

Big Bend Lake Population Survey



Located in Des Plaines on East River Rd. just south of Golf Rd. This 27-acre body of water has a depth of 27.8 feet; however, because it is connected to the Des Plaines River by a spillway, water level can fluctuate dramatically during flood events. Species found in Big Bend Lake include largemouth bass, bluegill, pumpkinseed sunfish, bullheads, crappie and common carp. Because of the connection to the river, channel catfish and northern pike may occasionally be caught. A boat launch can be found at the end of the parking lot. For acceptable watercraft and general boating regulations see the District's Fishing Guide. Designated ice fishing lake.

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.

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.

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

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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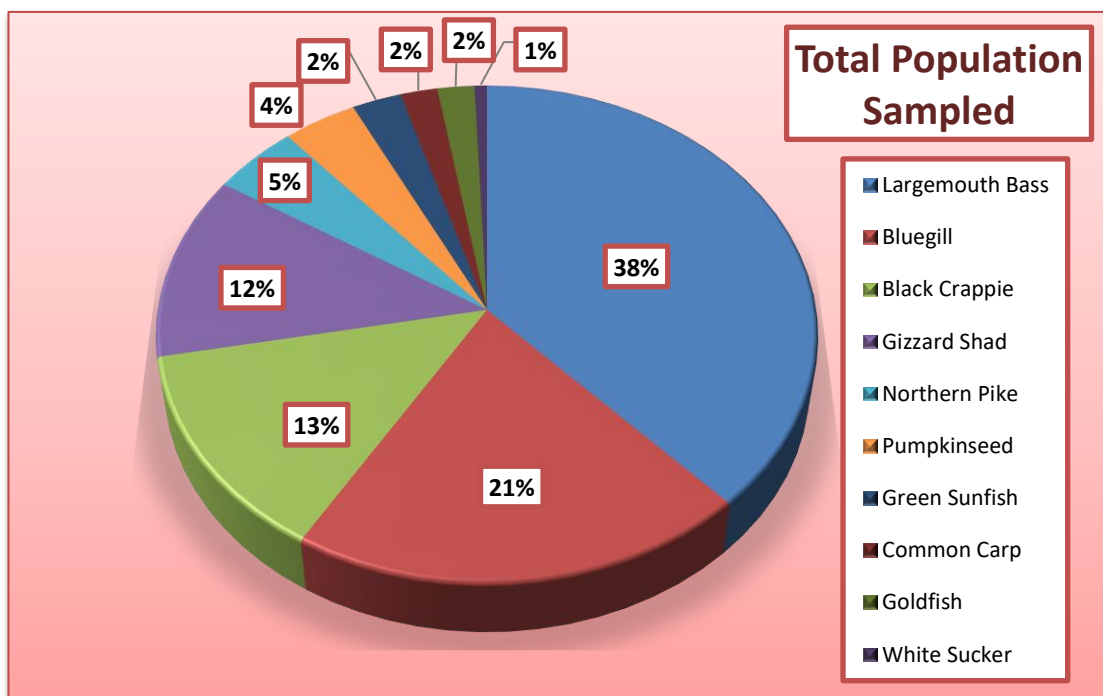


Date of survey: August 24-26, 2020
Electro-fishing time: 30 minutes
4 Fyke nets fished: 24 hours*
0 feet of gill nets fished: 0 hours

Total Population

Species	Number	Percent
Largemouth Bass	57	38.00%
Bluegill	31	20.67%
Black Crappie	20	13.33%
Gizzard Shad	18	12.00%
Northern Pike	7	4.67%
Pumpkinseed	6	4.00%
Green Sunfish	4	2.67%
Common Carp	3	2.00%
Goldfish	3	2.00%
White Sucker	1	0.67%
Total	150	100.01%

* Three Fyke nets were fished for twenty-four hours, the fourth Fyke net was pulled from the water by a member of the public.



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Largemouth Bass

1/2-Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs.	Age
2.5	1	1.75%	0.01	0+
-	-	-	-	-
3.5	1	1.75%	0.04	0+
4.0	3	5.26%	0.04	0+
4.5	10	17.54%	0.04	0+
5.0	13	22.81%	0.07	0+
5.5	4	7.02%	0.08	0+
-	-	-	-	-
7.0	1	1.75%	0.20	1+
7.5	2	3.51%	0.25	1+
8.0	2	3.51%	0.28	1+
8.5	4	7.02%	0.32	1+
9.0	4	7.02%	0.38	1-2+
9.5	2	3.51%	0.52	2+
-	-	-	-	-
10.5	2	3.51%	0.66	2+
11.0	1	1.75%	0.71	3+
11.5	2	3.51%	0.92	3+
-	-	-	-	-
13.0	2	3.51%	1.22	3+
13.5	1	1.75%	1.21	4+
-	-	-	-	-
14.5	1	1.75%	1.77	4+
-	-	-	-	-
17.0	1	1.75%	2.39	5+
Totals	57	99.98%		

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Bluegill

1/2-Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs.	Age
2.5	2	6.45%	0.01	0+
3.0	9	29.03%	0.02	1+
3.5	4	12.90%	0.04	1+
4.0	4	12.90%	0.05	2+
4.5	4	12.90%	0.06	2+
5.0	5	16.13%	0.11	2+
-	-	-	-	-
6.5	2	6.45%	0.24	3-4+
-	-	-	-	-
8.5	1	3.23%	0.50	5+
Totals	31	100.00%		

Black Crappie

1/2-Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs.	Age
6.0	4	20.00%	0.14	1+
6.5	5	25.00%	0.17	1-2+
7.0	4	20.00%	0.20	2+
-	-	-	-	-
8.0	2	10.00%	0.31	2+
8.5	1	5.00%	0.35	2+
9.0	1	5.00%	0.49	3+
9.5	1	5.00%	0.50	3+
-	-	-	-	-
10.5	1	5.00%	0.65	4+
-	-	-	-	-
12.0	1	5.00%	1.07	5+
Totals	20	100.00%		

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Northern Pike

1/2-Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs.	Age
22.0	3	42.86%	2.03	2+
-	-	-	-	-
23.5	1	14.29%	2.41	2+
-	-	-	-	-
24.5	1	14.29%	2.80	3+
25.0	1	14.29%	2.96	3+
-	-	-	-	-
28.5	1	14.29%	4.62	4+
Totals	7	100.02%		

Pumpkinseed

1/2-Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs.	Age
2.5	1	16.67%	0.007	0+
3.0	2	33.33%	0.02	1+
-	-	-	-	-
4.0	1	16.67%	0.05	1+
4.5	1	16.67%	0.08	1+
5.0	1	16.67%	0.12	2+
Totals	6	100.01%		

Green Sunfish

1/2-Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs.	Age
4.0	2	50.00%	0.06	1-2+
-	-	-	-	-
5.0	2	50.00%	0.13	2+
Totals	4	100.00%		

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Common Carp

1/2-Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs.	Age
22.0	1	33.33%	6.08	4+
-	-	-	-	-
23.0	1	33.33%	5.93	4+
-	-	-	-	-
25.0	1	33.33	7.70	6+
Totals	3	99.99%		

Goldfish

1/2-Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs.	Age
9.0	1	33.33%	0.58	1+
9.5	1	33.33%	0.72	1+
-	-	-	-	-
10.5	1	33.33%	1.16	2+
Totals	3	99.99%		