



## Rolling Knolls Pond Population Survey

Located near the town of Elgin on the west side of Rohrssen Rd. between Illinois Route 58 and U.S.-20. This small 1.8-acre pond has a maximum depth of 7.5 feet and is occasionally influenced by Poplar Creek. The fish population of Rolling Knolls Pond includes Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, sunfish, and crappie. **Detailed depth maps for this newly acquired pond are not available at this time.**

### 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 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.

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 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.

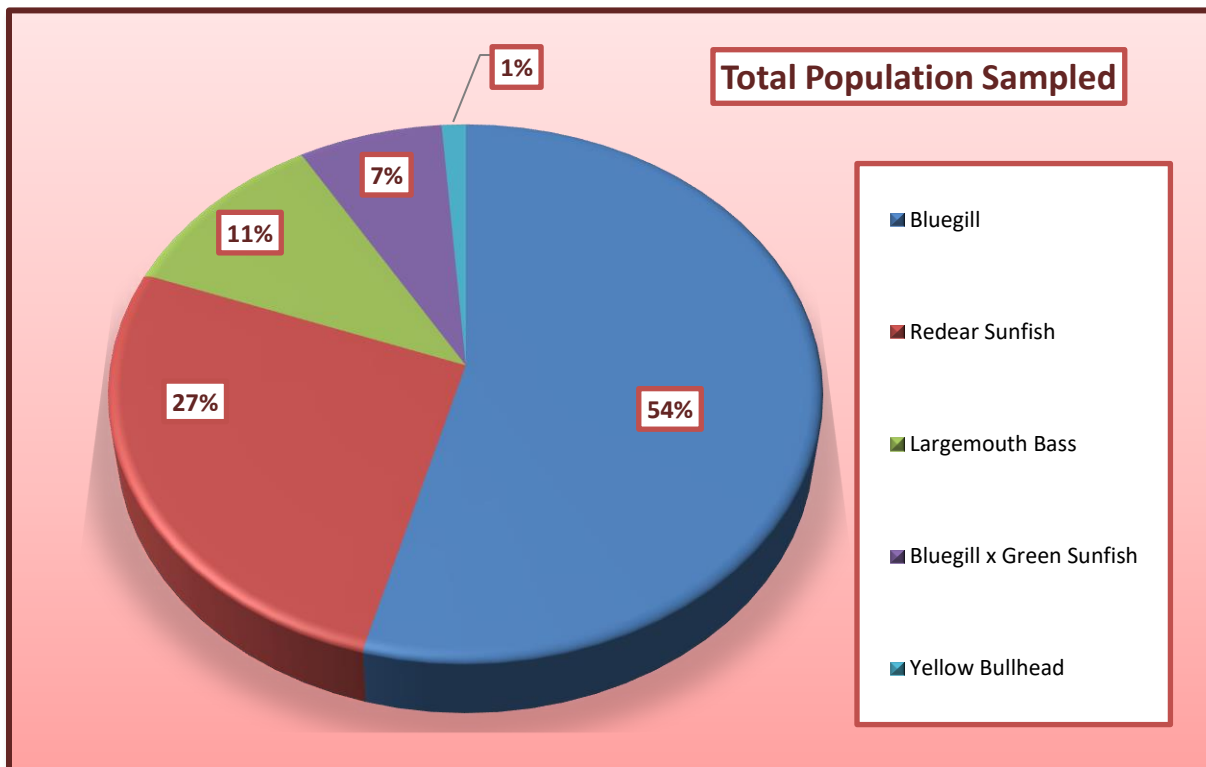
# Rolling Knolls Pond Population Survey



Date of survey: July 28, 2022  
Electro-fishing time: 25 minutes  
0 Fyke nets fished: 0 hours  
0 feet of gill nets fished: 0 hours

## Total Population Sampled

Species	Number	Percent
Bluegill	45	54.22%
Redear Sunfish	22	26.51%
Largemouth Bass	9	10.84%
Bluegill x Green Sunfish Hybrid	6	7.23%
Yellow Bullhead	1	1.20%
<b>Total</b>	<b>83</b>	<b>100.00%</b>



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## Bluegill

1/2-Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs.	Age
2.5	1	2.22%	0.01	0+
3.0	6	13.33%	0.02	0-1+
3.5	3	6.67%	0.03	1+
4.0	10	22.22%	0.04	2+
4.5	9	20.00%	0.06	2+
5.0	16	35.51%	0.08	2-3+
<b>Totals</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>100.00%</b>		

## Redear

1/2-Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs.	Age
2.5	1	4.55%	0.01	0+
3.0	2	9.09%	0.03	1+
3.5	4	18.18%	0.03	1+
4.0	10	45.45%	0.04	1+
4.5	3	13.64%	0.04	2+
5.0	2	9.09%	0.06	2+
<b>Totals</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>100.00%</b>		

## Largemouth Bass

1/2-Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs.	Age
5.5	1	11.11%	0.97	1+
6.0	1	11.11%	0.10	1+
-	-	-	-	-
8.0	1	11.11%	0.26	1+
-	-	-	-	-
10.0	1	11.11%	0.48	2+
10.5	1	11.11%	0.49	3+
-	-	-	-	-
12.0	1	11.11%	0.88	3+
-	-	-	-	-
13.5	2	22.22%	1.27	4+
-	-	-	-	-
14.5	1	11.11%	1.56	4+
<b>Totals</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>99.99%</b>		

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## Bluegill x Redear Sunfish Hybrid

1/2-Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs.	Age
3.0	1	16.67%	0.02	1+
-	-	-	-	-
4.5	2	33.33%	0.06	1-2+
5.0	3	50.00%	0.09	2+
<b>Totals</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>100.00%</b>		

## Yellow Bullhead

1/2-Inch Group	Number Collected	% of Population	Average Weight lbs.	Age
9.0	1	100.00%	0.37	NA
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1</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.

## 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 and Bluegill x Redear Sunfish hybrids were stock at 6-inches for a IDNR sponsored event.

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Species	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Bluegill	3,774	5,000	-	-	-
Hybrid Sunfish	-	-	-	500	-

## Fisheries Survey Overview

The small pond at Rolling Knolls Forest Preserve is one of our newest fishing lake being acquired in 2010. The Forest Preserves of Cook County has been stocking this pond with the help of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Largemouth Bass, Bluegill, and Redear Sunfish have all been stocked at Rolling Knolls.

In the 25-minutes of electro-fishing, 45 Bluegill were collected with 100's more in the 4 to 5-inch range being observed but not collected. Redear Sunfish came in with the Bluegill stocking and like their cousins these sunfish also are in the 4 to 5-inch range. Both these sunfish species provide great fishing for anglers young and old alike.

Only nine Largemouth Bass were collected during our survey. These fish represent both a remanent population and an earlier stocking of young bass in 2016. Further stockings are needed to help enhance this population in order to provide a viable bass fishery.