



Arrowhead Lake Population Survey

Located in Palos Heights at 135th St, east of Harlem Ave. Arrowhead Lake is a 13-acre body of water with a maximum depth of 12.6 feet. Fish species found in this lake include Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, Green Sunfish, Channel Catfish and crappie. Three bump-outs are located off the parking lot that allows fishermen to access deeper water. Designated ice fishing lake.

Fish Population Survey

Fish population surveys are periodically conducted on Forest Preserves lakes in order to assess the overall health of the lake and the fish population within 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. Water samples are collected and analyzed for each survey.

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.

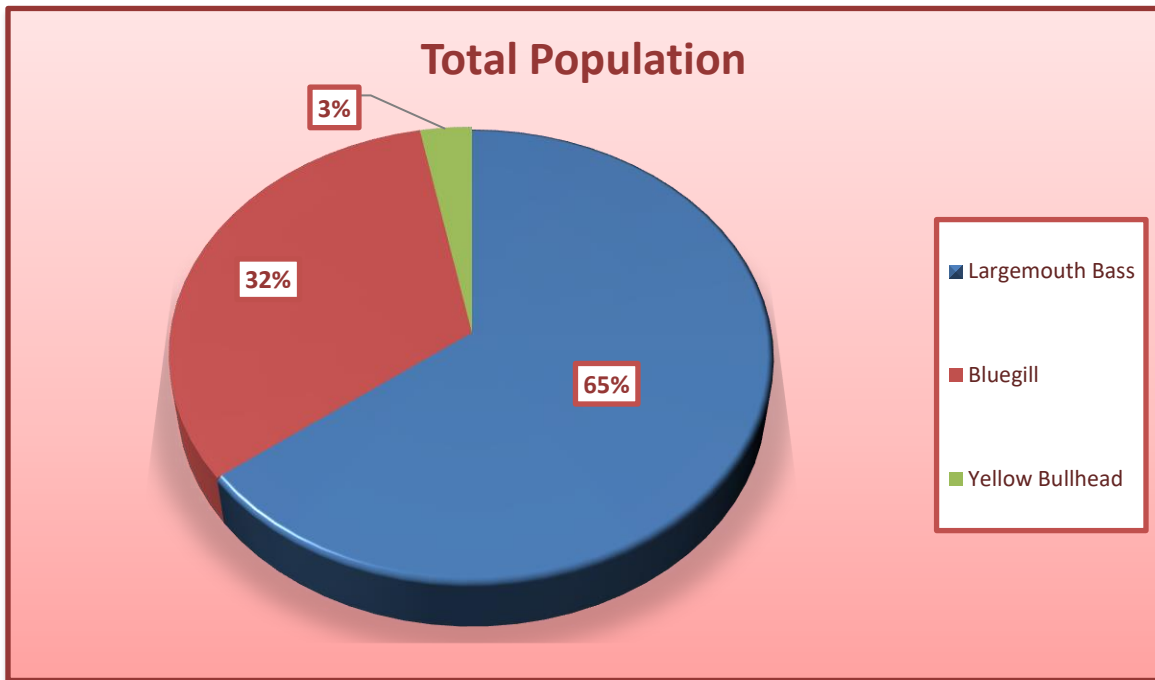
Arrowhead Lake Population Survey



Date of survey: July 21, 2022
Electro-fishing time: 25 minutes
Fyke nets fished: 0 hours
0 feet of gill nets fished: 0 hours

Total Population Sampled

Species	Number	Percent
Largemouth Bass	64	64.65%
Bluegill	32	32.32%
Yellow Bass	3	3.03%
Total	99	100.00%



Arrowhead Lake Population Survey



Largemouth Bass

1/2-Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs.	Age
2.5	1	1.56%	0.01	0+
-	-	-	-	-
5.0	1	1.56%	0.06	0+
5.5	1	1.56%	0.09	1+
-	-	-	-	-
6.5	1	1.56%	0.14	1+
-	-	-	-	-
8.0	1	1.56%	0.25	2+
8.5	1	1.56%	0.30	2+
9.0	3	4.69%	0.36	2+
-	-	-	-	-
10.0	1	1.56%	0.39	2+
10.5	2	3.13%	0.52	2+
11.0	11	17.19%	0.59	2-3+
11.5	7	10.94%	0.69	2-3+
12.0	10	15.63%	0.82	2-3+
12.5	7	10.94%	0.96	3+
13.0	3	4.69%	1.02	3+
13.5	5	7.81%	1.27	3-4+
14.0	3	4.69%	1.28	4+
14.5	1	1.56%	1.30	4+
15.0	1	1.56%	1.73	5+
15.5	1	1.56%	1.71	5+
16.0	1	1.56%	2.06	5+
-	-	-	-	-
17.0	1	1.56%	2.48	5+
-	-	-	-	-
18.0	1	1.56%	3.34	6+
Totals	64	99.99%		

Arrowhead Lake Population Survey



Bluegill

1/2-Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs.	Age
2.0	2	6.25%	0.009	0+
-	-	-	-	-
3.0	9	28.13%	0.02	0-1+
3.5	6	18.75%	0.04	1+
-	-	-	-	-
4.5	2	6.25%	0.06	1+
5.0	2	6.25%	0.09	2+
5.5	1	3.13%	0.14	2+
-	-	-	-	-
6.5	8	25.00%	0.21	3+
-	-	-	-	-
7.5	2	6.25%	0.35	4+
Totals	32	100.01%		

Yellow Bullhead

1/2-Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs.	Age
9.0	2	75.00%	0.39	NA
-	-	-	-	-
10.0	1	25.00%	0.49	NA
Totals	3	100.00%		

Stocking

The Forest Preserves of Cook County works closely with the Illinois Department of Natural Resources to stock fishes within the Forest Preserves lakes. The decision to stock fish and the number of fish stocked is based on many factors including but not limited to type of species, size of fish stocked, size of the lake and type of stocking. The Forest Preserves of Cook County must follow State of Illinois regulation regarding the introduction and stocking of fish. All requests to stock a new species into a District lake must go through the State's Management Recommendation Committee.



Arrowhead Lake Population Survey

Most stocking fall under one of three categories, introduction, supplemental and put-and-take. Introduction stockings are the introduction of a new species within an existing lake or the stocking of a new body of water. Supplemental stockings are the stocking of species already in a lake and are used to supplement a species that may not successively reproduce on its own or has been over fished. Fish stocked in a put-and-take stocking are catchable size fish.

Size of Fish Stocked

Most of the fish stocked in the lakes of the Forest Preserves of Cook County are young-of-the-year and are provided by the IDNR Hatcheries. Fish from the hatcheries are stocked upon availability and are funded by your fishing licenses.

Bluegill are stocked at 1/2 to 3/4-inch.

Species	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Bluegill	-	-	15,000	-	-

Population Overview

The population of Arrowhead Lake is predominately made up of Largemouth Bass and Bluegill. There is a small population of bullhead with both Yellow Bullhead and Black Bullhead being collected in past years. Fifteen thousand Channel Catfish were stocked in 2020 but none were collected in this year's survey. Catfish are difficult to collect electro-shocking and since no gill nets or fyke (trap) nets were used this year, the lack of catfish in the survey is not surprising. While Largemouth Bass was the most abundant species collected, Bluegill most likely is the most abundant species in this lake. Hundreds of young-of-year (YOY) along with other age classes of Bluegill were observed in the weeds and shallows that were not collected indicating a larger population than what is indicated by the sample collected. Likewise, dozens of YOY Largemouth Bass were also observed in the weeds that were not collected. The young of both these species indicates good reproduction and a balanced predator – prey population exists between these two species.

The Largemouth Bass population looks to be very healthy with fish ranging from 2.5-inches to 18-inches being collected representing several year classes. Of the 64 bass collected, nine were at or above the legal size-limit of 14-inches with the largest bass collected being 18.19-inches and weighing 3.34 pounds.

As mentioned above, hundreds of YOY Bluegill observed but not collected. This population is very healthy with hundreds of YOY fish and adults up to 7.5-inches. Over 40% of the Bluegill collected were over 5-inches with ten of these being over 6.5-inches. The largest Bluegill collected was 7.76-inches and weighed a third of a pound.

Arrowhead Lake Population Survey



The remaining fish population of Arrowhead Lake is made up of bullhead, Channel Catfish, and the occasional crappie. These species can be difficult to collect while electro-fishing and are most likely larger than indicated in this year's survey. Overall, Arrowhead appears to be a great little bass and bluegill lake to bring the kids out for a day of fishing.