean. Carry out anything you carry in. Respect the privacy of the neighborhood.

Note: Motorized vehicles are not allowed on Ankeny water basins.

Fish Ankeny



Cooperative Project supported by:

Ankeny Optimists

Central Iowa Anglers

Central Iowa Fly Fishers

Ankeny Golf and Country Club

Polk County Community Dev.

Ankeny IKES (Izaak Walton league)

Individual Citizens

Coordinated with: Parks and Recreation Dept., Ankeny

A guide for information about fishing in Ankeny

Harvesting a lot of largemouth bass over 12 inches can be disastrous. A single person could remove enough largemouth bass in a single afternoon to upset the management scheme of any of our water retention basins.



Catch and Release: Please respect the postings near Ankeny water basins to practice catch and release on all largemouth bass 12" and larger.

Storm water run-off: Runoff from streets, sidewalks, driveways, and lawns gets into our water basins. Anything that runs off of those surfaces, impacts the water quality and, therefore, the quality of fishing. This could include excess fertilizer, soap from washing cars, or deicers. **If you live near a water basin,** only use what you need and clean up any spills. **If you must fertilize,** use a fertilizer without phosphorous to help reduce increased growth of algae and green plants in the water basin.

Efforts to improve water run-off in the water basins by individuals or organizations in Ankeny can be coordinated through the Public Works Department., City of Ankeny.
<http://www.ankenyiowa.gov>

For information on algae and plant control visit:
www.hbpondmanagement.com/

Stocking fish caught in one pond and placing them in another **can potentially lead to fish kills, stunted fish or unappetizing parasite infestations. It is best to let the park and recreation managers stock fish from certified fish hatcheries to ensure healthy fish populations, especially when a great deal of time, money and effort has been spent to build our fisheries. Water basins do NOT receive annual stockings, making fish populations dependent on angler harvest practices.**



Pictures of fish species and more: Go to

<http://www.iowadnr.gov/Fishing/Iowa-Fish-Species>
Review Fishes of Iowa

Eating fish: The very best fish for consumption are the panfish (bluegill, crappie, green sunfish, perch) in Ankeny water basins. This is true statewide and documented in a publication by the Iowa DNR. Visit: <http://www.iowadnr.gov/Fishing/About-Fishing-in-Iowa> for a copy of publications and more regarding consumption of the fish. Look for "Eating Iowa-caught fish is SAFE!"

Preparation of fish for consumption makes a big difference in taste and overall enjoyment of fish as an entree for meals. Filleting the fish removes all bones and remains a favorite method of preparation even for catfish. Fillet school is available to families during the **Fishing Derby** held the first weekend in June. Information about the derby is published online at www.ankenyiowa.gov and via the Parks and Recreation Office at 220 West 1st Street, Ankeny. 50023 Phone: (515) 963-3520

An excellent **video on how to fillet** can be accessed at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1Hkt3Q5y84U>

Rules and Regulations: Use Iowa fishing regulations for rules in fishing Ankeny water basins. Iowa Fishing Regulations: Go to: <http://www.iowadnr.gov/Fishing/Fishing-Licenses-Laws>

Catching a lot of fish can be fun and easy to do when you use the techniques known to be successful. The following ideas will help anyone be successful.

Panfish-bait: Use light tackle: an ultralight fishing rod; 4 lb monofilament line with a weighted bobber for casting; no weight on the line below the bobber; a small hook size 8 or 12; and a wax worm, small red worm, or a third or less of a nightcrawler or large red worm. Cast and allow the line to sink. Reel in very slowly. Cast to the edge of weeds, trees, banks.

Panfish-Jigs: Use light tackle: ultralight fishing rod; 4lb monofilament line with a weighted bobber for casting, a small 80th to 100th of an ounce hair jig or jig with plastic body. Cast and allow the line to sink. Reel in very slowly. Cast to the edge of weeds, trees, banks.

Panfish/Bass: Use a fly rod with small/large flies. Information about fly fishing can be accessed at: <http://www.jpflyfishing.tv>

Bass: Use medium weight tackle: Medium weight fishing rod, 6-8 lb line, a small spinner bait or crank bait tied direct to the line. Cast and allow the line to sink. Reel slow or fast speed depending on the mood of the fish. Cast to the edge of weeds, trees, along rocks and banks.

Catching bass on top the water is exciting. Use nightcrawlers or plastic worms of different color as bait, top water lures or flies. Use a medium action fishing rod with 6 to 8 lb line with a number 4 to 6 size single hook with crawlers or plastics. Cast without weight into open water, next to trees, areas near vegetation. Reel in the nightcrawler, plastic worm or lure just fast enough to stay near the very top of the water.

Catching catfish requires a little different technique. The use of nightcrawlers and chicken liver as bait works very well. Use a medium action fishing rod with 6 to 8 lb line with a number 4 to 6 size single or treble hook for the liver. Cast without weight into open water, next to trees or areas near vegetation.

Note: The disposing of live minnows/chubs in water basins is discouraged to prevent unwanted/damaging fish species.