



## Midlothian Reservoir Population Survey

Located in Oak Forest on the northwest corner of 167<sup>th</sup> St. and Cicero Ave. Known to locals as “Twin Lakes” with a combined acreage of 35 acres. The east pond is 16 acres with a depth of 10.7 feet and the larger west pond at 19 acres as a depth of 8.9 feet. These ponds were constructed as a storm water retention pond during flood events so water depth can fluctuate dramatically. Species found here include Largemouth Bass, Channel Catfish, Bluegill, sunfish, bullhead, crappie, and Common Carp. 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.

# Midlothian Reservoir Population Survey



## Midlothian Reservoir – East Pond

**Date of survey: September 13 & 15, 2022**

**Electro-fishing time: 45 minutes**

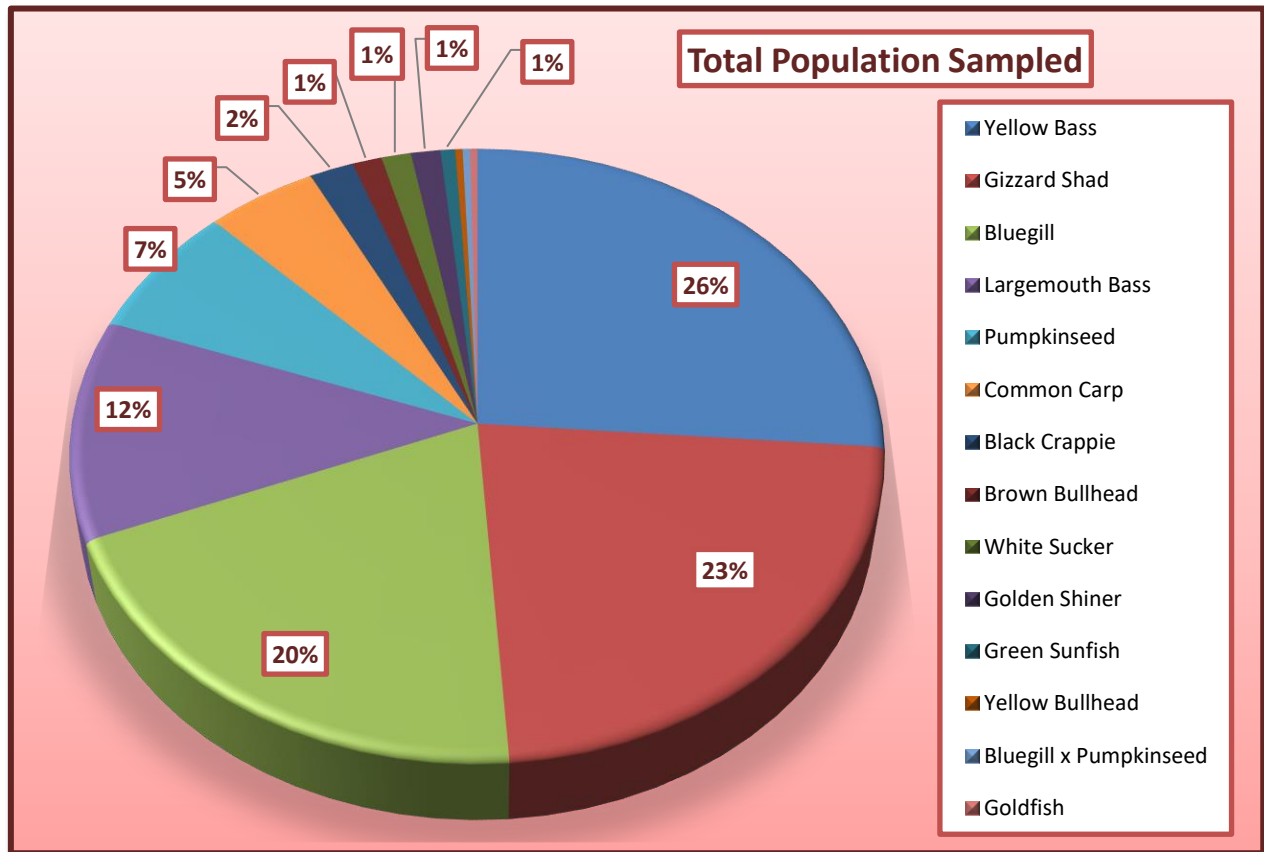
**0 Fyke nets fished: 0 hours**

**0 feet of gill net fished: hours**

### **Total Population Sampled**

<b>Species</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Yellow Bass	81	26.21%
Gizzard Shad	70	22.65%
Bluegill	62	20.06%
Largemouth Bass	36	11.65%
Pumpkinseed	22	7.12%
Common Carp	15	4.85%
Black Crappie	6	1.94%
Brown Bullhead	4	1.29%
White Sucker	4	1.29%
Golden Shiner	4	1.29%
Green Sunfish	2	0.65%
Yellow Bullhead	1	0.32%
Bluegill x Pumpkinseed Hybrid	1	0.32%
Goldfish	1	0.32%
<b>Total</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>99.96%</b>

# Midlothian Reservoir Population Survey



# Midlothian Reservoir Population Survey



## Yellow Bass

1/2-Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs.	Age
2.0	1	1.23%	0.004	0+
2.5	5	6.17%	0.007	0+
3.0	7	8.64%	0.01	0+
-	-	-	-	-
4.0	1	1.23%	0.04	1+
4.5	12	14.81%	0.04	1+
5.0	44	54.32%	0.06	1+
5.5	1	1.23%	0.07	1+
6.0	4	4.94%	0.11	2+
6.5	6	7.41%	0.14	2+
<b>Totals</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>99.98%</b>		

## Bluegill

1/2-Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs.	Age
1.5	3	4.84%	0.002	0+
2.0	13	20.97%	0.003	0+
-	-	-	-	-
3.0	3	4.84%	0.03	1+
3.5	3	4.84%	0.03	1+
4.0	10	16.13%	0.06	2+
4.5	9	14.52%	0.06	2+
5.0	19	30.65%	0.08	2+
5.5	1	1.61%	0.12	3+
6.0	1	1.61%	0.16	3+
<b>Totals</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>100.01%</b>		

# Midlothian Reservoir Population Survey



## Largemouth Bass

1/2-Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs.	Age
2.5	1	2.78%	0.004	0+
3.0	1	2.78%	0.01	0+
3.5	1	2.78%	0.02	0+
4.0	1	2.78%	0.02	0+
-	-	-	-	-
6.5	2	5.56%	0.13	1+
-	-	-	-	-
7.5	1	2.78%	0.18	1+
8.0	1	2.78%	0.21	1+
-	-	-	-	-
9.0	1	2.78%	0.36	2+
-	-	-	-	-
10.0	1	2.78%	0.49	2+
-	-	-	-	-
11.0	6	16.66%	0.66	2+
11.5	2	5.56%	0.73	2+
12.0	3	8.33%	0.92	2-3+
12.5	2	5.56%	1.09	3+
13.0	2	5.56%	1.12	3+
13.5	1	2.78%	1.20	3+
14.0	1	2.78%	1.55	3+
-	-	-	-	-
15.0	1	2.78%	2.35	4+
15.5	1	2.78%	2.89	4+
16.0	4	11.11%	2.34	4-5+
-	-	-	-	-
20.0	3	8.33%	4.75	5-6+
<b>Totals</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>100.03%</b>		

# Midlothian Reservoir Population Survey



## Pumpkinseed

1/2-Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs.	Age
3.0	3	13.64%	0.03	1+
3.5	4	18.18%	0.05	1+
4.0	11	50.00%	0.06	1+
4.5	3	13.64%	0.06	2+
5.0	1	4.55%	0.08	2+
<b>Totals</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>100.01%</b>		

## Common Carp

1/2-Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs.	Age
7.5	1	6.67%	0.34	1+
-	-	-	-	-
13.0	1	6.67%	1.08	2+
-	-	-	-	-
17.0	3	20.00%	2.52	3+
17.5	1	6.67%	2.84	3+
18.0	3	20.00%	2.69	3-4+
-	-	-	-	-
19.0	1	6.67%	3.28	4+
19.5	1	6.67%	3.68	4+
-	-	-	-	-
21.0	1	6.67%	3.85	4+
-	-	-	-	-
22.0	1	6.67%	4.98	5+
22.5	1	6.67%	4.73	5+
-	-	-	-	-
23.5	1	6.67%	6.54	5+
<b>Totals</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>100.03%</b>		

# Midlothian Reservoir Population Survey



## Black Crappie

1/2-Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs.	Age
5.5	1	25.00%	0.10	1+
-	-	-	-	-
7.5	1	25.00%	0.16	2+
-	-	-	-	-
8.5		%		2+
-	-	-	-	-
10.5		%		4+
11.0		%		4+
<b>Totals</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>100.00%</b>		

## Brown Bullhead

1/2-Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs.	Age
9.0	1	25.00%	0.27	NA
9.5	1	25.00%	0.42	NA
10.0	1	25.00%	0.43	NA
10.5	1	25.00%	0.46	NA
<b>Totals</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>100.00%</b>		

## Other Species Collected

Species	Number	Length	Weight	Age
Green Sunfish	2	2.0 – 2.5	0.004-0.006	1+
Yellow Bullhead	1	9.0	0.48	NA
Bluegill x Pumpkinseed Hybrid	1	5.0	0.10	1+
Goldfish	1	11.0	1.07	2+

# Midlothian Reservoir Population Survey



## Midlothian Reservoir – West Pond

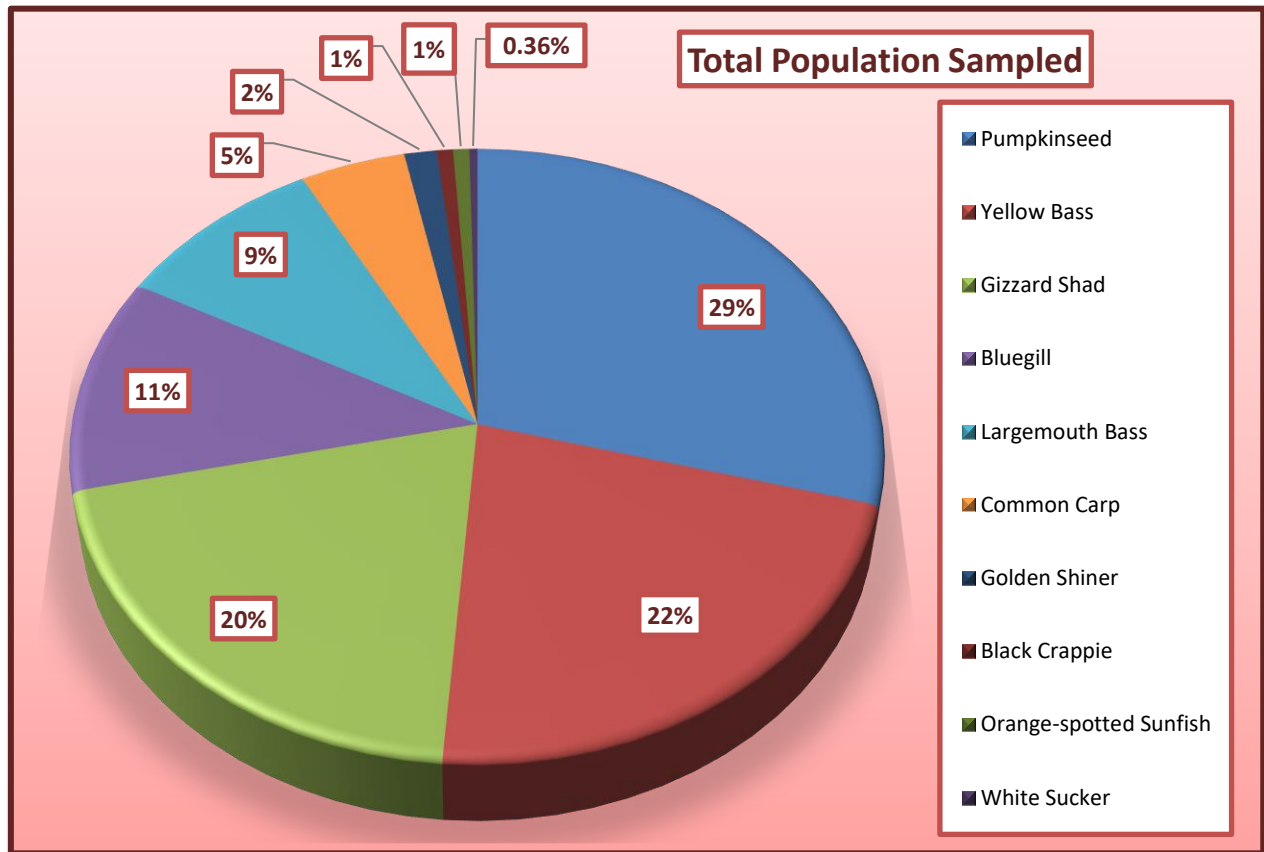
**Date of survey: September 14, 2022**  
**Electro-fishing time: 30 minutes**  
**0 Fyke nets fished: 0 hours**  
**250 feet of gill net fished: 4 hours**

### Total Population Sampled

<b>Species</b>	<b>Number</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Pumpkinseed	82	29.18%
Yellow Bass	62	22.06%
Gizzard Shad	57	20.28%
Bluegill	32	11.39%
Largemouth Bass	26	9.25%
Common Carp	13	4.63%
Golden Shiner	4	1.42%
Black Crappie	2	0.71%
Orange-spotted Sunfish	2	0.71%
White Sucker	1	0.36%
<b>Total</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>99.99%</b>



# Midlothian Reservoir Population Survey



## Pumpkinseed

1/2-Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs.	Age
2.0	1	1.22%	0.007	0+
2.5	1	1.22%	0.009	0+
3.0	27	32.93%	0.02	1+
3.5	13	15.85%	0.04	1+
4.0	35	42.68%	0.05	1+
4.5	4	4.88%	0.07	1-2+
5.0	1	1.22%	0.10	2+
<b>Totals</b>	<b>82</b>	<b>100.00%</b>		

# Midlothian Reservoir Population Survey



## Yellow Bass

1/2-Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs.	Age
2.5	25	40.32%	0.004	0+
3.0	35	56.46%	0.01	0+
-	-	-	-	-
4.5	1	1.61%	0.04	1+
5.0	1	1.61%	0.06	1+
<b>Totals</b>	<b>62</b>	<b>100.00%</b>		

## Bluegill

1/2-Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs.	Age
1.5	8	25.00%	0.004	0+
2.0	8	25.00%	0.005	0+
-	-	-	-	-
3.0	6	18.75%	0.02	1+
3.5	2	6.25%	0.03	1+
4.0	1	3.13%	0.05	1+
4.5	5	15.63%	0.06	2+
5.0	2	6.25%	0.11	2-3+
<b>Totals</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>100.01%</b>		

# Midlothian Reservoir Population Survey



## Largemouth Bass

1/2-Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs.	Age
2.0	6	23.08%	0.003	0+
2.5	1	3.85%	0.006	0+
3.0	1	3.85%	0.02	0+
-	-	-	-	-
5.0	1	3.85%	0.07	0+
-	-	-	-	-
7.5	3	11.54%	0.21	1+
-	-	-	-	-
8.5	1	3.85%	0.29	1+
9.0	3	11.54%	0.38	1+
9.5	1	3.85%	0.45	1+
-	-	-	-	-
10.5	1	3.85%	0.55	2+
-	-	-	-	-
12.0	2	7.69%	1.06	2-3+
12.5	1	3.85%	1.25	3+
13.0	1	3.85%	1.21	3+
13.5	1	3.85%	1.47	3+
14.0	1	3.85%	1.69	4+
-	-	-	-	-
15.5	2	7.69%	2.14	4+
<b>Totals</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>100.04%</b>		

# Midlothian Reservoir Population Survey



## Common Carp

1/2-Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs.	Age
17.0	1	7.69%	2.76	4+
-	-	-	-	-
18.0	1	7.69%	3.00	4+
18.5	1	7.69%	3.11	4+
19.0	1	7.69%	3.44	4+
-	-	-	-	-
20.5	2	15.38%	4.25	5+
-	-	-	-	-
22.5	1	7.69%	5.06	5+
23.0	2	15.38%	5.81	5+
-	-	-	-	-
24.0	2	15.38%	7.40	6+
-	-	-	-	-
25.0	2	15.38%	8.08	6-7+
<b>Totals</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>99.97%</b>		

## Other Species Collected

Species	Number	Length	Weight	Age
Black Crappie	2	7.5 – 8.0	0.22-0.26	3+
Orange-spotted Sunfish	2	3.0 – 3.5	0.02 – 0.03	1+
White Sucker	1	13.0	0.74	3+

# Midlothian Reservoir Population Survey



## Population Survey Overview

When we tell people to fish Midlothian Reservoir for Largemouth Bass, they look at us like we have two heads! Midlothian Reservoir or Twin Lakes as the locals call it, are two water retention ponds used to house flood water during storms. The water level can fluctuate dramatically during heavy storms and there is little vegetation or natural habitat. But the fact remains that this water body has over the years, consistently produced good numbers of large bass.

Yellow Bass, Gizzard Shad, and Bluegill make up almost 70% of the total fish population that we sampled. The Yellow Bass or stripers as some call them, is related to White and Striped Bass. This scrappy little fish can be fun to catch, and the larger ones will put up a good fight on light tackle. The Gizzard Shad and Bluegill make up the bulk of the forage fish that the Largemouth Bass feed on. Seventy shad were collected to represent a small section of this population. These filter feeders are soft bodied and can produce several million eggs over their 5 to 6-year average life span. The Bluegill sampled ranged in size from 1.5-inch up to 6-inches. Bluegill in the 5-inch range made up 30% of the Bluegill sampled.

As stated earlier, Midlothian Reservoir has consistently produced good numbers of large bass over the years. While nice bass are found in both pools, the eastern pool closest to Cicero Ave. seems to do a little better. We collected bass ranging from 2.5-inches all the way up to 20-inches. In fact, we collected three bass in the 20-inch range that averaged 4.75-lbs.

Unfortunately, due to the nature of these ponds as water retention basins, they are not the cleanest. There is a Fish Consumption Advisory for Common Carp at Midlothian Reservoir. For additional information on this advisory please visit [www.ifishillinois.org/regulations/consumption.html](http://www.ifishillinois.org/regulations/consumption.html)