



Ida Lake Population Survey

Ida Lake is located in Countryside on the west side of Lagrange Road (U.S.-45) and north of 67th Street. This small lake (9-acres) is home to Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, sunfish, and Channel Catfish. Black Crappie while few in number tend to be on the larger size. **Ice fishing is permitted at Ida Lake.** Remote-controlled power boats are permitted on this body of water.

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 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.

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.

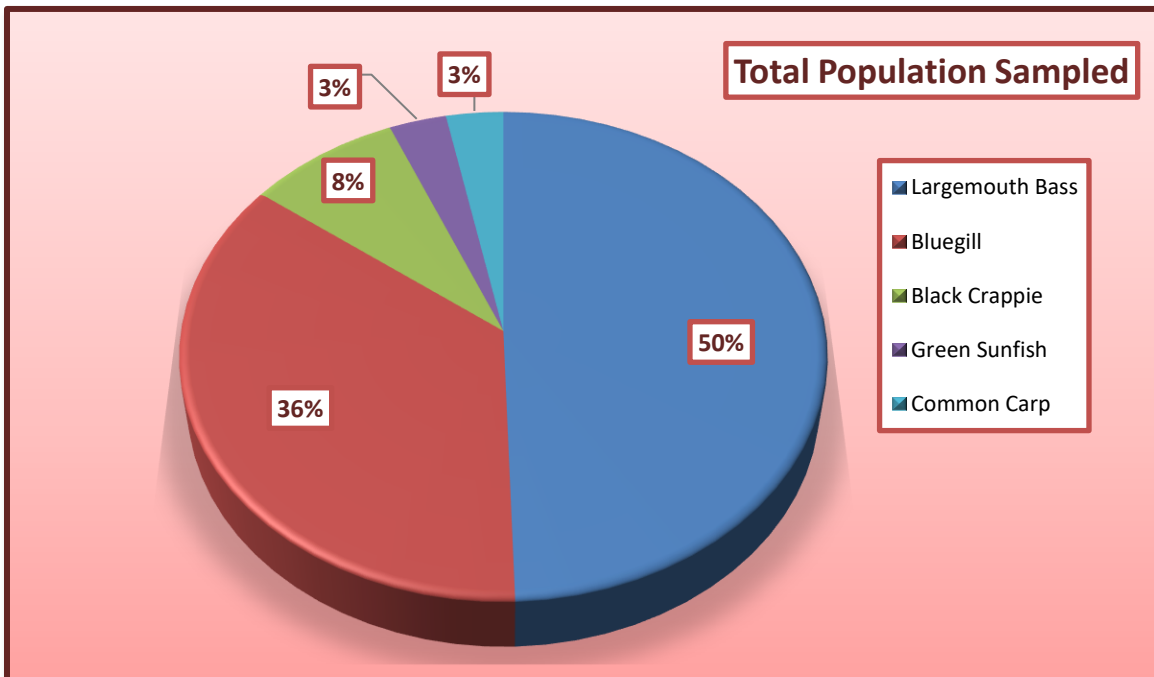
Ida Lake Population Survey



Date of survey: July 12, 2022
Electro-fishing time: 20 minutes
Fyke nets fished: 0 hours
0 feet of gill net fished: 0 hours

Total Population Sampled

Species	Number	Percent
Largemouth Bass	47	49.47%
Bluegill	34	35.79%
Black Crappie	8	8.42%
Green Sunfish	3	3.16%
Common Carp	3	3.16%
Total	95	100.00%



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Largemouth Bass

1/2-Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs.	Age
1.5	7	14.89%	0.002	0+
2.0	6	12.77%	0.002	0+
-	-	-	-	-
5.5	1	2.13%	0.10	1+
6.0	1	2.13%	0.08	1+
6.5	1	2.13%	0.13	1+
-	-	-	-	-
7.5	1	2.13%	0.20	1+
8.0	4	8.51%	0.23	1+
8.5	7	14.89%	0.27	1-2+
9.0	5	10.64%	0.31	2+
9.5	2	4.26%	0.42	2+
10.0	1	2.13%	0.47	2+
10.5	2	4.26%	0.56	2+
11.0	3	6.38%	0.68	3+
11.5	1	2.13%	0.71	3+
12.0	2	4.26%	0.79	3+
12.5	1	2.13%	1.25	3+
13.0	1	2.13%	1.06	3+
13.5	1	2.13%	1.16	3+
Totals	47	100.03%		

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Bluegill

1/2-Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs.	Age
1.5	1	2.94%	0.007	0+
2.0	1	2.94%	0.009	0+
2.5	1	2.94%	0.01	0+
3.0	1	2.94%	0.03	0+
-	-	-	-	-
4.0	4	11.76%	0.05	1+
-	-	-	-	-
5.0	11	32.35%	0.10	1-2+
5.5	3	8.82%	0.13	1+
6.0	4	11.76%	0.16	2+
6.5	7	20.59%	0.19	2+
7.0	1	2.94%	0.24	3+
Totals	34	99.98%		

Black Crappie

1/2-Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs.	Age
8.0	2	25.00%	0.28	3+
8.5	2	25.00%	0.32	3+
9.0	3	37.50%	0.35	3+
9.5	1	12.50%	0.47	3+
Totals	8	100.00%		

Green Sunfish

1/2-Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs.	Age
3.0	1	33.33%	0.02	1+
3.5	2	66.66%	0.03	1+
Totals	3	99.99%		

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Common Carp

1/2-Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs.	Age
27.7	1	33.33%	10.08	8+
-	-	-	-	-
33.5	1	33.33%	23.77	9+
-	-	-	-	-
35.5	1	33.33%	22.22	9+
Totals	3	99.99%		

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.

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.

Channel Catfish are stocked at around 6-inches in most lakes.

Species	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
Channel Catfish	2,009	-	-	-	-
Bluegill	-	-	30,000	-	-

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Population Overview

Ida Lake is your typical bass–bluegill lake where there is a healthy population of both species. The Bluegill and other sunfish species support a healthy Largemouth Bass population while the bass help keep the sunfish population in check.

Largemouth Bass were collected from a wide range of age classes, ranging from young-of-year (YOY) fish up to three and four year old fish. While no bass were collected that were above the legal size limit of 14.0-inch, we know from fishing reports that they are out there. Due to the time of day and higher temperatures these larger fish are most likely in deeper water where we cannot reach them with our electro-fishing equipment. Hundreds of YOY bass and several larger fish were observed but not collected. These fish were either in the weeds along the shore or too deep.

The Bluegills collected also ranged from YOY fish up to 5+ years. Of the 34 bluegill collected during our 20-minute electro-fishing survey twelve were 6-inches or above. The largest Bluegill collected was slightly over 7-inches and weighed a little over a quarter of a pound. Hundreds of Bluegill in all age classes were seen but not collected indicating that this population is doing quite well.

Only eight Black Crappie were collected in our survey. This population has never been very big but crappie over 14-inches have been caught in the past. Adding crappie is not advised as this species can easily get out of hand and take over the fishery resulting in large numbers of stunted fish.

With its healthy Bass & Bluegill population Ida Lake is an ideal lake to bring the kids out to and introduce them to the art of angling.