

# Thatcher Pond Population Survey



Located in River Forest, this pond is adjacent to the Hal Tyrrell Trailside Museum of Natural History. Parking and access to Thatcher Pond is from the Nature Centers parking lot located off of Chicago Avenue just west of Thatcher Avenue. This 1.5-acre pond is an old oxbow of the Des Plaines River and is prone to flooding. Its fish population is heavily influenced by the river.

## Fish Population Survey

Fish population surveys are periodically conducted on Forest Preserves lakes in order to assess the health of the lake and the fish population in it. Surveys last anywhere from a few hours to a few days depending on the size of the lake.

Water samples are collected and analyzed for each survey. The information collected over the years will show trends to the lakes health. If any unusual readings are found, further tests may be done or the Illinois DNR and EPA may be asked to investigate.

Fish are collected during surveys to assess the health of the population. Several methods are used to collect fish, these include experimental gill nets, Fyke or trap nets and the use of an electro-fishing boat. All fish collected are measured, weighed and a scale sample is collected when applicable. These scale samples are used to age the fish. All fish are then returned to the lake when possible.

The information listed below was collected during the most recent survey. It is only a snapshot in time. Many factors such as temperature, wind, rain and even moon light can affect the species and number of fish that are collected. The Forest Preserves' Fisheries Section looks at data from many years when assessing a lake's fish population and assumptions from just one year of data therefore should not be made.

The dates of the survey along with the type of equipment used and the length of time it was fished is listed below. The "Total Population" tables & charts show all species collected and includes not only game fish but also forage fish. A healthy balanced population of forage fish and predatory (game) fish is needed in order to support a healthy overall fish population. Ideally, 30 to 40% of a lakes total fish population should be made up of forage fish in order to support a healthy predatory fish population. The species of forage fish varies from lake to lake, gizzard shad may be the main forage fish in one lake, while bluegill/sunfish may be the main forage fish in another

Individual species tables are included only for the game fish that were collected. Game fish are those fish most sought after by anglers.

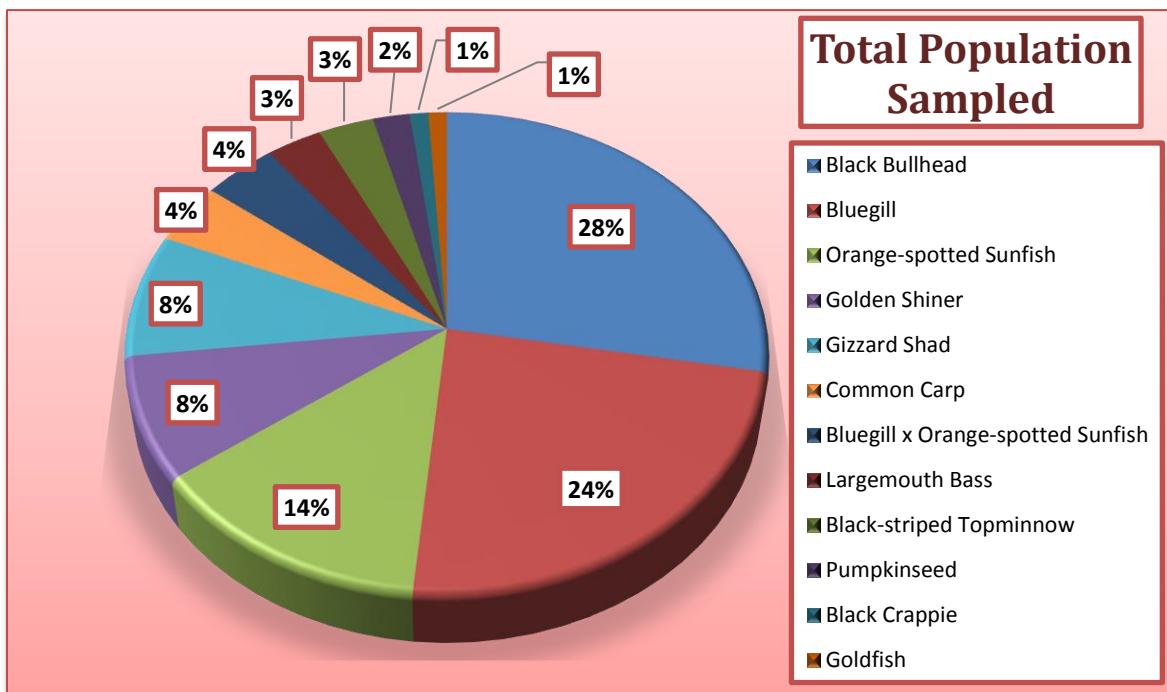
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Date of survey: July 6, 2017  
 Electro-fishing time: 20 minutes  
 Fyke nets fished: 0 hours  
 0 feet of gill nets fished: 0 hours

## Total Population

| Species                                  | Number    | Percent        |
|--|-----------|----------------|
| Black Bullhead                           | 27        | 27.84%         |
| Bluegill                                 | 23        | 23.71%         |
| Orange-spotted Sunfish                   | 13        | 13.41%         |
| Golden Shiner                            | 8         | 8.25%          |
| Gizzard Shad                             | 8         | 8.25%          |
| Common Carp                              | 4         | 4.12%          |
| Bluegill x Orange-spotted Sunfish Hybrid | 4         | 4.12%          |
| Largemouth Bass                          | 3         | 3.09%          |
| Black-striped Top-minnow                 | 3         | 3.09%          |
| Pumpkinseed                              | 2         | 2.06%          |
| Black Crappie                            | 1         | 1.03%          |
| Goldfish                                 | 1         | 1.03%          |
| <b>Total</b>                             | <b>97</b> | <b>100.00%</b> |



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## Black Bullhead

| 1/2-Inch Group | Number Collected | % of Population | Average Weight lbs | Age |
|----------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----|
| 3.0            | 1                | 3.70%           | 0.02               | NA  |
| 3.5            | 5                | 18.52%          | 0.02               | NA  |
| 4.0            | 1                | 3.70%           | 0.04               | NA  |
| 4.5            | 1                | 3.70%           | 0.04               | NA  |
| 5.0            | 3                | 11.11%          | 0.07               | NA  |
| 5.5            | 3                | 11.11%          | 0.10               | NA  |
| 6.0            | 5                | 18.52%          | 0.11               | NA  |
| 6.5            | 4                | 14.82%          | 0.14               | NA  |
| 7.0            | 4                | 14.82%          | 0.19               | NA  |
| <b>Totals</b>  | <b>27</b>        | <b>100.00%</b>  |                    |     |

## Bluegill

| 1/2-Inch Group | Number Collected | % of Population | Average Weight lbs | Age |
|----------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----|
| 2.5            | 1                | 4.35%           | 0.01               | 1+  |
| 3.0            | 10               | 43.47%          | 0.02               | 1+  |
| 3.5            | 7                | 30.43%          | 0.04               | 1+  |
| 4.0            | 1                | 4.35%           | 0.05               | 1+  |
| 4.5            | 2                | 8.70%           | 0.08               | 2+  |
| 5.0            | 2                | 8.70%           | 0.11               | 2+  |
| <b>Totals</b>  | <b>23</b>        | <b>100.00%</b>  |                    |     |

## Orange-spotted Sunfish

| 1/2-Inch Group | Number Collected | % of Population | Average Weight lbs | Age |
|----------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----|
| 2.5            | 2                | 15.38%          | 0.02               | 0+  |
| 3.0            | 10               | 76.93%          | 0.03               | 1+  |
| 3.5            | 1                | 7.69%           | 0.04               | 1+  |
| <b>Totals</b>  | <b>13</b>        | <b>100.00%</b>  |                    |     |

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## Common Carp

| 1/2-Inch Group | Number Collected | % of Population | Average Weight lbs | Age |
|----------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----|
| 11.0           | 2                | 50.00%          | 0.81               | 2+  |
| -              | -                | -               | -                  | -   |
| 12.0           | 1                | 25.00%          | 0.96               | 2+  |
| -              | -                | -               | -                  | -   |
| 21.0           | 1                | 25.00%          | 5.52               | 3+  |
| <b>Totals</b>  | <b>4</b>         | <b>100.00%</b>  |                    |     |

## Largemouth Bass

| 1/2-Inch Group | Number Collected | % of Population | Average Weight lbs | Age |
|----------------|------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----|
| 4.5            | 1                | 33.33%          | 0.04               | 1+  |
| 5.0            | 1                | 33.33%          | 0.06               | 1+  |
| -              | -                | -               | -                  | -   |
| 8.0            | 1                | 33.33%          | 0.31               | 2+  |
| <b>Totals</b>  | <b>3</b>         | <b>99.99%</b>   |                    |     |

## Other Species collected

| Species       | Number | Length    | Weight      | Age |
|---------------|--------|-----------|-------------|-----|
| Pumpkinseed   | 2      | 3.0 – 3.5 | 0.03 – 0.04 | 1+  |
| Black Crappie | 1      | 6.5       | 0.13        | 2+  |