

# Beverly Lake Population Survey



Located in Hoffman Estates on Higgins Rd west of Beverly Rd. Beverly Lake is a 16-acre body of water with a maximum depth of 7.2 feet. Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, and crappie can be found in this 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.

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 in 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 moonlight 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 lake's 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.

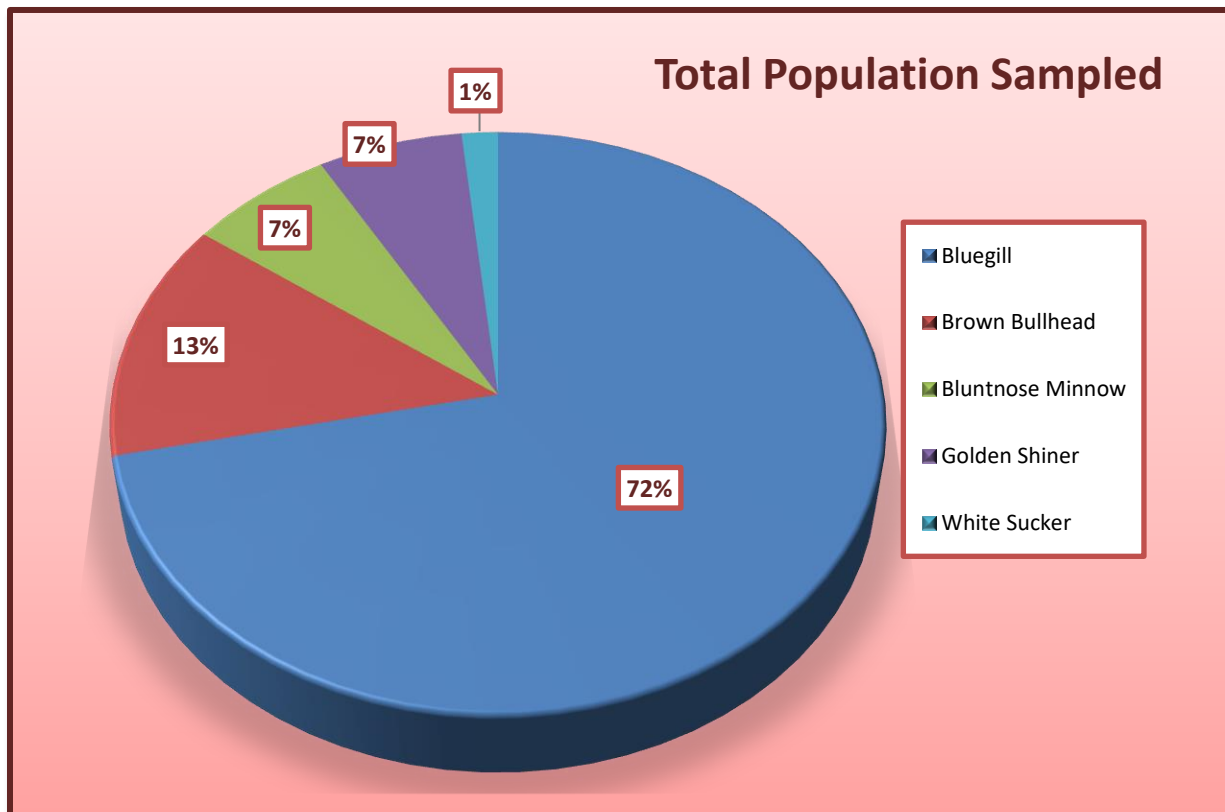
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Date of survey: July 22, 2022  
Electro-fishing time: 35 minutes  
0 Fyke nets fished: 0 hours  
0 feet experimental gill nets fished: 0 hours

## Total Population Sampled

Species	Number	Percent
Bluegill	86	71.67%
Brown Bullhead	16	13.33%
Bluntnose Minnows	8	6.67%
Golden Shiner	8	6.67%
White Sucker	2	1.67%
<b>Total</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>100.01%</b>



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## Bluegill

1/2-Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs.	Age
1.5	43	50.00%	0.004	0+
2.0	35	40.69%	0.01	0+
2.5	2	2.33%	0.01	0+
-	-	-	-	-
6.5	2	2.33%	0.33	3+
7.0	2	2.33%	0.34	3+
7.5	2	2.33%	0.36	3+
<b>Totals</b>	<b>86</b>	<b>100.01%</b>		

## Black Bullhead

1/2-Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs.	Age
3.0	3	18.75%	0.009	NA
-	-	-	-	-
5.0	5	31.25%	0.08	NA
5.5	1	6.25%	0.09	NA
6.0	2	12.50%	0.08	NA
6.5	4	25.00%	0.11	NA
-	-	-	-	-
8.5	1	6.25%	0.28	NA
<b>Totals</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>100.00%</b>		

## 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 overfished. Fish stocked in a put-and-take stocking are catchable size fish.

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## 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	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Bluegill	7,547	10,000	-	-	-
Largemouth Bass	-	-	-	-	106

## Fisheries Survey Overview

Several years ago, Beverly Lake suffered a major winter fish-kill. An effort is underway to rebuild the fish population and improve this lake from both an environmental and recreational aspect. However, a lot more work is needed before Beverly Lake has a viable fishery once again.

In order to rebuild the fish population, the stocking of Bluegill was carried out in 2018, 2019, and 2020. While only six adult fish were collected during our electro-fishing run, thousands of young-of-the-year and smaller fish were observed but not collected. This indicates that reproduction is occurring. This population of Bluegill along with Bluntnose Minnow and Black-striped Topminnow is a start of reestablishing a foundation for this fishery. The next step will be to start restocking Largemouth Bass to help control the Bluegill population and to establish a viable bass fishery.

Aquatic vegetation is a major issue at Beverly Lake and options on how best to manage the vegetation is being explored. Additionally, as part of an Eagle Scout project twelve artificial fish habitats were placed in Beverly Lake.