












# DE PERE RIVERWALK AND WILDLIFE VIEWING PIER




## FUN FACTS

---Updated June 16, 2014---




### Fish







 <p>Walleye</p>	<p>Walleye can be found year round in the Fox River, however they are most visible during their annual spawning run that typically occurs in late March and April. During this period, thousands can be viewed swimming in shallow water near the rapids below the De Pere Dam and around the viewing Pier. Adult walleye range from 3 to 15 years in age and from 14" to 30" in length and are a favorite fish of area sport anglers.</p>
 <p>Sturgeon</p>	<p>The lake sturgeon is the largest and oldest fish found in the Fox River and in the Great Lakes. They can live for over 100 years and grow to over 7 feet and 200 pounds. Adult lake sturgeon return to the Fox River each spring to spawn in the rapids below the De Pere dam. The best time to view these large and glorious fish is in late April and early May when waters reach 50-60 degrees. Their distinctive long dark bodies and pointed tails can be spotted all along the Viewing Pier and platforms throughout the Riverwalk.</p> <p>After spawning, the adult sturgeon return and roam the waters of Green Bay and Lake Michigan while their eggs incubate in the rocky rapids. Larval sturgeon hatch in 1-2 weeks and then drift downstream into the lower Fox River and eventually into Green Bay where they feed and grow for 10-20 years before returning to spawn as young adults.</p> <p>Hundreds of years ago, sturgeon were numerous in the Fox River but they were almost wiped out during the late 1800s. Today, industry and governments cooperate to protect sturgeon and their habitat so that populations can slowly recover.</p>
 <p>Muskellunge</p>	<p>The Fox River hosts a thriving population of this popular game fish. The Great Lakes Spotted Musky lives throughout the Fox River and Bay of Green Bay. Musky will migrate to the De Pere area during the spring for spawning purposes, and during the late months of fall to feed. Musky are famous for their enormous size and in this area can exceed 60" in length.</p>

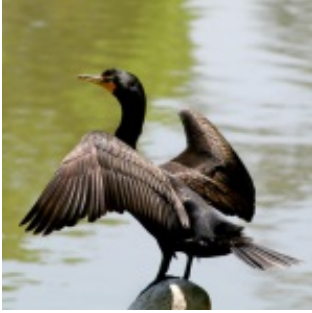
 <p>Gar</p>	<p>The Gar has an elongated body and is heavily armored with ganoid scales. Similarly, the Gar has an elongated jaw filled with long sharp teeth. These fish are known to surface periodically to take a gulp of air, as their swim bladders can function as lungs.</p>
 <p>Carp</p>	<p>The common Carp can be seen in large numbers during the spring. Carp are omnivorous and prefer to eat a diet of water plants and scavenge the bottom looking for insects, crustaceans, crawfish, and worms. A typical adult female carp can lay as many as 300,000 eggs.</p>
 <p>Sucker</p>	<p>Found in most of the eastern half of the United States, this fish is not highly thought of by fishermen. There are 68 different species of "Sucker", which get their name from their fleshy mouth with lips. The "Sucker" can be found around the De Pere Dam all seasons.</p>
 <p>Yellow Perch</p>	<p>Native to much of North America, this fish was a highly popular game fish in the Green Bay area. Populations saw a sharp decline in the 1990's, however have been improving since. The Yellow Perch can be found around the De Pere Dam all seasons.</p>
 <p>Gizzard Shad</p>	<p>The Gizzard Shad is a member of the herring family and can be found residing around the De Pere Dam during all seasons. This fish is a preferred food of largemouth bass, and can reproduce rapidly.</p>
 <p>Whitefish</p>	<p>The Whitefish, also referred to as the "Lake Whitefish", will commonly reach a weight of 4 lbs, and a length of 20 inches. However, they have been known to grow over 10 lbs and reach lengths of 30 inches. The whitefish is a cool water fish and can be found in large numbers. The whitefish will spawn from September to January in shallow waters during the night. Whitefish are an important commercial fish in North America and the Great Lakes. An average of 11 million pounds of fish were harvested annually from 1981-1999.</p>
 <p>Smallmouth Bass</p>	<p>The smallmouth bass is generally brown with dark brown vertical bands and can reach typical weights of up to 6 lbs. A carnivore, this fish feeds on crayfish, insects, and smaller fish. Being known as one of the toughest fighting fish, it is very popular with anglers.</p>
 <p>Large Mouth Bass</p>	<p>Arguably one of the most popular game fish, this fish can be found around the De Pere Dam. Juvenile bass will feed on small bait fish and insects, while adults will feed on fish, snails, crawfish, frogs, snakes, and even small water birds. This fish has the ability to prey on and consume other fish that are as large as 50% of their body length.</p>

 <p>Channel Catfish</p>	<p>Channel Catfish are abundant in the Fox River. They possess a very keen sense of smell and taste. At the pits of their nostrils are very sensitive odor sensing organs. This bottom dwelling fish has been known to reach 50 lbs.</p>
 <p>Lake Trout</p>	
 <p>Chinook Salmon</p>	<p>Also known as the “King” Salmon, the Chinook Salmon is not a frequent visitor to the Fox River and De Pere Dam area, but can be seen during the fall months as some fish come to the De Pere Dam to spawn. This large and popular game fish was replanted in 1967 to control the alewife population. A prized game fish because of their size and fighting ability, the King Salmon can grow as large as 40 lbs.</p>

#### Birds/Waterfowl

 <p>Canadian Goose</p>	<p>Canadian Geese are plentiful around the De Pere Dam, and will nest on the island during the spring. Geese will protect their nests from all predators including humans. You can often find them grazing through Voyageur Park and on the island itself.</p>
 <p>Bald Eagle</p>	<p>This majestic bird can be seen throughout the year hunting the open water. They are often found in large trees roosting nearby. The eagle glides over the water looking for fish and sometimes waterfowl to snatch with its powerful talons. Bald Eagles begin to nest in March and have a known nest in the Fairgrounds across the river. The Bald Eagle attains a wing span of up to 90 inches, but takes up to 5 years before developing its distinct white head and tail.</p>
 <p>American White Pelican</p>	<p>Starting in May, Pelicans begin to show up around the De Pere Dam. They nest on the lower Green Bay in large colonies, and are noted for their cooperative hunting behavior. The form a U shaped line and drive small fish into the shallows where they scoop them up with their large bill.</p>

 <p>Mallard Duck</p>	<p>The Mallard Duck can be seen in very good numbers around the De Pere Dam as they nest on the island in the spring. While Geese will graze, the Mallard Duck will pick up their food from the top of the water, a practice known as “dabbling”. Hen Mallards are mostly brown, however the male duck (referred to as a “Drake”) will have a glossy green head and grey wings and belly.</p>
 <p>Ring Billed Gull</p>	<p>This bird is very common around the De Pere Dam, and grows to a common length of around 19 inches with a wingspan of 4 feet. The Gull is very creative in its feeding habits, and will eat everything from fish, insects, and earthworms, to food discarded or unattended by people.</p>
 <p>Osprey</p>	<p>This large fish-eating raptor reaches lengths of 24 inches and a 71 inch wingspan. It is predominantly brown on the upper side of its body, and greyish on its head and underside. The Osprey tolerates a variety of habitats and eats mostly fish for its diet. To assist the Osprey in finding appropriate nesting, humans have constructed large nesting platforms in the area.</p>
 <p>Purple Martin</p>	<p>The Purple Martin is the largest American swallow. Known for its aerial acrobatics, these birds display speed and agility in flight. The population suffered a crash in the 20<sup>th</sup> century; by the 1980's the bird had come close to disappearing. The colorful bird uses its speed and agility in flight while catching its prey. Its diet includes mostly winged insects.</p>
 <p>Belted Kingfisher</p>	<p>This stocky bird will measure between 11-14 inches in length and have a wingspan of 19-23 inches. The Belted Kingfisher stands out with its shaggy grey/blue crested head. The Kingfisher displays an entertaining method of feeding in that it will dive head first into the water after its fish prey. The bird will nest on inland bodies of water (i.e. Government Island), and will migrate to the southern United States and the West Indies.</p>
 <p>Chimney Swift</p>	<p>The Chimney Swift is slender and long, and is often confused with the swallow. A bird that enjoys the company of others, you will rarely see Chimney Swifts alone. Like all swifts, the bird is a superb aerialist and is constantly active.</p>



Cormorant



Goldeneye Duck



Bufflehead Duck



Great Blue Heron



Pied-Billed Grebe