

A map of the city parks and water basins/ponds open to public fishing is available at: <https://www.ankenyiowa.gov/DocumentCenter/View/3610/Fishing-Holes-?bidId=>

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 baits** 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, worms with different texture and color: peanut butter, spam, catfish bait); **live baits** (nightcrawlers, wax worms, small red worms, crawfish, frogs, etc.)

Hooks: Consider small hooks (size 8 to size 20) for small fish, large hooks for large fish. (size 2 to size 6), 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.

Balance: A balanced pond is one where both largemouth bass and panfish populations have stable reproduction each year and there is a range of sizes from small to large in all species. Essentially, panfish are providing enough food for the largemouth bass, and the largemouth bass are keeping the panfish populations under control. Ankeny has posted water basins to help with balancing the basins. **Help balance the water basins** by respecting the postings. **Keep all panfish (2-8") 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..



Ice Fishing on all 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.

Technique: For information on “How To” participate in ice fishing go to the following resource: <http://publications.iowa.gov/37499/1/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=T1fBgVJiKvg>

Note: **The use of live minnows as bait and disposing live minnows in the water basins is discouraged** to prevent **unwanted/damaging fish species.**

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

Fish Ankeny



Cooperative Project supported by:

Ankeny Optimists

Iowa DNR

Central Iowa Fly Fishers

Ankeny Golf and Country Club

Polk County Community Dev.

Dragoon Chapter, Izaak Walton League)

Individual Citizens

Coordinated with: Parks and Recreation Dept., Ankeny

**A guide for
information about
fishing in Ankeny**

www.ankenyooptimists.org

Harvesting a lot of largemouth bass over 15 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.



Public Water Basins are posted to assist anglers in identifying where to fish. All public water basins can be fished.

Catch and Release: Releasing bass back into waterbody helps maintain a healthy fish population.

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.<https://www.ankenyiowa.gov/296/Public-Works>
For information on algae and plant control visit: <https://www.iowadnr.gov/things-do/fishing/ponds/aquatic-plants>

Stocking fish into public ponds is illegal, can lead into the transfer of aquatic invasive species and **potentially may 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.**



Characteristics of fish species and more: Go to

<http://www.iowadnr.gov/things-do/fishing/iowa-fish-species>

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. Go to: <https://www.iowadnr.gov/environmental-protection/water-quality/water-quality-monitoring-assessment/fish-consumption-safety>

“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 free fishing weekend in June. Derby information is published online at www.ankenyiowa.gov via the Parks and Recreation Office at 1210 Prairie Ridge Drive, Ankeny.

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 (including licensure) for fishing Ankeny water basins. Iowa Fishing Regulations: Go to: <https://www.iowadnr.gov/things-do/fishing/regulations-laws>

Community fishing updates and maps: Go to: www.iowadnr.gov/fishlocal

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 ultra-lite 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: ultra-lite 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: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NIDi3Kvt0Us>

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 weeds, trees, along rocks and banks.

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

Note: The use of live minnows/chubs as bait is discouraged to prevent unwanted/damaging fish species.